

(No Model.)

L. A. DOWNS.  
CORSET.

No. 572,787.

Patented Dec. 8, 1896.

Fig. 2.

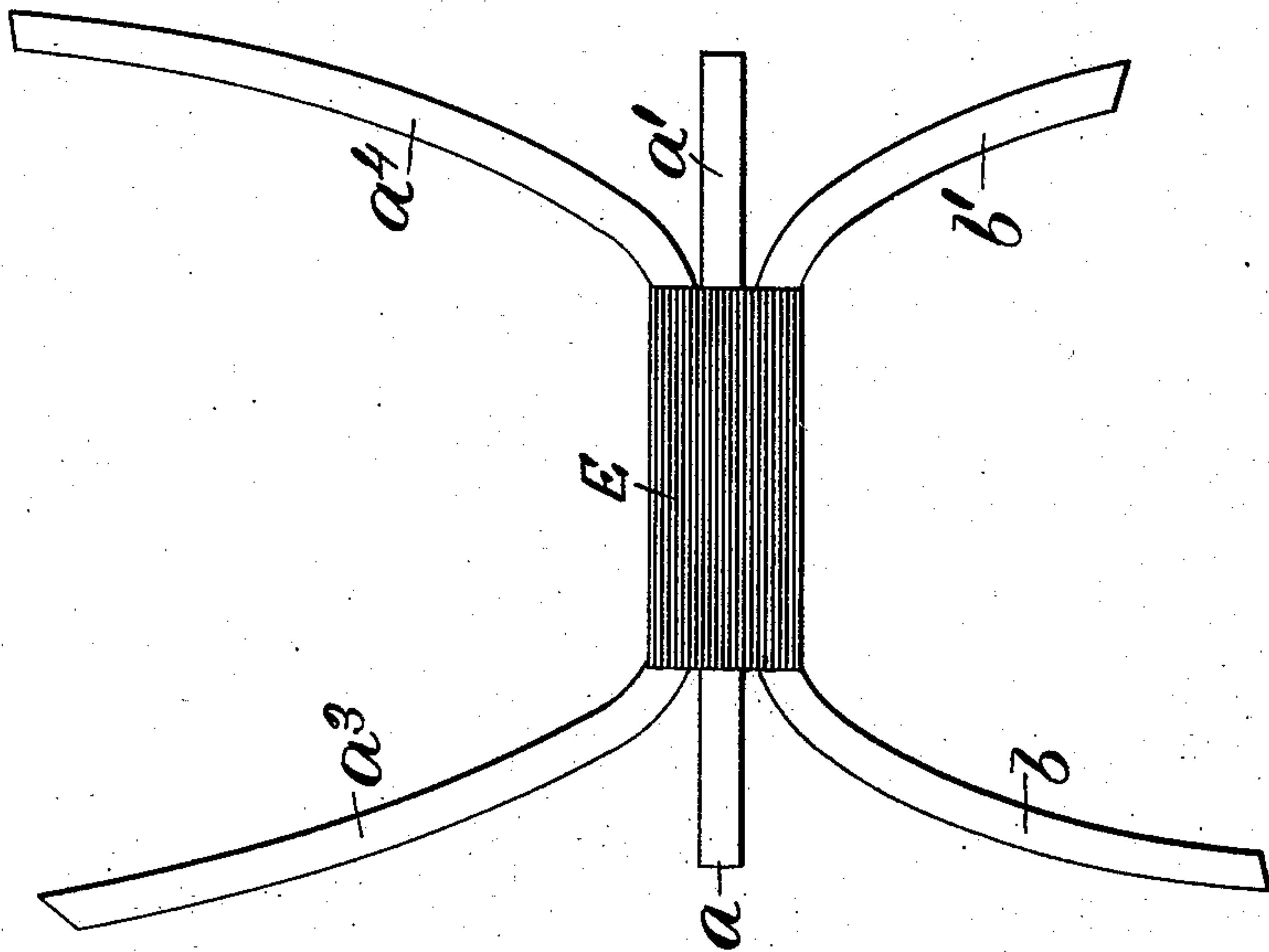
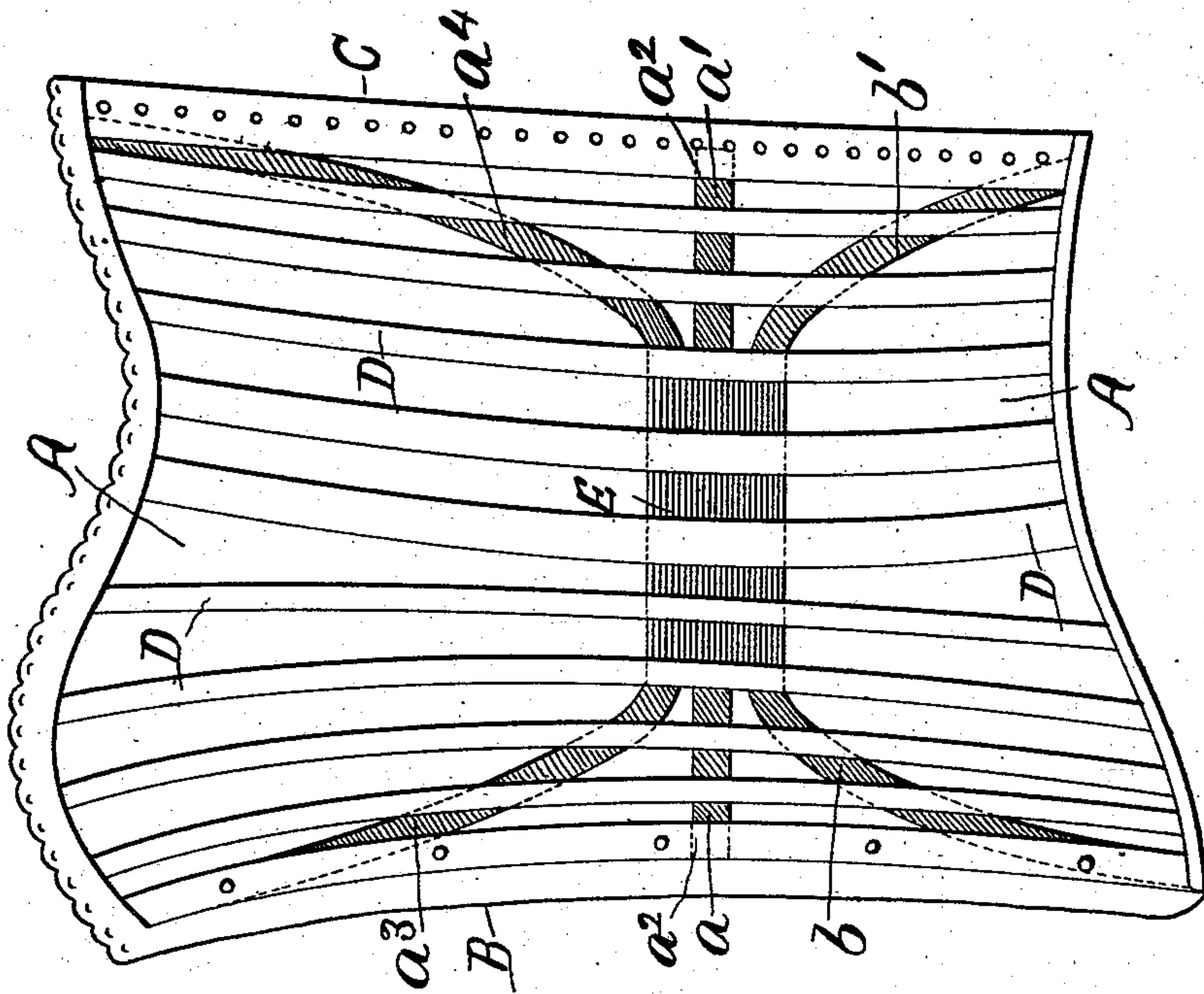


