

No. 625,334.

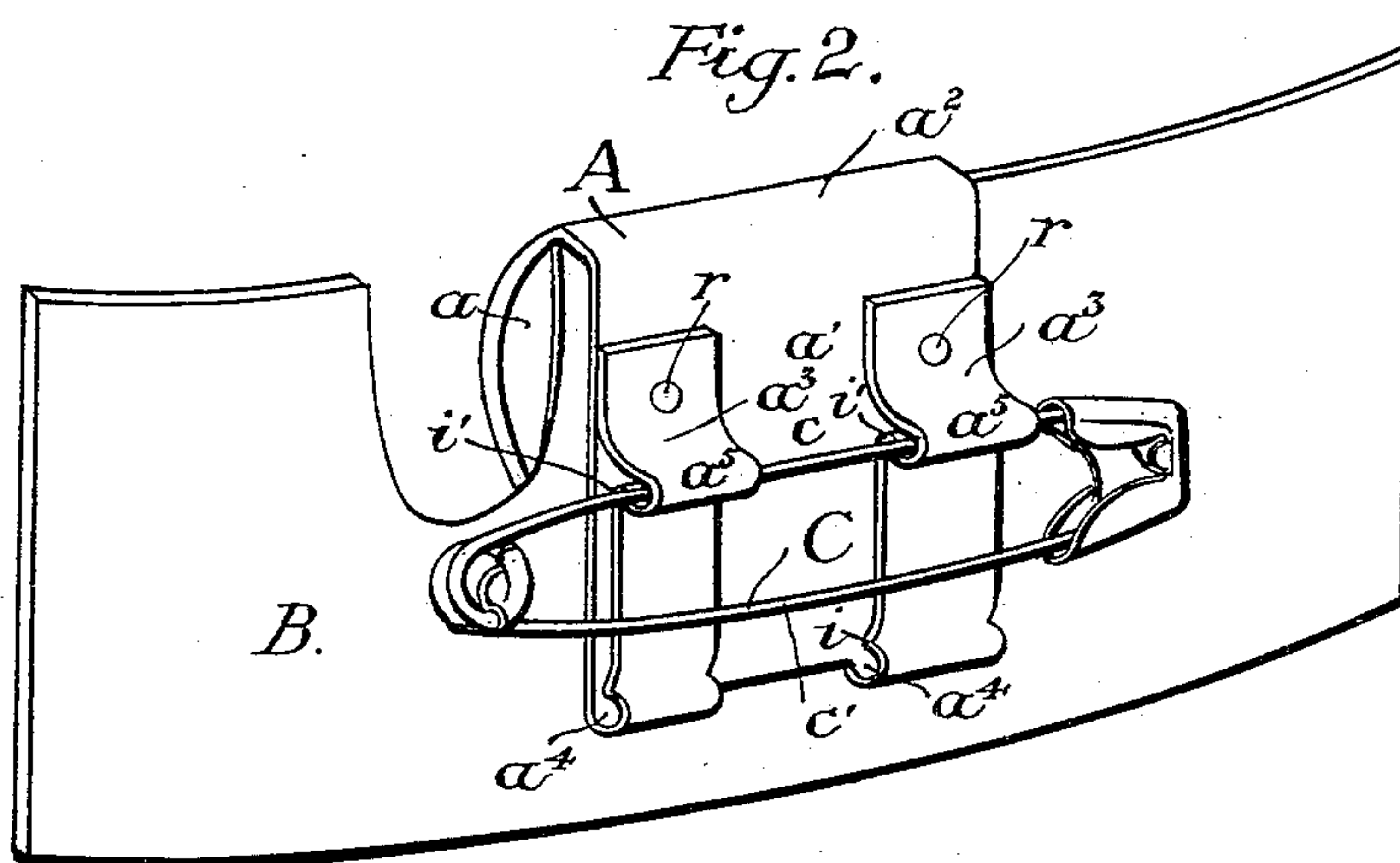
