

No. 732,798.

PATENTED JULY 7, 1903.

C. H. TOMLINSON.

CLASP.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 19, 1902.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 1.

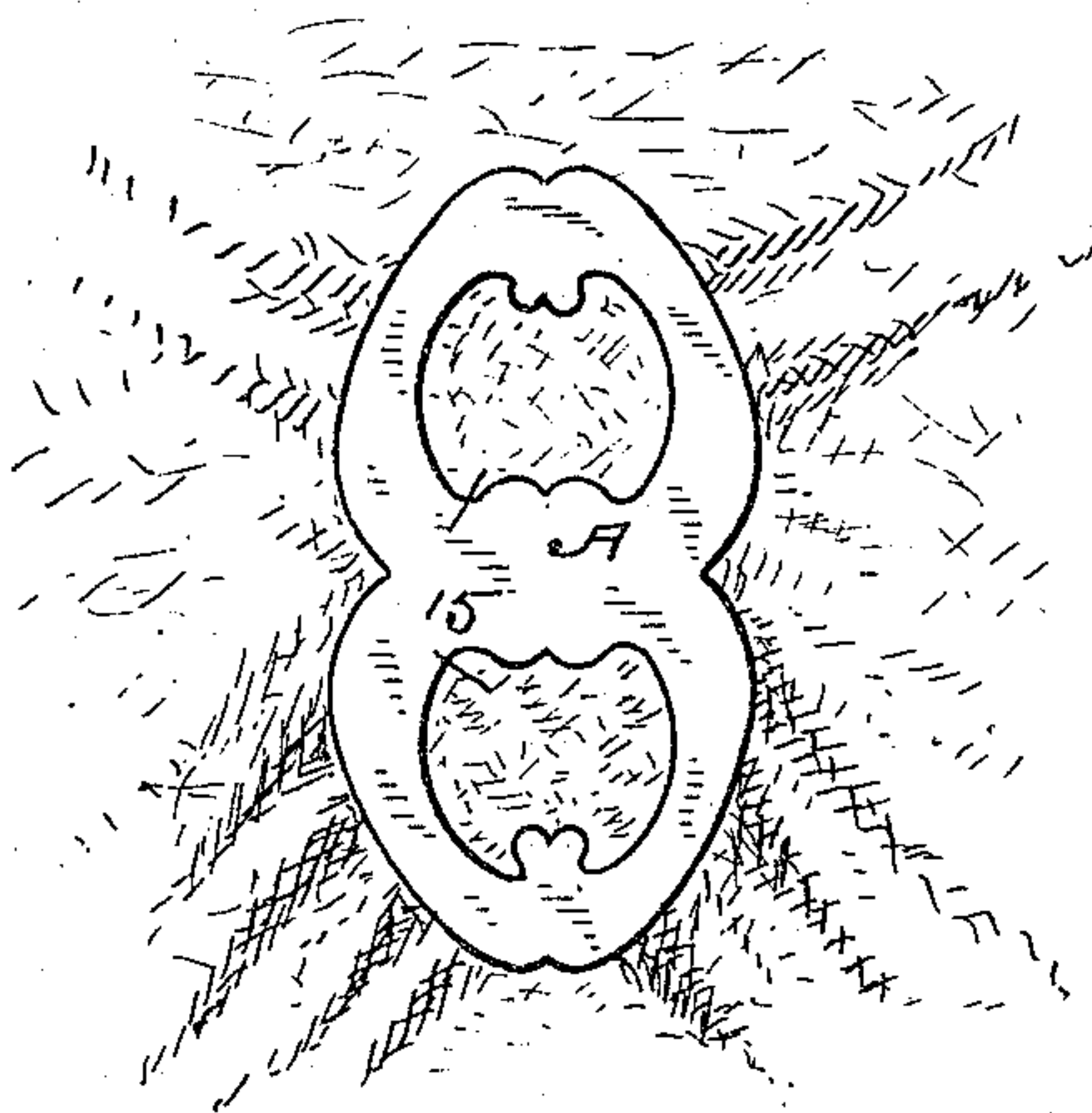


Fig. 2.

