

**No. 656,913.**

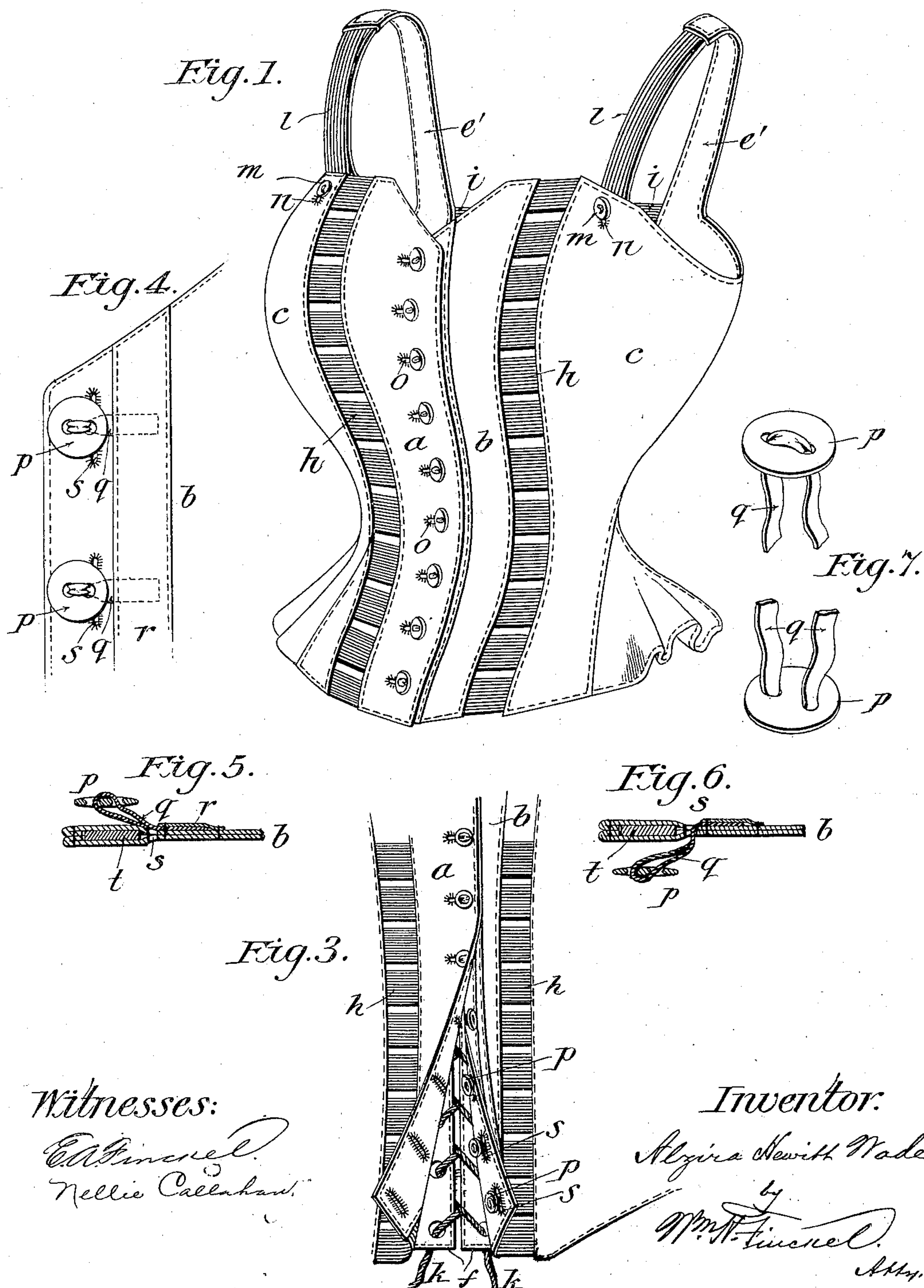
**Patented Aug. 28, 1900.**

**A. H. WADE.**  
**APPAREL CORSET.**

(Application filed Apr. 12, 1899.)

(No Model.)