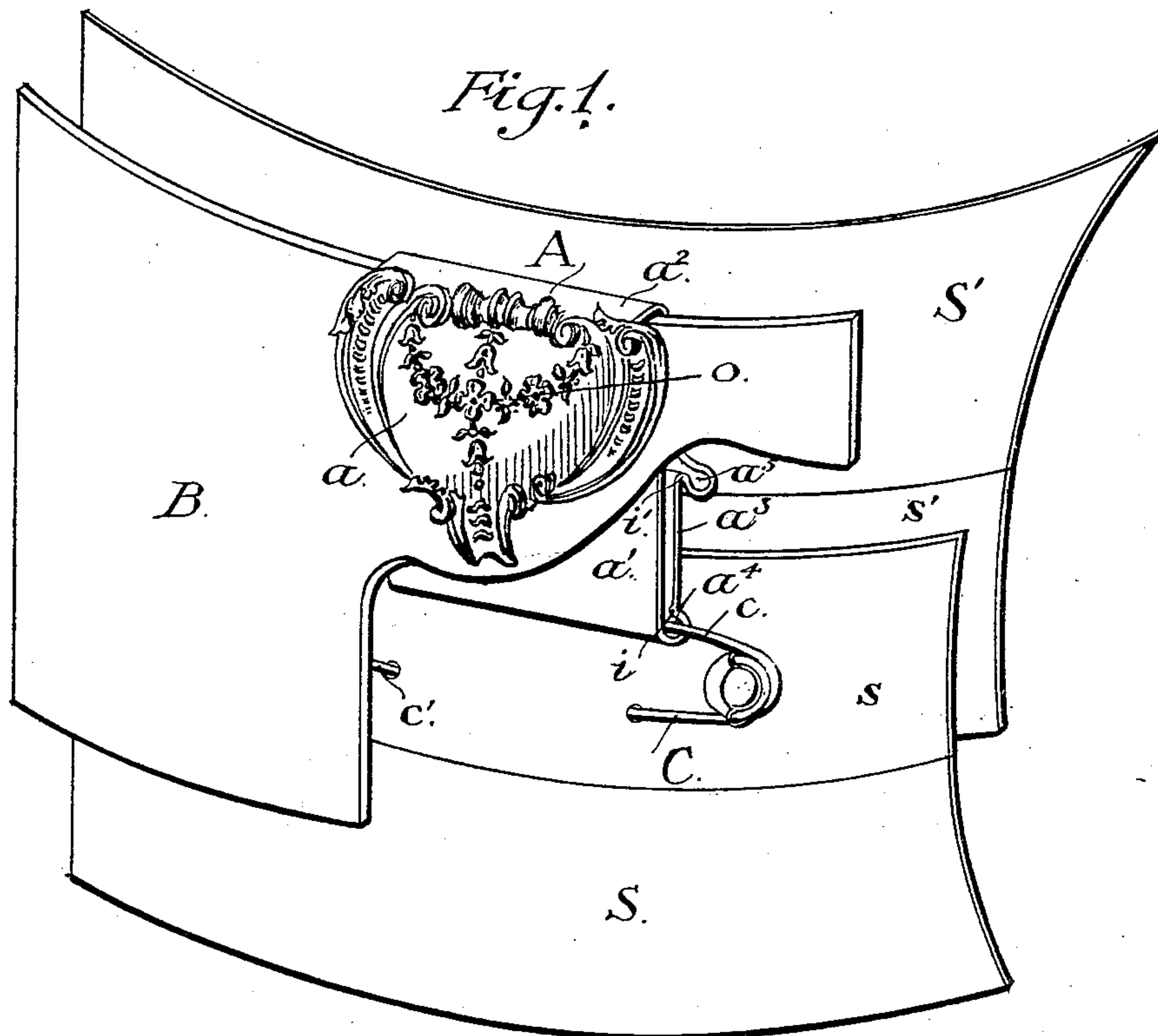
Patented May 23, 1899.