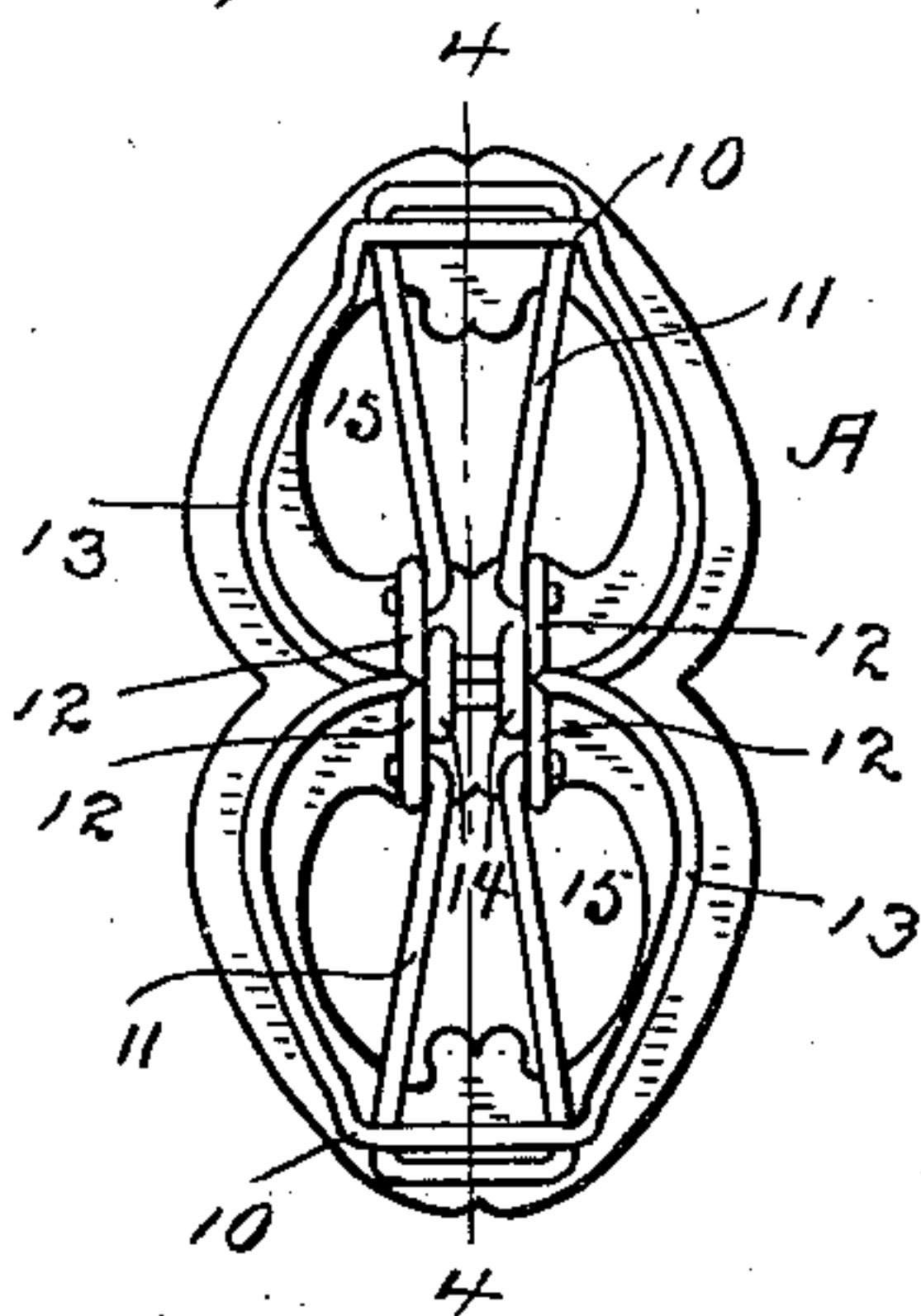


Fig. 3.

