

No. 770,538.

PATENTED SEPT. 20, 1904.

F. A. RUSS.
CORSET STAY.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 14, 1904.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 2.

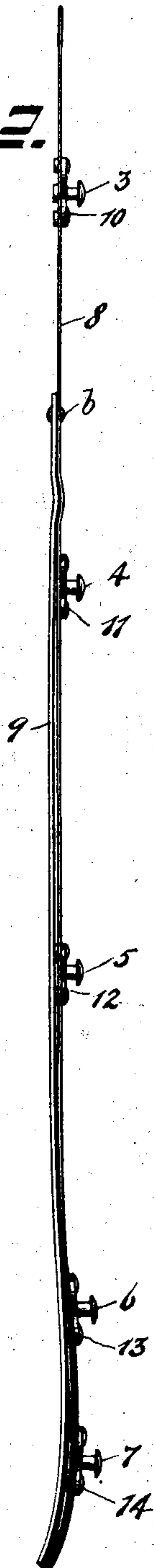


Fig. 1.

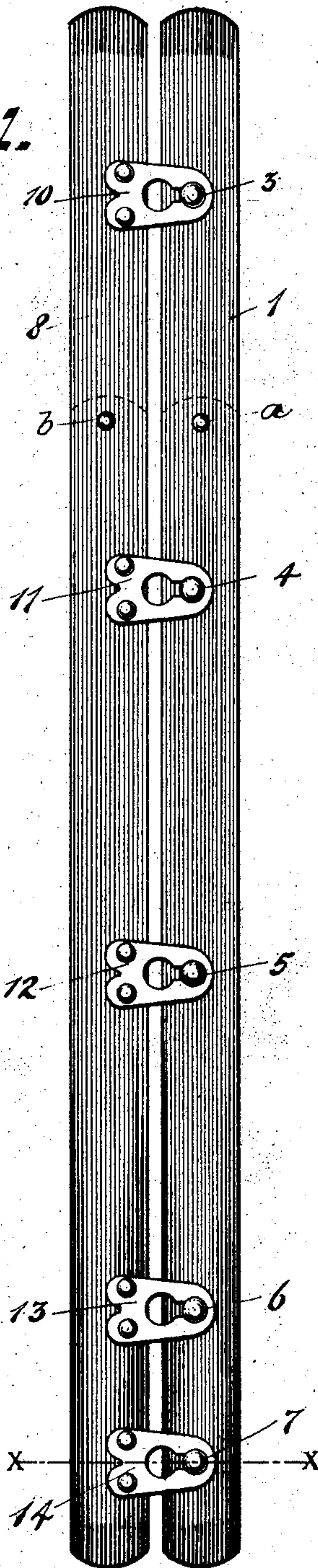
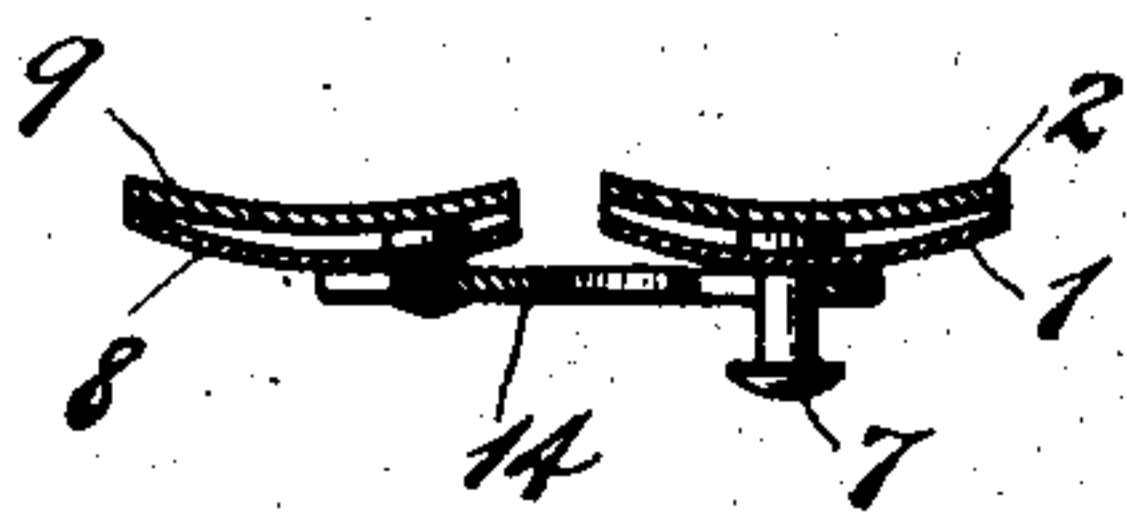


Fig. 3.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRIEND A. RUSS, OF GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT.

