

(No Model.)

H. W. BURY.
SKIRT DISTENDER.

No. 574,131.

Patented Dec. 29, 1896.

Fig. 1.

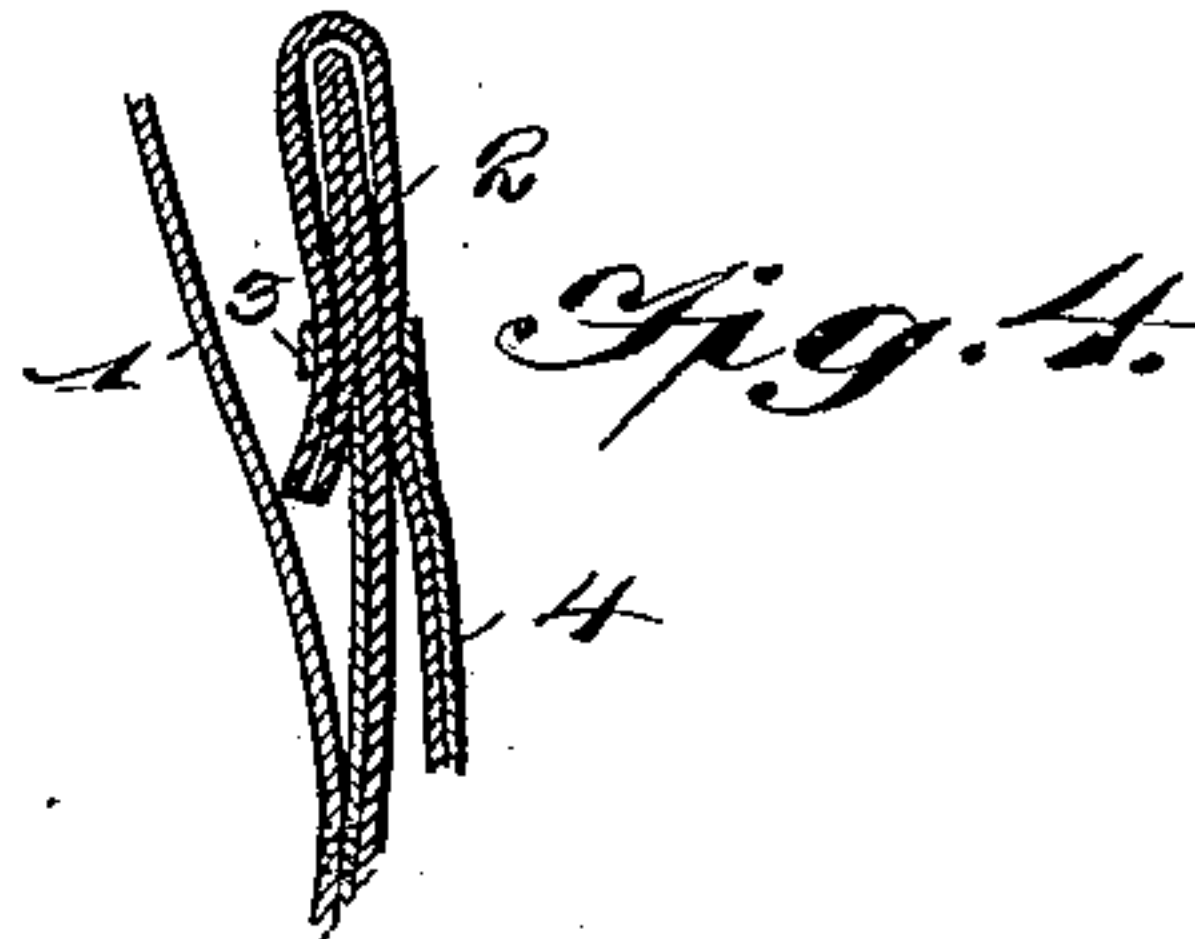
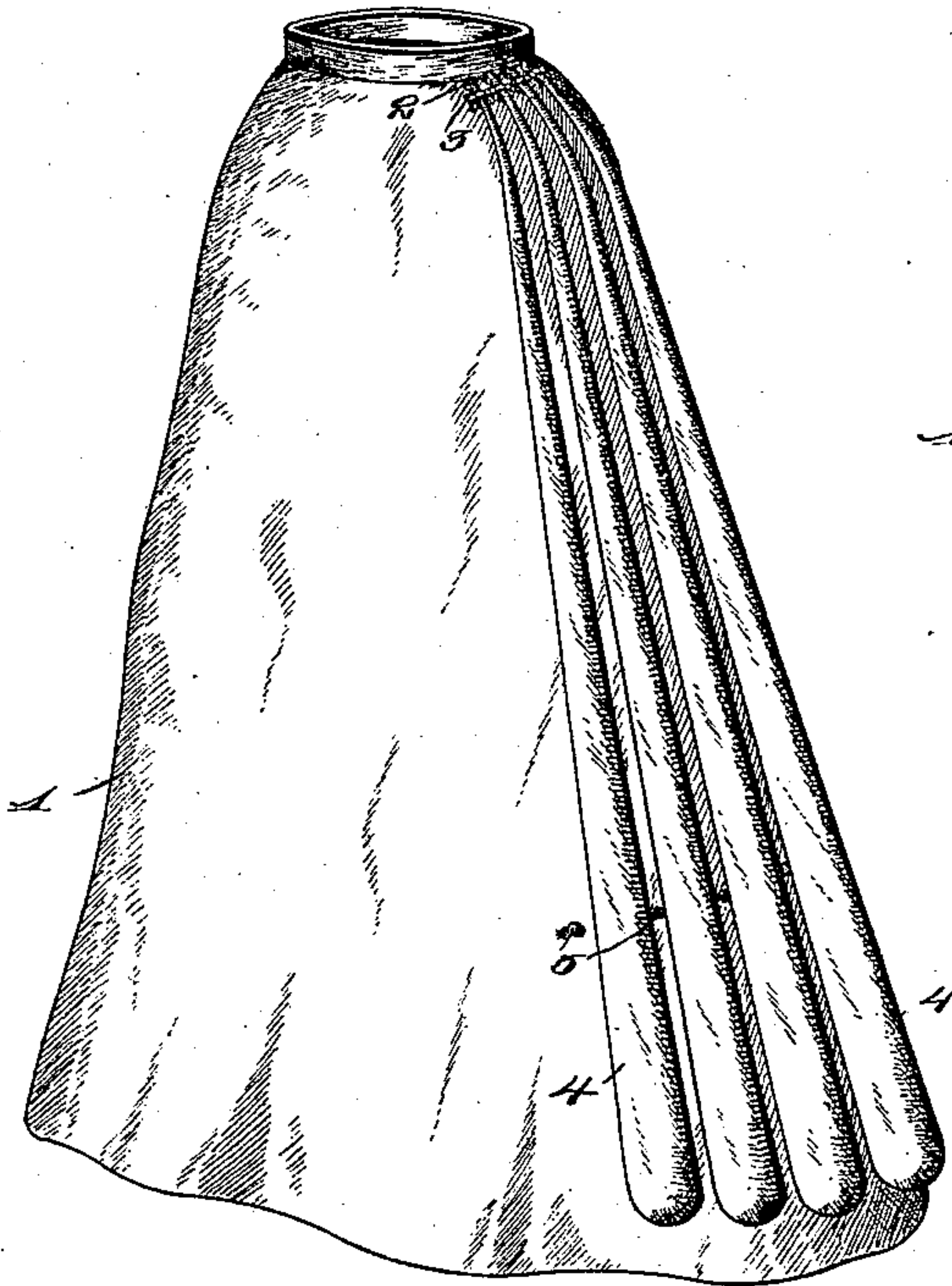