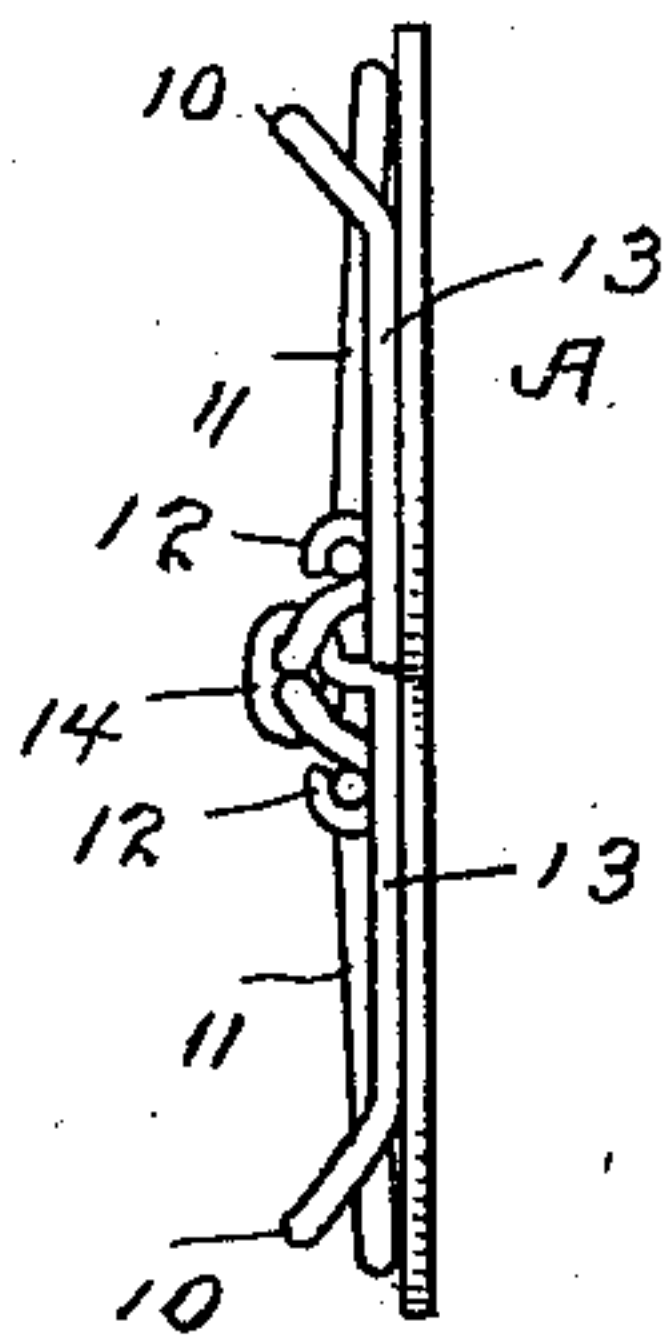


Fig. 4.

