

No. 720,450.

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L. W. & S. M. LUELLEN.

PLACKET CLOSURE.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 11, 1902.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 1.

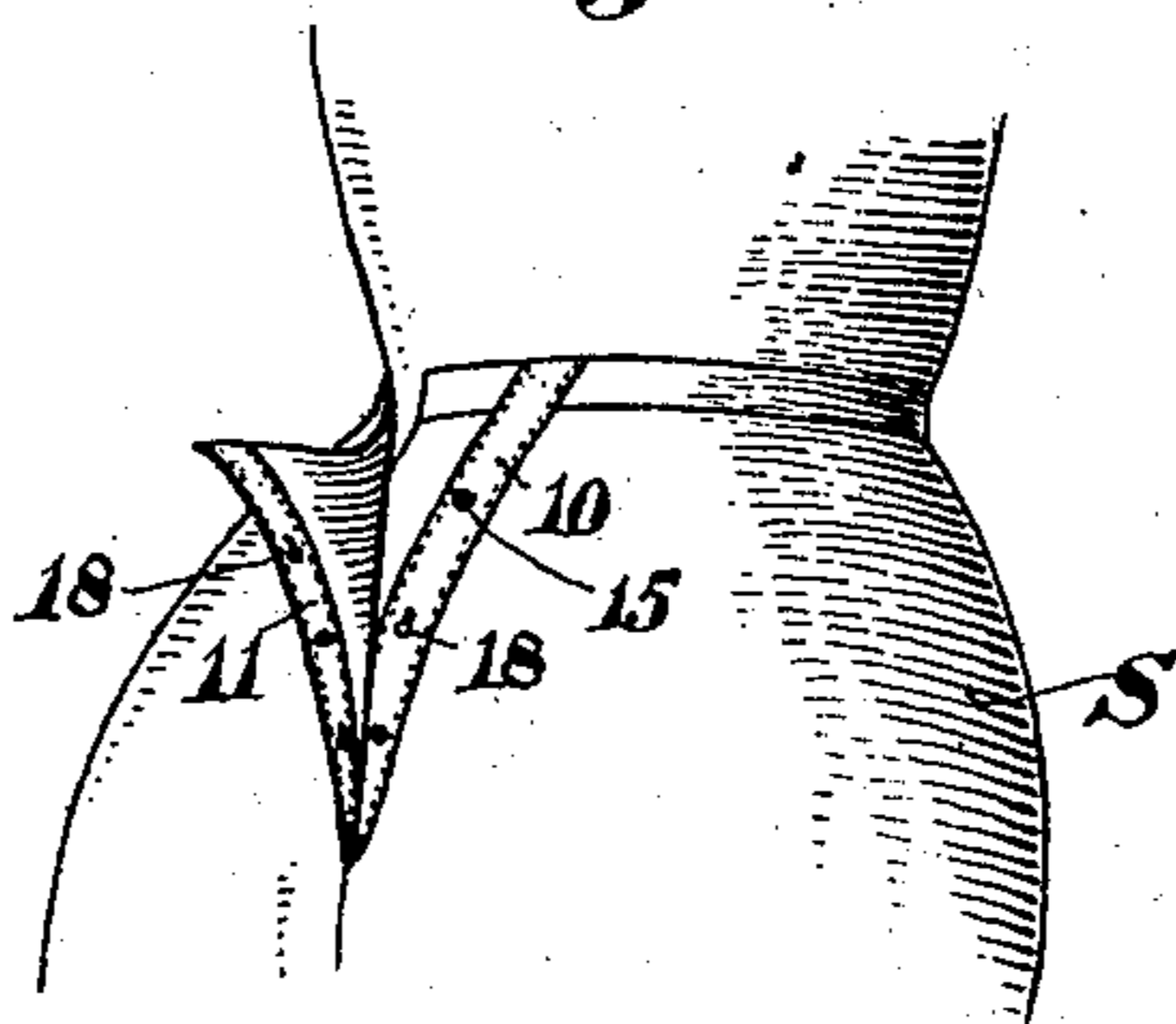
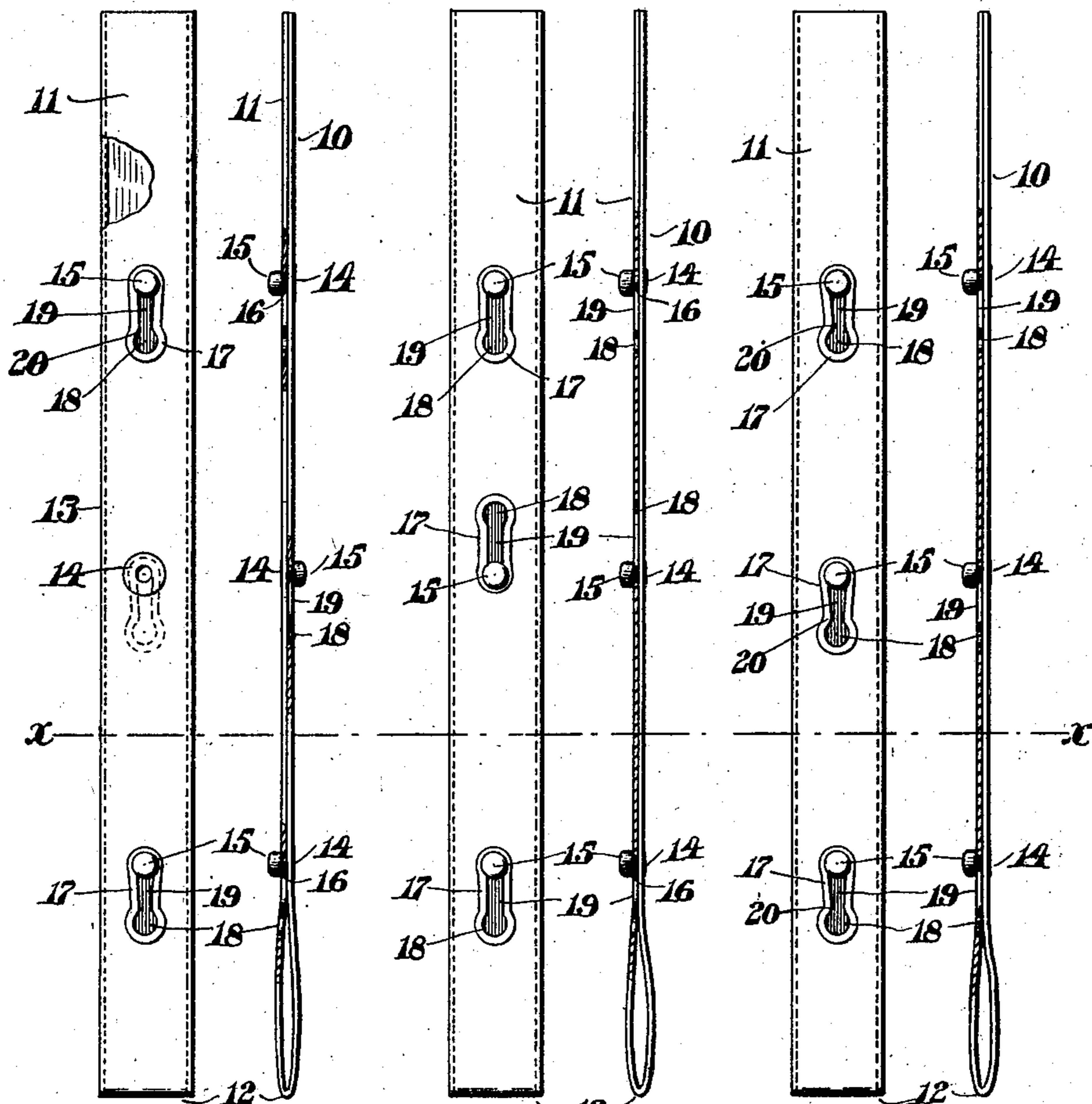


