

No. 646,685.

Patented Apr. 3, 1900.

M. T. DODDS.  
CORSET.

(Application filed Aug. 28, 1899.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1

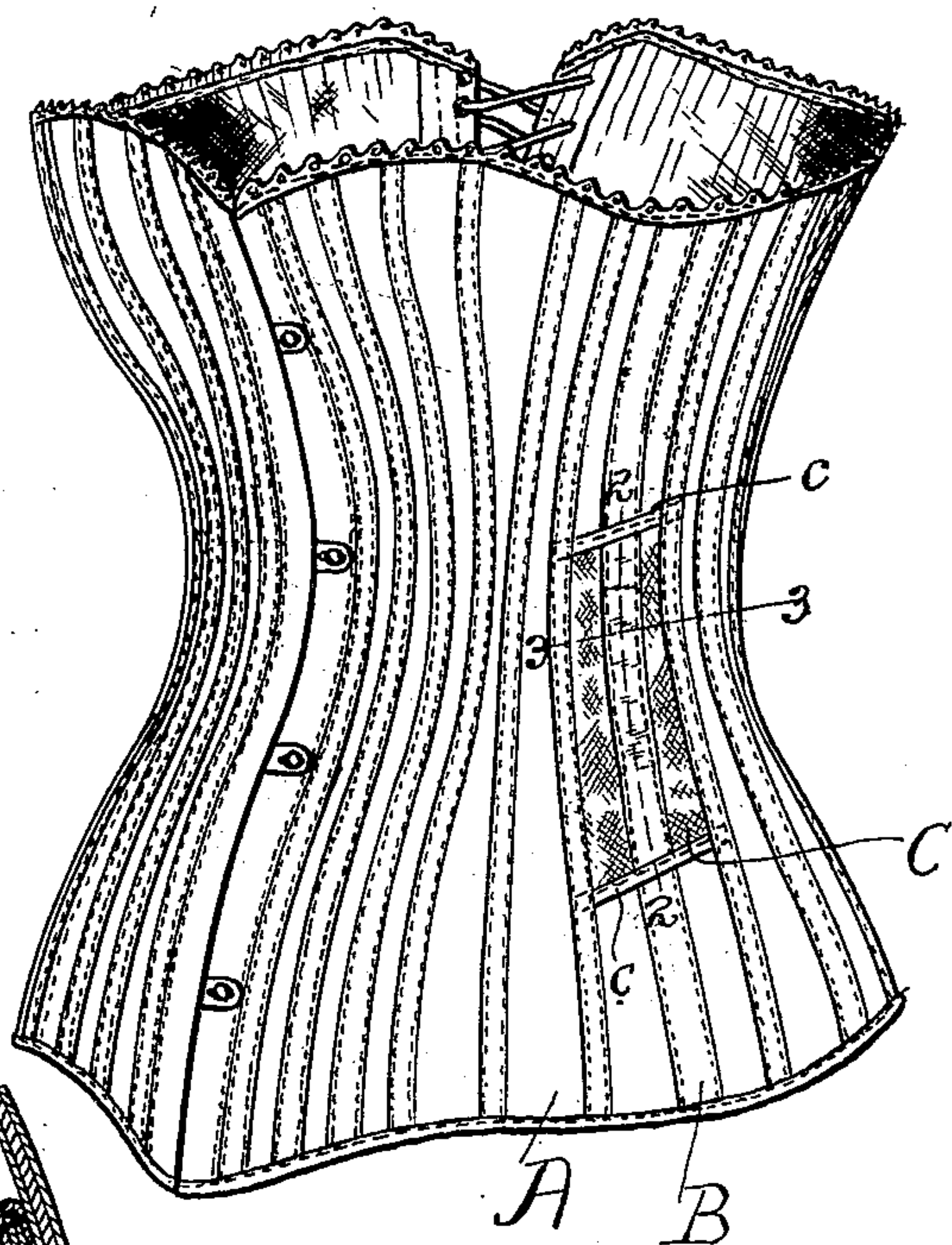


Fig. 2

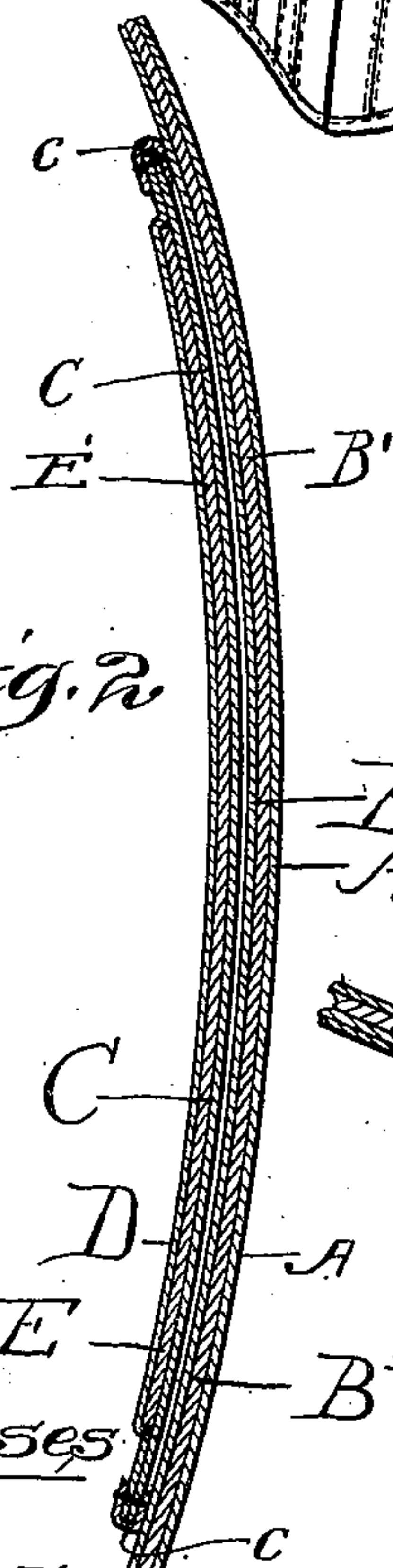


Fig. 3

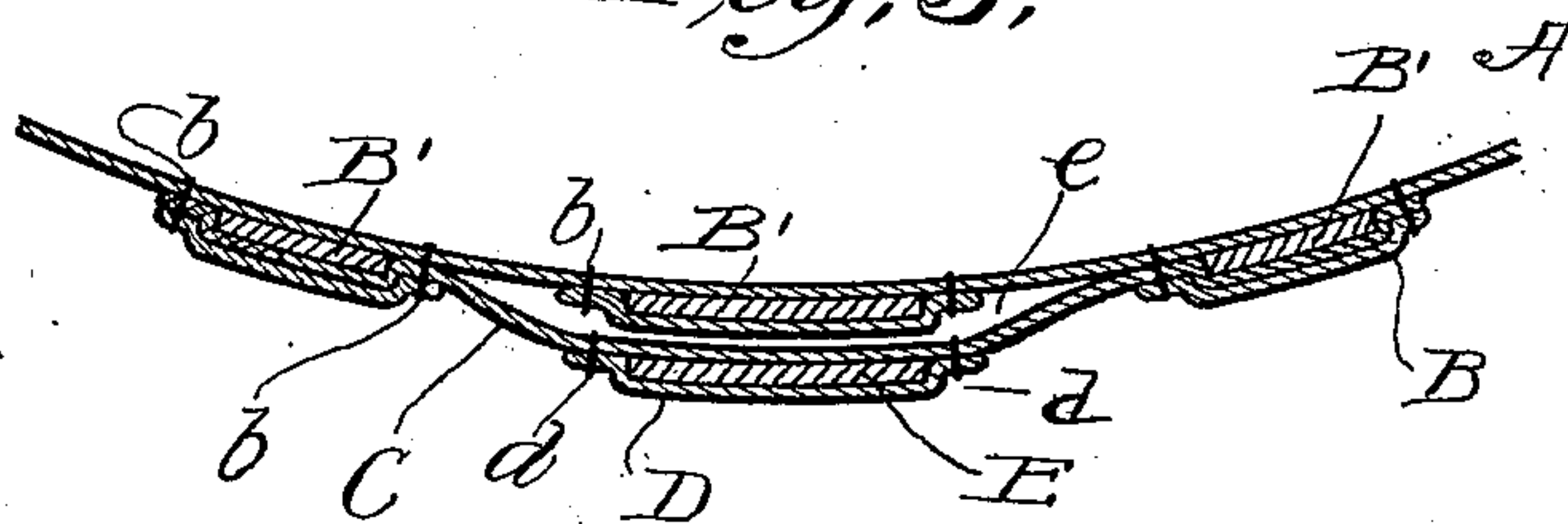
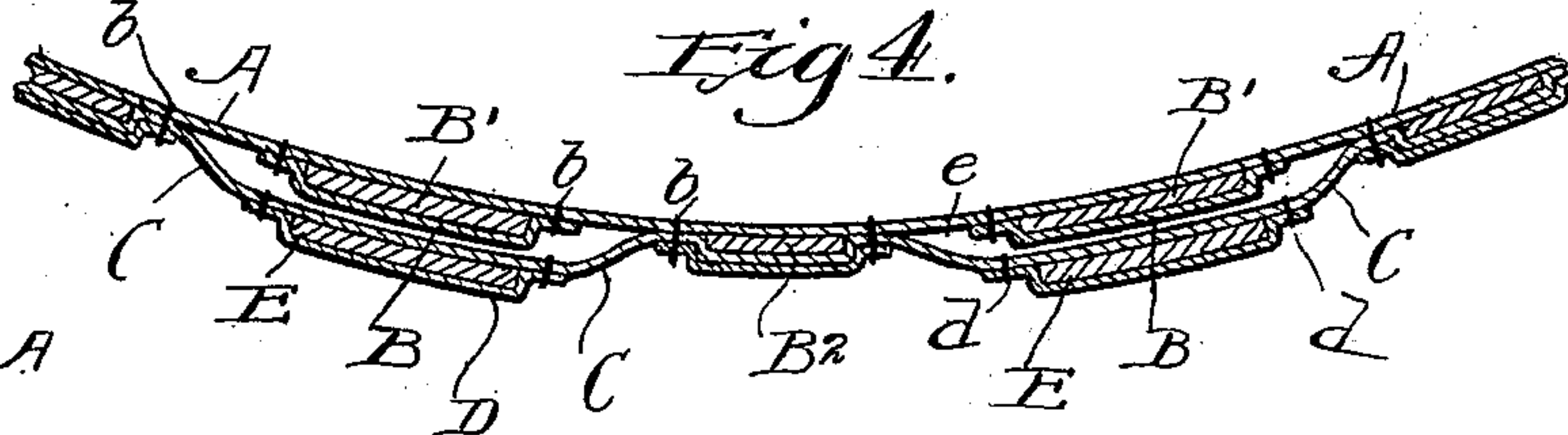


