

No. 682,426.

Patented Sept. 10, 1901.

F. C. REINHARDT.

BUST FORMER.

(Application filed Oct. 16, 1900.)

(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet 1.

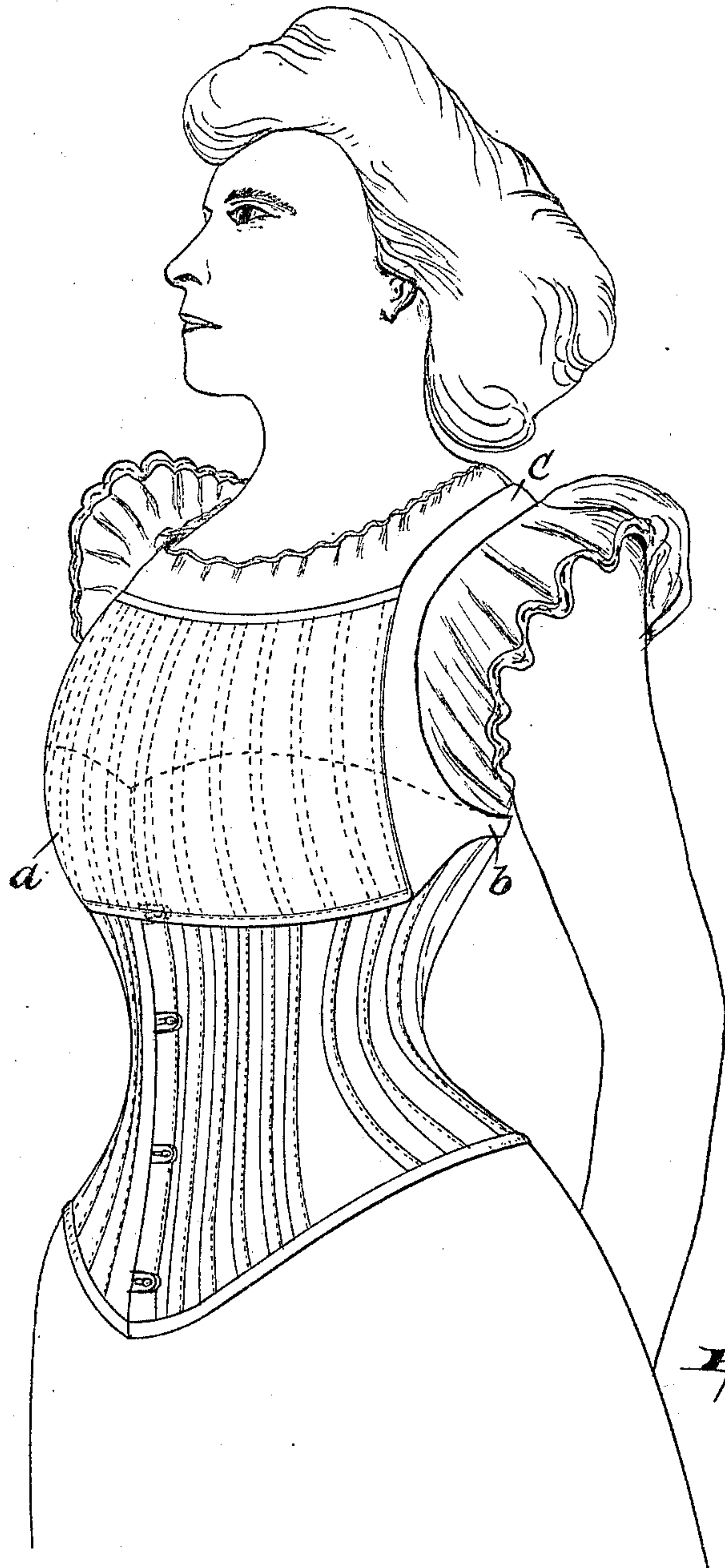


Fig. 1.

WITNESSES:

Wm. D. Bell.
Robert J. Pollitt

INVENTOR,

Franz C. Reinhardt,

BY

Garthner & Steward,
ATTORNEYS.

No. 682,426.

