

No. 759,072.

PATENTED MAY 3, 1904.

W. F. BROOKS.
CORSET.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 2, 1903.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 5

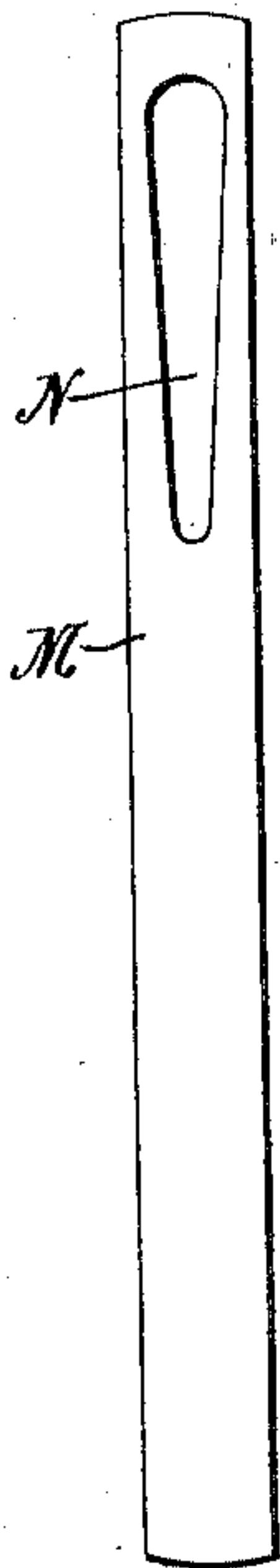


Fig. 6



Witness
J. H. Shumway
Charles L. Wood.

