No. 695,546. Patented Mar. 18, 1902.

G. V. EGAN.

LADY'S SKIRT ELEVATOR.

(Application filed Aug. 23, 1901.)

(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

Fig. 1.

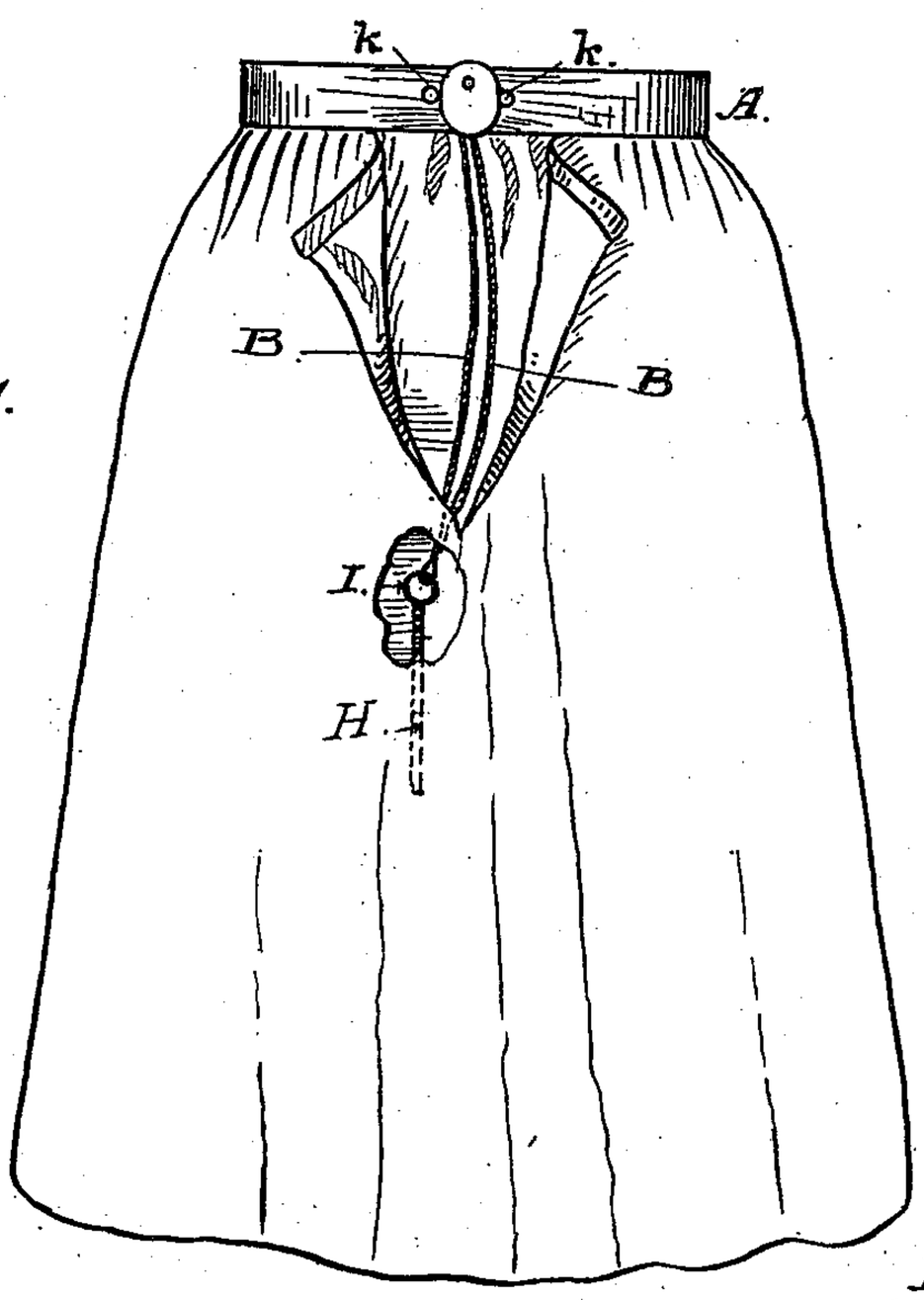


Fig. 2.