Fig. 2.

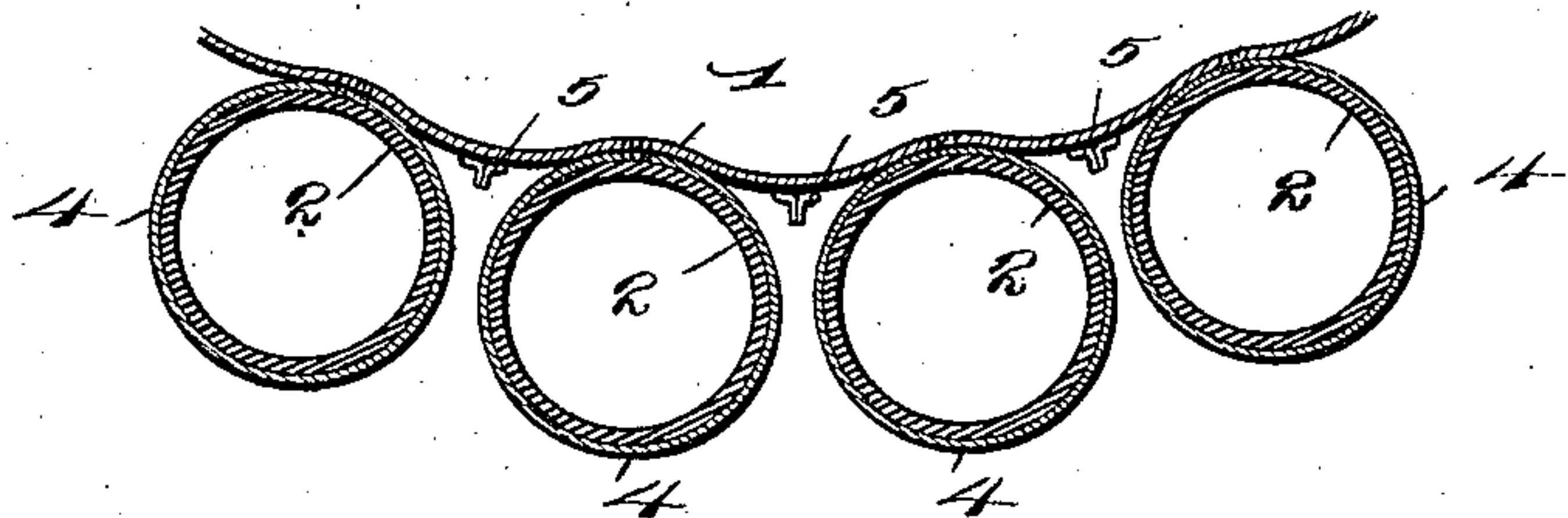
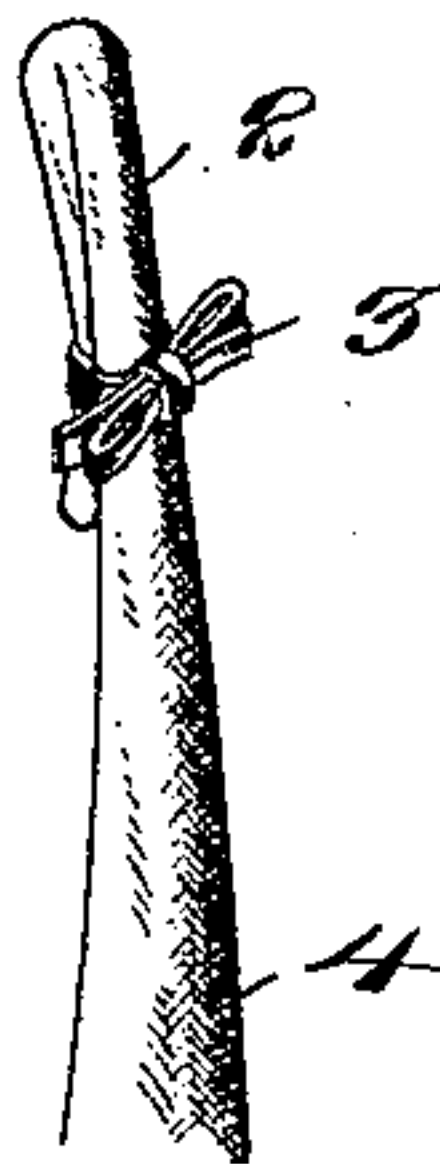


Fig. 3.