Fig. 1

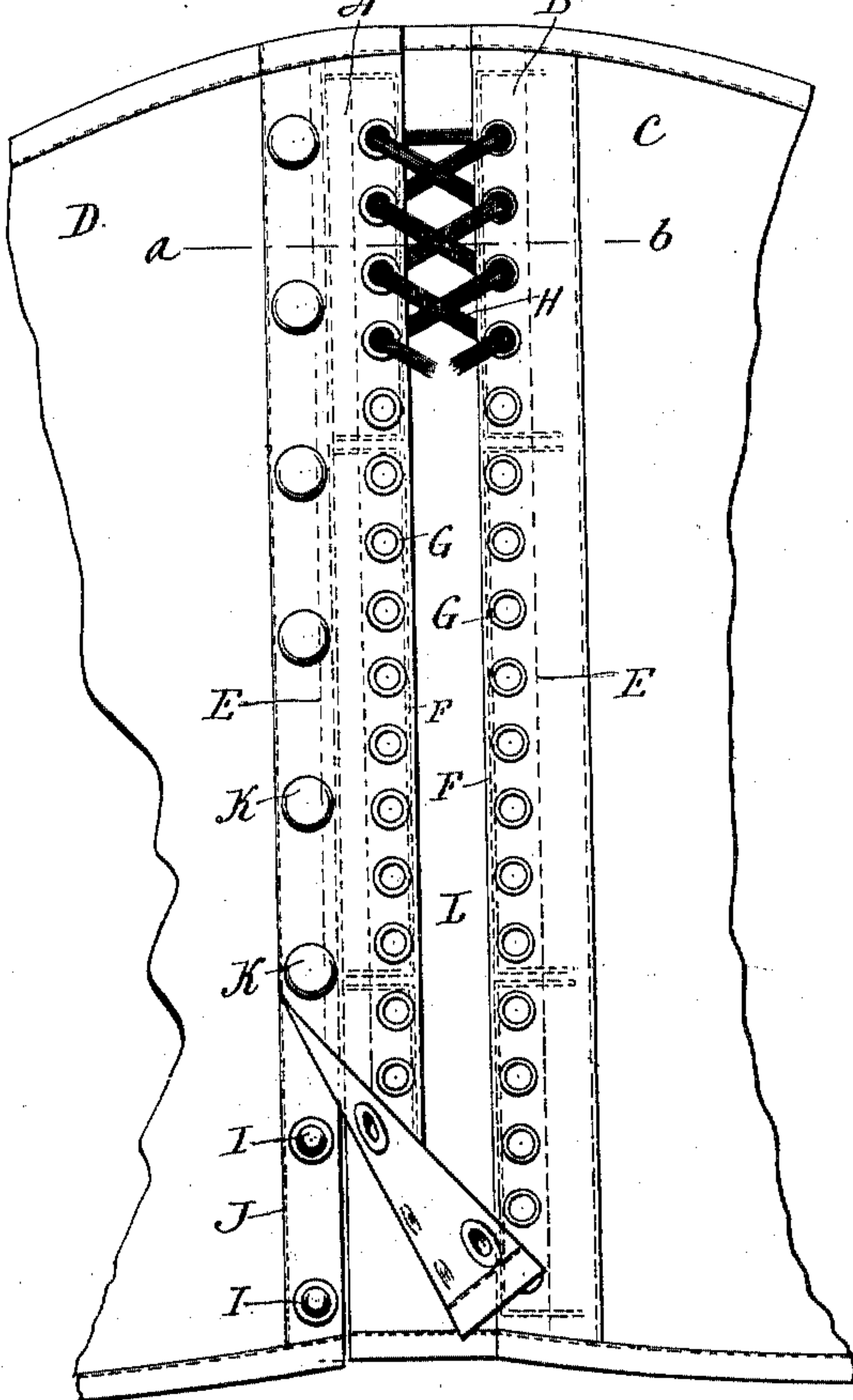


Fig. 3

Fig. 4

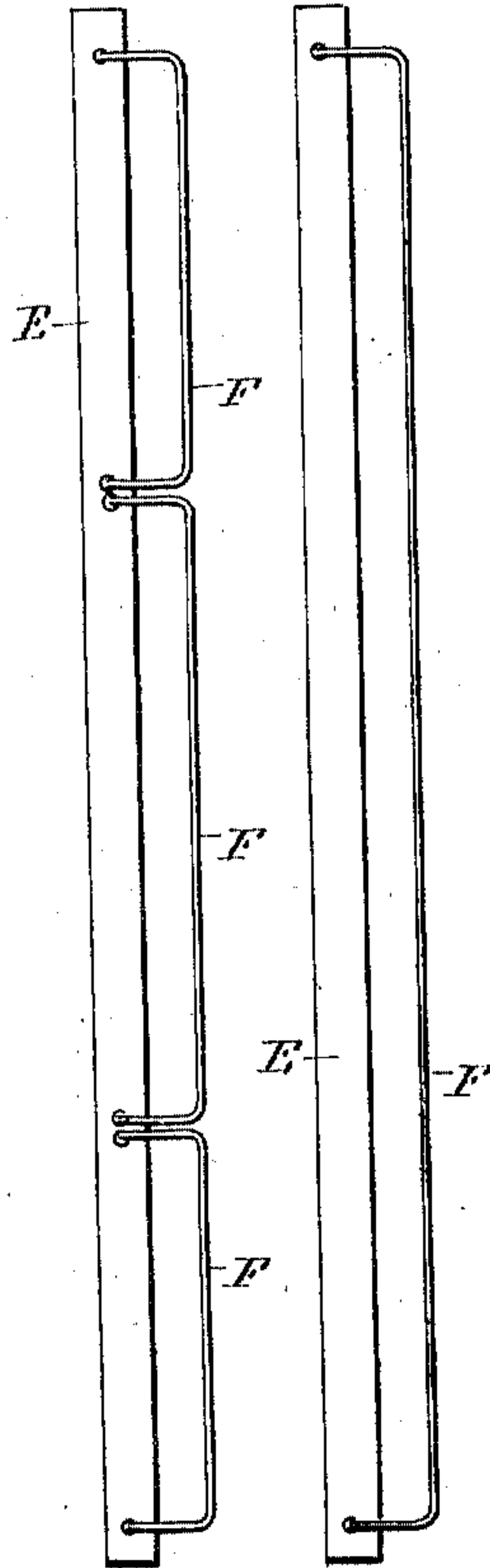
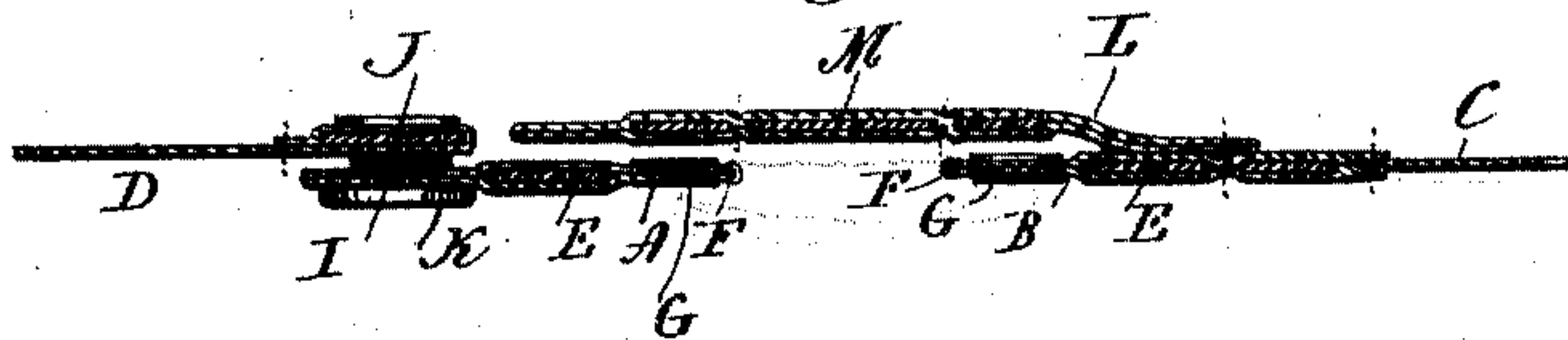


