

No. 608,469.

Patented Aug. 2, 1898.

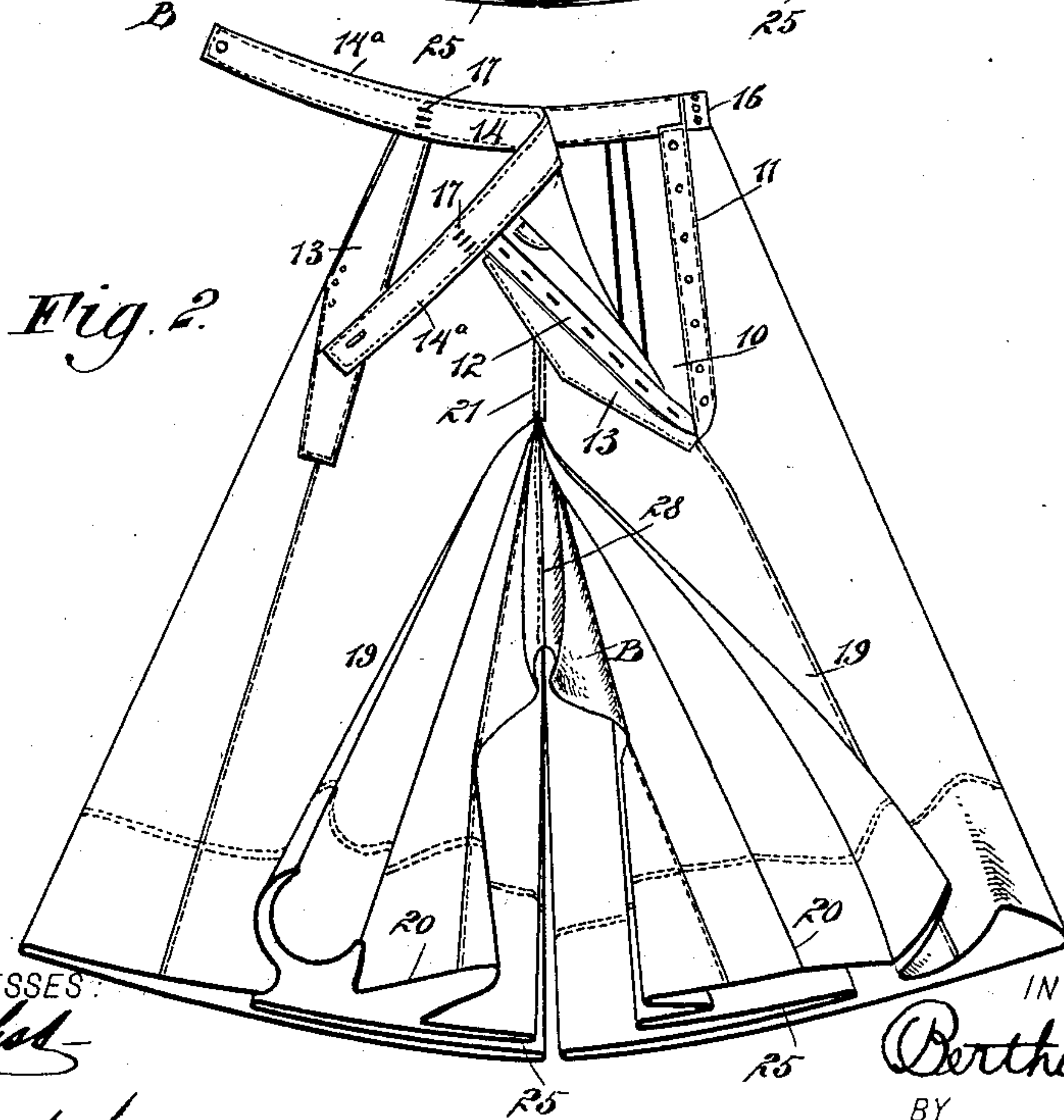
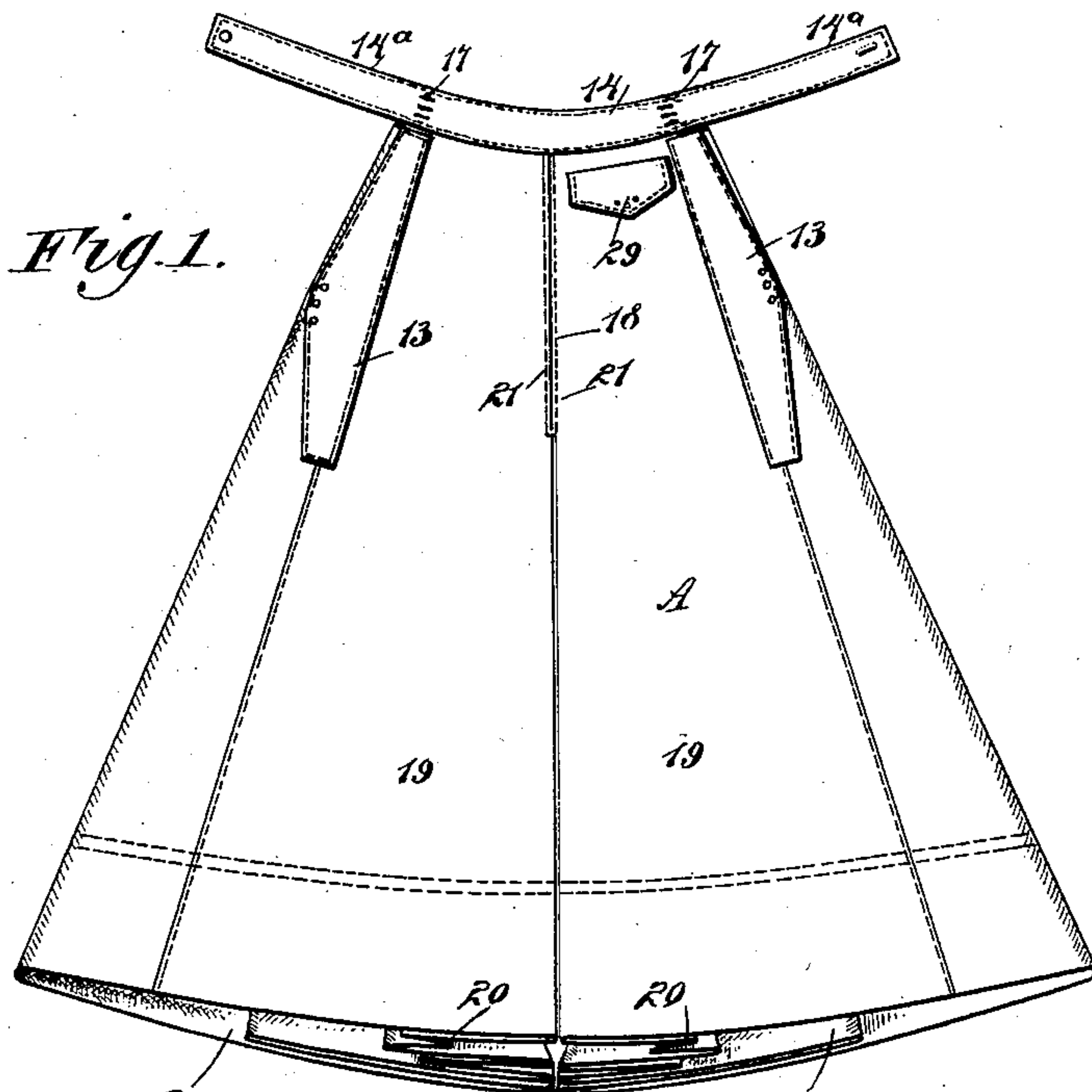
B. E. MARTIN.

SKIRT.

(Application filed Aug. 25, 1897.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.