F. D. & J. E. HOWE.
SKIRT AND WAIST SUPPORTING DEVICE.

(Application filed May 5, 1897.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.



Witnesses.
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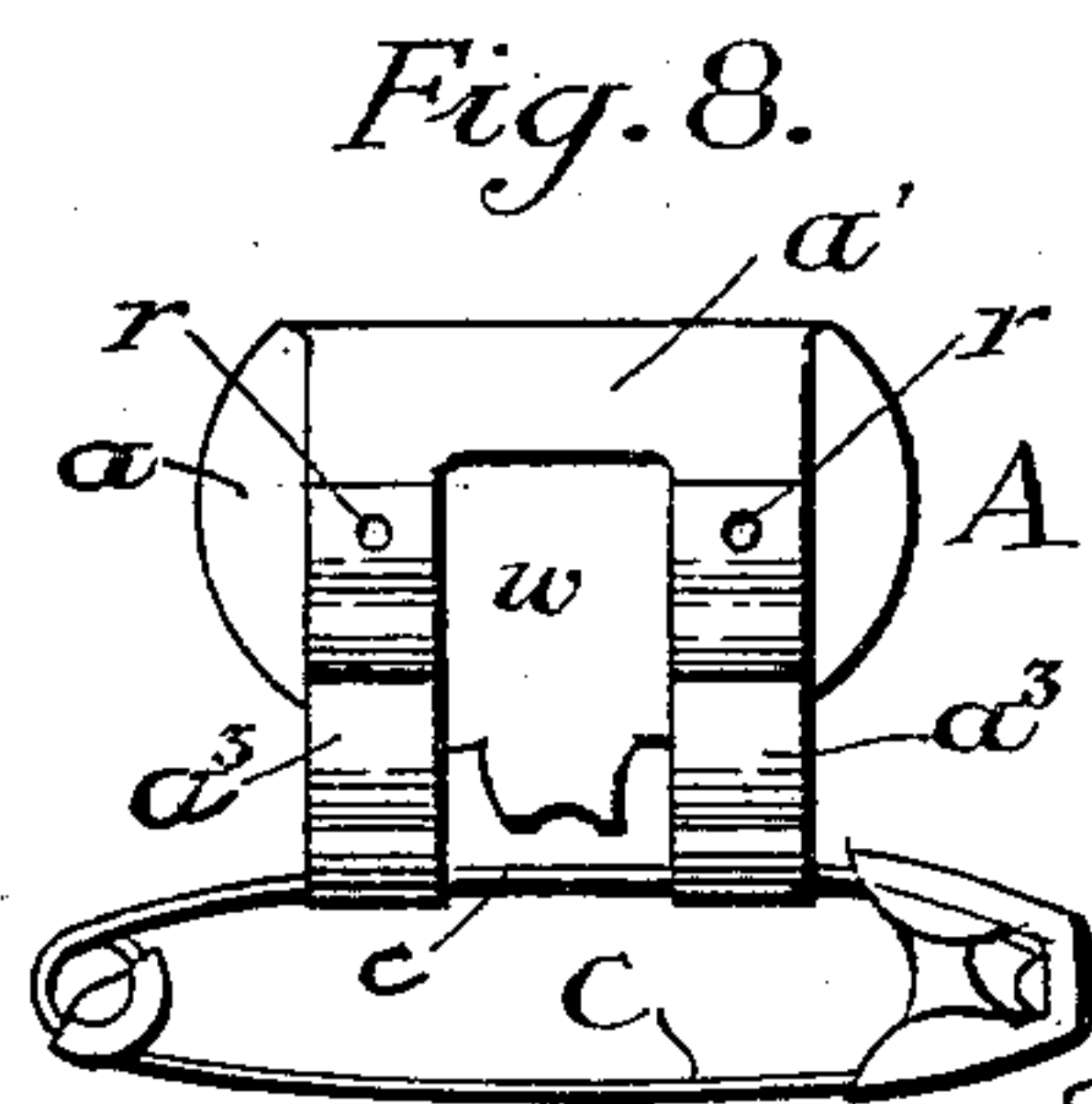
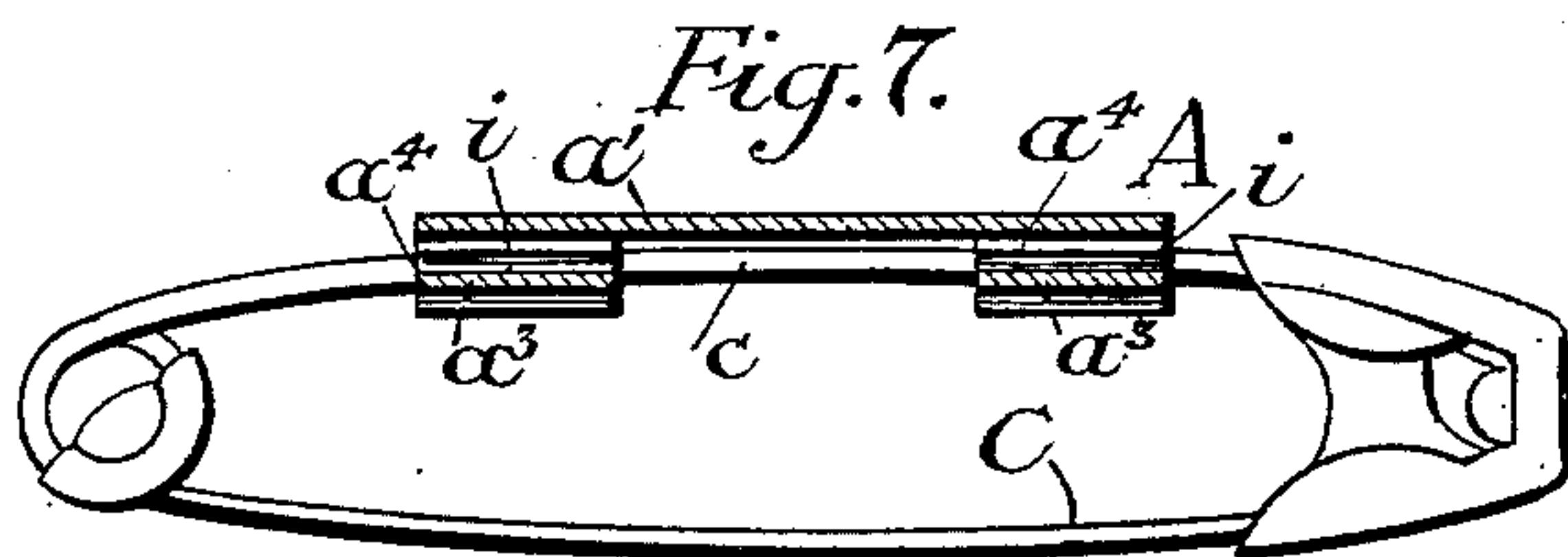
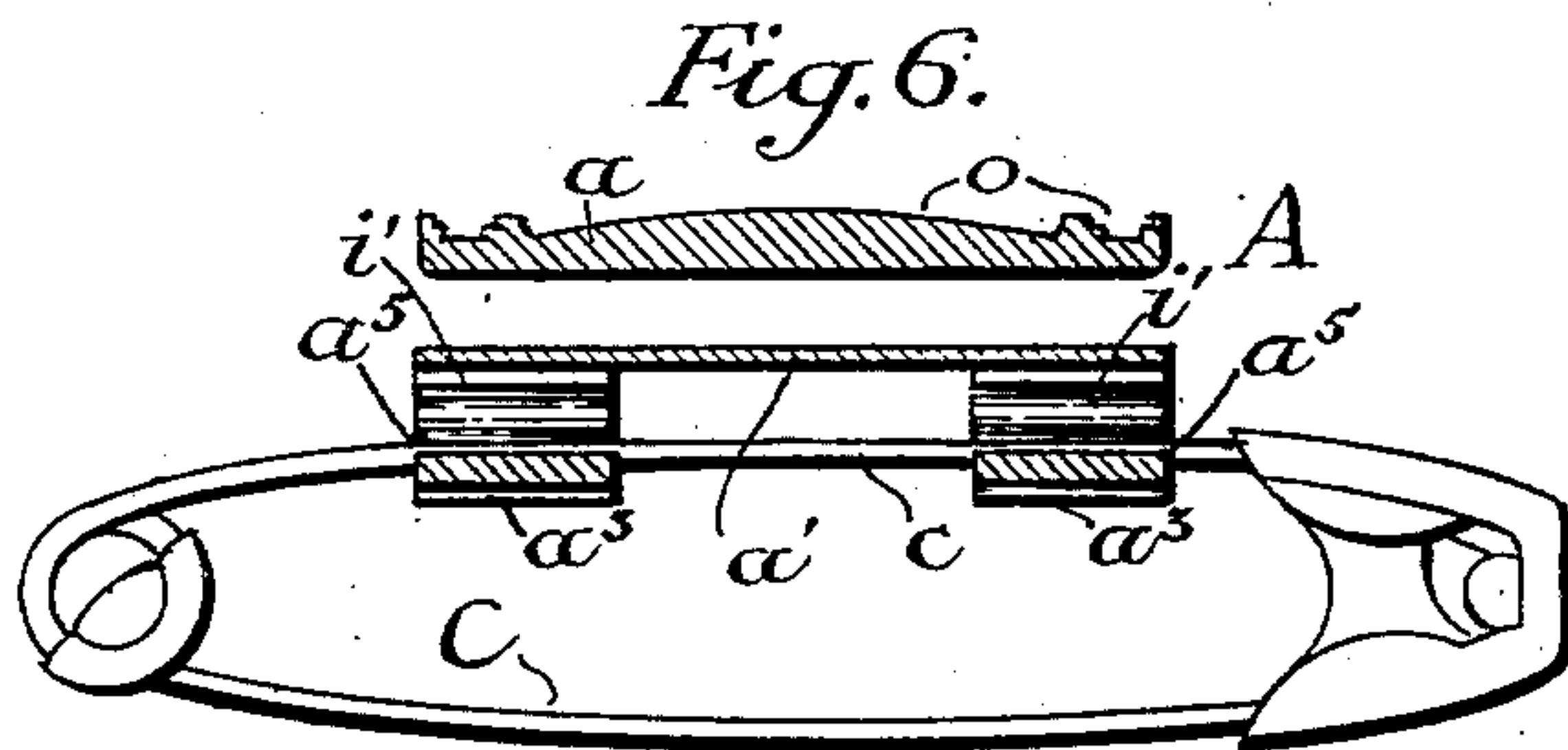
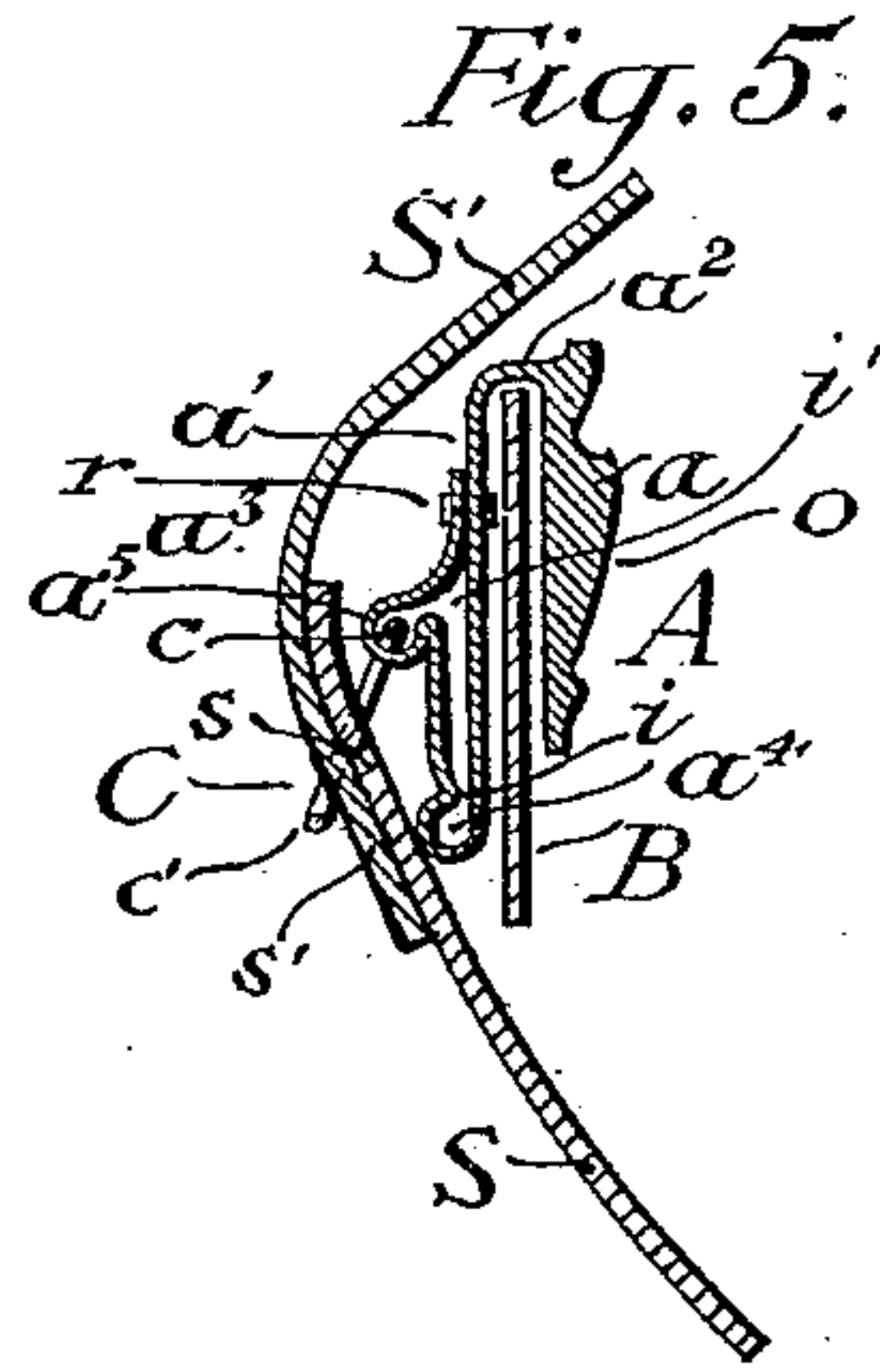
