

No. 756,455.

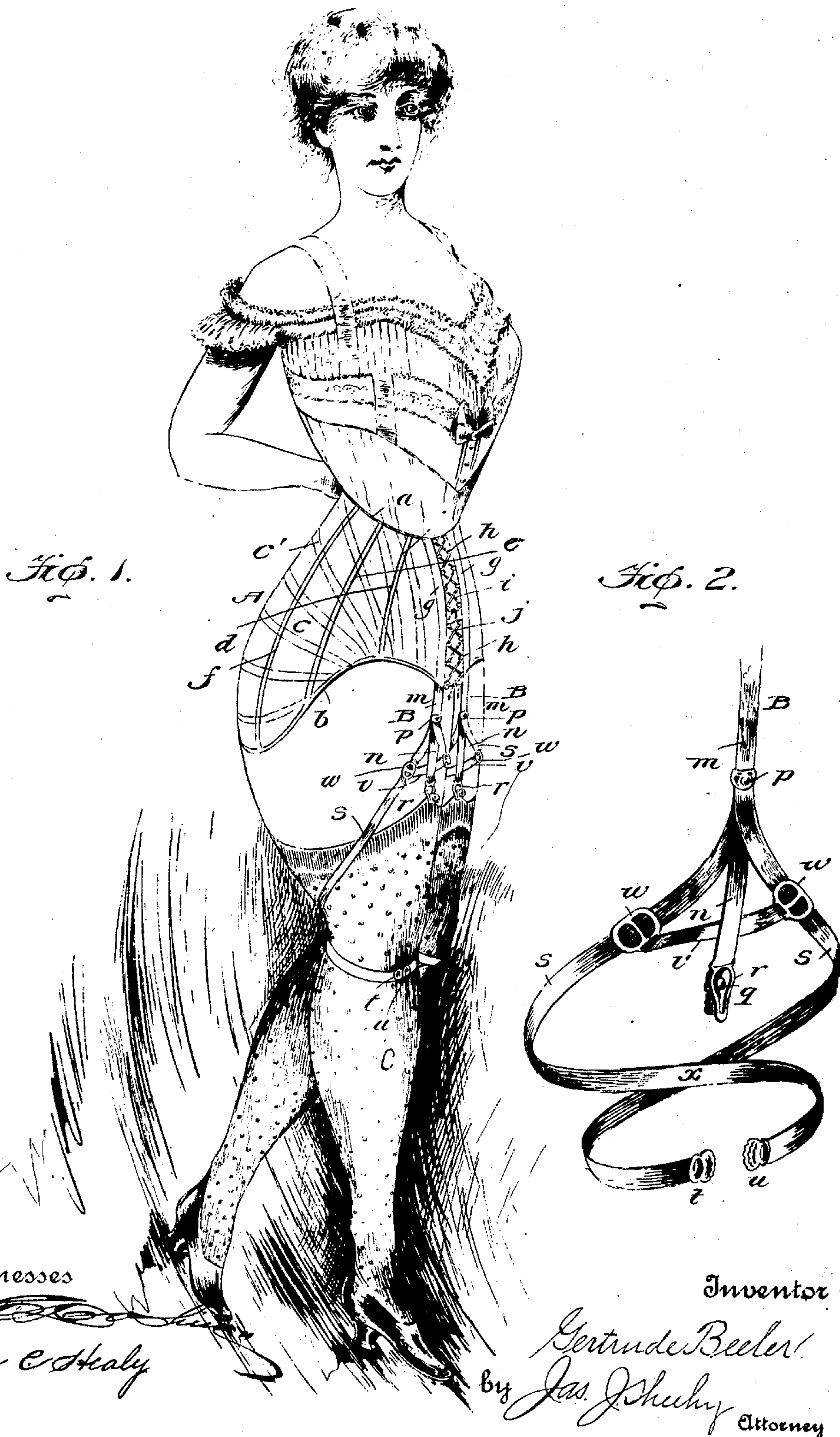
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G. BEELER.

HIP FORM AND STOCKING SUPPORTER.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 17, 1903.

NO MODEL.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GERTRUDE BEELER, OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS.

HIP-FORM AND STOCKING-SUPPORTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 756,455, dated April 5, 1904.

Application filed July 17, 1903. Serial No. 165,982. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GERTRUDE BEELER, a citizen of the United States, residing at San Antonio, in the county of Bexar and State of Texas, have invented new and useful Improvements in Hip-Forms and Stocking-Supporters, of which the following is a specification.

My invention pertains to hip-forms and stocking-supporters for ladies' wear; and it consists in a combined hip-form and stocking-supporter the novelty, utility, and practical advantages of which will be fully understood from the following description and claims when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a view illustrating the operation of my novel combined hip-form and stocking-supporter, and Fig. 2 is an enlarged detail view illustrative of the manner in which the members of the stocking-supporter are applied.

Similar letters designate corresponding parts in both views of the drawings, referring to which—

A is the hip-form of my combined device; B B, the members of the stocking-supporter thereof, and C C stockings. The hip-form is preferably made of suitable textile material, is provided with a straight upper edge *a* and a curved lower edge *b*, whereby it is gradually reduced in height from its back to its front, and comprises a suitable number of gores *c*, according to its size, a large form for a stout figure embodying a larger number of gores than that for a slender figure. Each of the gores has a straight front edge *d* to afford a straight-front effect and a curved rear edge *e* to fit the figure. In addition to the gores *c* the form comprises reinforcing-strips *c'* of strong material, stays *f*, one at each seam, connecting gores, stays *g* at the front edges of the form, hooks *h*, connected to said front edges, an upper pair of laces *i*, connected to the upper ends of said front edges, and a lower pair of laces *j*, connected to the front edges at about the middle of the height thereof. The stays *f g*, which may be of steel, bone, cane, or other material suitable to the purpose of the invention, are designed to prevent the formation of

wrinkles in the form, while the reinforcing-strips *c'*, which intersect the stays *f*, contribute materially to the strength and durability of the form. Two pairs of laces, arranged as stated, are employed to effect connection between the front edges of the form in order that the upper portion of the form may be tightened to a greater extent than the lower portion thereof when necessary, and vice versa.