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2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

Fig. 3.

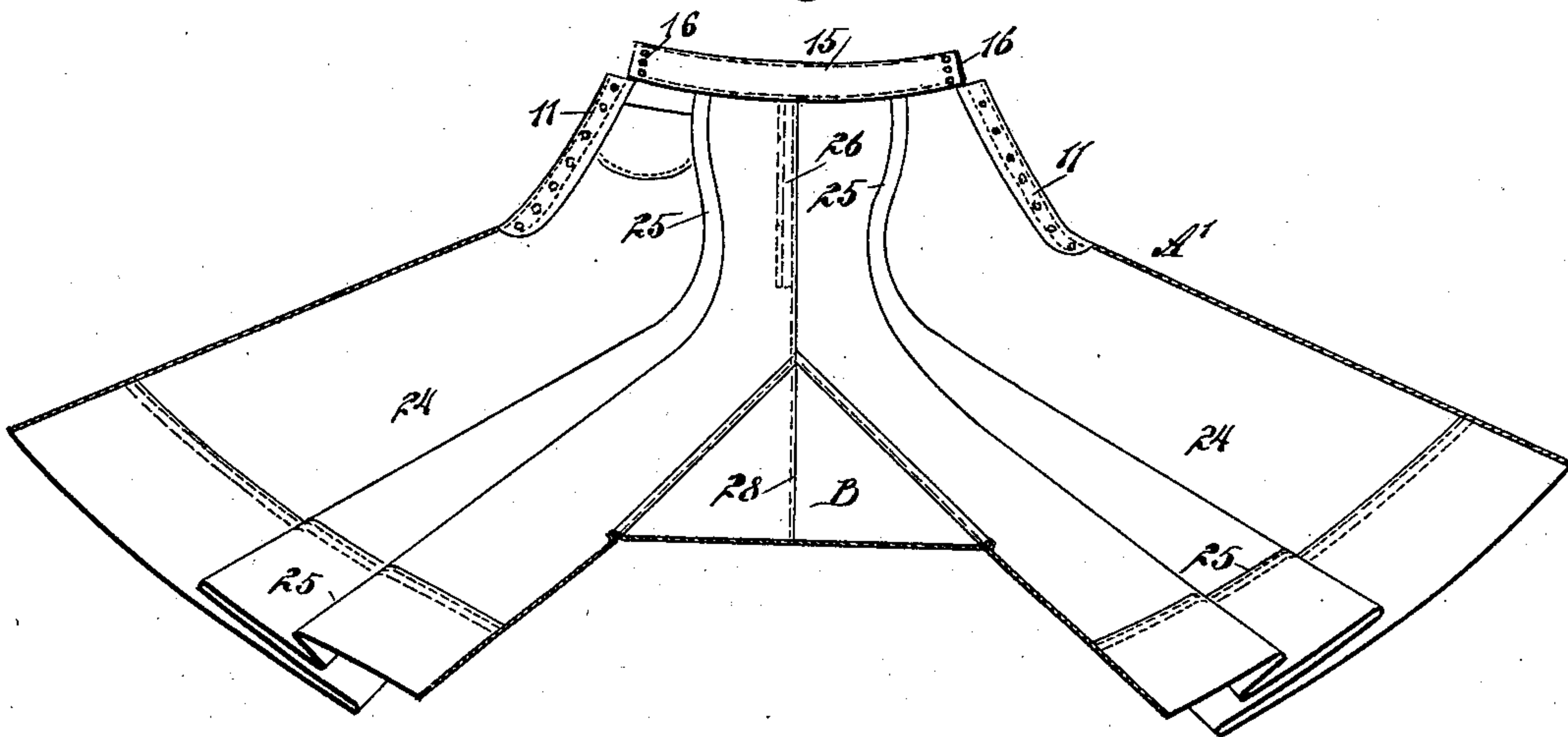


Fig. 4.