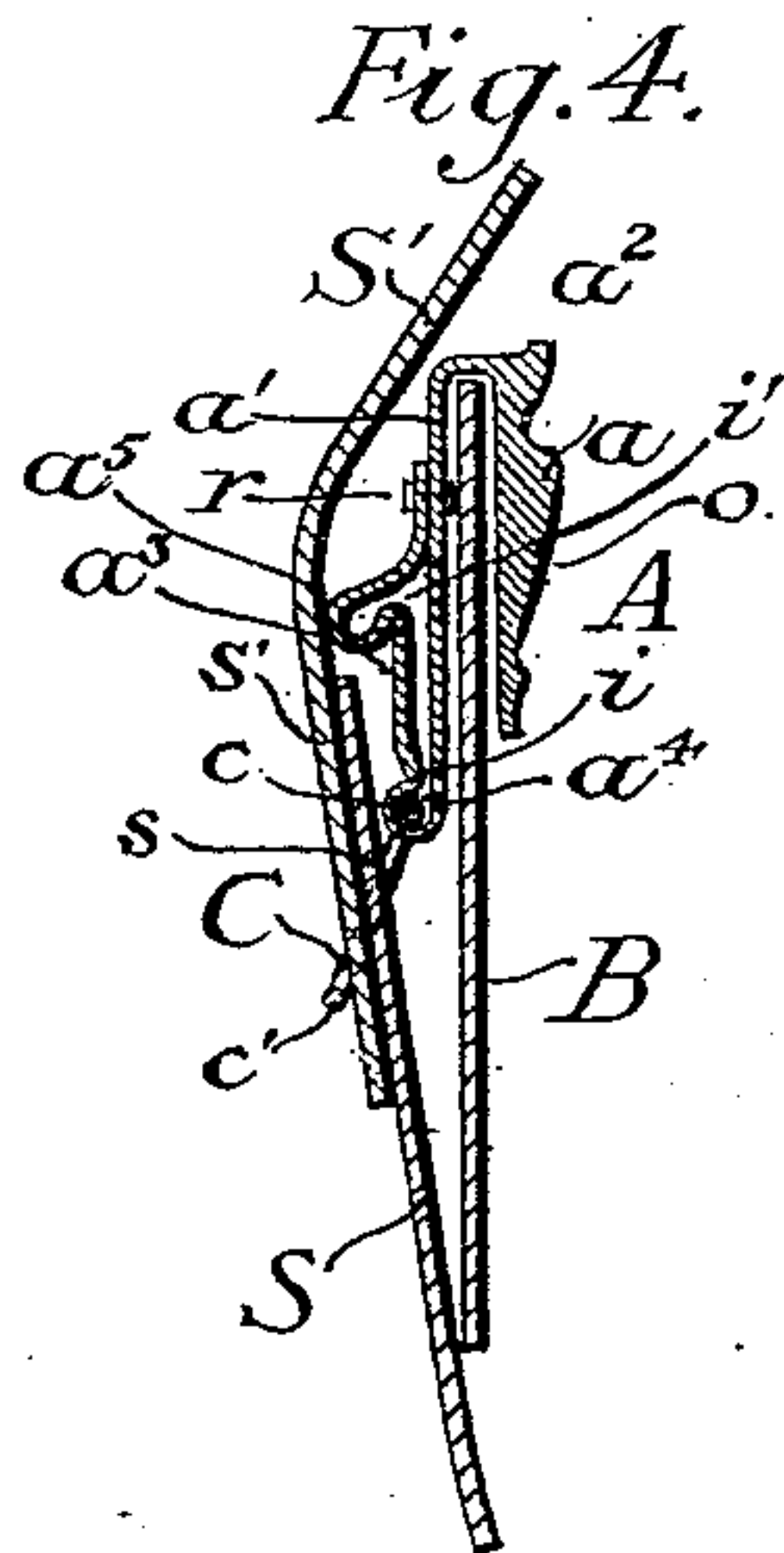
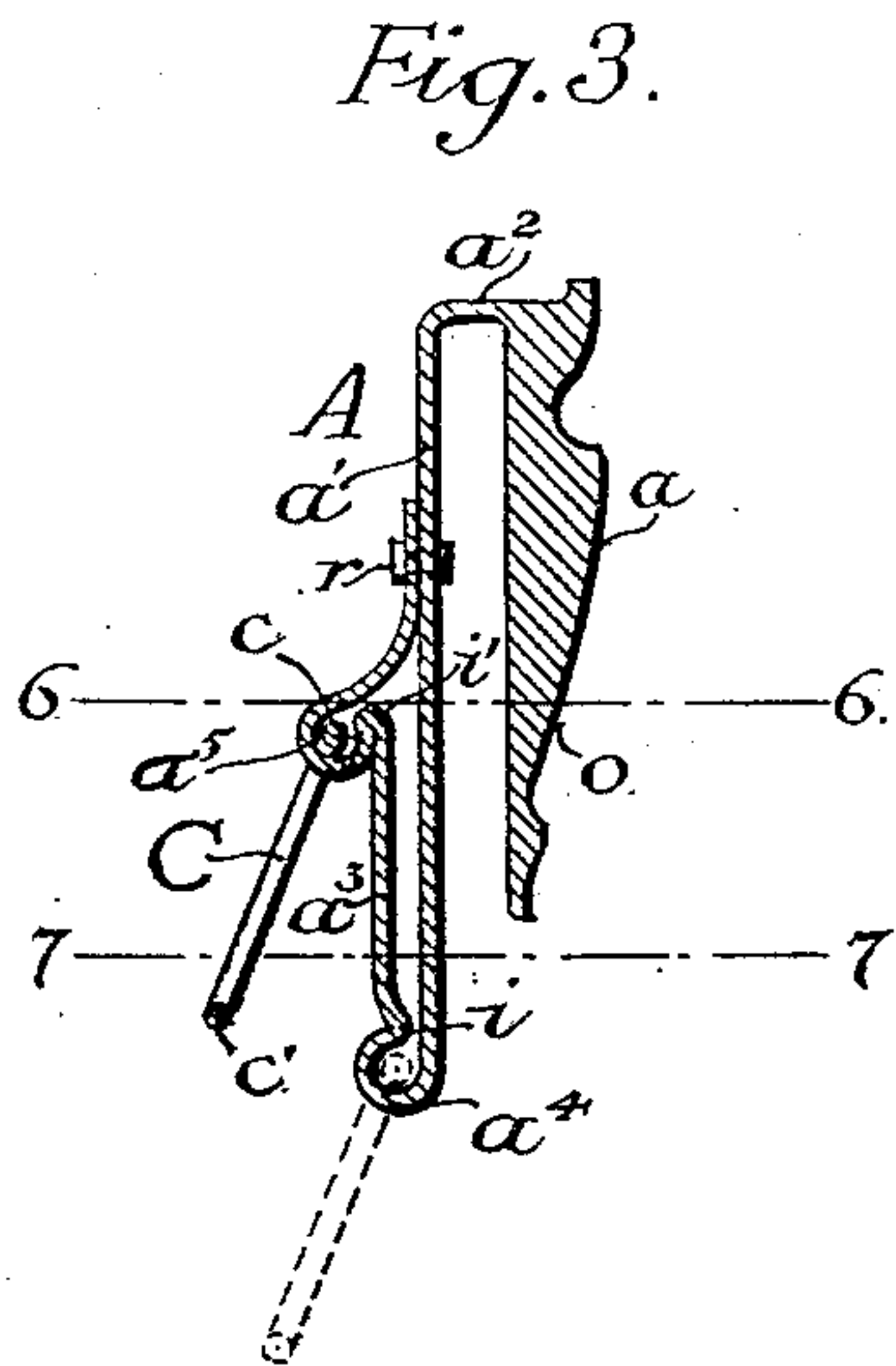
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2 Sheets—Sheet 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FLORENCE DURYÉE HOWE AND JOHN EDWARD HOWE, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.,
ASSIGNORS TO THEMSELVES AND J. REED LITTELL, OF SAME PLACE.

