

(No Model.)

J. M. V. LE BEAU.
CORSET CLASP.

No. 409,410.

Patented Aug. 20, 1889.

Fig. 1.

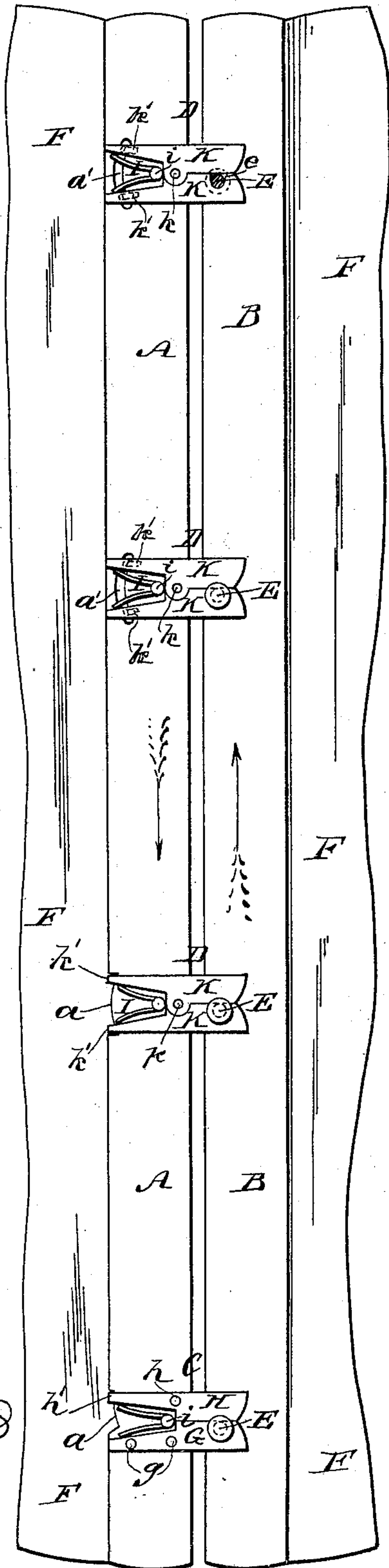


Fig. 2.