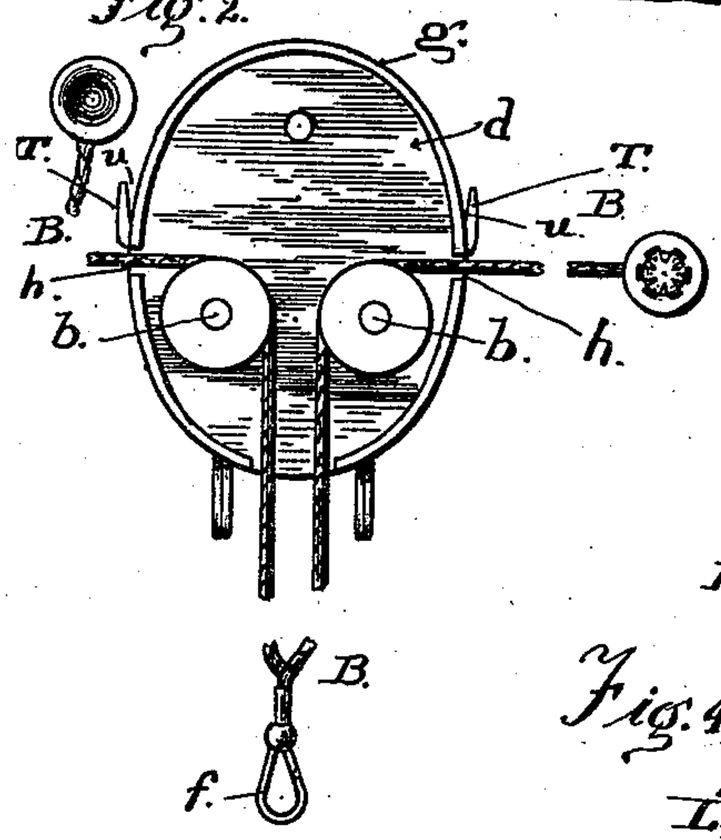


Fig. 3.

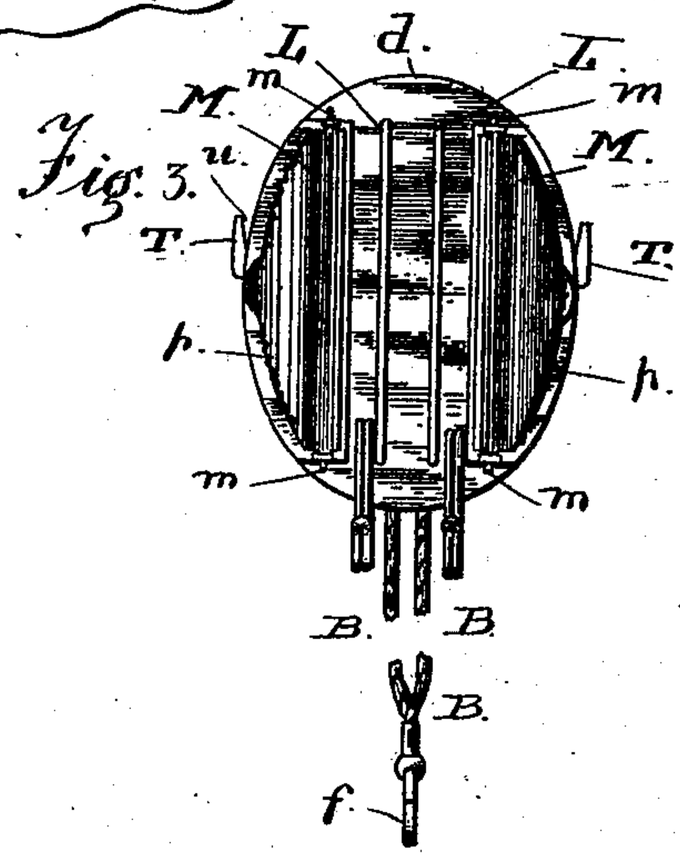
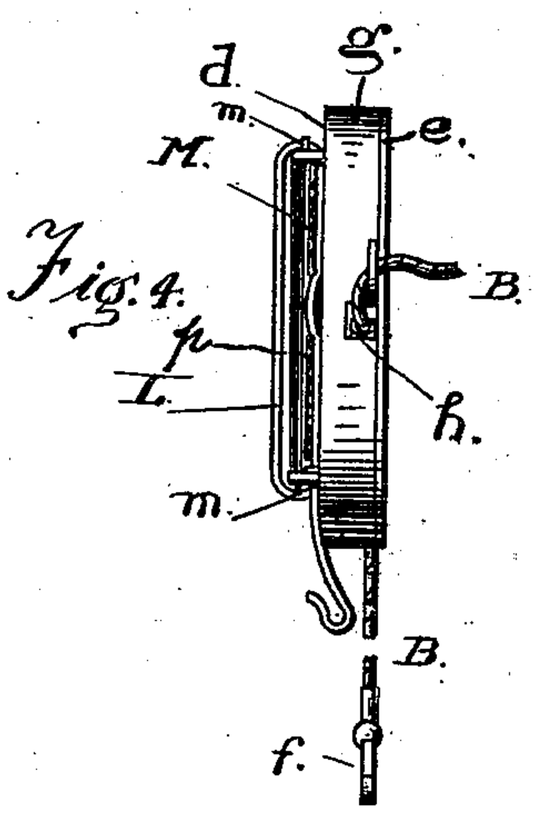