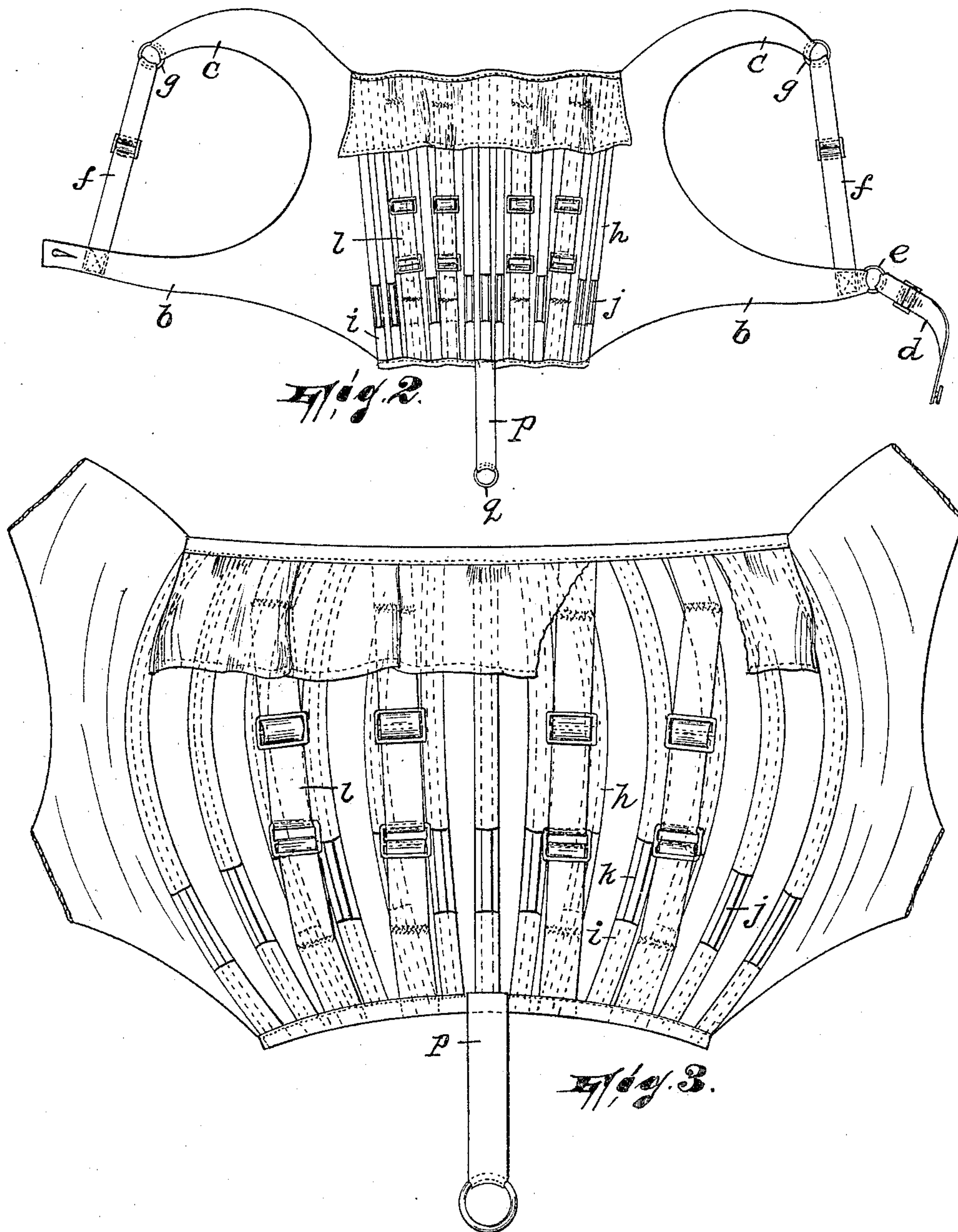
Patented Sept. 10, 1901.

F. C. REINHARDT.
BUST FORMER.

(Application filed Oct. 18, 1900.)

(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet 2.



WITNESSES:

Wm. D. Ball.
Robert J. Pollitt

INVENTOR,

Franz C. Reinhardt,

BY

Gardner & Steward,
ATTORNEYS.

No. 682,426.

