

No. 633,050.

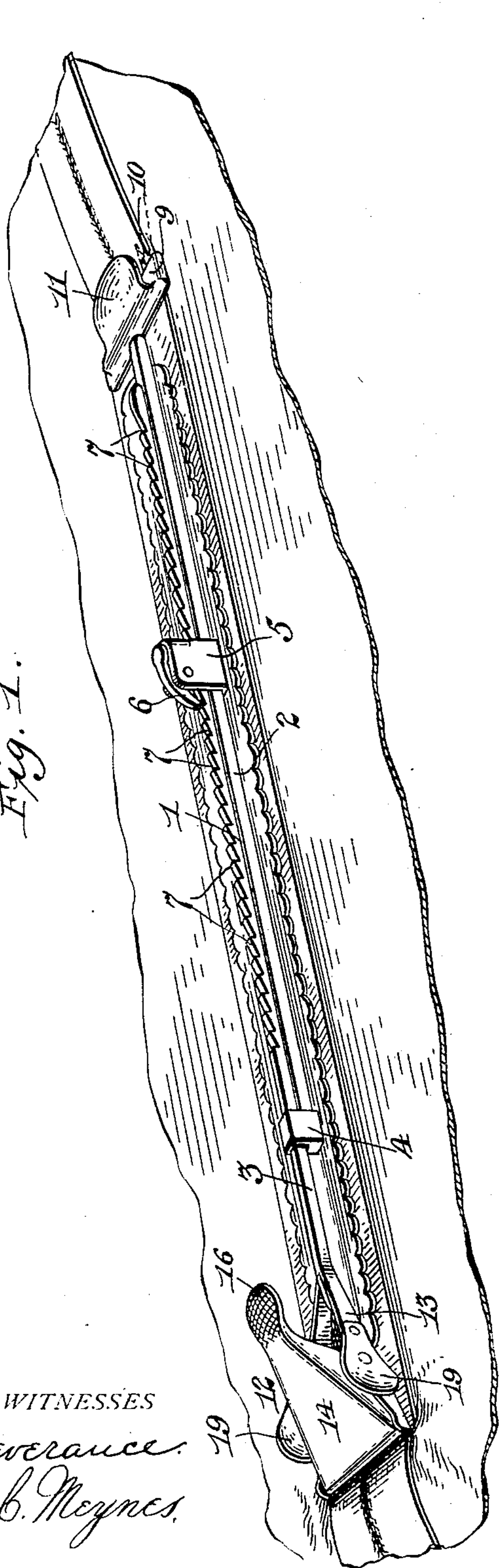
Patented Sept. 12, 1899.

M. L. SPENARD.
GARMENT STRETCHER.

(Application filed Apr. 21, 1899.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.



WITNESSES

Cleverance
H. B. Meynes.

Fig. 2.