**2 Sheets—Sheet 1.**



*Witnesses:*

E. A. Finckel  
Nellie Callahan.

*Inventor:*

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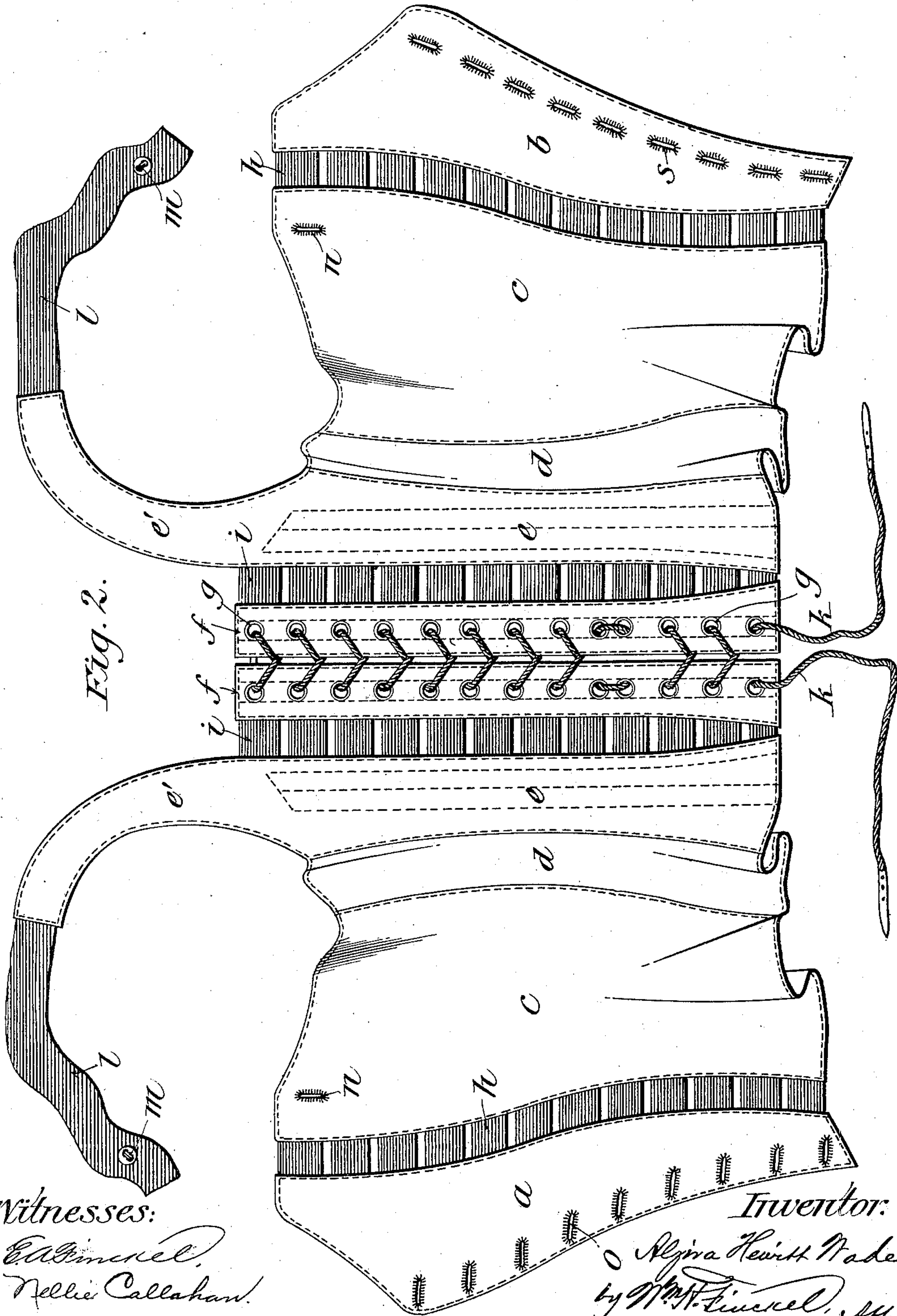
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*Witnesses:*

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*Inventor:*

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by Wm. H. Finckel, Atty.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALZIRA HEWITT WADE, OF MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

## APPAREL-CORSET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 656,913, dated August 28, 1900.

Application filed April 12, 1899. Serial No. 712,754. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ALZIRA HEWITT WADE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Minneapolis, in the county of Hennepin and State of Minnesota, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Corsets or Waists, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to waists or corsets, and more especially to the provision of a reversible garment of that character—that is to say, one which may be worn either side out.

In carrying out my invention I divide the garment vertically from the waist-line and centrally through the bust portions and on each side of the back portions, and connect such divisions by a series of strips of elastic material in order to give flexibility to the garment and to permit freedom of motion of the body without unduly compressing or confining the body, and I prefer also to use an elastic lacing-cord at the back.

Another feature of my invention is to provide fastening devices which may be projected from either side of the garment, so as to permit their use on either side, and thus admit of the garment being worn either side out.

In the accompanying drawings, illustrating my invention, in the several figures of which like parts are similarly designated, Figure 1 is a perspective view with the parts assembled. Fig. 2 is a plan view with the parts laid out flat. Fig. 3 is a detail of the lower part of the garment looking at the front, partly closed and partly opened. Fig. 4 is a detail showing the reversible fastenings. Figs. 5 and 6 are cross-sections showing the fastenings in the two positions of use. Fig. 7 shows one of the fastenings in two views.