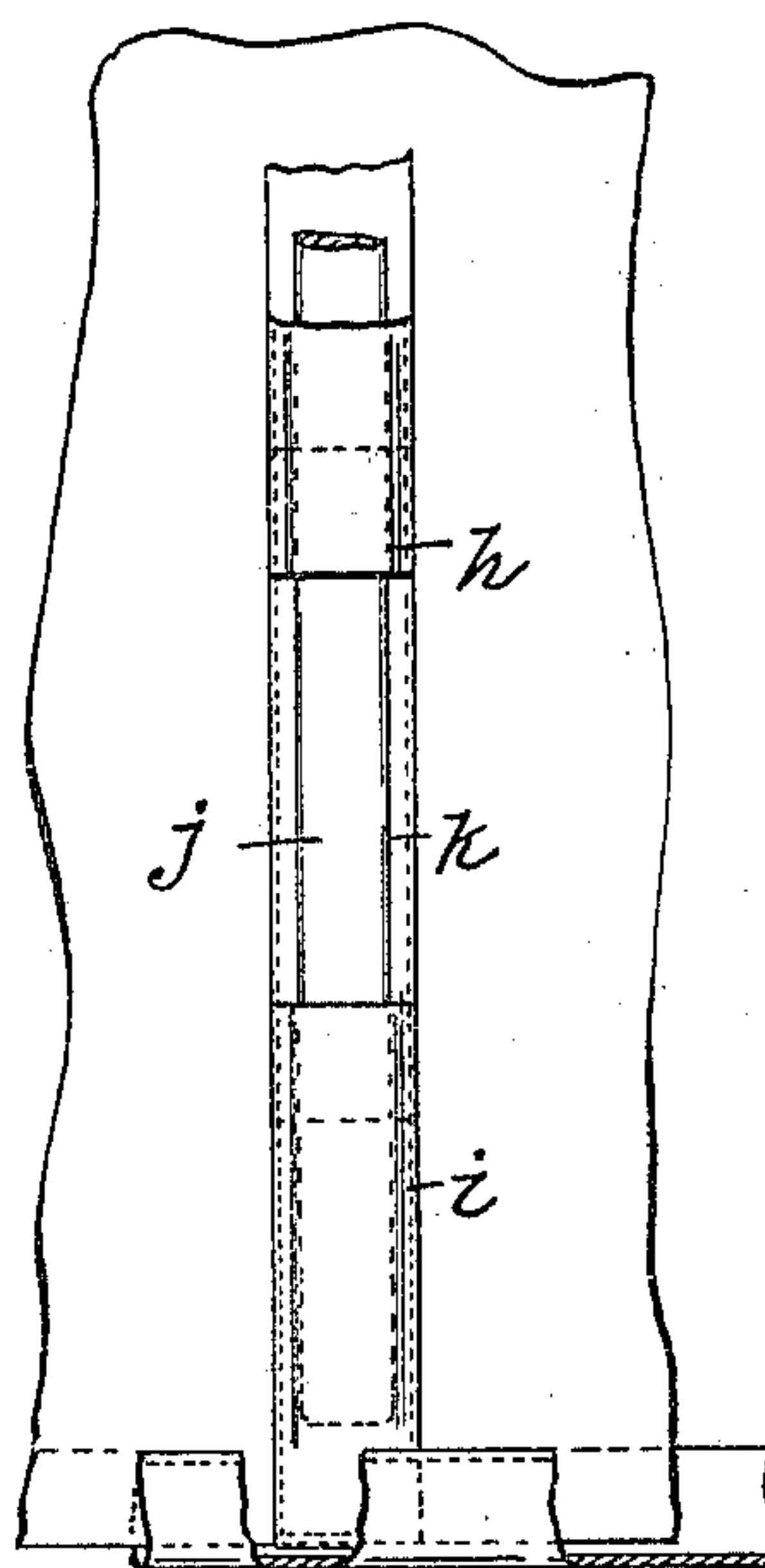
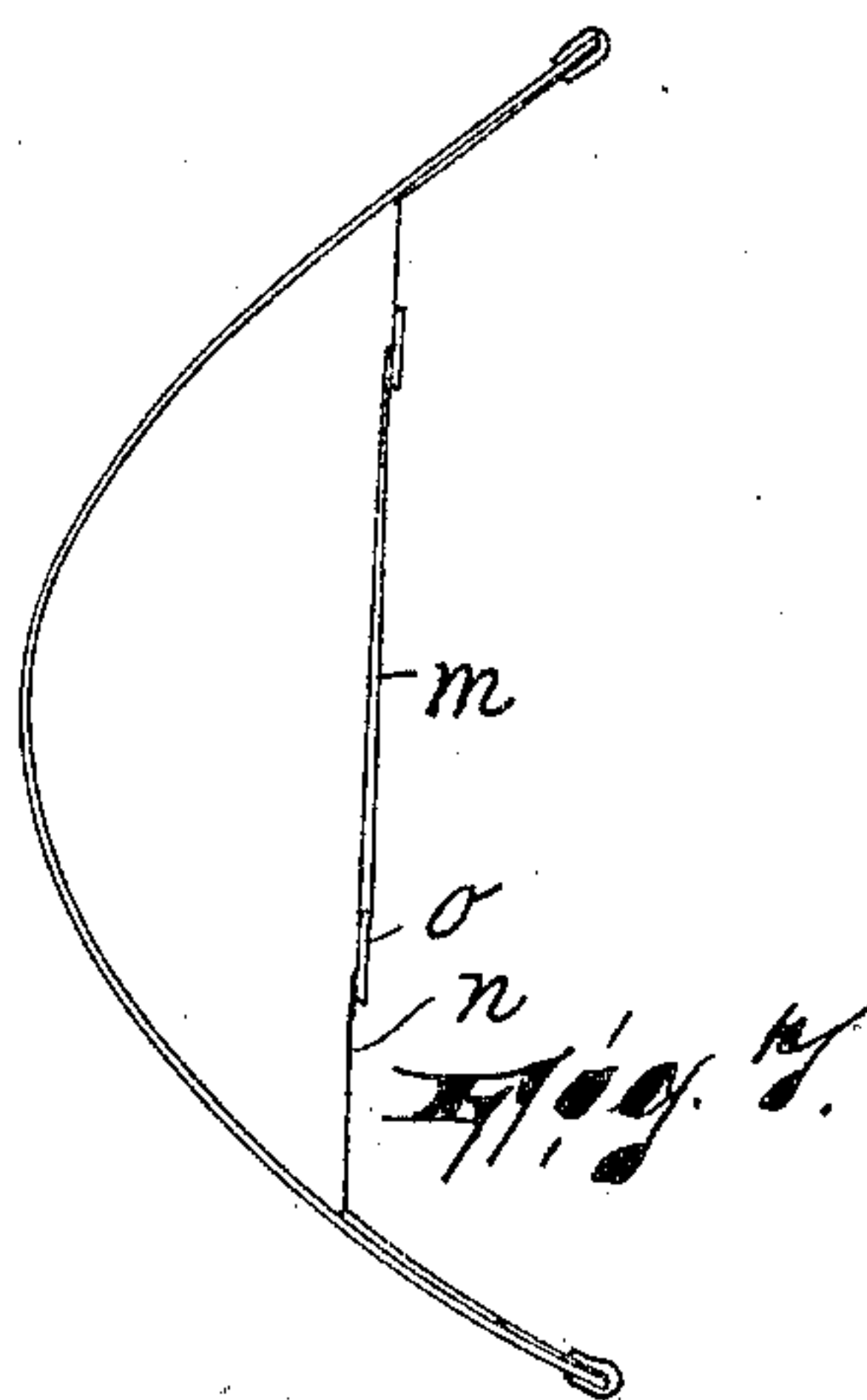