Fig. 2. Fig. 3. Fig. 4. Fig. 5. Fig. 6. Fig. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LAWRENCE W. LUELLEN AND SALLIE M. LUELLEN, OF BROOKLINE,
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PLACKET-CLOSURE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 720,450, dated February 10, 1903.

Application filed April 11, 1902. Serial No. 102,438. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, LAWRENCE W. LUELLEN and SALLIE M. LUELLEN, citizens of the United States of America, and residents of Brookline, in the county of Norfolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Garment-Closures, of which the following is a specification.

10 Our invention relates to closures for the meeting edges of garments, such as the plackets of dress-skirts and the like, having for its principal object the provision of an effective fastening for the closure.

15 In closures of the type consisting of a pair of flexible members, one of which is adapted to be secured at each side of the placket, the usual manner of fastening them together is to rivet or hinge the ends located at the lower 20 extremity of the placket and provide some separate fastener at the ends near the waistband, depending upon the spring of the members to retain them together at intermediate points when in use. If any ordinary 25 intermediate fastener were used—for example, the ball-and-socket catch—such a fastening would be ineffective for at least two reasons—it is insecure, being detachable or separable by a single movement, and this in the 30 general direction of a strain frequently brought on the placket in the wearing of the garment, and when it remains in engagement it gives a practically rigid fastening, which under the movements of the skirt causes the 35 members on each side to bow and gap and brings a considerable strain upon the fabric. Our invention overcomes these difficulties, as hereinafter described, by combinations more particularly claimed.

40 In the drawings, Figure 1 shows a portion of a skirt upon the wearer with the placket provided with one form of our improved closure. Figs. 2 and 3 are respectively a front plan view and a side elevation with the parts 45 broken away of the closure removed from the skirt, and Figs. 4, 5, 6, and 7 are similar views of other forms of our invention.

Similar characters designate like parts throughout the several figures of the drawings.