Inventor
Harry W. Bury,

Witnesses

W. J. Koerth
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By *his* Attorneys,

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARRY W. BURY, OF FRANKFORT, INDIANA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO CHARLES AMOS AND N. S. MOORE, OF SAME PLACE.

SKIRT-DISTENDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 574,131, dated December 29, 1896.

Application filed August 8, 1896. Serial No. 602,112. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HARRY W. BURY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Frankfort, in the county of Clinton and State of Indiana, have invented a new and useful Attachment for Dress-Skirts, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an attachment for distending dress-skirts to hold the same in the desired folds or plaits; and the object in view is to provide means to be readily attached to an underskirt or its equivalent, and which may be inflated to the desired extent pneumatically, thus securing lightness, flexibility, and durability.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will appear in the following description, and the novel features thereof will be particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a device embodying my invention applied in the operative position to a dress-skirt. Fig. 2 is a transverse horizontal section of the same. Fig. 3 is a detail view in perspective of the upper extremity of one of the tubes. Fig. 4 is a detail vertical or longitudinal section of a portion of the upper extremity of a sheath, showing the contiguous portions of the tube and supporting-skirt.

Similar numerals of reference indicate corresponding parts throughout the figures.

The dress-forming tubes embodying my invention consist, essentially, of a tapered or conical tube 2, adapted to be inflated by air, for which purpose the upper or reduced extremity thereof is open to provide for applying the lips. After inflation the reduced extremity of the tube is folded or bent upon itself, as shown in Fig. 3, and is secured by means of a tie 3 or its equivalent. In connection with this tube is preferably employed a flexible sheath 4, which may be attached to the dress-skirt or other support by means of stitching or otherwise, the upper end of the sheath being left open to give access to the upper extremity of the inflated tube. The tubes may be constructed of any suitable airtight material, such as vulcanized silk, linen, or the equivalent thereof, as rubber, and the

sheaths in which they are incased may be made of any suitable light material, such as silk or linen.

The forming or distending tubes are adapted to extend from a point at or near the band of an underskirt or similar support to a point near the bottom of the skirt and upon the outer side of said underskirt, whereby the upper or outer skirt may hang thereover, and in order that the distending-tubes may fit, respectively, in the folds of the upper or outer skirt (not illustrated in the drawings) hook-eyes 5 or similar fastening devices are arranged in the spaces between the distending-tubes, as upon the support 1, for engagement by hooks (not shown) which are adapted to be carried by the upper or outer skirt.

From the above description it will be seen that when inflated the distending device forming the subject of my invention is adapted to hold the "organ-pipe" or "godet" folds in the proper shape to cause the back of the skirt to hang gracefully without adding materially to the weight of the skirt, and, in fact, resulting in a reduction of weight in comparison with those means, such as hair-cloth and other stiffening-linings, which are ordinarily employed for this purpose.

Various changes in the form, proportion, and the minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the principle or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

1. The combination with a supporting-garment of a series of tapered sheaths of flexible material attached to the garment and open at their reduced ends contiguous to the waistband of the garment, and tapered pneumatically-inflatable tubes incased in said sheaths and having inlet-tubes extending through the openings at the reduced ends of the sheaths, to facilitate inflation, substantially as specified.

2. The combination with a supporting-garment, of tapered sheaths of flexible material permanently attached exteriorly to the said garment and extending from the waistband approximately to the lower edge thereof, and tapered pneumatically-inflatable tubes ar-

ranged within the sheaths and provided with exposed means of inflation, substantially as specified.

3. A distending device for dress-skirts comprising tapered flexible sheaths adapted to be carried by the supporting-skirt and arranged at intervals with their reduced extremities contiguous to the waistband, inflatable tubes fitted in said sheaths and having extended and reduced upper extremities adapted to project through the open upper ends of the sheaths, said reduced extensions

of the tubes being adapted to be folded or bent upon themselves to retain contained air, and a tie for securing said extension in its folded position, substantially as specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

HARRY W. BURY.

Witnesses:

FRED BOWEN,
JOHN MARSHALL.