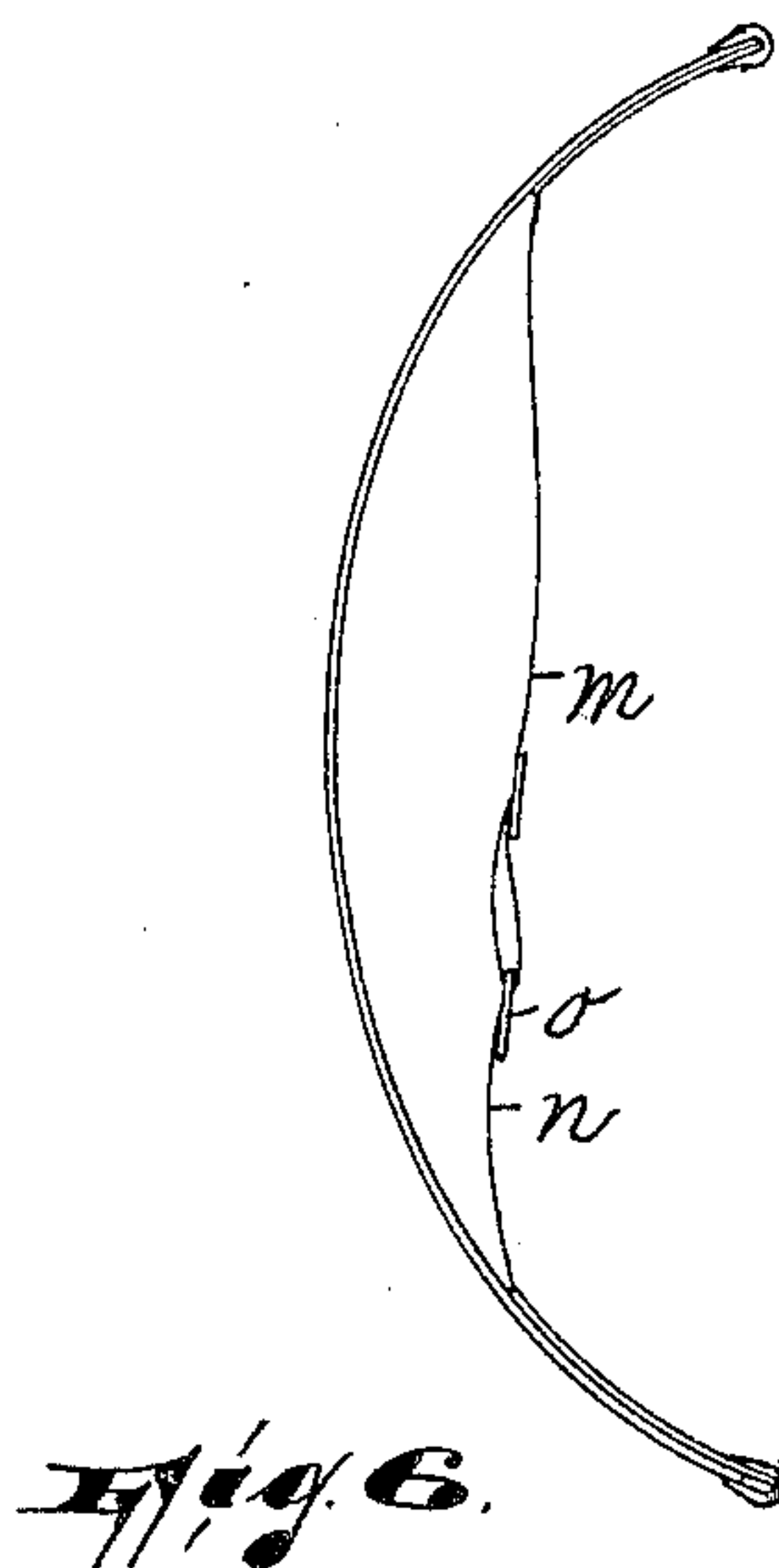