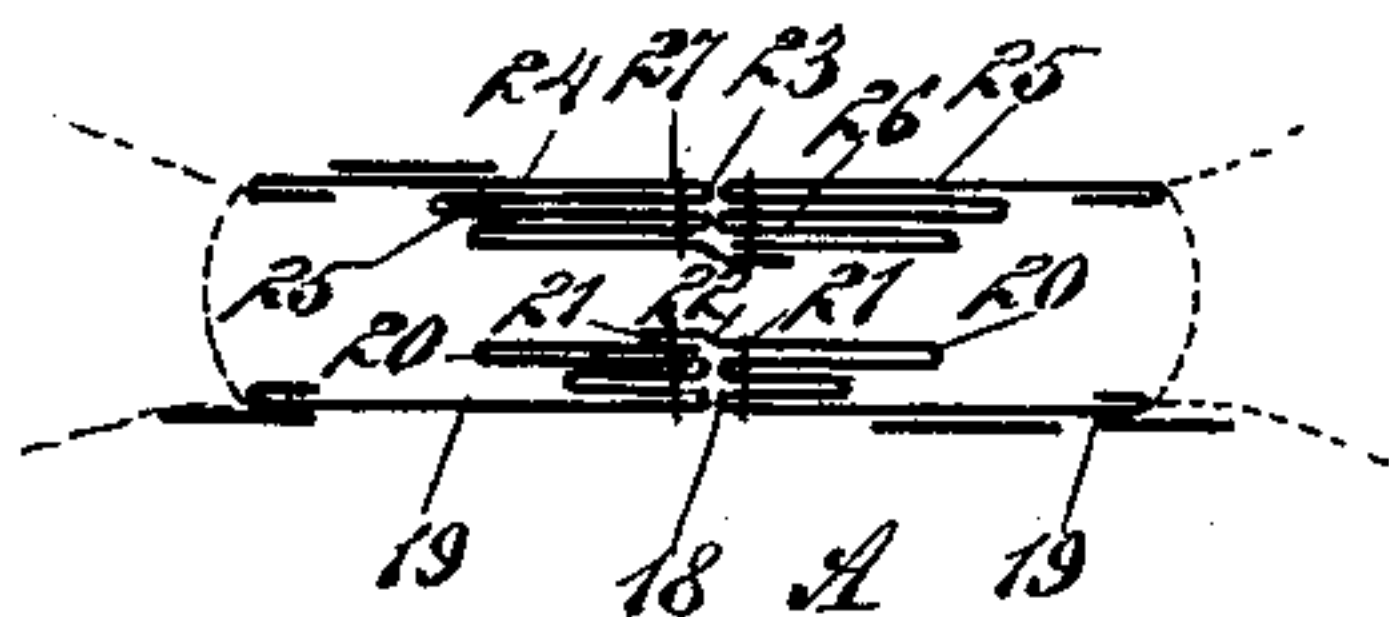


Fig. 6.

