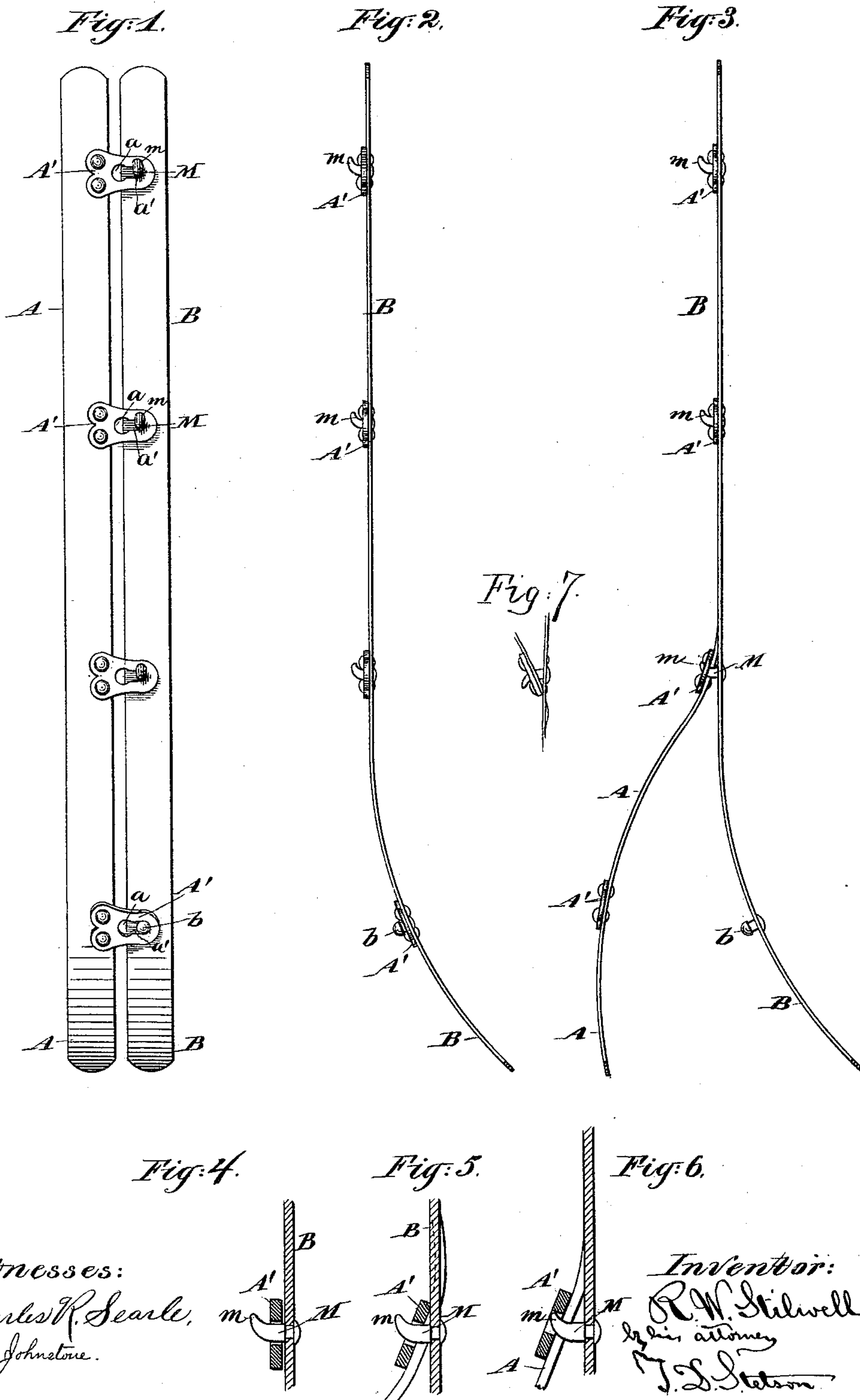


(No Model.)

R. W. STILWELL.
CORSET FASTENING.

No. 413,977.

Patented Oct. 29, 1889.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RANDOLPH W. STILWELL, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

CORSET-FASTENING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 413,977, dated October 29, 1889.

Application filed February 6, 1889. Serial No. 298,816. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RANDOLPH W. STILWELL, of the city and county of New York, in the State of New York, have invented a
5 certain new and useful Improvement in Corset-Fastenings, of which the following is a specification.

The improvement may apply to corsets of all materials and styles, having a sufficiently-
10 elastic steel or other yielding spring extending up and down the front line of junction. There may be any ordinary or suitable provisions at the back or at any other part for varying the size of the corset.

15 It has long been practiced to employ a flat steel on each side of the front opening with headed studs on the steel on one side, and peculiarly-formed apertures or eyes riveted or otherwise secured to the opposite steel,
20 which may be engaged over such studs. In engaging these together the corsets are compressed about the waist, and the heads of the studs are inserted through a large part of each eye and moved into a smaller part or neck of the eye, which remains engaged with the stud.
25 To disengage the corsets, they must be pressed together to such extent as to bring all the studs either simultaneously or successively each into the large part of its eye. There is
30 a difficulty in effecting this in many cases.