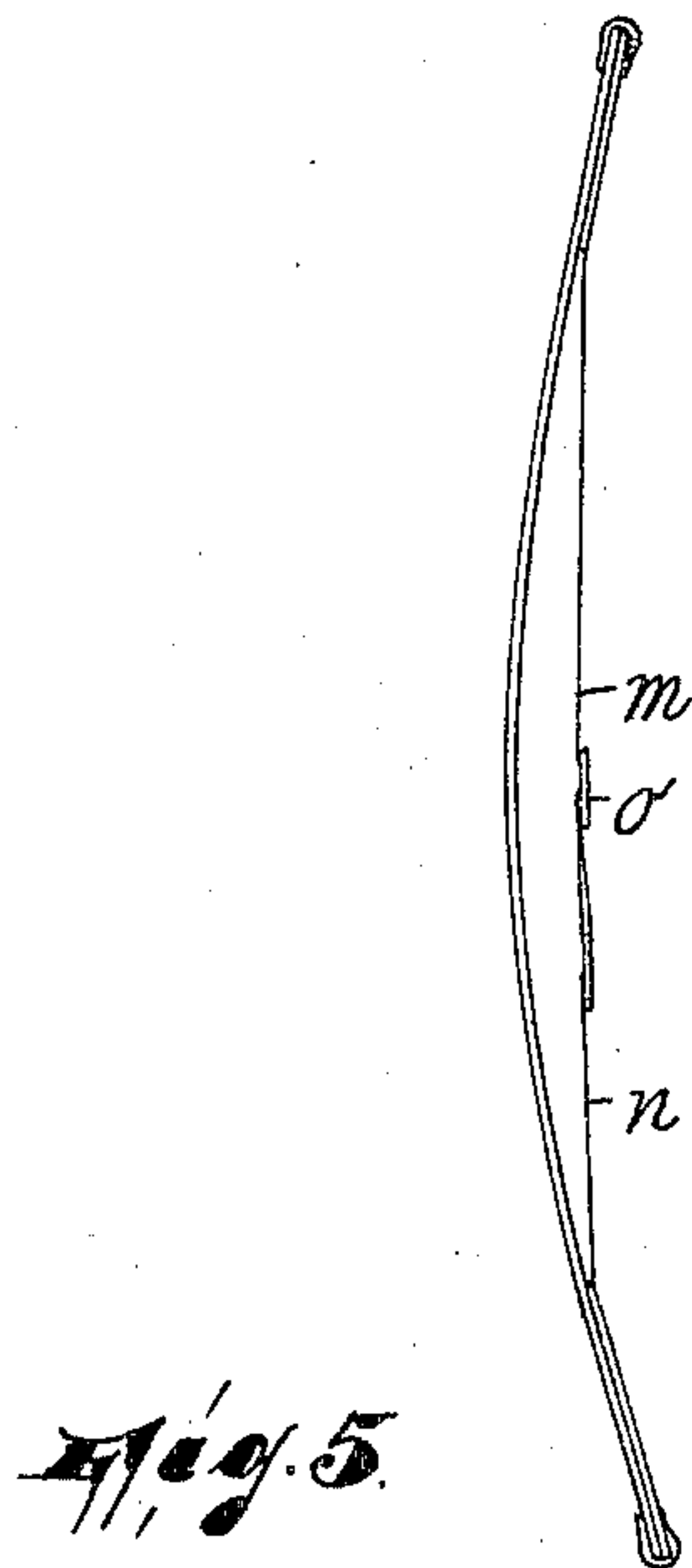
Patented Sept. 10, 1901.