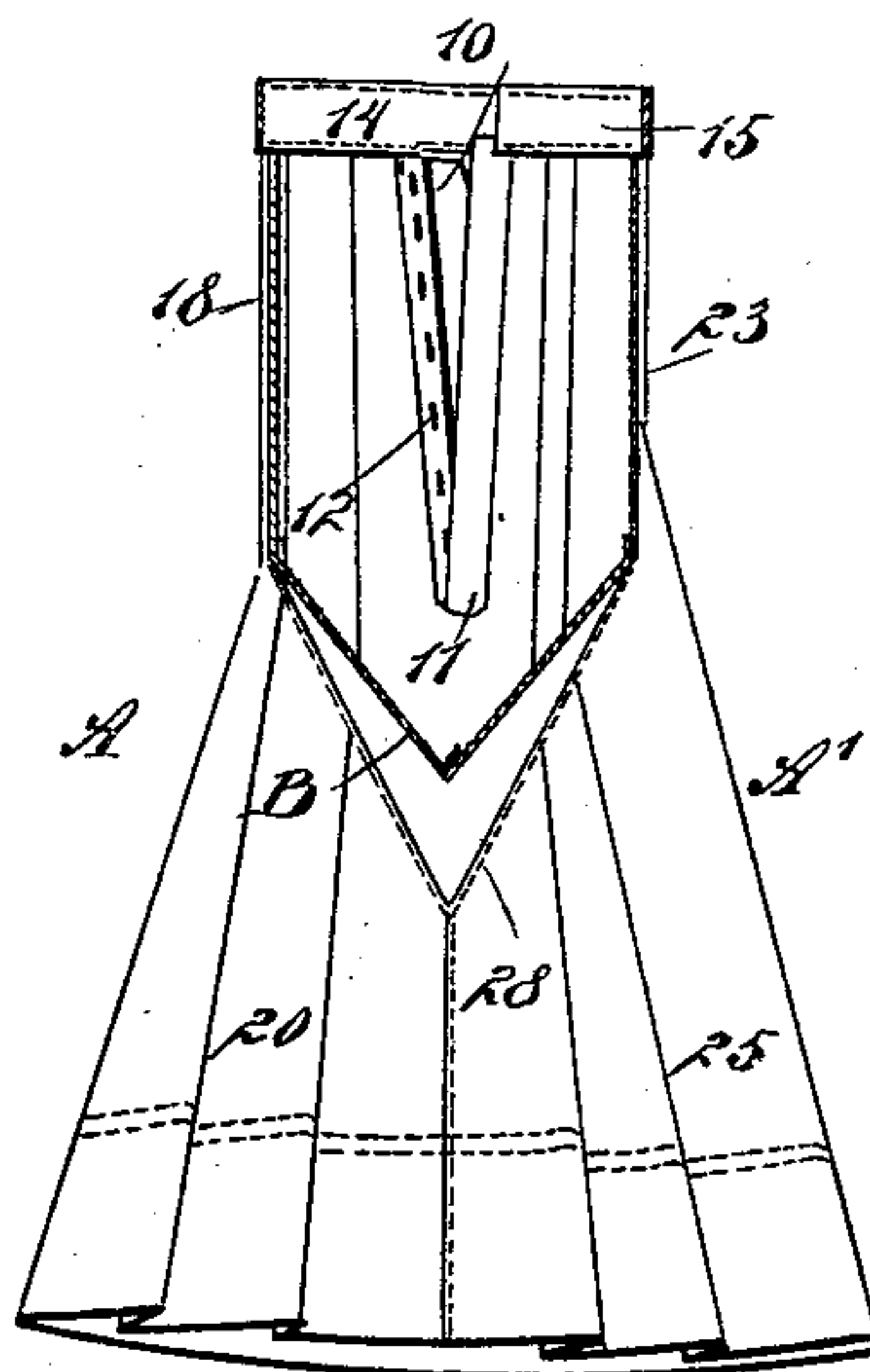


Fig. 5.