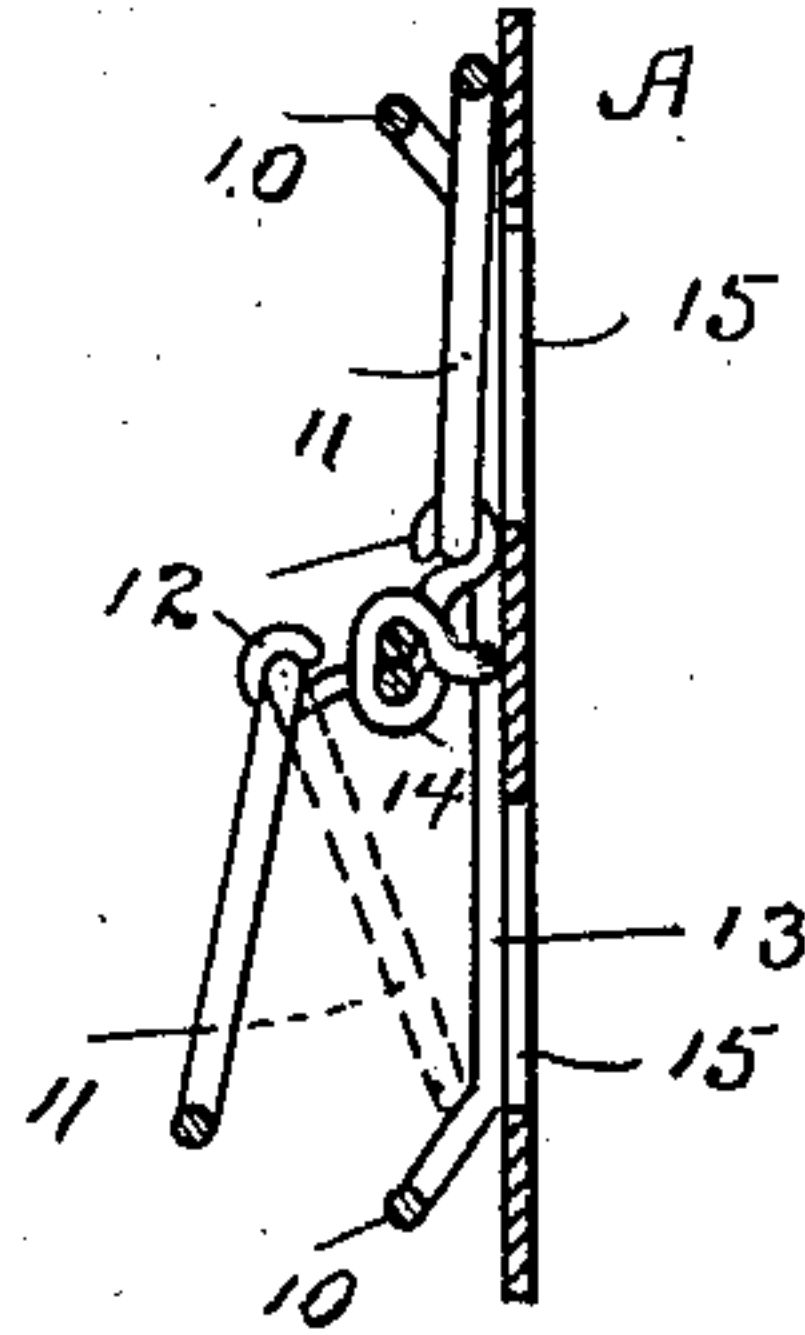


Fig. 5.

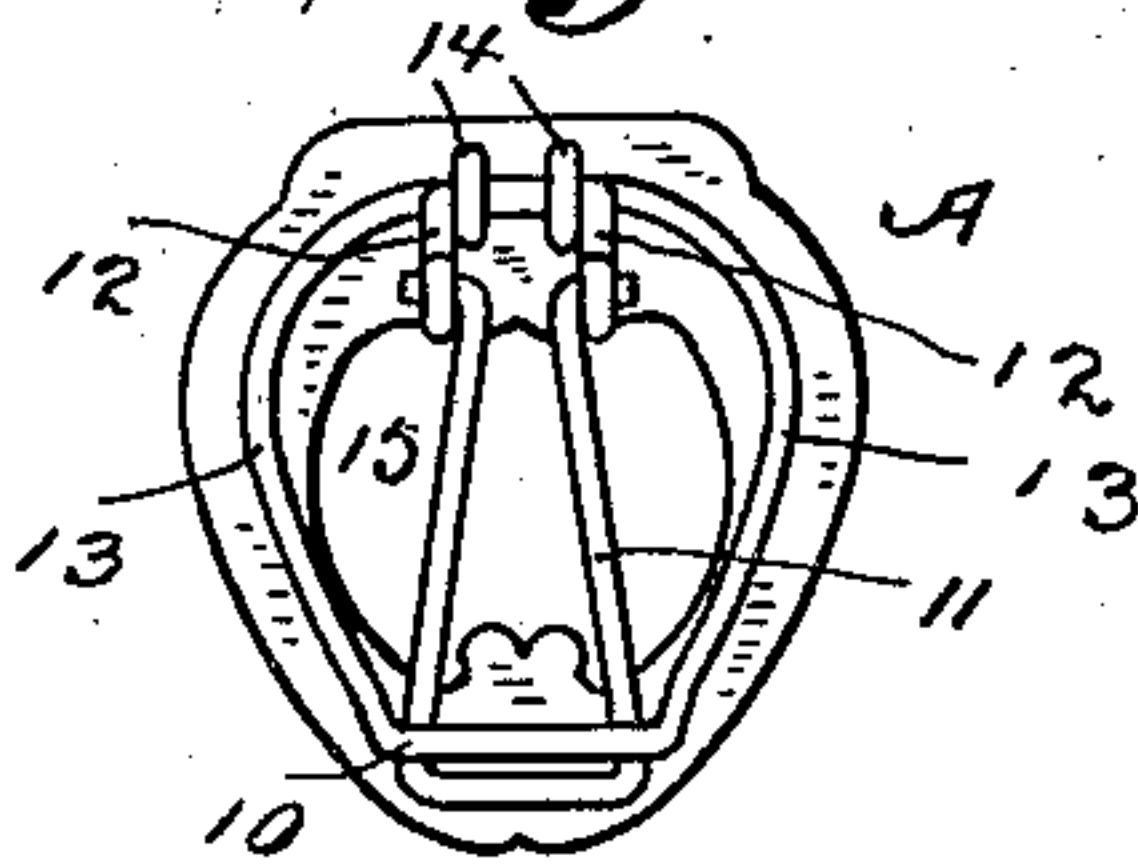


Fig. 6.