In applying my improved form to the figure it is laced so that there is a space of two and a half or three inches between its front edges. When thus applied to a stout figure, the form serves to retain the hips and abdomen in place, and thereby prevents distention of the bowels, and it also holds the flesh steady while walking without interfering with the natural movements of the body, affords a sense of ease and security, and in general assists materially in making a stout figure look as nature intended it should. When applied to the figures of slender ladies who are compelled to resort to the use of pads, the form serves to effectually prevent slipping of the pads, and thereby contributes materially to the natural appearance of the figure. The form is further advantageous, since it can be conveniently worn over a corset as well as when a corset is not worn. When used, as stated, in conjunction with a corset, the form prevents breaking of the stays of the corset or turning in of the same at the waist-line, and it also serves to prevent the line across the hips ordinarily caused by the lower edge of the corset. From this it follows that a skirt fitted over my improved form is not liable to roll up around the waist and render the wearer uncomfortable.

Notwithstanding its advantages, as pointed out in the foregoing, it will be observed that the hip-form is very light and inexpensive in construction.

The members B of the stocking-supporter comprised in my improved device are permanently connected to and suspended from the front of the form A at opposite sides of the vertical median line thereof. Said members B respectively comprise an upper strip *m*, preferably of non-elastic material, a short

strip *n*, of elastic material, connected to the strip *m* by a clasp *p*, adjustable thereon, or other suitable means and provided with means, preferably a button *q* and a complementary keeper *r*, for connecting it to a stocking, long strips *s*, of elastic material, connected to the strip *m* by the clasp *p* or other means and having complementary buckle members *t u* at their lower ends, and a cross-strip *v*, of elastic material, connected to the strips *s* by buckles *w*, adjustable lengthwise of the latter. The cross-strip *v* has for its purpose to hold the upper portions of the strips *s* at the proper distance apart, and in virtue of the buckles *w* it will be observed that it will give to the movements of the leg and may be readily adjusted up or down, as desired.

In applying the hose-supporter of my improved device the strips *n* are connected with the upper portions of the stockings and the long strips *s* are carried back of the knees, where they are crossed, as indicated by *x*, Fig. 2, after which they are brought forward and connected in front of the leg through the medium of the buckle members *t u*. When the members of the stocking-supporter are thus applied, it will be observed that perfect freedom is afforded the knees, and when the wearer is sitting or reclining the elastic strips *s* are perfectly loose, while the strips *n* serve to hold the stockings in place; also that when the wearer is standing upright the strips *s* remove strain from the strips *n*, with the result that there is no liability of the buttons *q* and keepers *r* tearing holes in the stockings. It will also be observed that when the members of the stocking-supporter are properly connected to the stockings and applied to the legs, as described, they will serve to hold the front of the hip-form down in its proper position and against working up.

I have entered into a detailed description of the construction and relative arrangement of the parts embraced in the present and preferred embodiment of my invention in order to impart a full, clear, and exact understanding of the same. I do not desire, however, to be understood as confining myself to such specific construction and relative arrangement of parts, as such changes or modifications may be made in practice as fairly fall within the scope of my invention as claimed.

In some cases an elastic string may be used for lacing the hip-form, as a better result is obtained thereby. In employing an elastic lacing the figure is given more freedom, al-

lowing the form to adjust more readily to the curves of the body or figure.

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

1. A hip-form open at its front, and made up of gores each of which has a straight front edge and a curved rear edge, stays arranged at the seams between the gores, other stays arranged at the front, vertical edges of the form, and means detachably connecting said front edges; the said form having a straight upper edge *a* and a curved lower edge *b* whereby it is gradually reduced in height from its back to its front, vertical edges.

2. A hip-form open at its front, and made up of gores each of which has a straight front edge and a curved rear edge, stays arranged at the seams between the gores, other stays arranged at the front, vertical edges of the form, reinforcing-strips *c'* intersecting the first-mentioned stays, and means detachably connecting the front edges; the said form having a straight upper edge *a* and a curved lower edge *b*, whereby it is gradually reduced in height from its back to its front, vertical edges.

3. The combination of a hip-form, and stocking-supporting members connected to and suspended from the front of the form, and respectively comprising a strip having means for engaging and holding a stocking, and strips sufficiently long to be crossed back of the knee, and provided with means whereby they may be connected in front of the leg.

4. The combination of a hip-form, and stocking-supporting members connected to and suspended from the front of the form, and respectively comprising an upper, non-elastic strip, a short strip, of elastic material, having means for engaging and holding a stocking, strips *s*, of elastic material, connected to the non-elastic strip; said strips *s* being sufficiently long to be crossed back of the knee, and being provided with means whereby they may be connected in front of the knee, and a cross-strip, of elastic material, connected to and adjustable on the long elastic strips.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

GERTRUDE BEELER.

Witnesses:

M. HUTCHISON,
C. L. BOONE.