I do not limit my invention to any particular pattern or cut of corset or waist, but have shown the garment as composed of front sections *a* and *b*, body-sections *c c*, side sections *d d*, and back sections *e e*, which latter are continued upwardly at *e'* to form portions of shoulder-straps. The backs *f f* contain eyelets *g*. The sections *a c* and *b c* are separated vertically from the waist up through the longitudinal centers of the bust portions and are connected by horizontal strips *h* of elastic set rather close together and stitched in between the plies constituting the garment. These

elastics enable the corset or waist to conform to the person and the movements of the body without undue strain and with a maximum of comfort to the wearer. The sections *e e* and *f f* are likewise separated and connected by elastics *i*, arranged horizontally and stitched in between the plies of these sections. These elastics operate at the back, on either side of the spine, similarly to the front elastics *h*, and the elasticity at the back may be increased and preferably is increased by the use of an elastic cord *k*, although I do not limit my invention to the use of an elastic lacing-cord. The shoulder-straps *e' e'* have elastic ends *l*, which are supplied with buttons *m* to engage buttonholes *n* in the body portions *c c*, and thus the weight thrown upon the corset is carried by the shoulder-straps in part and yieldingly so carried through the intervention of the elastic portions *l l*.

In order to permit of the reversal of the garment—that is to say, to admit of its being worn either side out—I prefer to employ buttonholes *o* in the piece *a* and buttons *p* on the section *b*. These buttons, which may be of ordinary construction, are secured to one face of the section *b* by means of tabs *q*, which are sewed in under a flat braid *r*. The section *b* is also provided, adjacent to the buttons, with vertically-arranged buttonholes *s* in such a manner that when it is desired to reverse the garment the buttons may be passed through the buttonholes *s* from the position shown in Fig. 5 to the position shown in Fig. 6 and as indicated also in Fig. 3.

The garment may be supplied with any usual or approved stiffeners or bones, such as indicated at *t* in Figs. 5 and 6.

I do not limit this present invention in reversible corsets or waists to the use of buttons and buttonholes as the fastening medium. The garment may be divided also at other points and provided with strips of elastic—as, for example, at the sides.

My corset or waist may be used with or without shoulder-straps without departing from my invention.

There is a decided advantage in arranging the front elastics in lines which pass through the centers of the bust portions in giving flexibility to the garment and in permitting freedom of motion to the body without undue



compression and without distortion and in the preservation of the natural configuration. In those constructions which have used upright lines of elastics prior to my invention these  
 5 lines of elastics have been to one side or the other of this central bust-line and have been found, in my experience, to be open to the objections which my arrangement rectifies. Moreover, in at least one prior construction  
 10 the efficiency of the garment has been made dependent upon the arrangement of the elastic strips at front and rear in line with the respective hooks and eyes on the busks, so that there is a direct strain entirely around the  
 15 corset at the several connections. I avoid the necessity for any such arrangement by running the elastic strips centrally through the bust portions, and because there is an utter irrelation between my elastic strips and  
 20 the garment-fastenings I can increase the number of such strips indefinitely.

What I claim is—

1. The herein-described corset or waist, having the front sections *a* and *b*, and the body-  
 25 sections *c, c*, an opening in each half of the corset or waist between said sections running from the top of the corset centrally through the breast portions toward the waist, and elastic connections between the edges of these  
 30 openings, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

2. The herein-described corset or waist, having the front sections *a* and *b*, and the body-  
 35 sections *c, c*, an opening in each half of the corset or waist between said sections running from the top of the corset centrally through the breast portion toward the waist, and elastic connections between the edges, the said elastic connections being arranged irrelat-  
 40 tively to the corset or waist fastenings, and means to fasten the garment about the person, substantially as specified.

3. The herein-described corset or waist, having the front sections *a* and *b* and the body-  
 45 sections *c, c*, an opening in each half of the corset or waist between said sections running from the top of the corset or waist centrally

through the breast portions toward the waist, elastic connections between the edges of these openings arranged irrelatively to the corset  
 50 or waist fastenings, back sections *e, e*, and backs *f, f*, also separated by openings, elastic strips connecting said back sections and backs, and means to fasten the garment about the person, substantially as and for the pur-  
 55 pose specified.

4. A reversible corset or waist, adapted to be worn either side out, fastening devices applied to the meeting edges of the garment, and openings in the garment through which  
 60 one of the complemental members of the said fastening devices may be passed so as to present said members on that side or face of the garment which for the time being is the out-  
 65 side, thereby to adapt the other members of the fastening devices for coöperation therewith, substantially as described.

5. A reversible corset or waist, provided with fastening devices consisting of button-  
 70 holes on one side of the opening in the garment, buttons secured to the other side of the garment by means of tabs, and button-  
 75 holes arranged adjacent to said buttons and through which the said buttons may be projected, the said buttons being adapted to en-  
 80 gage the buttonholes on the other side, whether the said buttons stand off from the buttonholes made in the section to which they are applied or be projected through such  
 85 buttonholes to the opposite side of the side of the garment to which they are applied, substantially as described.

6. A corset-section, provided with a front portion having an opening running from its top centrally through the breast portion to-  
 85 ward the waist, and with elastic connections between the edges of this opening, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 7th day of April, A. D. 1899. 90

ALZIRA HEWITT WADE.

Witnesses:

GEORGE C. RIPLEY,  
 C. E. COOK.