(No Model.)

D. ESSEX.

CORSET CLASP.

No. 505,288. Patented Sept. 19, 1893.

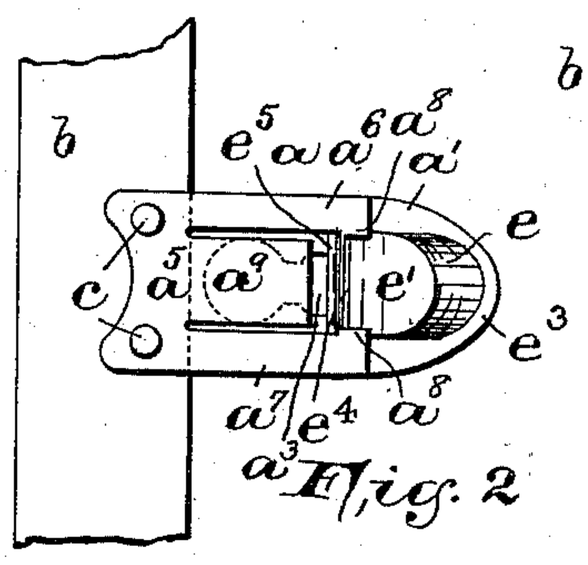

Fig. 2

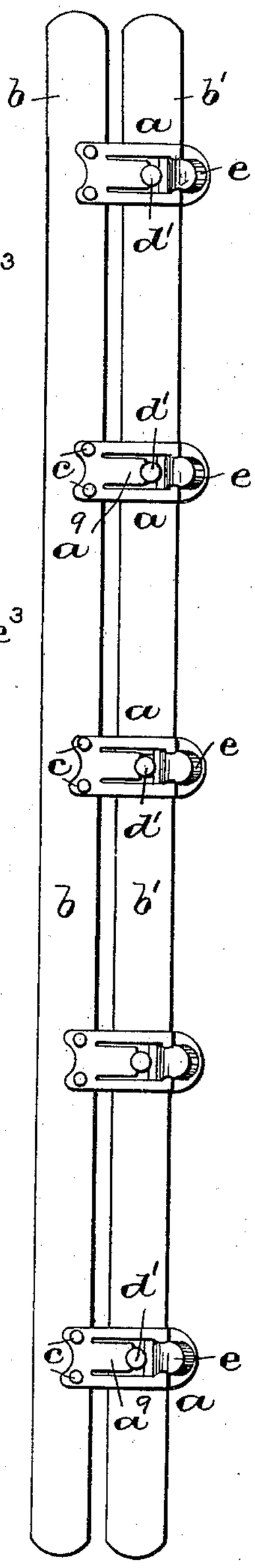

Fig. 1

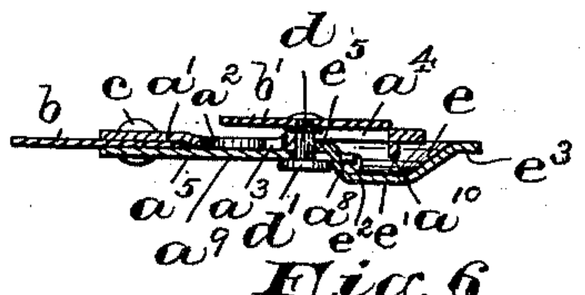

Fig. 6

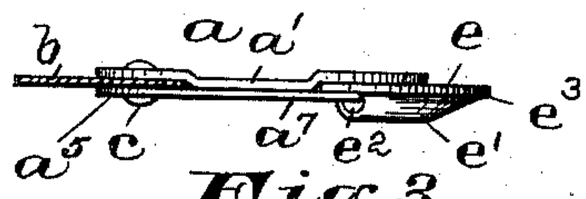

Fig. 3

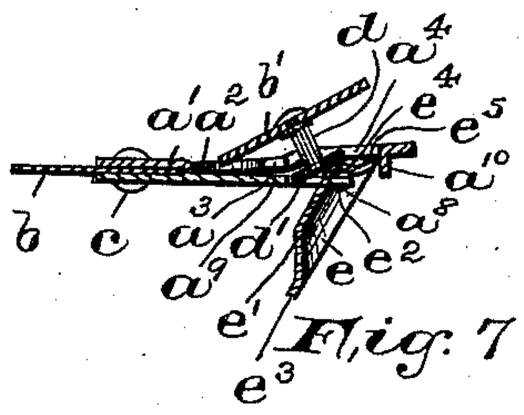

Fig. 7

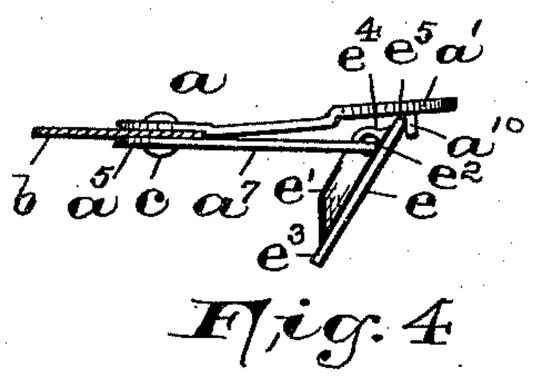

Fig. 4

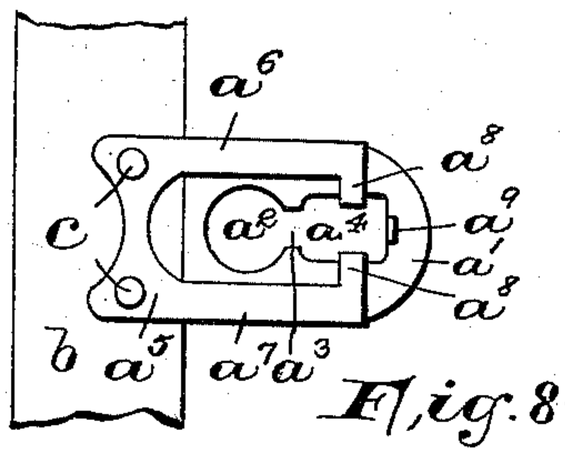

Fig. 8

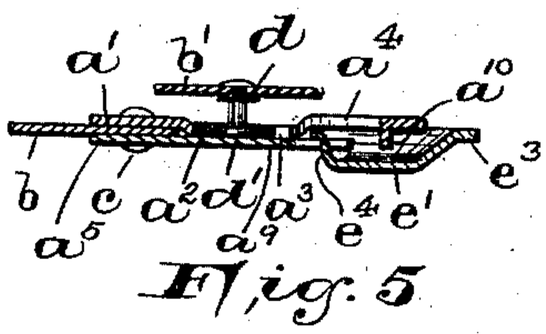

Fig. 5

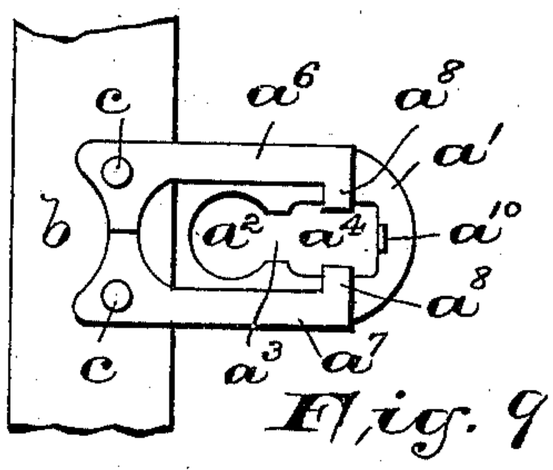

Fig. 9

WITNESSES:

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INVENTOR:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID ESSEX, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

CORSET-CLASP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 505,288, dated September 19, 1893.

Application filed April 29, 1893. Serial No. 472,294. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DAVID ESSEX, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Corset-Clasps; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My present invention relates to improvements in corset clasps and has for its object to provide a clasp of this class which will not become accidentally disengaged, and one in which the stud and the eye of the clasp are brought into holding engagement in the usual manner, but are disengaged by the manipulation of a pivoted holding plate, which when raised by the wearer of the corset permits the withdrawal of the post from an opening or eye in the clasp.

The invention therefore consists of the improved form of corset clasp herein shown and claimed, as a new article of manufacture, and further, in combining with the eye-plate a flat spring, which by its tension prevents the post or stud when engaged in the eye-plate from becoming disengaged therefrom, unless the pivoted holding plate is raised.

The invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying sheet of drawings, in which similar letters of reference are employed to indicate corresponding parts in each of the several views.

In said drawings, Figure 1 is a front view of the ordinary corset steels provided with several of my improved form of corset clasps. Fig. 2 is a plan view of part of a corset steel, provided with my improved form of eye-plate and the pivoted holding plate in its closed position. Fig. 3 is a cross-section of the corset steel and an edge view of said eye-plate and the holding plate in its closed position, and Fig. 4 is a similar view of said parts, but said holding plate being presented in its opened or raised position. Fig. 5 is a longitudinal section of said parts, illustrated in Fig. 2, and a sectional view of the corset-steel provided with the post or stud, the post or stud being inserted into one eye on said eye-plate, and about to be forced into holding engagement with the spring-actuated and pivoted holding plate, and Fig. 6 is a similar view of said parts illustrated in Fig. 5, showing the relation of the several parts, when the post or stud is in its holding or locked engagement with said pivoted holding plate. Fig. 7 is a similar view of said parts, illustrating the said pivoted holding plate in its raised position, clearly illustrating the manner of withdrawing the post or stud from its holding or locked engagement with said spring-actuated and pivoted holding plate when the wearer desires to remove the corset from the body. Fig. 8 is a detail view of the eye-plate, with the pivoted holding plate removed, and illustrating furthermore, an eye-plate of a slightly modified form of construction, and Fig. 9 is a plan view of an eye-plate of still another form of construction.

In said drawings, b and b' are the corset steels, and a is my improved form of eye-plate suitably attached to the corset steel b by means of pins or rivets c, or secured thereto in any other well-known manner. Said eye-plate a is preferably made of a lower plate a' provided with the eye a^2 for the reception of the ordinary form of post or stud d on the corset steel b' and communicating with said eye a^2 by means of a slot or cut-away portion. a^3 is a second eye or opening a^4, as will be evident more especially from Figs. 5, 6, *et seq.* Said plate a', is secured to the under side of the steel b; and secured to the upper side of said steel b by means of the same pins or rivets c is an upper plate a^5 formed with two spring-like arms a^6 and a^7 having at their free ends lips or projections a^8 which extend toward each other, as represented in Figs. 8 and 9, the purpose of which will be described hereinafter. Formed integral with said upper plate a^5, or secured thereto in any well-known manner, is a spring-plate a^9, and on said lower plate a' is a suitably arranged post or projection a^{10}.

The pivoted plate e, herein above mentioned is made chamber-like, owing to a raised portion e' formed in said plate, and in the sides of said raised portion e' are formed holes e^2 into which the lips or projections a^8 on said spring arms a^6 and a^7 are sprung to

pivotally connect said hinged or pivoted plate *e* to the eye-plate and especially to said arms a^6 and a^7 of the corset clasp. Said plate *e* is formed at the front with slight projections e^3 for raising the plate and at the back of said plate *e*, its raised portion *e'* is formed with an inclined surface e^4 and a projecting lip e^5, which lip, when said plate *e* is raised, rides on the surface of the lower eye-plate *a'*, thereby forcing said upper plate a^5 and the lower plate *a'* apart, until said lip e^5 on the pivoted plate *e* comes in contact with said stop-post or projection a^{10}, thereby retaining the parts of the clasp in their open relation to one another, as illustrated in Figs. 4 and 7, until said hinged or pivoted plate *e* is again forced down to its normal holding position.