I have discovered that by substituting for the studs simple hooks, which project forward to the proper extent, in the the same manner as the ordinary studs, and then bend up-
35 ward, I can engage the parts together in the same way as has heretofore been practiced, and they will remain engaged in the same manner as heretofore, and the fastening is in all respects equivalent so long as the corset
40 is worn; and when it is desired to remove the corset it may be effected by simply deflecting outward the lower end of the steel carrying the eyes. Such deflecting will disengage the lowermost eye from its hook, and then, the
45 bending being made sufficiently short at the point of engagement with the next, the next eye is disengaged, and so on upward, so that the entire series is disengaged by a practically instantaneous movement. To avoid a
50 possibility that the lower eye may be disengaged by accident, I prefer to make the lowermost in the ordinary manner, with a full head

on the stud. This will require that the lower edge of the corset be compressed to release the lowermost eye. After this all the others
55 may be removed by simply bending outward the steel, and continuing the bend upward as the fastenings become successively detached.

The accompanying drawings form a part of this specification, and represent what I con-
60 sider the best means of carrying out the invention.

Figure 1 is a front view of the steels joining the front edges of the corsets. Fig. 2 is an edge view of the same. Both these figures
65 show the fastenings engaged. Fig. 3 represents the fastenings in the act of being disengaged, the lowermost being completely disengaged and the steel deflected to the extent required to liberate the next fastening, which
70 is in the act of being detached. Fig. 4 is a vertical section through one of the fastenings engaged. Fig. 5 is a corresponding section through one of the fastenings in the act of being disengaged, and Fig. 6 is a corresponding
75 section showing the fastener at a later stage. Fig. 7 shows a portion of a modification. It is an elevation showing a hook bent downward instead of upward. Such is opened by
80 commencing at the top.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures where they occur.

A and B are two flat steels extending up and down on opposite sides of the front open-
85 ing of the corset. On the steel A are riveted small metal pieces A', each containing an eye or hole of the form ordinarily used in corset-fastenings. I will mark the large part of the hole *a* and the small part *a'*. Opposite the
90 lowermost eye is set an ordinary stud *b*, having a round head, which is engaged in the eye and disengaged therefrom in the ordinary manner. Opposite each of the other eyes in the steel B is set a hook M *m*, the body M' of
95 which extends directly forward from the front face of the steel B, and is of a thickness sufficient to loosely fill the part *a'* of the eye in the same manner as the corresponding part of the ordinary stud *b* fills such part of the
100 eye; but instead of the ordinary head the front end of each hook M is simply turned upward, as indicated by *m*.

In fastening the corset the ordinary stud *b*

at the bottom and the several hooks M, with their turned-up ends *m*, are engaged in the several eyes *a a'*, in the same manner as the ordinary fastenings are engaged. In the use
5 of the corset all these fastenings remain engaged with their respective eyes in the same manner as the ordinary studs.

When it is desired to open the corset, the wearer contracts the lower part and disengages the lowermost fastening *b* from its eye
10 *a a'* in the ordinary manner. Then by simply springing the lower end of the steel A outward its elasticity allows it to assume a sharp curve. This curve changes the position of the lowermost piece A' and of the eye
15 therein, so as to disengage it from the lowermost hook M *m*. This disengagement allows the lower end of the steel A to be moved still farther out, producing a sharp curvature of
20 the steel A at the next fastening above, with the effect to disengage that in a similar manner, and thus the disengagement proceeds rapidly up the entire front of the corset, and the parts are instantly and completely separated.
25 The convenience of this mode of detaching will be readily appreciated.

Modifications may be made without departing from the principle or sacrificing the advantages of the invention. The use of the
30 ordinary stud *b* for the lowermost eye may not be necessary in all cases. A hook M *m* may be used there, if preferred; but I propose to use an ordinary fastening at that end in order to be certain that the garment will
35 never in any case detach itself by any ordi-

nary or extraordinary movement of the wearer. The number of the eyes and of the corresponding fastenings may be increased or diminished. I can reverse the position of these
40 parts by turning the points *m* of the hooks M downward instead of upward. In such case the opening movement must be commenced at the top, and will progress downward.

I attach importance to the fact that my hooks *m* do not require the garment to be
45 compressed, but only the deflection of the steel outward to effect their disengagement. This is due to the fact that the hooks extend simply outward and downward or upward. They hold reliably so long as the corset-steels
50 are parallel, but are disengaged by a simple deflection of one steel outward relatively to the other.

I claim as my invention—

In a corset-fastening, a series of stationary
55 curved hooks M, projecting forward with the points *m* extending parallel to the steels, in combination with eyes *a a'*, carried on the other part or steel A, adapted to be readily
60 detached by the bending of the steels, as herein specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand, at New York city, this 5th day of February, 1889, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

RANDOLPH W. STILWELL.

Witnesses:

CHARLES R. SEARLE,
H. A. JOHNSTONE.