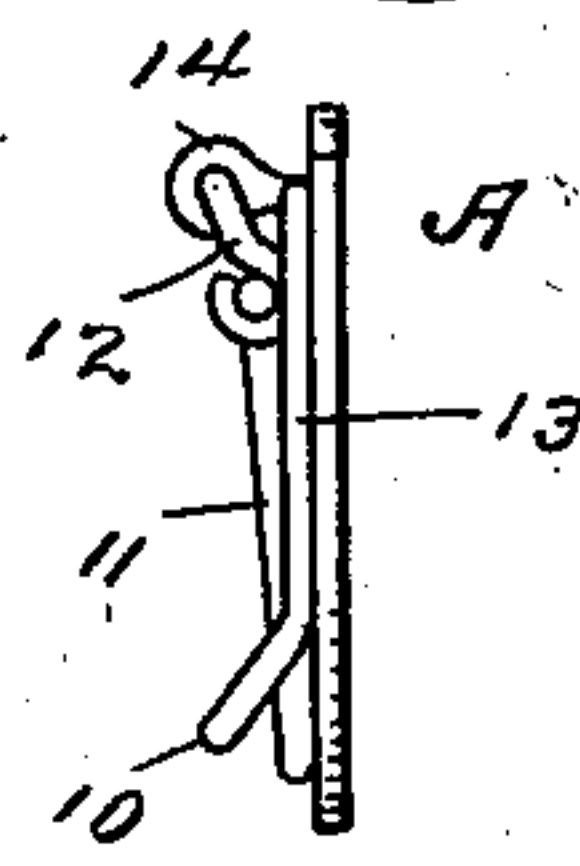
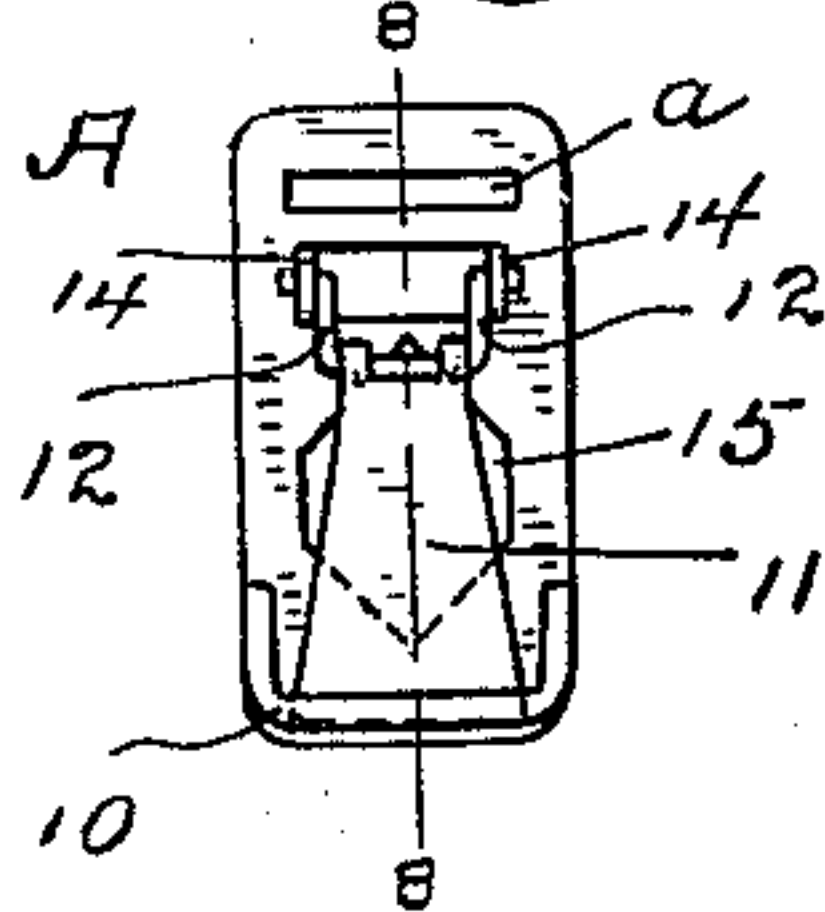