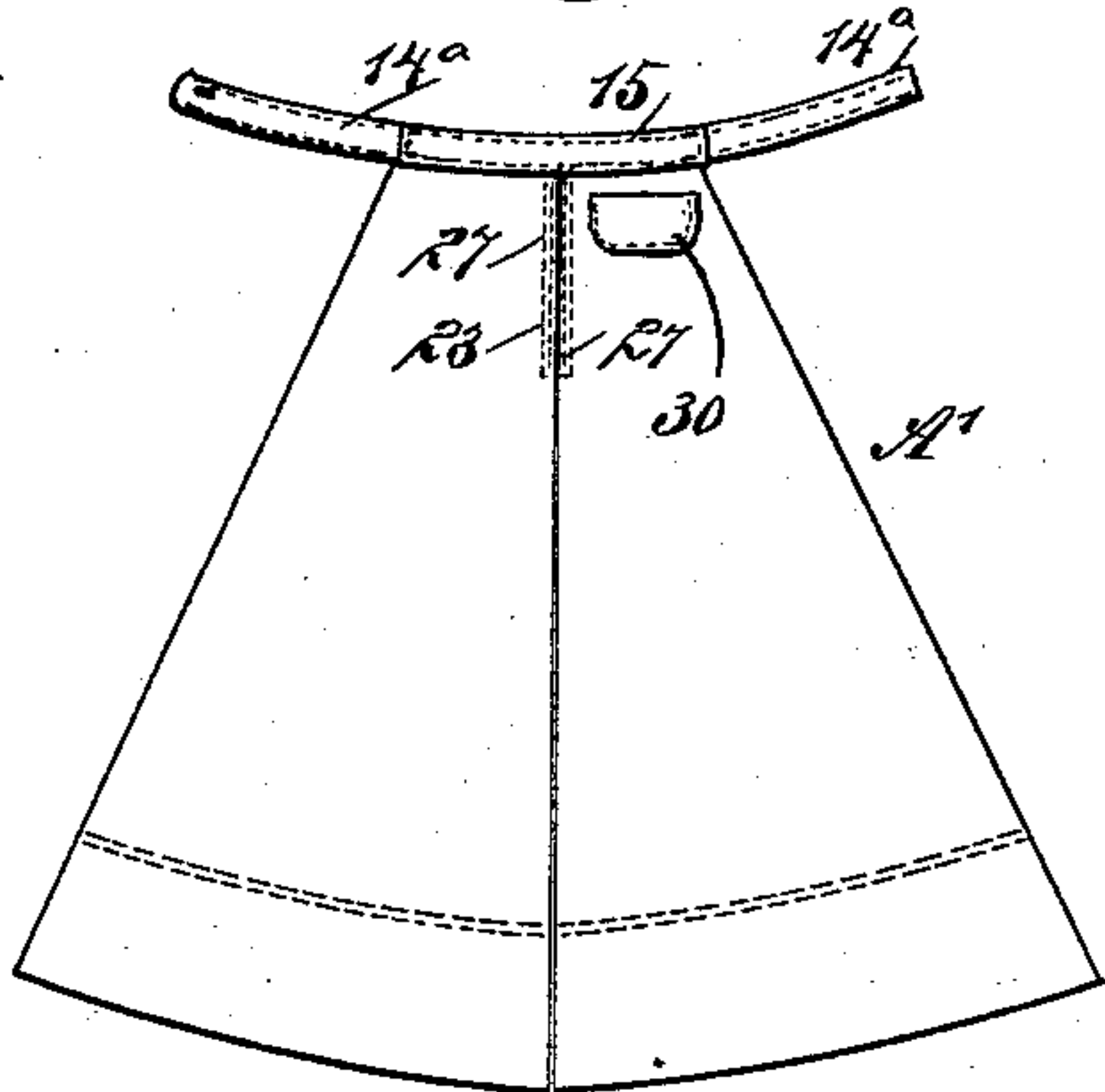