50 We prefer to employ two closure members

10 11, preferably of some thin flexible and elastic material, as steel, which may conveniently be formed integrally of a single strip bent at 12 to furnish two arms or members 55 lying normally side by side. These members are preferably covered with fabric 13, through which they may be attached to the garment, as at the placket of a skirt S. (Shown in Fig. 1.) It is evident, however, that the steel or other 60 inner portion may be entirely omitted and the fabric alone constitute the flexible member. The lower end of the closure is held together by either the connection between the arms or the meeting of the sides of the 65 placket if independent members are employed, while the upper ends of the members may be secured in proximity to one another by the fastening of the skirt-binding when it is adjusted upon the wearer. 70

To insure the members remaining in contact between the ends, a plurality of fasteners is provided, these being preferably so formed and located as to permit some longitudinal movement of the members without 75 disengagement. These fasteners in the present instance consist of a stud 14, fixed to one member and extending toward the other, provided with a head 15 and a contracted neck portion 16. For coaction with the stud the 80 opposite member is provided with an eye, which may be provided with a reinforcing-rim 17, said eye having an opening 18 large enough to admit the head of the stud and a narrow elongated portion 19, extending there- 85 from longitudinally of the member. This portion may be contracted, if desired, at a point 20, adjacent to the opening 18, to a width slightly less than the diameter of the neck of the stud, so that some slight force 90 may be required to spring the sides apart to move the stud from one portion of the eye to another. The contraction 20 is, however, not essential in this or other forms of our invention. 95

We prefer to provide the members with a lock against an accidental separation by so locating the fasteners that it will be necessary to move the same member in different 100 directions to separate adjacent fasteners. In the form shown in Figs. 2 and 3 this is effected by reversing the adjacent fasteners, each

member having a stud and an eye oppositely situated to the stud in the companion member, the elongated portion of all the eyes extending in the same direction. It will be seen
 5 that it will be necessary to move one of the members both up and down in the same plane to release adjacent fasteners, although movement in any direction in said plane is limited by the wall of the eye, and that accidental
 10 disengagement is practically impossible, the movement of one stud toward the large opening of the eye forcing the next against the end wall of the elongated portion, yet this arrangement is particularly easy for the
 15 wearer to fasten or unfasten, since the yield of the flexible members readily allows this opposite movement when the force is properly applied, and all the studs or all the eyes move in the same direction to accomplish
 20 either end, rendering it unnecessary to see the parts to enable the wearer to know which way one or another of the eyes or studs move. The same locking effect may be secured by placing all the studs or all the eyes upon op-
 25 posite members and locating one or more of the eyes with the elongated portion pointing in a different direction from its neighbor. As shown in Figs. 4 and 5, where three fasteners are employed, the center one is inverted.
 30 This necessitates the movement of adjacent studs or eyes in opposite directions, as well as the members, to disengage the fasteners. In this form the contracted portion of the eye (shown in the previous figures at 20) is
 35 omitted.

In Figs. 6 and 7 the locking arrangement of fasteners previously described is not employed, but the contraction 20 of the elongated portion of the opening depended upon
 40 to prevent accidental separation, the eyes being all in one member and extending in the same direction.

In each of the above-described forms there is a movement of the members permitted relatively to each other by the play of the stud
 45 in the elongated portion of the eye without the parts assuming a position in which they can separate. This does away with the strains which would tend to cause disengagement and
 50 also effectually prevents a drag upon the gar-

ment, which would tend to cause the fastener to show or even tear the fabric, an important consideration where delicate goods are employed. All types of the device have been
 55 illustrated as connected at one end and provided with three fasteners; but it is evident that any of them, if desired, of less length might be used in the form resulting from cutting them on the line $x x$.

Having thus described our invention, we
 60 claim—

1. A garment-closure comprising at least two flexible members, one of the members being provided with a stud having a head and a contracted shank and the companion mem-
 65 ber with an eye for coaction with the stud, said eye having at one end an opening sufficiently large to admit the head, and an elongated slot to receive the shank leading therefrom and contracted at a point adjacent to
 70 the opening to a width less than the diameter of the shank.

2. A garment-closure comprising at least two flexible members, and a plurality of fasteners for the members each consisting of a
 75 stud and an eye so formed and located as to require the movement of the same member in different directions in the same plane to effect their disengagement, the movement in
 80 any direction in said plane being limited by the contact of the stud and the wall of the eye.

3. A garment-closure comprising at least two flexible members, and a plurality of fasteners for the members each consisting of a
 85 stud and an eye so formed and located as to require the movement of the same member in opposite directions in the same plane to effect the disengagement of adjacent fasteners, the movement in any direction in said plane
 90 being limited by the contact of the stud and wall of the eye.

Signed by us at Boston, Massachusetts, this
 9th day of April, 1902.

LAWRENCE W. LUELLEN.
 SALLIE M. LUELLEN.

Witnesses:

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