Fig. 4



Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MILTON T. DODDS, OF AURORA, ILLINOIS.

## CORSET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 646,685, dated April 3, 1900.

Application filed August 28, 1899. Serial No. 728,658. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, MILTON T. DODDS, of Aurora, in the county of Kane and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Corsets; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to improvements in corsets; and it consists, essentially, in providing that portion of the corset where the ribs, bones, or steels thereof are subjected to the greatest breaking strain—to wit, what is commonly known as the "side" of the corset—with auxiliary bones or ribs arranged in separate pockets from those inclosing the ordinary ribs and in such manner that the auxiliary rib or ribs will not be in direct contact with the main bones or ribs of the corset, all as illustrated and hereinafter described, and more particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings illustrating my invention, Figure 1 shows a perspective view of a corset having my improvement applied thereto. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view, enlarged, taken upon the line 2 2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a transverse or horizontal sectional view, enlarged, taken upon the line 3 3 of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a view similar to that shown in Fig. 3, but illustrating a modified form of the invention.

In the drawings, A represents the fabric of which the corset is made.

B represents the usual longitudinal cloth pockets thereon, each containing a rib B' of steel or bone, as the case may be, and sewed along their sides to the fabric A by stitches *b b* in the usual manner. These bones or steels B' extend throughout the pockets B, which latter extend, as usual, from the top to the bottom margins of the corset. These features of construction are old and form no part of my invention, except as hereinafter claimed in combination.