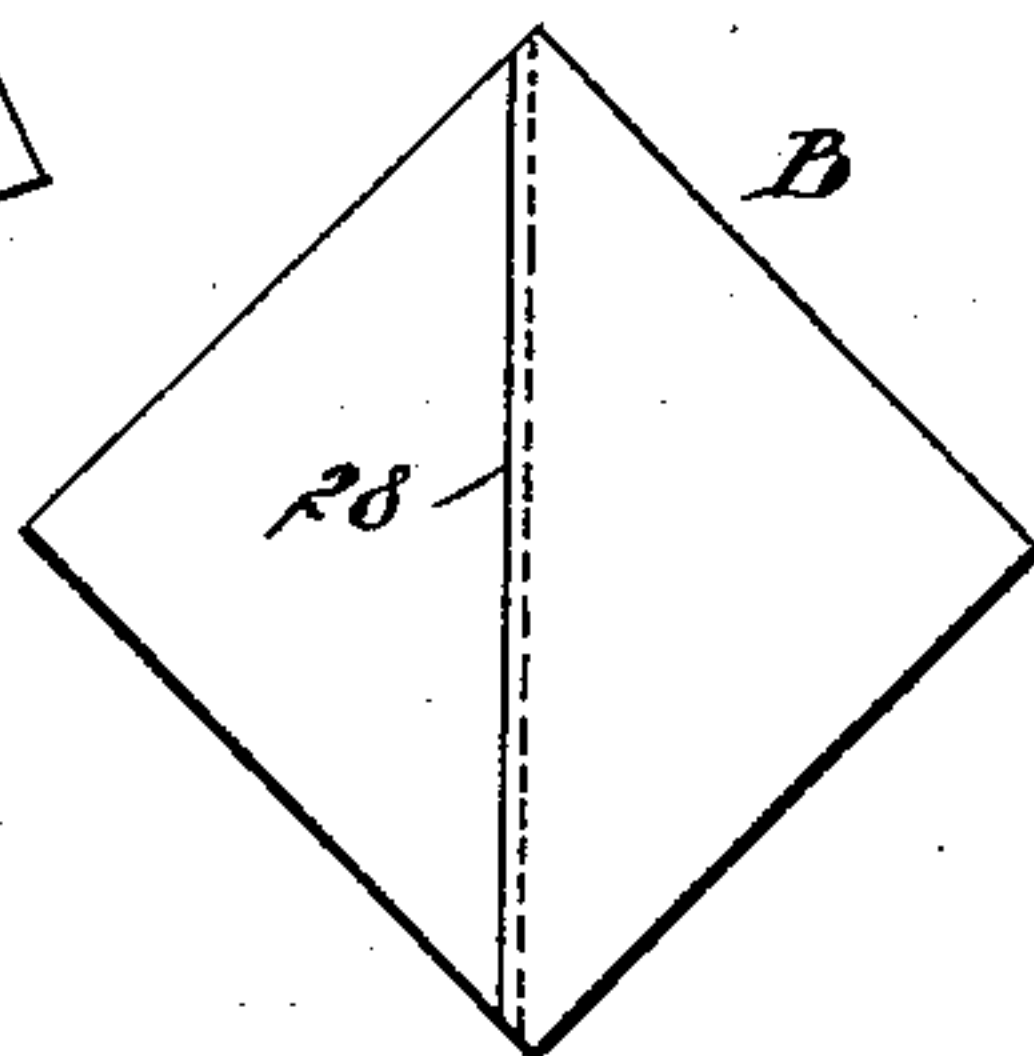