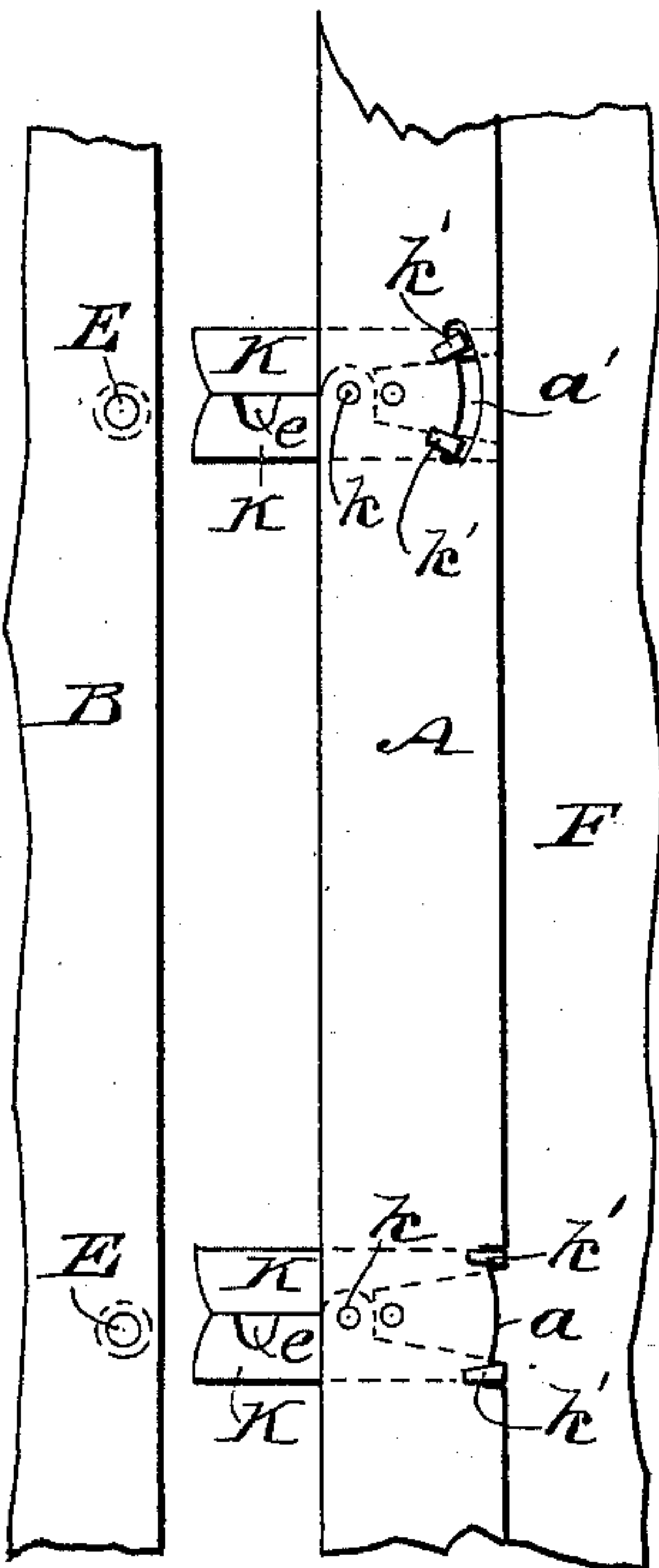
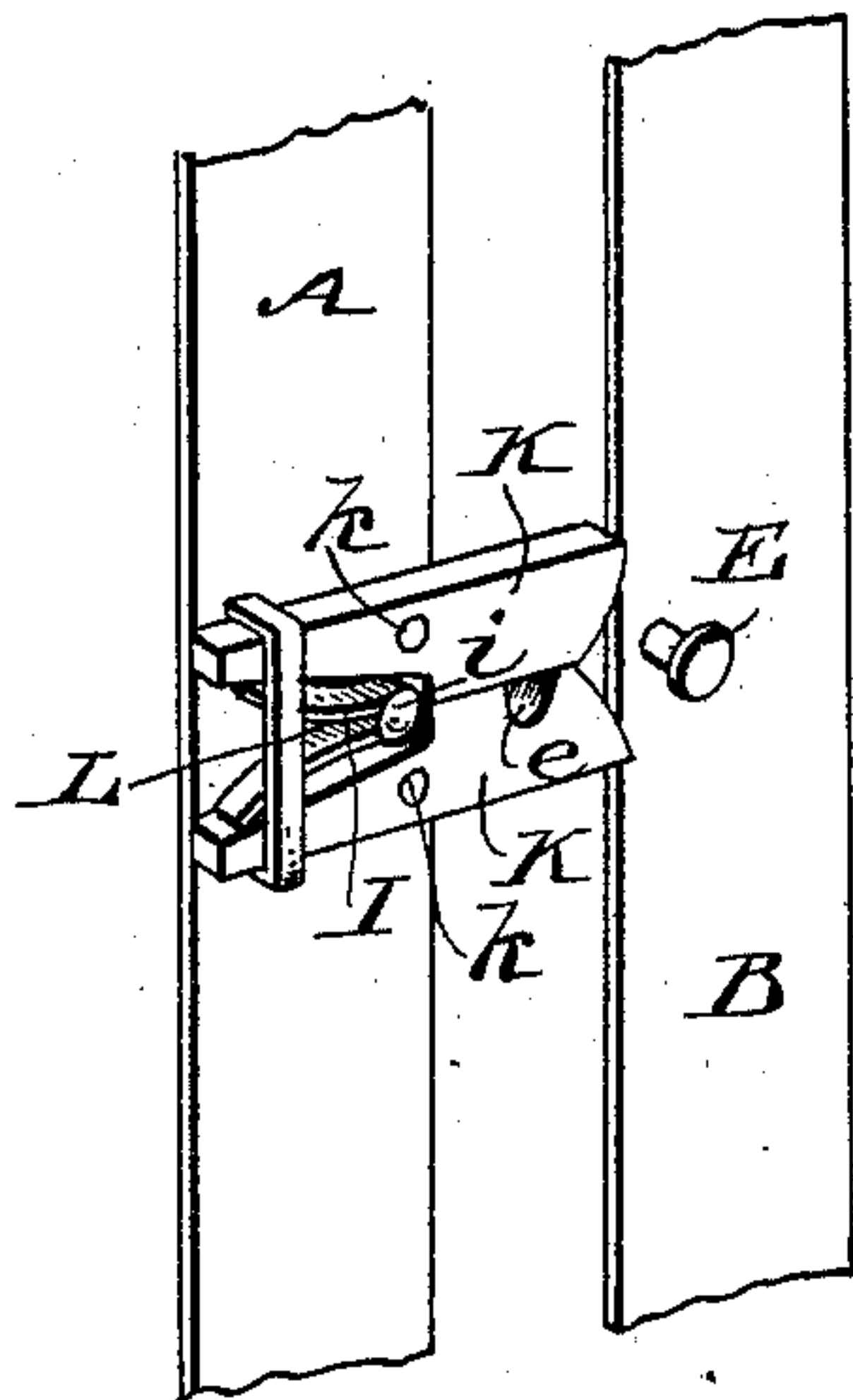