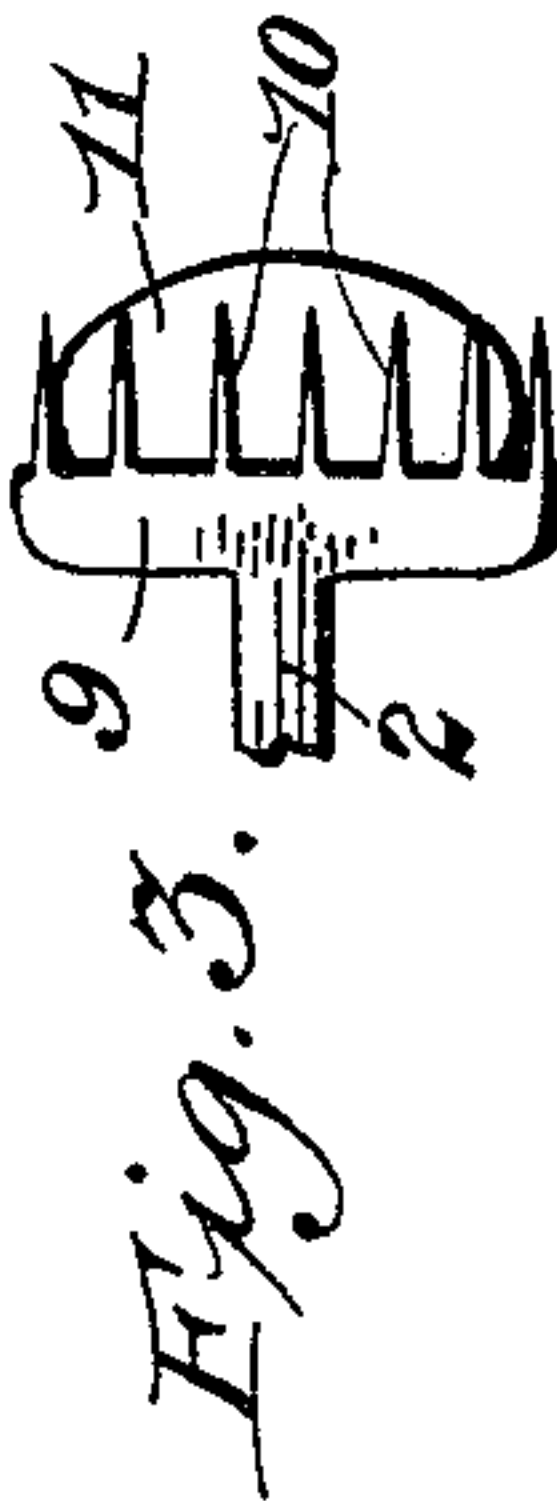
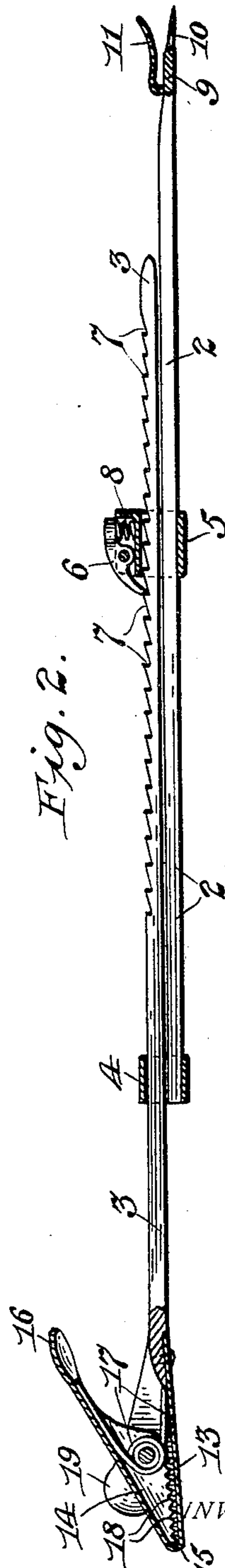


Fig. 3.

INVENTOR

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by
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARIE LOUISE SPENARD, OF DULUTH, MINNESOTA.

GARMENT-STRETCHER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 633,050, dated September 12, 1899.

Application filed April 21, 1899. Serial No. 713,951. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARIE LOUISE SPENARD, a citizen of the United States residing at Duluth, in the county of St. Louis and State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Adjusters for Applying Dress-Stays; 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.

My invention relates to improvements in adjusters for applying dress-stays; and it consists in a means for stretching the seams of dresses to better apply the stays, comprising telescopic rods or bars adapted to be held in proper relation to one another, and means upon the ends of each of the said bars for engaging the dress material, so that when the bars are pulled apart the material will be stretched properly and so held until the stays can be applied.

It also consists in certain other novel constructions, combinations, and arrangements of parts, as will be hereinafter more fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a perspective view of my improved adjuster for applying dress-stays, the said adjuster being in position on a seam. Fig. 2 represents a longitudinal central section through the same. Fig. 3 is a bottom plan view of one of the garment-engaging ends.

In applying dress-stays to the seams of garments it has been usual to stretch the seams by means of the hands and then to lay the stays upon the seams, holding the same in a slightly-bowed condition and stitching its edges to the material of the garment. This is a difficult operation to perform and is trying upon the hands and fingers, and it is to avoid the difficulties arising from this operation that I have constructed my improved adjuster.