Fig. 4.



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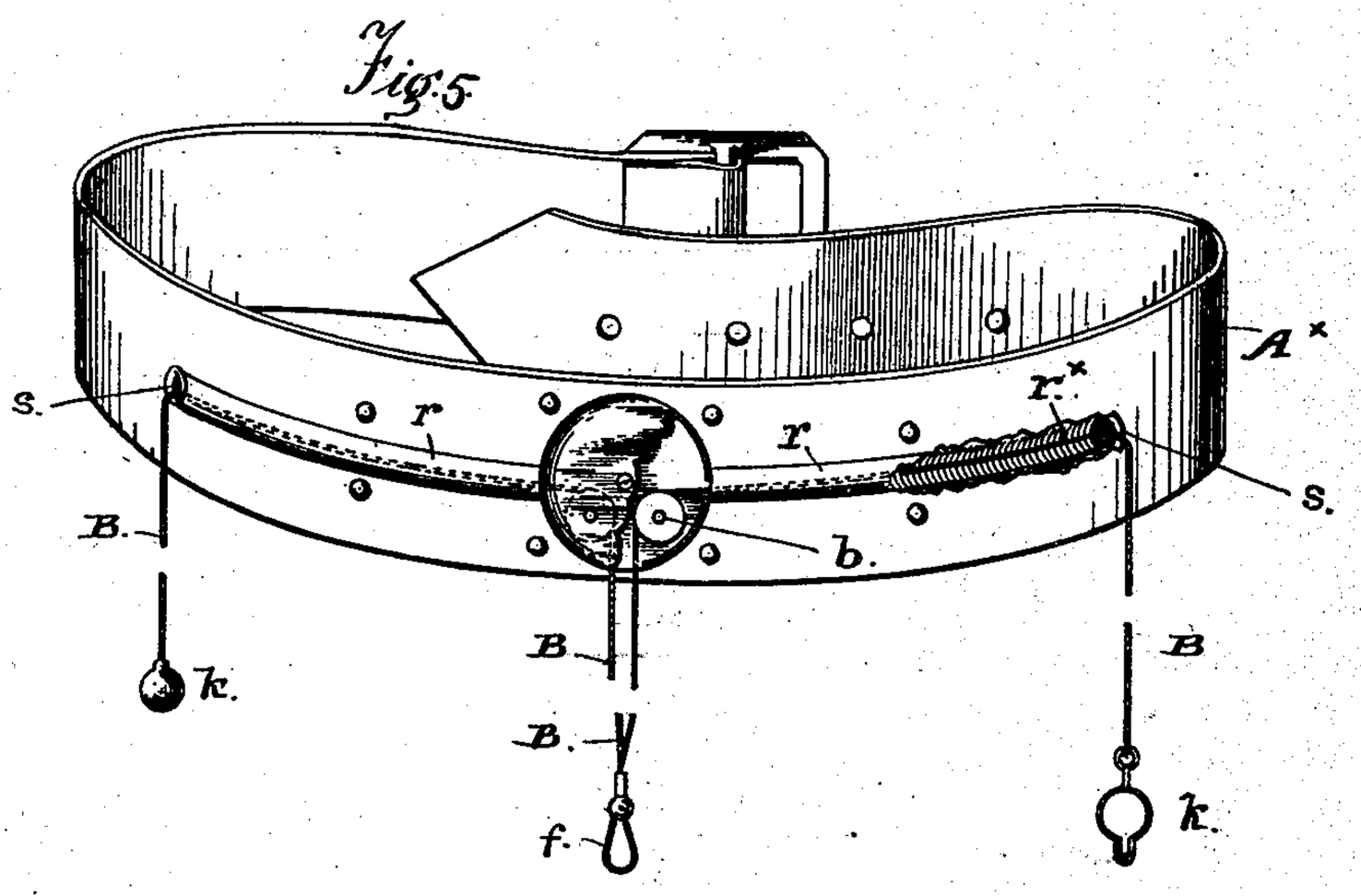
LADY'S SKIRT ELEVATOR.