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES:

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JOHN M. V. LE BEAU, OF NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO EDWARD J. GUERINGER, OF SAME PLACE.

CORSET-CLASP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 409,410, dated August 20, 1889.

Application filed July 6, 1888. Serial No. 279,200. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN M. V. LE BEAU, of New Orleans, in the parish of Orleans and State of Louisiana, have invented a new and Improved Corset-Clasp, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to corset clasps or fastenings, and has for its object to provide a simple, inexpensive, and efficient clasp of this character, which may be readily fastened and unfastened while putting on and removing the corset, and will not become unfastened accidentally by sidewise or longitudinal strains, to which clasps of this kind are ordinarily subjected.

The invention consists in certain novel features of construction and combinations of parts of the corset-clasp, all as hereinafter described and claimed.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a face view of a corset-clasp made in accordance with my invention, and portions of the corset to which the busks are attached. Fig. 2 is a detail reverse side or face view of the central portion of the clasp; and Fig. 3 is a perspective view, which shows parts of the two busks and a slightly-modified form of one of the fastening devices.

The herein-described corset-clasp consists of two spring-steel or elastic busks A B, a lower fastening device C, and a series of upper fastening devices D, of which there may be any required number, three being shown in the drawings. All of the fastenings C D are held to the face of the busk A, and engage headed pins or buttons E, which are fixed to the busk B to lock or clasp the corset F to the body of the wearer, as presently explained.

I more particularly describe the clasp-fastenings C D, as follows: The lower fastening C is made with two main parts or jaws G H, the former being fixed to the busk A by two rivets *g g* or otherwise, so as to be immovable on the busk. The movable jaw H of this fastening is pivoted to the busk by a pin or rivet *h*, and between the edgewise-recessed

inner parts of the jaws G H is held, by a pin or rivet *i*, a spring I, preferably made of a bent metal plate or wire and acting normally to close the jaw H to the jaw or part G of the fastening. In this jaw G, at its outer part 55 and upper edge, is formed a notch or slot *e*, with which the corresponding button E on the busk B engages when the corset-clasp is locked.

The extremities of the outer parts of both jaws G H, which overlap the busk B, are curved inward toward their joint with each other, thus causing the button E to automatically open the jaws of the fastening when it is pushed against the outer ends of the jaws, 65 and when the jaw H opens away from the fixed jaw G the pin or button slips into the notch *e*, and the spring then instantly closes the jaws and the fastening is locked. The movable jaw H is bent at its back end over the outer edge and into the back of the busk 70 A to form a prong or lip at *h'*, substantially like the bent-over lips *k' k'* on the back ends of the two hinged jaws K K, forming the main parts of one of the upper clasp-fastenings D, which I will next describe.