In carrying out my invention I construct my improved adjuster 1 of two telescopic bars or rods 2 and 3. Secured to the rod 2 are guide-blocks 4 and 5. The guide-block 4 is situated, preferably, at the end of the rod 2 and is adapted to slide loosely upon the bar or rod 3. The block 5 is secured to the rod 2 about midway of its length and is also provided with an ap-

erture through which the rod 3 may pass freely. The block 5 also carries a pawl 6, which is pivotally mounted thereon, one end of the said pawl being properly shaped to engage a series of ratchet-teeth 7, formed upon the bar 3. In order to hold the pawl 6 into engagement with the ratchet-teeth, I preferably place a spring, as 8, beneath the other end of the pawl. The rear end of the pawl projects sufficiently far above the casing of the block 5 so that it may be engaged and depressed by the finger in order to lift the pawl out of engagement with the ratchet-teeth. It will thus appear that the bars may be spread apart, but that they cannot be drawn together again without lifting the pawl out of engagement with the ratchet-teeth. One end of the rod 2 carries a head 9, which is provided with a series of engaging teeth 10. The head 9 is also provided with a finger-engaging projection or guard, as 11, by which the teeth may be held in engagement with the goods of the garment. One end of the bar 3 is provided with a clamp 12, said clamp being adapted to engage the dress material at the end of the device. The jaws of the clamp 13 and 14 are preferably made of considerable width at their outer ends, and the inner end of the lower clamp 13 tapers down to the size of the bar 3. The outer edge of the lower clamp 13 is provided with an upturned gripping portion 15, while its edge at the side is also turned up to form gripping portions. The upper jaw 14 is pivotally mounted between the upturned edges of the lower jaw 13, the said upper jaw having its rear end provided with a broad head, as 16, which may be engaged by the thumb or finger to operate the said jaw. The spring 17 is mounted between the jaws in such a manner as to bring their outer gripping edges together normally. The upper jaw is also provided with side downturned edges to grip the material, the said edges being preferably serrated or toothed, as at 18, for obtaining a better grip upon the material placed between the jaws. Projecting ears or finger-grips 19 are secured to the sides of the lower jaw 13.

In using the adjuster for applying a stay to a dress-seam, the parts being in their collapsed or telescoped condition, the teeth 10 of the head 9 are then brought into engagement with

the seam at one end, while a fold of the goods is placed between the jaws of the clamp at the other end. The finger or thumb is then placed upon the guard 11, while the ears or finger-grips 19 at the other end are grasped by the fingers of the operator and the bars 2 and 3 are pulled apart, so as to stretch the seam of the garment to the desired extent. The pawl 6 holds the bars in their separate positions and maintains the seam in this stretched condition. The stay to be applied may now be placed beneath the adjuster upon the seam and can be easily sewed to the material of the garment. After the stay has been properly secured in place the bars of the adjuster may be collapsed by releasing the pawl 6 from engaging with the ratchet-teeth and the adjuster removed from thus engaging with the goods.

It will be apparent that by the use of my improved adjusters dress-stays can be applied to the seams of garments with great ease and expedition and that the seams can be stretched to the desired extent without the necessity of a difficult manipulation of the garment with the bare fingers.

The device is simple in construction and

not likely to get out of order easily and can be produced in an inexpensive manner.

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

An adjuster for applying dress-stays to garments comprising telescoping bars, means for holding them with relation one another, one of the said bars having garment-engaging teeth and finger-engaging portions also formed upon the said bar, a clamp formed upon the other bar, the said clamp having broad engaging jaws and finger-engaging ears, secured to the said clamp, the construction being such that the ends of the bars may be brought into engagement with the material of a garment-seam and the bars pulled apart for stretching the seam, when the dress-stay may be applied to the seam and secured in place, substantially as described.

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

MARIE LOUISE SPENARD.

Witnesses:

JAMES T. WATSON,

JNO. JENSWALD, Jr.