Referring now more particularly to Figs. 1, 2, and 3, C represents a relatively-narrow cloth or fabric, to which is attached, by means of stitches *d*, a cloth pocket D, preferably as long as the cloth C is wide, and in which pocket is confined the ribs, steels, or bones E. The cloth C is bound at *c* at its upper and lower

margins, whereby, together with the pocket D, a complete covering is made for the ribs E. This cloth C may be secured to the main fabric A in any ordinary manner; but I have shown in Fig. 3 a convenient method of securing the same—namely, by having the side edges of the fabric C placed over adjacent ribs B', whereby the same stitches *b* that secure the pocket B B to the fabric A will also secure the fabric C to the main fabric or body A of the corset, as will be clearly understood by reference to Fig. 3. It will be observed, however, that this construction leaves the cloth C entirely free at the upper and lower margins *c*, so that said cloth C and its contained rib or steel E will normally cover a portion of the subjacent main rib or steel B'. The rib or steel E is, however, entirely clear and independent of the rib B' beneath it. There is a clear space (exaggerated, perhaps, and lettered *e* in Fig. 3) between the cloth C and the main fabric A—that is to say, in placing the cloth C in position to be sewed to the main cloth A it is not stretched taut, but is left with sufficient looseness to provide the slight space *e* necessary to insure freedom of movement.

It will be noticed that the width of the cloth C, and consequently the length of the auxiliary rib or bone E, is less than the height of the corset and is only such as to extend over that part subjected to greatest strain—namely, the sides thereof—and that it does not extend from the top to the bottom of the corset, as plainly indicated in Figs. 1 and 2. By this construction I find that the auxiliary rib or steel acts upon the subjacent main rib or steel B' very much in the same manner as the superposed section of the ordinary leaf-springs of a vehicle act, thus greatly strengthening the corset at this vital point and adding materially to its length of service.

I do not confine myself to the use of a single auxiliary rib E, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. In some of the cheaper grades of corsets I may use but a single rib; but in those grades bringing better prices on the market I would prefer to use two or more auxiliary ribs.

Fig. 4 illustrates one modification of the invention—namely, that in which two auxiliary ribs are employed. It will be observed that in this instance the cloth C is length-



ened so as to cover two of the wide or main ribs B' B' and one intermediate narrower rib B<sup>2</sup>. The method of attaching the cloth C with the short auxiliary ribs E in this instance is precisely the same as that previously described, as is very plainly disclosed in Fig. 4.

I also desire to state that I do not limit myself to the use of any particular style of auxiliary steel or bone. The bones of the main corset may be whalebones or thin steel, and the auxiliary bones may be of the same or of different material. If of the same material as that of the main corset-bones, they may be thicker or thinner, tougher or more resilient, according to fancy, the essential feature being that a short auxiliary bone or steel inclosed in a separate pocket is placed over the weakest part of the corset, so as to have an independent action and movement of the steel.

Among the advantages of this invention may be mentioned increase in the durability of the corset, a reduction in the breakage of side ribs or steels, and a retention of the shape of the corset for a greater period than without such rib.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is as follows:

1. A corset having the usual bone-pockets on its exterior surface, and an auxiliary pocket located over one of the principal pockets, and having therein an auxiliary bone or rib, said auxiliary pocket being unattached to the corset at its upper and lower ends and attached throughout its length at its edges to the corset by the same stitches which attach the adjacent principal pocket.

2. A corset having the usual bone-pocket on its exterior surface, and an auxiliary pocket located over one of the principal pockets, and having therein an auxiliary bone or rib, said auxiliary pocket being unattached to the corset at its upper and lower ends and attached

throughout its length at its edges to the corset by the same stitches which attach the adjacent principal pocket, and the auxiliary pocket being made of less length than the principal pocket.

3. A corset having the usual bone-pockets on its exterior surface, bones or ribs in said pockets, and a strip of cloth which overlies one of said pockets and having its opposite margins inserted between the next adjacent pockets, and the bones or ribs therein, and secured to the body of the corset by the same line of stitches which secure said adjacent pockets to the corset, said strip being provided centrally thereof over the pocket intermediate to said last-mentioned pockets with a longitudinal auxiliary pocket and a bone or rib inserted in said auxiliary pocket.

4. A corset having the usual bone-pockets on its exterior surface, bones or ribs in said pockets, and a strip of cloth which overlies one of said pockets and having its opposite margins inserted between the next adjacent pocket and the bones or ribs therein, and secured to the body of the corset by the same line of stitches which secure the said adjacent pockets to the corset, said strip being provided centrally thereof over the pocket intermediate to said last-mentioned pockets with a longitudinal auxiliary pocket and a bone or rib inserted in said auxiliary pocket, said pocket being closed at its upper and lower ends and unattached to the body of the corset at such places.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I affix my signature, in presence of two witnesses, this 25th day of August, A. D. 1899.

MILTON T. DODDS.

Witnesses:

TAYLOR E. BROWN,  
MYRTA KNAPP.