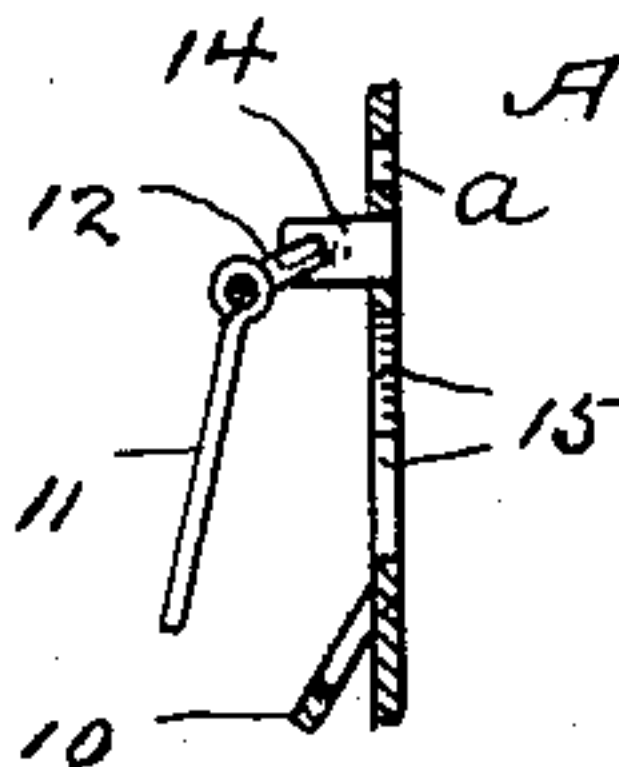
Fig. 7.



WITNESSES.

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Fig. 8.



INVENTOR.

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Att'y

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES H. TOMLINSON, OF SHELTON, CONNECTICUT.

CLASP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 732,798, dated July 7, 1903.

Application filed May 19, 1902. Serial No. 107,957. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES H. TOMLINSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Shelton, county of Fairfield, State of Connecticut, have invented a new and useful Clasp, of which the following is a specification.

My invention has for its object to provide a clasp adapted for general use as a garment-supporter—for example, as a stocking or sleeve supporter—and especially adapted when made of proper size to serve as a dress-skirt supporter—that is, to loop up and retain out of contact with the ground or floor the train of a dress, as when walking or dancing.

With these and other ends in view I have devised the novel clasp of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, reference characters being used to designate the several parts.

Figure 1 is an elevation of a double form of my novel clasp as in use as a dress-skirt supporter; Fig. 2, a rear view thereof, the garment being removed; Fig. 3, an edge view corresponding with Fig. 2; Fig. 4, a longitudinal section on the line 4 4 in Fig. 2, showing one of the locking-arms in the locking position, the other locking-arm being in the disengaged position; Fig. 5, a rear view of a single form of my novel clasp; Fig. 6, an edge view corresponding with Fig. 5; Fig. 7, a rear view illustrating another form of single clasp; and Fig. 8 is a section on the line 8 8 in Fig. 7, the locking-arm being in the disengaged position.

A denotes the plate of my novel clasp, which may be made of gold or silver or of any of the cheaper metals and is provided with an opening or openings 15, depending upon whether it is the single or double form; 10, the bridges; 11, the locking-arms, and 12 links by which the locking-arms are connected to the plate. The bridges may be made of wire or sheet metal or the plates and bridges may be struck up from sheet metal or cast integral, if preferred. In Figs. 1 to 6, inclusive, I have shown the bridges as part of a continuous strip of wire brazed or soldered to the plate and serving as a strengthening-rib therefor, as at 13. This strengthening-rib may or may not be used, as preferred, depending upon the

thickness of metal used in making the plate and upon the special uses for which the clasp is intended. In Figs. 7 and 8 I have illustrated a form in which the bridge is formed integral with the plate. The locking-arms may be made of sheet metal, as in Figs. 7 and 8, or of wire, as in Figs. 1 to 6, inclusive. The links are shown as made of wire, although they may be made of sheet metal, if preferred. The locking-arms are pivoted to the links and the links are pivoted to the plate. In Figs. 1 to 4, inclusive, I have shown the links as pivoted to eyes 14, which are shown as made integral with the strengthening-rib, although that is of course immaterial.

