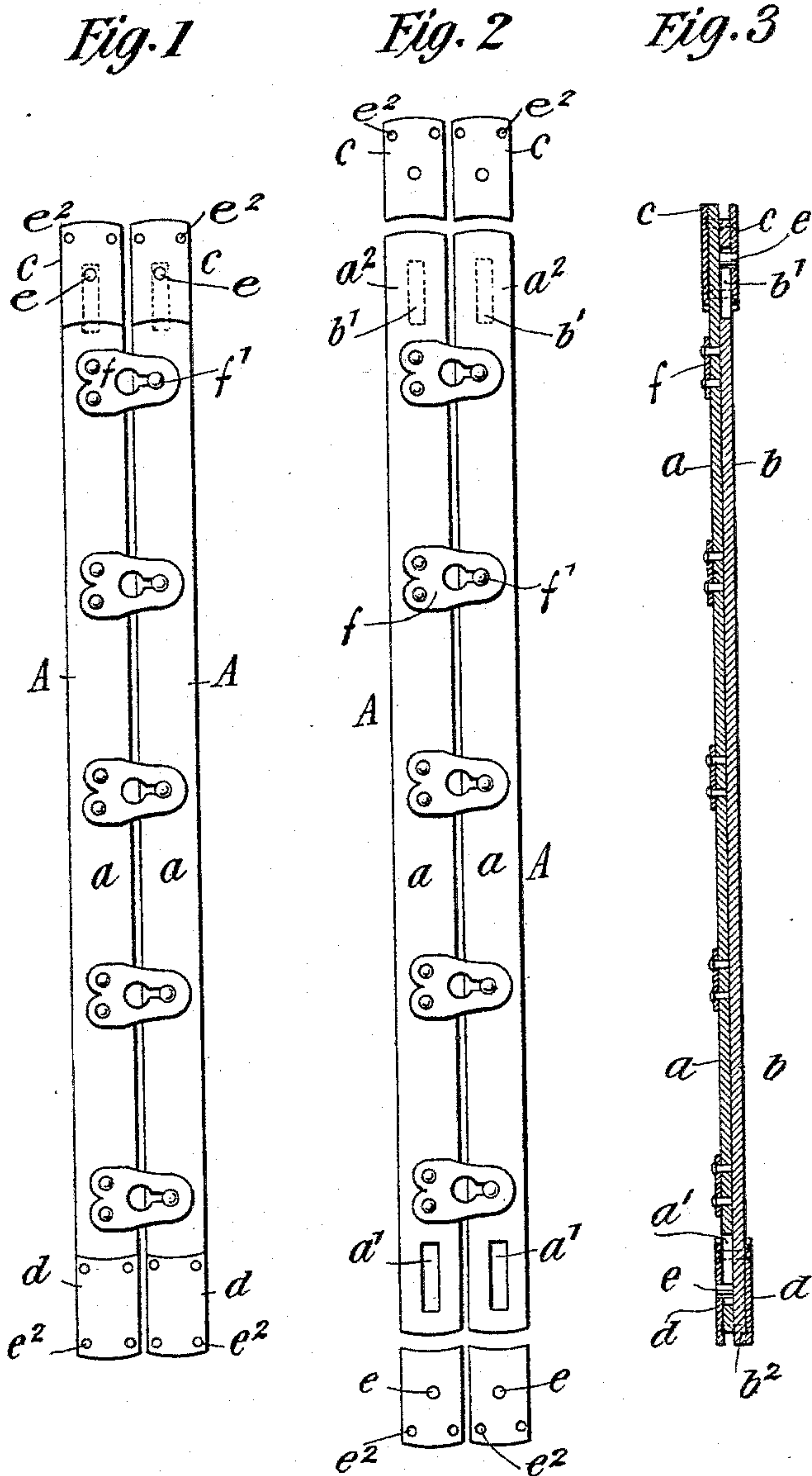


(No Model)

M. E. McCLOSKEY.
Now by marriage M. E. McC. PLAYTER.
CORSET STEEL.

No. 583,923.

Patented June 8, 1897.



Witnesses:

Ellen Woodward,
Henry S. Read.

Mary Ellen McCloskey Inventor

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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PLAYTER,) OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

CORSET-STEEL.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 583,923, dated June 8, 1897.

Application filed November 14, 1894. Serial No. 528,837. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARY ELLEN McCLOSKEY, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Corset-Steels; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figures 1 and 2 are front views of corset-steels and adjuncts illustrative of my invention, and Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view of such a steel.

This invention comprises as a new and improved article of manufacture a corset-steel which comprises a novel and useful combination of parts, hereinafter particularized in the claim, whereby great simplicity and strength of construction, durability, and adaptability to all the vicissitudes and contingencies of use are secured.

For convenience of description, Figs. 1 and 2 show duplicates of the corset-steel A, arranged in the usual parallel relation with each other at the opening at the front of the corset.

Each steel consists of two springs *a* and *b*, placed flatwise one against the other, as more fully shown in Fig. 3. These springs, except as hereinafter specifically set forth, are of the usual or of any suitable size, shape, and material. In one end of the spring *a* is a slot *a'*, (shown in detail in Fig. 2,) and in the opposite end of the spring *b* is a similar slot *b'*. The unslotted end *a²* of spring *a* laps over and past the slot *b'* of the spring *b* and, conversely, the unslotted end *b²* of the spring *b* laps over the slot *a'* of the spring *a*. Riveted, as at *e²*, or otherwise made fast upon the unslotted end *a²* of the spring *a* is a cap *c* of such shape and capacity as to admit within it the slotted end of the spring *b*. In like manner fast upon the unslotted end *b²* of the spring *b* is a similar cap *d*, into which extends the slotted end of the spring *a*. The proportions are such that the slotted end of each spring is capable of a free longitudinal movement within the cap of the opposite spring. Extended through each cap and also through the slot of the part movable therein, as just described, is a pin *e*. These pins prevent the escape of the ends of the spring from the caps

and provide for the retention of the two springs, the one upon or in contact flatwise against the other, without interference with their longitudinal play one upon the other when the corset to which the steels are provided is in use.

The steels being, as hereinbefore stated, attached in the usual or in any suitable manner to the open part of a corset may at the edges of such front be provided with loops *f* on one steel, which engage with studs *f'* on the adjacent steel to connect said edges when the corset is in use.

When the wearer of a corset provided with steels made according to my invention bends forward, the two springs slide upon each other to an extent which enables the steel as a whole to conform to the new curvature induced by the change of position, and without the endwise compression which by accentuating the pressure along the waist-line would induce fracture thereat, so that by reason of the special construction hereinbefore described my improved corset-steel is especially adapted for use under those conditions in which the wearer is compelled to stoop or bend forward, which with the corset-steels in common use tends to fracture the steels at their lower ends or along the waist-line of the corset.

By the novel combination of parts comprised in my invention I am able to preserve the integrity and elasticity of the steels under conditions of use which rapidly destroy the steels in corsets as heretofore made.

What I claim as my invention is—

A corset-steel comprising the two springs, *a*, and, *b*, applied flatwise one upon the other, each provided at one end with a slot the slotted end of one placed opposite the unslotted end of the other and caps, *c*, *d*, fixed to the unslotted ends of the springs, and pins, *e*, extended through the caps and through the slots of the springs to confine the latter in due relation with each other without hindering a sliding movement of the springs one upon the other when the curvature of the steel is changed—the whole arranged substantially as and for the purpose herein set forth.

MARY ELLEN McCLOSKEY.

Witnesses:

CHRISTOPHER D. MALANEY,
PHILIP REILLY.