F. C. REINHARDT.
BUST FORMER.

(Application filed Oct. 16, 1900.)

(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet 3.



WITNESSES:

Wm. D. Bell.
Robert J. Pollitt

INVENTOR,

Franz C. Reinhardt.

BY

Garner & Steward,
ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANZ C. REINHARDT, OF PATERSON, NEW JERSEY.

BUST-FORMER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 682,426, dated September 10, 1901.

Application filed October 16, 1900. Serial No. 33,194. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANZ C. REINHARDT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Paterson, in the county of Passaic and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bust-Formers; 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, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to wearing-apparel; and it consists in an improved article of apparel designed to be worn under the waist or other similar body portion of a woman's outer garment to impart the desired fullness and shape to the bust.

If a corset is not made to order, it often fits badly at the front upper portion, partly because there is more material here (and particularly along the edge) than the form of the wearer requires and partly because the upper ends of the ribs are not properly shaped, the consequence being that the corresponding portion of the outer garment has the appearance of being extended over a sharp horizontal ridge instead of being rounded. It is particularly with the idea of overcoming this defect that the article of apparel constituting my invention has been designed, and hence it is proposed especially that the article be worn over the usual corset, stiffened by vertical ribs. However, the article may be worn when the ordinary corset is not used, as with a more or less unstiffened corset, and simply with the idea of imparting to the bust the proper shape should the natural form of the wearer lack this.

The invention is fully illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 shows the garment in position over a corset. Fig. 2 is an inside view of the garment, the same being relaxed. Fig. 3 is an inside view of said garment, slightly enlarged and removed from the wearer, as in Fig. 2, but extended to the wearing shape. Fig. 4 is a detail view of the inside of the garment; and Figs. 5, 6, and 7 are views of a diagram-

matic nature illustrating various contours which the garment may have.