When the corset is to be placed upon and secured to the body of the wearer, the head *d'* of the post or stud *d* on the corset steel *b'* is passed through the eye a^2 of the lower plate *a* and passed along the slot or opening a^3, causing the under surface of the head *d'* of said stud *d* to rest upon said lip e^5 on the hinge-plate *e* and upon the end of said spring-plate a^9, which prevents the disengagement or the displacement of the stud from the eye-plate of the clasp, as will be clearly seen from Fig. 6. In order to cause the disengagement of said parts, the hinged plate *e* is raised by a slight pressure and caused to assume the position shown in said Figs. 4 and 7, when the head *d'* of the post *d* can be disengaged from its holding contact with the end of the spring-plate a^9, by sliding said head down the inclined surface e^4 and finally passing it out of the opening or eye a^4 in lower plate *a'*, as will be understood. In this manner the pressure is removed from beneath the head *d'* of the stud *d* while at the same time the opening of said plate *e* actually forces the post and its head through the eye or opening a^3 in said lower plate *a'*. If desirable, I may dispense with the use of said spring-plate a^9, in which case the upper plate a^5 may be made as illustrated in Fig. 8, there being sufficient pressure upon the corset steels and the parts of the clasp, when the corset is upon the body of the wearer, to retain the head of the post or stud *d'* against the lip e^5 of said hinged plate *e* to prevent any accidental disengagement of the post or stud from the eye-plate of the corset clasp. In some cases, I may make said upper plate a^5 of two pieces, each of which are provided with said spring-like arms a^6 and a^7 having the lips or projections a^8, and which are arranged on and secured to the corset steel *b* in the manner illustrated in Fig. 9.

The advantage of my improved clasp over the ordinary eye-plate and stud is, that while the parts are placed in their holding engagement in the usual and well-known manner, any ordinary or casual pressure upon the steels or any portion of them will not cause the accidental disengagement of the post or stud from the eye-plate, and when the pivoted or hinged plate *e* is raised the parts of the clasp are immediately separated.

The parts of the clasp are preferably struck up from sheet metal and they may be of any suitable configuration in outline. Said lower plate *a'* and the upper plate a^5, as shown in the drawings, are secured to the opposite sides of the corset steel *b*, but they may be secured to one side if desired, or they can be formed integral with each other, as will be evident.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. A corset clasp comprising therein, an eye-plate, and a pivoted plate hinged to said eye-plate, in combination with a stud or post, a lip on said hinged plate adapted to normally project beneath the head of said stud or post, whereby said hinged plate is in holding engagement with said stud or post when in its normal position, but when raised, causing the disengagement of said post from the eye-plate, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

2. A corset clasp comprising therein an eye-plate, a pivoted plate hinged to said eye-plate and a spring plate connected with said eye-plate, in combination with a stud or post, a lip on said hinged plate adapted to normally project beneath the head of said stud or post, whereby said hinged plate is in holding engagement with said stud or post when in its normal position, but when raised, causing the disengagement of said post from said eye-plate, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

3. A corset clasp comprising therein an eye-plate having communicating eyes a^2 and a^4, arms a^6 and a^7 and a pivot plate hinged to said arms, in combination with a stud or post, a lip on said hinged plate adapted to normally project beneath the head of said stud or post, whereby said hinged plate is in holding engagement with said stud or post when in its normal position, but when raised, causing the disengagement of said stud or post from said eye-plate, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

4. A corset clasp, comprising therein, an eye-plate having communicating eyes a^2 and a^4, a spring-plate a^9, arms a^6 and a^7 and a pivot plate hinged to said arms, in combination with a stud or post, said hinged plate being in holding engagement with said stud or post when in its normal position, but when raised, causing the disengagement of said stud or post from said eye-plate, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

5. A corset clasp comprising therein an eye-plate, having a stop or post a^{10} thereon, and a pivot-plate *e* hinged thereto, said plate having a raised portion *e'*, an inclined surface e^4 and a projection or lip e^5, in combination with a stud or post *d*, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

6. A corset clasp comprising therein a lower plate *a'*, having communicating eyes a^2 and a^4, and a post or stop a^{10}, an upper plate a^5

having arms a^6 and a^7, and a pivot plate e hinged to said arms, said plate having a raised portion e', an inclined surface e^4, and a projection or lip e^5, in combination with a stud or post d, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

7. A corset clasp comprising therein a lower plate a' having communicating eyes a^2 and a^4, and a post or stop a^{10}, an upper plate a^5 having arms a^6 and a^7, and a spring-plate a^9, a pivot plate e hinged to said arms a^6 and a^7, said plate having a raised portion e', an inclined surface e^4 and a projection or lip e^5, in combination with a stud or post d, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony that I claim the invention set forth above I have hereunto set my hand this 26th day of April, 1893.

DAVID ESSEX.

Witnesses:
WM. H. CAMFIELD, Jr.,
FREDK. C. FRAENTZEL.