Fig. 2



William F. Brooks.
Inventor
By atty: Seymour T. Carle

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM F. BROOKS, OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT.

CORSET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 759,072, dated May 3, 1904.

Application filed November 2, 1903. Serial No. 179,463. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM F. BROOKS, of New Haven, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Corsets; and I do hereby declare the following, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings and the letters of reference marked thereon, to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, and which said drawings constitute part of this specification, and represent, in—

Figure 1, a front view of a portion of a front-laced corset shown partly laced, one of the lacing-strips at the lower end being turned up to illustrate the invention; Fig. 2, a sectional view on the line *a b* of Fig. 1; Fig. 3, a front view of the preferred form of reinforcing-wires for the lacing-strips; Fig. 4, a similar view showing a single reinforcing-wire; Fig. 5, a plan view of my improved form of busk-steel; Fig. 6, a plan view of a corset-steel in a modified form for procuring flexibility at its upper end.

This invention relates to an improvement in corsets, and particularly to the so-called "front-laced" corsets—that is, corsets which are provided at the front with sections which may be laced together. Such corsets are usually provided with means for detachably connecting one side of the lacing-section with the body of the corset, so that it may be readily removed; and one object of this invention is to provide convenient means for attaching one section of a lacing-strip to the body of the corset.

In front-laced corsets it is desirable that some support should be given to the center of the corset and also prevent the lacing from pressing against the person of the wearer.

Another object of the invention is to provide a supplemental flap which contains a busk-strip to extend beneath the lacing.

Another desirable feature of front-laced corsets is to arrange the eyelets as near the edge as possible and to have that edge thin, so that the lacing extending over it shall lie flat, and a further object of this invention is to so arrange the eyelets near the edges of the lacing-sections and to reinforce the sections by wires; and the invention consists in certain details of construction and arrangement of

parts, as will be hereinafter described, and particularly recited in the claims.

The body of the corset may be of any approved design, preferably a so-called "closed-back" corset or corset which is not divided at the back, although, if desired, the usual back-lacing may be employed.

By the term "lacing-strip" I wish to be understood as including the usual lacing edges of the corset, either at the front or back or at other points.