SKIRT AND WAIST SUPPORTING DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 625,334, dated May 23, 1899.

Application filed May 5, 1897. Serial No. 635,164. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, FLORENCE DURYÉE HOWE and JOHN EDWARD HOWE, citizens 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 Skirt and Waist Supporting Devices; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to that class of supporting devices which embody a safety-pin adapted to be held in connection with a belt and arranged to secure and support the skirt in proper relation to the belt and waist-line.

Ordinarily in the wearing of shirt-waists and belts in feminine apparel considerable inconvenience and disadvantage are occasioned by reason of the skirt sagging below the belt and the lower edge of the shirt-waist drawing up above the belt. Various securing and supporting devices have been devised for retaining the skirt in connection with or proper relation to the belt; but generally these devices are designed only for the supporting of the skirt, leaving the shirt-waist disconnected and free to slip up from normal position. Such devices have also not been usually adapted for adjustment with relation to different sizes or widths of belts, so that unless employed in connection with a fixed or standard width of belt they are liable to be generally ineffective in the purpose for which they are designed and are apt to expose portions of the device or the waistband of the garment below the belt. Previous supporting devices of this class have also been generally designed for connection with hooks and buttons secured upon the garments, which construction and arrangement are disadvantageous and inconvenient in practical use.

The object of our invention is to provide a simple and improved supporting device of the character above set forth which will be adapted for effective adjustment, so that it can be used in connection with either wide or narrow belts without exposing parts of the device or waistband of the garments, which will conjointly hold both the skirt and shirt-waist in

secure and proper relative position and serve to at all times effectively conceal the waistbands in rear of either a narrow or wide belt, which will obviate the employment of hooks or buttons upon the garments, and which will, furthermore, possess advantages in point of convenience, adaptability, inexpensiveness, ease of adjustment and operation, adjustability, effectiveness, and general efficiency.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view, on an enlarged scale, showing our improved supporting device in connection with a skirt and shirt-waist and a wide belt, parts of the belt being broken away to show the back portion of the device. Fig. 2 is a perspective view, on an enlarged scale, showing the back portion of the supporting device and illustrating the position and adjustment of the same in relation to a narrow belt. Fig. 3 is a vertical transverse sectional view of the supporting device, on an enlarged scale, illustrating the adjustment of the supporting-pin with respect to variations in the width or size of the belt. Fig. 4 is a vertical transverse sectional view, on an approximately normal scale, showing the supporting device in connection with the skirt and shirt-waist and illustrating its adjustment with relation to a wide belt. Fig. 5 is a sectional view corresponding to Fig. 4 and illustrating the adjustment of the supporting device with respect to a narrow belt. Fig. 6 is a detail horizontal sectional view taken on the line 6 6, Fig. 3, the supporting-pin being in the upper socket in the position used for narrow belts. Fig. 7 is a detail horizontal sectional view taken on the line 7 7, Fig. 3, the supporting-pin being in the lower socket in the position used for wide belts. Fig. 8 is a rear elevation, on an approximately normal scale, illustrating a modification in the construction of the back plate.

Corresponding parts in all the figures are denoted by the same letters of reference.

Referring to the drawings, A designates the body of the device, which is approximately U shape, comprising a front plate a and a back plate a' , said plates being approximately parallel and connected at their top ends by the bridge or cross piece a^2 . The front and back plates may be integrally formed of a single piece of metal, or the front plate may

be formed in a separate piece, secured by riveting or in any other suitable manner to the back plate, as desired.

In practice the body A is hooked over the top edge of the belt B, as shown in Figs. 1 to 5, inclusive, so that the top bridge or cross piece rests or hangs upon the top edge of the belt, with the front or face plate *a* projecting downwardly over the outer face of the belt, while the back plate *a'* extends downwardly against the inner face of the belt.

The front plate *a* may be ornamented, as shown at *o*, Fig. 1, with any suitable design or in any desired manner, or it may be arranged to carry a portrait in miniature or be enameled in colors.

Connected with the inner or back plate *a'* is a pin C, which may be of any ordinary safety-pin construction, embodying a top cross bar or arm *c* and adapted to have its free spring-arm *c'* inserted through both the top edge or waistband *s* of the skirt S and through the lower edge or waistband *s'* of the shirt-waist S', so that the pin serves to retain and hold in proper relative position, in connection with the belt, both the skirt and shirt-waist.

The securing-pin is connected with and supported by the inner or back portion of the body A and is vertically adjustable with relation thereto. The pin is also, preferably, pivotally mounted with relation to the back plate of the device. By means of this vertical adjustment of the securing-pin our improved device is adapted for effective and convenient use upon both broad and narrow belts. For instance, when used in connection with a broad belt, as shown in Figs. 1 and 4 of the drawings, the pin will be placed at its lowest point of adjustment with relation to the back plate *a'*, in which position the width or breadth of the belt will serve to entirely conceal the pin and the adjoining waistbands or edges of the skirt and shirt-waist and at the same time the skirt will hang or be supported in its proper relative position with respect to the waist-line; but when a narrow belt is used if the pin were in fixed adjustment with relation to the device the waistband of the skirt would show below the belt or the skirt would hang too low. Therefore by means of our improved construction and arrangement, embodying the vertically-adjustable relation between the securing-pin and the supporting or suspending device, when a narrow belt is used the pin is adjusted to its upper or higher position with relation to the supporting device, in which position it will serve to retain the waist-bands or adjoining edges of both the skirt and shirt-waist in full concealment back of the belt and at the same time permit of the proper relative hanging of the skirt with relation to the waist-line. In carrying out this vertically-adjustable relation between the securing-pin and the supporting device we prefer to provide the back plate *a'* with two transverse horizontal sockets, one above the other, the lower socket