The single form, which is illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6, may be made precisely the same as described above, the plate being of course made smaller and but one link, locking-arm, and bridge being used.

In the form illustrated in Figs. 7 and 8 the eyes are shown as struck up from the metal of the plate. Said plate may be provided with a slot *a*, by means of which a tape may be connected to the device.

The operation of my novel clasp will, it is thought, be clearly understood from the drawings. Where the double form is used, the operator disengages one of the locking-arms from the corresponding bridge by pushing against the locking-arm through the corresponding opening 15, the link and arm yielding at the joint and disengaging the arm from the bridge. The operator then places a fold of the garment between the plate and the locking-arm, the fold of garment entirely filling the opening and covering the locking-arm and link, then presses the locking-arm down upon the fold of garment back of the bridge, and then presses the locking-arm forward by pushing against the link, the position of the link at this moment being shown in full lines in Fig. 4 and the position of the locking-arm being indicated by dotted lines. When the locking-arm is moved forward by pushing against the link, the portion of the fold of the garment which covers the end of the locking-arm is carried under the bridge, but without danger of tearing it, and is thereby locked in the clasp. The same operation is repeated to lock the other portion of the clasp to another fold of the garment, it being simplest

to attach the upper end of the clasp to the garment first in the manner described, then lift the skirt or other garment as high as may be desired, place a fold of it under the lower locking-arm, and then push the lower locking-arm with a portion of a fold of the garment over the end thereof under the lower bridge by pushing against the lower link. In using the double form both links and both locking-arms will be fully covered by the folds of garment, as clearly shown in Fig. 1. To disengage either end of the clasp from the garment, the operator simply pushes against the fold of garment and the locking-arm through the opening 15 at the end of the clasp which it is desired to disengage, so that the fold of garment will drop away from the clasp or the clasp will drop away from the garment.

It will be observed that when the locking-arm 11 is in locking position the portion of the fold of the garment which covers its end is pushed between the bridge 10 and the back of the portion of the plate A which is opposite to and parallel with said bridge. Therefore the fold of the garment is confined or clamped not only between the rounded corners of the locking-arm and the end portions of the bridge 10, but also on both sides of the end bar of the locking-arm, so as to be held or clamped against the bridge and also against the continuous flat rear face of the plate.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

35 1. A clasp comprising a plate having a finger-opening and provided at one end with a bridge and at the other end with a pivoted link, and a locking-arm one end of which is pivoted to the link and the other adapted to pass under the bridge carrying a portion of a fold of a garment and locking the clasp thereto, the said bridge, link and locking-arm being all permanently located on one side of the plate, and the locking-arm crossing said

opening and therefore accessible through the opening. 45

2. A clasp comprising a plate having an opening and a bridge parallel with the plate at one end of the opening, and a pivoted link and a locking-arm one end of which is pivoted to the link and the other adapted to pass under the bridge and carry a portion of a fold of a garment, a locking-arm crossing the opening and, with the link and bridge, located permanently on the back of the plate whereby a fold of garment may fill the opening and cover the link and locking-arm so that only the plate is in view when the clasp is in use. 50 55

3. A clasp comprising a locking-plate having openings, bridges at its opposite ends, links pivoted centrally and locking-arms which are pivoted to the links and cross the openings and whose free ends are adapted to pass under the bridges, substantially as described. 60 65

4. A clasp comprising a plate provided with an opening and having at one end a wire bridge secured thereto, at the other end a pivoted wire link and a locking-arm also made of wire which is pivoted to the link and crosses the opening and whose free end is adapted to pass under the bridge, the bridge, link and locking-arm being all permanently located on the back of the plate. 70 75

5. A clasp comprising a locking-plate having openings, a strengthening-rib, bridges and eyes formed from a single strip of wire and secured thereto, links pivoted to the eyes and locking-arms pivoted to the links and crossing the openings, substantially as described. 80

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

CHARLES H. TOMLINSON.

Witnesses:

LOUIS L. GREGORY,

W. G. TAYLOR.