(Application filed Aug. 23, 1901.)

(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

Fig. 5



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE V. EGAN, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

LADY'S SKIRT-ELEVATOR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 695,546, dated March 18, 1902.

Application filed August 23, 1901. Serial No. 73,071. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE V. EGAN, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city and county of San Francisco and State of California, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Ladies' Skirt-Elevating Belts, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements made in devices for elevating and holding up the skirt of a lady's dress clear of the ground, so as to regulate the length of the skirt at will for indoor or outdoor wear.

The invention has for its object mainly the production of a simple and effective device having such features that it can be worn to advantage on or with a street-dress or a house-dress and is always in condition and position for ready operation when it is required for use.

To such end and object mainly my invention consists in certain novel parts and combination of parts producing an improved skirt-elevating device, as hereinafter explained, and set forth in the claims at the end of this specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings, forming part thereof.

Figure 1 of the drawings represents a skirt-elevating belt embodying my said improvements, showing the same applied to the skirt. Figs. 2, 3, and 4 illustrate a form or construction of the elevating means specially adapted for use with a ribbon waist-belt, Fig. 2 being a front view, Fig. 3 a back view, and Fig. 4 a side view, taken from the right-hand side of Fig. 2. Fig. 5 illustrates the skirt-elevating means combined for operation on and with a leather waist-belt.

In that construction of my improved skirt-elevating belt in which ribbon is used for the waist-belt provision is made for changing the ribbon as often as it becomes soiled or out of style or as it may be desired to wear waist-belts of different colors with different costumes, and in this connection attention has been given to the form and the ornamentation of the parts, so that the device may be as richly decorated as the purse of the wearer may warrant and the whole device may be made to harmonize with the other parts of the costume when worn outside the skirt.

The construction of the parts when combined with a leather waist-belt is somewhat simplified, being made a permanent part of the belt, as represented in Fig. 5.

In both forms and applications of the elevating means two supports spaced at short intervals apart on the back of the belt constitute cord-guides, over which two cords B B are laid and turned at right angles in opposite directions, one to the right and the other to the left. The cords extending vertically downward from those guides are joined together at a point below, where they are united to a clip or spring-hook *f*.

On the inside of the skirt at the center of the back a cord or tape H is attached at the lower end to the material of the skirt and on the loose or detached upper end is provided with a ring or loop I, to which the united ends of the cords B B are attached by the hook *f*. By this means the cords are made fast to the skirt at a point below and perpendicularly in line with those cords when they are under tension. A cord or tape of this character should be provided on every skirt with which the elevating-belt is to be worn, and usually the same is permanently attached in place on the skirt by means of a few stitches. It may be less permanently attached to the skirt, however, by using other fastening means, such as pins or metal clips. These parts when they are to be worn for use with a ribbon belt are arranged and combined as shown in Figs. 2, 3, and 4. The cord-guides are constructed of studs *b*, fixed in a back plate *d* of a more or less ornamental outline, and are provided with rollers. The studs are set equidistant from and on opposite sides of a vertical center line, and the studs and their rollers are covered by a front plate *e* of the same general form as the back plate, to which it is united by a rim. In this rim *g* are formed the apertures *h*, through which the cords B B are brought from between the front plate and the back plates. These apertures, in con-

junction with the guides *b*, serve to confine the cords and keep them in line and working position.