Fig. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BERTHA ELLIS MARTIN, OF ASBURY PARK, NEW JERSEY.

SKIRT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 608,469, dated August 2, 1898.

Application filed August 25, 1897. Serial No. 649,481. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BERTHA ELLIS MARTIN, of Asbury Park, in the county of Monmouth and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and Improved Skirt, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The object of my invention is to provide a bicycle-skirt, especially a skirt having the appearance of an apron front, which will not blow up over the knees and which may be used with comfort upon drop-frame or upon diamond-frame wheels, the skirt hanging gracefully whether the rider be mounted or dismounted.

Another object of the invention is to provide a means whereby the front portion of the skirt may be securely held upon the person while the back portion is dropped at the waist.

A further object of the invention is to so construct the skirt at the crotch and seat that said portions will be particularly adapted to the saddle, preventing the skirt from pulling or drawing at any part while the wearer is mounted and the wheel is in motion, the crotch and seat being also so constructed that they will admit of all the freedom required in the way of give or elasticity.

The invention consists in the novel construction and combination of the several parts, as will be hereinafter fully set forth, and pointed out in the claim.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the improved skirt. Fig. 2 is a front view of the skirt open at the sides and opened at the division below the seat to show the plaits. Fig. 3 is a section taken practically through the skirt from side to side, showing the inner portion of the back and the seat in section. Fig. 4 is a diagrammatic horizontal section illustrating the manner in which the plaits are formed and secured together at the front and at the back. Fig. 5 is a rear elevation of the skirt. Fig. 6 is a transverse section through the skirt, taken at the center; and Fig. 7 is a detail view of the combined crotch and seat.

Both the front A and the rear A' of the skirt are plain and divided at the center. The usual placket-opening at the back is omitted,

and instead an opening 10 is made at each side, the said openings being provided with overlapping flaps 11 and 12, one flap being preferably provided with buttons and the other with buttonholes, as shown in Figs. 2 and 6. An ornamental cover-flap 13 is attached to each side of the front of the skirt, extending over the openings 10 and concealing the same. The waistband 14 of the front section A of the skirt is carried beyond the sides of the said section, as shown at 14^a in Figs. 1 and 2, being adapted to extend over the waistband 15 of the rear section A' of the skirt. The waistband 15 of the rear section is provided with buttons 16, and the waistband of the front section has buttonholes 17 to receive the said buttons. It is therefore evident that the waistband of the front section may be secured around the waist, while the waistband of the rear section is unbuttoned, and the upper portion of the rear section may be dropped.

At the upper central portion of the front section A of the skirt a straight opening 18 is made, which extends from the top edge to a point at or near the crotch. The front is made with two plain panels 19, and back of each of these panels the material at each side of the opening 18 is returned upon itself to form a series of plaits 20, which are preferably graduated in width, and the material of one of the innermost plaits is made to extend over the opening 18, forming a closing-flap 22 therefor. The plaits at each side of the opening 18 are secured together by lines of stitching 21, which stitching extends the length of the opening 18. The rear section A' of the skirt is similarly constructed to the front section A, except that the central opening 23, corresponding to the opening 18 at the front, is made on the bias, and the back comprises two outer plain panels 24, the material being returned upon itself at each side of the opening 23 to form plaits 25, graduated in width, the opening being closed at the inner portion of the back by a closing-flap 26, being a continuation of one of the plaits, and the plaits at each side of the opening 23 are connected by lines of stitching 27.

The plaits at the front and at the back extend downward to the bottom edge of the skirt, as shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 3. The

plaits at the front and at the back being stitched part way down effectually keeps the skirt in place over the knees as well as over the saddle. The side flaps 13 relieve the plain appearance of the front of the skirt, and I desire it to be understood that where the sections of the skirt meet at every seam one edge is bias and the other edge is straight.

A very important feature of the invention consists in the formation of the seat B. This seat is practically a gusset of peculiar construction and is of diamond shape. The inner seams of the sections of the skirt connect with this gusset. In fact the gusset serves to connect the front and the rear sections, the plaits folding at each side of the gusset. This gusset not only forms a seat, but also what may be termed the "crotch" of the garment, and its form enables the garment at its seat to properly adjust itself to the saddle and prevents any pulling or drawing from any part of the garment when the rider is mounted and while the machine is in motion. The gusset is preferably provided with a seam 28 through the center, said seam being bias, and in order to further promote the elasticity of the gusset it has no straight edges whatever, every edge being cut on the bias.

The garment is preferably provided with a pocket 29 at the front, in which a watch may be carried, and a pocket 30 at the back, adapted to carry a purse, handkerchief, or other article.

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

A skirt having a front portion and a rear portion, each provided with a central vertical opening extending from the waist to the crotch, leg portions joined together at the crotch, plaits extending downwardly from the waist at each side of said openings to the bottom of the skirt, the end of one plait at its upper portion being extended across the adjacent opening to close the same, and lines of stitching extending through the skirt portions and through the upper portions of the plaits longitudinally of the said openings and closely adjacent thereto, the lower or leg portions of the plaits, from the crotch downward, being loose, substantially as described.

BERTHA ELLIS MARTIN.

Witnesses:

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