being preferably at the bottom edge of the back plate and the upper socket some distance below the top of the supporting device, these sockets being adapted to hold and retain the top cross bar or arm *c* of the pin. The sockets may be formed by plates or arms *a³ a³*, arranged upon the rear face of the back plate *a'*. These plates or arms may be an integral part of the back plate *a'*, as shown in the drawings, being formed by extensions of said back plate bent upwardly from the lower end thereof and with relation to the rear face of said back plate and having their top ends secured to the latter by riveting, as shown at *r*, or in any other suitable manner. The socket-plate may extend entirely across the back plate *a'*, but is preferably formed of two arms or plates, as herein shown, arranged at each side the back plate. The socket-plates *a³ a³* extend in approximately parallel position with relation to the back plate *a'* and are bent to form the sockets for the top arm *c* of the pin. Thus at their bottom ends, at the point of connection with the bottom edge of the back plate *a'*, the socket plates or arms are bent in curved form to form a transverse eye or loop *a⁴*, which provides the lower or bottom socket. In like manner in a point near their upper secured ends the socket plates or arms are bent outwardly in curved form to form a transverse projecting eye or loop *a⁵*, which provides the upper or top socket. The eye or loop bends forming the sockets are preferably of approximately circular contour to best conform to and to receive and retain the cylindrical fixed rod or arm *c* of the securing-pin.

The socket plates or arms are preferably constructed of spring metal, so that the rod or arm of the pin will spring into its seat in the socket and be securely retained therein. In carrying out this function and construction the lower bend, forming the lower socket *a⁴*, may be indented or projected inwardly at the top of the curve or circle, as shown at *i*, to form a spring mouth or opening or entrance between the socket-plate and back plate *a'* at the top of the bottom socket. The bend or curvature forming the top socket projects rearwardly from the socket plate or arm, and the initial outward and downward curve in the formation of the circular socket forms an indenture or projection *i'*, providing a spring mouth or entrance at the inner end of the top projecting socket *a⁵*.

The operation and advantages of our invention will be readily understood. The top fixed retaining rod or arm of the pin may be readily slid between the socket arms or plates *a³* and the back plate *a'* and sprung into its seat in either the upper or lower sockets. The construction and arrangement of the transverse eyes or loops forming the sockets, as herein set forth, enable a limited play of the securing-pin laterally or transversely with relation to the supporting device A and also secure the pin in pivotal relation to the lat-

ter, by which the operation of securing the skirt and shirt-waist to the pin is facilitated and rendered more convenient.

Our improved supporting device may be constructed of silver or other precious metal, or the ornamented front plate *a* may be constructed of such metal, (when the front plate and back plate are formed in separate pieces,) and the rear concealed portion of the device may be formed of any suitable sheet metal, or the entire supporting device may be formed of sheet metal of any suitable character or quality, as desired.

In Fig. 8 we have illustrated a modified construction in which the back plate *a'* is of skeleton form, cut away, as shown at W, to conform to the size and shape of the socket plates or arms *a*³. The back plate *a'* may be of any suitable or adapted skeleton form, or it may be of solid construction, as shown in the other figures of the drawings.

We do not desire to be understood as limiting ourselves to the precise form and details of construction as herein shown and described, as various manifest modifications in detail features of construction and arrangement may be employed without departing from the spirit and scope of our invention. We therefore reserve the right to all such variation and modification in structure and arrangement as falls within the spirit and scope of our invention and the terms of the following claims.

Having thus described our invention, we claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. A skirt and waist supporting device, comprising a body portion or support adapted to be suspended in normal fixed relative position from the top edge of a belt and provided with a plurality of sockets in vertical series and in fixed relation to said support, and a securing-pin carried in projecting position di-

rectly upon said support and having a movable connection therewith into and from said plurality of sockets, whereby the support may be used upon different widths of belts and the pin adjustably seated in the different sockets, substantially as set forth.

2. A skirt and waist supporting device, comprising a body portion or support adapted to be suspended in normal fixed relative position from the top edge of a belt and consisting of a hook-shaped top portion and a back plate depending therefrom and supplementary rear members extending upwardly in approximately parallel relation to the back plate, said supplementary members being bent transversely and on different planes to provide the plurality of sockets in vertical series, and a securing-pin slidably mounted upon and carried by said support between the back plate and said outer socket members and adjustable vertically between said members into and from the different sockets, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. A skirt and waist supporting device, comprising a back plate and rear members extending in approximately parallel relation to said back plate and separated therefrom by an intervening space extending vertically and longitudinally between sockets arranged on different horizontal planes, and a securing-pin having a bar slidably retained and operating in the space between the back plate and rear members and adjustable vertically into and from said different sockets, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

FLORENCE DURYEE HOWE.

JOHN EDWARD HOWE.

Witnesses:

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WOODVILLE FLEMMING.