On the outside of the back plate are loops L and hinged clamps M, similar in construction to those in the ordinary suspender-buckle, by which the back plate is secured to a waist-ribbon A. The loops L are preferably formed of wire. The clamps M are plates pivotally attached at *m* to the back plate at one edge and provided with teeth or asperities *p* on the opposite edge, over which the ribbon is carried after being passed through the loops in such manner that the strain on the ribbon tends to press the plate against the ribbon and prevent the back plate from moving laterally on the ribbon after being set in position. In the application of these parts to a leather belt, with which they are more permanently combined than they are in the before-described construction, where the waist-ribbon is detachable, the casing containing the guides *b* is permanently fixed in the belt in the center of the back. In line with the guides *b* tubular guides *r* extend from the openings *h* in the rim *g* for a short distance on either side toward the front to apertures *s*. These lateral guide-channels are formed in the belt by inserting a flexible tube $r^{\times}$ in the substance or material of the belt or, as shown in Fig. 5 of the drawings, by using two thicknesses or layers of material and fixing the tubular guide between them, an opening being made in the outer layer, through which the end of the tube is brought to the outside.

The tube-guides are preferably made of spirally-wound wire with the spirals closely laid, which affords a considerable degree of flexibility and pliability in the tube that allows it to readily conform to the curvature of the belt when it is placed around the waist. The cords are of proper length when drawn out to be brought around the waist from opposite sides and secured together by the knobs or fastenings *k*, provided on the ends, and when thus joined at the front of the waist the lower edge of the skirt should be elevated by them as far above the ground as the device is capable of doing. A less degree of elevation is produced and the skirt is supported at such less distance from the surface by causing the cords to catch in grips or catches T, provided at the apertures on the sides, through which the elevating-cords pass to the outside. These grips have V-shaped slots *u* to seize the elevating-cords, which when drawn out to the required length are held by taking a turn around the grip.

The front plate *e* of the attached parts is susceptible of ornamentation, so that its real character may be concealed or rendered subservient to its ornamental qualities.

By mounting the casing *d e* permanently on a belt the loops and clamps provided for attaching the device to a waist-ribbon are dispensed with.

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

1. In a dress-elevator, two plates joined at their edges to an apertured rim, two of the apertures being diametrically opposite to each other and the other one midway between them on the lower side, two supports between the plates substantially in line with the side apertures and above the lower one, two cords through the lower aperture, the lower ends of which are provided with means for connecting them with a skirt, and the upper ends are passed over said supports, and out through the other apertures in opposite directions, and means for fastening the plates at the waist.

2. In a dress-elevator, two plates joined at their edges to an apertured rim, two of the apertures being located opposite to each other and the other one midway between them on the lower side, two studs between the plates above the lower aperture and substantially on a line between the side apertures, a roller on each stud, two cords through the lower aperature, the lower ends of which are provided with a hook and the other ends are passed over the rollers and out through the side apertures and each provided with a fastener, means for fastening the plates at the waist and means for detachably connecting a skirt with the hook on the ends of the cords.

3. In a dress-elevator, two plates joined at their edges to an apertured rim, means for detachably connecting one of said plates to a waist-ribbon, two supports between the plates, and two cords through the lower aperture, the lower ends of which are provided with means for detachably connecting them with a dress-skirt, and the other ends are passed over the supports and in opposite directions through the other apertures in the rim.

4. In a dress-elevator, a casing having diametrically opposite perforations and provided with supports upon the interior thereof, clamps on one side of the casing for connecting a waist-ribbon therewith and elevating-cords passed in opposite directions through the perforations and over the supports.

5. In a dress-elevator, a radially-perforated casing provided with independent supports upon the interior thereof for guiding the cords laterally in opposite directions, means for supporting the casing at the waist, a catch at each side of the casing adjacent to a perforation, and elevating-cords united at their lower ends and passed in opposite directions laterally through the perforations and over the supports, the free ends of which are adapted to be engaged by the catches.

6. In a dress-elevator, a plate provided with a perforated rim, a cover therefor, supports upon the plate within the rim above one of the perforations and substantially in line with

the other two, means for securing the plate at the waist, elevating-cords passed in opposite directions laterally over the supports and through the perforations, the cords being united and provided with means for connecting them at a common point with a dress-skirt at one end and means for securing the other ends in position to elevate the skirt.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

GEORGE V. EGAN.

Witnesses:
W. F. CLARK,
ADELAIDE C. CLARK.