In carrying out my invention I employ two lacing-strips A B, the section B forming one edge of the front section C, while the section A is adapted to be detachably connected with the forward edge of the other front section D. In each of these sections is a steel E, arranged in a pocket in rear of the meeting edges of the strips, in the extreme outer edge of which are reinforcing-wires F. These wires, which are smaller in dimensions than the steels E, may be formed in three or more sections, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3, the ends of the wires being connected with the steel E, or a single wire may be employed, as indicated in Fig. 4, the extreme ends of the wires being connected with the steel, or, if desired, a wire arranged in the extreme edge of the sections may be inserted with its ends left free or independent of the steels. Between the steels and the wires lacing-eyelets G are placed for the reception of a lacing H, by which the sections may be drawn together, the wires permitting the eyelets to be arranged close to the outer edge of the lacing-strips, the wires reinforcing those edges and giving sufficient strength to withstand the necessary strain without materially increasing the thickness of the edges. The lacing-strip A may be connected with the front section D in any desired manner, as with the usual corset-clasps; but preferably I employ ball-and-socket fasteners, the ball members I being secured to the section D through the usual steel J in the edge of that section, while the socket members K are secured to the edge of the section A, which is more or less flexible—that is, in the portion of the fabric adjacent to the steel E therein.

To provide a central busk-strip for the corset, I attach a fly L to the inner face of the section C, this fly extending beyond the edge

of the lacing-strip B and provided with a central busk-steel M, which will stand parallel with the edge of the lacing-strip B. It is desirable that this busk-strip should be more
 5 flexible at its upper end than at the center or lower end, and to accomplish this the upper end of the busk-steel M is formed with a slot N, as clearly shown in Fig. 5, the slot being tapered from its upper end downward, the
 10 removal of the metal to form a slot giving greater flexibility at this end of the steel. Other front steels for a corset may be made flexible in the same way or by removing a portion of the steel on one or both edges, as
 15 shown in Fig. 6.

By employing reinforcing-wires the lacing-eyelets may be arranged in the extreme edges of the lacing-strips, which by the provision of the wires become sufficiently rigid to resist
 20 the necessary strain. The employment of the ball-and-socket fasteners permits the ready attachment or detachment of the lacing-strip A from the front section of the corset and furnishes a neat finish to that portion of the
 25 garment and avoids the one-sided appearance noticeable when the detachment is made by the common corset-clasps, while the fly provides a central busk-strip and underlying the lacing closes the opening between them and
 30 overcomes the objections heretofore in front-laced corsets. A further advantage of providing a central busk-strip is that it permits the use of lighter steels at sides of the center where the lacing-strips are connected with
 35 the body portion of the corset.

I am aware that double steels or steels of uniform size have been employed at the edges of a corset, between which steels the lacing-eyelets have been placed, and do not wish to be
 40 understood as claiming such as my invention.

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

1. In a corset, the combination with the lac-

ing-strips thereof, of steels in said strips, eye- 45
 lets between the said steels and the edges of the strips, reinforcing-wires between the eyelets and the extreme edges of the strips, said wires being of smaller dimensions than said
 50 steels, and the ends of said wires connected with said steels, substantially as described.

2. In a corset, the combination with the lacing-strips thereof, of steels arranged therein, eyelets between said steels and the edges of
 55 said strips, a plurality of reinforcing-wires between the eyelets and the edges of said strips, said wires being of smaller dimensions than said steels, and the ends of said wires connected with said steels, substantially as described.
 60

3. In a corset, the combination with a front section having a steel in its edge and one member of a lacing-section, of ball members of fastening devices connected to the front section through the edge steel thereof, and socket
 65 members of fastening devices in the edge of the lacing-section and adapted to be connected with the ball members on the front section whereby the lacing-strip is connected with the front section, substantially as described.
 70

4. In a corset, the combination with the front sections, one edge of one section terminating in a lacing-strip, of a fly connected to said section beneath said lacing-strip and projecting beyond it, a central busk-steel in
 75 said fly and forming a support at the center of the corset, and a steel lacing-strip connected by lacings with the front edge of one side of the corset and adapted to be connected with the front edge of the other section of
 80 the corset, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WM. F. BROOKS.

Witnesses:

FREDERIC C. EARLE,
 J. H. SHUMWAY.