Fig. 1.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEWIS A. DOWNS, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

## CORSET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 572,787, dated December 8, 1896.

Application filed July 20, 1896. Serial No. 599,855. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, LEWIS A. DOWNS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Corsets; 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.

This invention relates to improvements in corsets, and has for its object to provide an article of this kind possessing certain features that will have a tendency to prevent the steels from breaking, thus strengthening the structure, increasing its durability, and affording greater comfort to the wearer.

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a corset embodying my improvement, and Fig. 2 a detached structural detail of the improved feature.

A is the body of the corset, which may be made of the usual fabric; B, the front; C, the back, and D the pockets, holding the usual steels.

The waist of the corset is provided with and is strengthened by a corded belt or waist-piece E, set in that part of the corset coming over the hips. Strips  $a a'$  are secured to the respective ends of the corded belt and extend therefrom in a horizontal plane and have their outer ends secured to the front and back of the corset, as shown at  $a^2$ . The lower end of a stay strip or band  $a^3$  is secured to the front end and upper corner of the corded belt-piece and, curving upwardly therefrom, has its terminal end secured to the top of the corset at the front edge. A companion strip  $a^4$  is secured to the corresponding back end of the corded belt-piece and, curving upwardly, has its terminal end secured to the

top and back edge of the corset. The companion stay-strips  $b b'$  have their upper ends secured to the front and rear ends, respectively, of the corded belt-piece and, curving downwardly therefrom, are secured to the lower bottom front and back edge of the corset, as shown. By this arrangement the corset structure is firmly stayed from the extreme top and bottom points, and the waist part, with the strain centering on the corded belt or center piece, will prevent the side steels, that is, those running over the hips, from breaking at that point. Under the ordinary arrangement the steels are often easily broken by the bending over of the body and thereby greatly adding to the discomfort and annoyance of the wearer.

By the present improvement the article is more firmly stayed and strengthened without lessening its elastic and yielding qualities and its adaptability to conform to the movements of the wearer.

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

A corset provided with a corded belt or waist-piece, the stay-strips, secured to and connecting said corded belt with the back and front in a horizontal plane, the companion stay-strips curving upwardly and connecting the corded belt with the top of the corset, front and back, and the companion stay-strips, curving downwardly and connecting the corded belt with the bottom of the corset front and back, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

LEWIS A. DOWNS.

Witnesses:

L. M. FREEMAN,  
L. B. COUPLAND.