The body of the garment may be of muslin, sateen, or other similar material. It consists of a wide substantially rectangular band *a*, from each end of which extend straps *b c*. The straps *b* are adapted to extend around the back of the wearer, to be there joined by an adjustable band *d*, of preferably elastic webbing, which is secured by a ring *e* to one of said straps at one of its ends and may be buttoned or otherwise connected at its other end to the other strap. The straps *c* are intended to extend over the wearer's shoulders, their ends being connected each to the corresponding strap *b* by another adjustable band of elastic webbing *f*, which is preferably sewed to the strap *b* and joined to the strap *c* by a ring *g*.

In the back of the band *a* I provide pairs of elongated vertically-disposed pockets *h i*, each pocket *i* being considerably shorter than the corresponding pocket *h* and alined with the same. In these pockets are adapted to be inserted ribs *j* of whalebone or steel. The adjoining ends of the pockets *h i* are somewhat spaced, as at *k*, and since the pockets *i* are quite short the ribs may be removed with convenience when necessary, as when it is desired to wash the garment. It should be remarked that the middle portion of the band *a* is made with considerable fullness. Furthermore, the pairs of pockets *h i*, and consequently also, of course, the ribs *j*, are not parallel on the band, but are spaced more at their middle portions than at their ends. Thus normally, or as seen in Fig. 2, where the ribs are all straight, the fullness is distributed among the intervals between the several ribs. Therefore when a strain is exerted longitudinally on the garment, as when it is strapped securely in proper position about the body of the wearer and the straps *c* are pulling in opposite directions on the band *a*, the effect will be to bulge the ribs outwardly, imparting the desired roundness to the garment. This effect is of course due in part also to the fact that the ribs naturally tend to give way—i. e., by bending more readily in the direction of their thickness than in the direction of their width. The fullness

which may be in this way imparted to the bust may in many cases suffice. Especially is this so where the garment is used simply to hide the unsightly ridge produced by the top of the corset in the waist or similar outer garment of the wearer. However, in case it is desired to maintain the bend in the ridge irrespectively of the longitudinal strain exerted by the straps *b* or to increase the convexity of the bust I provide straps *l*. Said straps are disposed vertically and are preferably four in number, one pair being disposed on one side and the other pair on the other side of the center vertical line of the garment, being secured near their ends to the upper and lower edges of the band *a*. They are also secured to the band a short distance from their ends, their lengths being to this extent thus practically shortened. Each band consists of two parts *m* and *n*, which are adjustably connected together in a well-known manner by slides *o*. By means of these slides the bands may be readily adjusted to impart and maintain any desired degree of convexity to the ribs, and consequently to the garment.

In order that, if desired, the garment may be prevented from working upwardly, I provide a strap *p*, which is suspended from the middle lower portion of the garment and has at its free end a ring *q*, which may be caught over a button attached to some other garment worn. Moreover, it being observed that the straps *b* tend to produce a convexity which is not as natural as it might be, because it is continuous and perfectly unbroken, the strap *p* also serves to break such continuous convexity centrally thereof by straightening out the innermost ribs *j*. Said strap *p* thus coacts with the straps *b* to more perfectly impart the natural shape to the bust-former.

The straps *c* act to obviate too great convexity in the end ribs and their tendency to press inwardly against the chest of the wearer by straightening out their upper portions.

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

1. An article of apparel consisting of a substantially rectangular band of fabric or other similar material having fullness in its center portion, in combination with straps extending substantially from the middle of the end portions of said band and adapted to secure said article in place over the bosom of the wearer, exerting lateral strains thereon in opposite directions, ribs secured to said band substantially transversely of the direction of strain of said straps and with their end portions nearer to each other than their intermediate portions, and other straps extending one from each upper corner of said band and adapted to be connected to said first-named straps and another from the middle lower portion of said band and adapted to be secured to some other garment worn by the wearer, substantially as described.

2. An article of apparel consisting of a substantially rectangular band of fabric or other similar material having fullness in its center portion, in combination with straps adapted to secure said article in place over the bosom of the wearer and exert lateral strains thereon in opposite directions, pairs of spaced aligned pockets arranged on the inside of said band, said pairs of pockets being arranged substantially transversely of the direction of strain of said straps and with their end portions nearer to each other than their intermediate portions, and ribs, each rib being received by a pair of pockets and projecting at one end into one pocket and at the other end into the other pocket, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 3d day of October, 1900.

FRANZ C. REINHARDT.

Witnesses:

JOHN W. STEWARD,
ROBERT J. POLLITT.