Each of the fastenings D is made with two movable jaws K K, pivoted to the busk A, on the same pin *k*, and fitted, like the fastening C, with a spring I, which normally closes the jaws, which have outer curved extremities, causing them to open automatically as an opposing pin or button E on the busk B is pushed against their ends, and the lower jaw K of each fastening D is provided, like the lower jaw G of the fastening C, with a notch 85 *e*, into which the pin or button E slips prior to the closing of the jaws K K by their spring I, as will readily be understood.

The guide-lip *h'* on the jaw H of the fastening C, and also the lips *k'* on the jaws K of the lower fastening D, work in a notch *a*, the inner wall of which describes an arc or portion of a circle having the pivot of the movable jaws H K as centers, and this construction 95 assures the constant engagement of these lips with the busk A and free movement of the lips as the jaws open and close, and avoids extension or projection of the jaws inward beyond the inner edge of the busk. 100

Instead of working in a notch *a*, cut into the outer edge of the busk, the lips *h'* or *k'* may be fastened to or formed on the inner faces of the movable jaws of the fastenings 5 and be passed through curved slots *a'* in the busk A for engagement with the back thereof, as is shown at the two upper fastenings D in the drawings.

The modification represented in Fig. 3 of the drawings shows how a metal keeper L 10 may be fastened at its ends to the busk A so as to overlap the back ends of the movable jaws of the fastenings. The guides or keepers *h'* *k'* L have the same object, which is to 15 prevent rocking of the fastening-jaws on or across the busk A or both busks A B; or, in other words, the guides, in connection with the pivots of the movable jaws, hold them flat and securely to the face of the busk A, so 20 that they cannot easily be twisted from the busk by sidewise strains brought upon the fastenings when the corset is in use.

It will be noticed that as the lower jaw of one of the corset-fastenings (preferably the 25 lower fastening) is fixed it will not allow the pin E on the busk B, which engages it, to force this fastening open by strains brought upon the clasp by downward-bending movements of the wearer of the corset; hence it 30 will be quite impossible for the corset to become unfastened accidentally when in use.

To fasten the clasp, it is only necessary to press the pins or buttons E against the ends of the jaws of the fastenings C D to open 35 them and admit the pins E to their notches *e*, and the corset may be easily and almost instantly taken off the wearer by moving the busks A B endwise in reverse directions, (indicated by the arrows in Fig. 1 of the drawings,) which will open the jaws and release 40 the pins E from their notches *e*, as will readily be understood.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A corset-fastening comprising two spring-operated jaws in vertical alignment, contact-

ing at their adjacent straight longitudinal edges and beveled or inclined inwardly at their outer ends, one of said straight contact- 50 ing edges being notched, as at *e*, and the stud, whereby the stud may be released by moving it out of the notch and against the adjacent straight edge of the other jaw, or moving the fastener bodily in the opposite direction, sub- 55 stantially as set forth.

2. The combination, with the busk B, having studs E, of the busk A, having fastenings consisting of spring-pressed jaws beveled or rounded at their outer ends toward their 60 meeting edges to guide said studs, the lower jaw of one fastening being relatively fixed, the notches *e* in the upper edges of the several lower jaws, the lower edges of the upper 65 jaws being plain or straight, whereby the studs will open the jaws by pressing against the ends thereof, substantially as set forth.

3. A corset-clasp comprising two busks, one provided with a series of fastenings having 70 movable or spring-actuated jaws; and the other having a series of pins or buttons adapted for engagement with the fastenings, and the movable jaws of the fastenings having lips or guides which are hooked around 75 at the back of the busk to which they are attached, the busk having curved surfaces at the points where the lips hook around it, substantially as herein set forth.

4. In a corset-clasp, the combination, with a busk A, of a fastening comprising a fixed 80 jaw G, having a notch *e* in its upper edge, a movable jaw H, a spring closing said jaw, a series of fastenings comprising two movable spring-actuated jaws K K, the lower ones 85 having notches *e*, and a busk B, provided with series of pins or buttons E, adapted to enter the notches *e* of the fastenings, substantially as described, for the purposes set forth.

JOHN M. V. LE BEAU.

Witnesses:

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