CORSET-STAY.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 770,538, dated September 20, 1904.

Application filed April 14, 1904. Serial No. 203,071. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRIEND A. RUSS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Greenwich, Fairfield county, and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Corset-Stays, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to improvements in corsets, and particularly to the construction of the stays.

The object of the invention is to provide a pair of stays for the front of a corset which may be economically made and which will combine the advantages of durability with flexibility at the top, elasticity at the waist, firmness and rigidity at the bottom, and smoothness throughout.

The invention consists in the construction and use of a pair of stays preferably as shown in the accompanying drawings. They are particularly designed for use in what is known as a "straight-front" corset. These corsets are low in front, so that the front stays are rather short. When the corset is in use, the upper ends or tops of the stays come just below the breast, the center is at the waist, and the lower ends rest against the abdomen.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a front elevation of a pair of stays embodying the improvements of my invention. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a cross-section taken on the plane of the line X X of Fig. 1.

It will be understood that these stays are inclosed in pockets on the edges of the corset, as is common. The right-hand member of the pair consists of two parts—the long front member 1 and the shorter rear member 2, extending to the bottom. In the drawings the thickness of the steels is exaggerated above that which would ordinarily be employed. I have found that a suitable proportion for the thickness of steels is gage thirty-one, or thirteen one-thousandths of an inch, for one, and gage twenty-four, or twenty-three one-thousandths of an inch, for the other. These two stays 1 and 2 are fastened together by a rivet *a*. The point of connection is preferably about midway between the two upper clasps and at a point very near the end of the rear stay 2. The result is that the front of the stays is

left smooth, so that the pocket or binding which is employed is not worn or soiled, as would otherwise be the case. The long flexible top above the junction with the short stay affords great flexibility at this point, whereas the duplex portion below the rivets affords great strength and rigidity. The rear stay, moreover, being attached at one point only to the front stay, leaves the two free to bend and move one upon the other without that danger of the breaking or buckling which would occur if the stays were fastened together at more than one point. The lower ends of the stays are corrugated, as shown, to afford additional strength and stiffness at those portions. Besides these advantages the corrugations greatly assist in preventing side-wise play of the stays one upon another, which might otherwise occur, since the stays are fastened together permanently only at the top.

The right-hand stays are provided with studs 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, which are riveted thereto. The rear ends of the studs 4, 5, 6, and 7 are covered by the rear stay 2, which thus affords a guard or protection to prevent the studs penetrating the material of the pocket. The only one which is not protected is the head of the one at the top; but the stays at this point do not exert great pressure upon the wearer, and, in fact, do not usually contact therewith at all. The left-hand member, similarly to the right hand, is composed of two parts—the long front stay 8 and the shorter rear stay 9—connected by the rivet *b* at a point about midway between the two upper clasps and very close to the upper end of the rear stay. These stays are similar in construction to the right-hand stays and corrugated at the lower end. They are provided with loop or eye members 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 corresponding to the studs. The two members may be distinguished most conveniently from one another by these terms "stud" member and "eye" member. The rear steel 9 extends to the bottom and guards and protects the rivets which fasten the eyes to the front steel 8.

A stud and corresponding eye-clasp is preferably provided close to the lower ends of the stays, where the greatest strain is brought

to bear. I also provide another stud and corresponding eye-clasp a short distance above the lower clasp, so as to prevent the stays from spreading at this point. The pockets in which the stays are mounted hold the front and rear portions of each stay securely together and yet leave them free to move longitudinally one upon the other, as is necessary when the stays are in use.

To sum up, the particular advantages of this construction for a straight-front corset are as follows: the great flexibility of the tops of the stays caused by the use of a single steel at these points; the great strength of the stays at the central portion or waist-line due to the use of the duplex construction; the freedom of movement, elasticity, and durability at the waist-line due to the single-point rivet connections *a b*; the smooth back at the points of pressure due to the protection afforded by the rear steels secured only at the top; the smooth front due to the absence of any joint there between the long and the short steels; the lateral resistance due to the arrangement of clasps near the bottom at the point of greatest strain, and the rigidity and resistance at the lower ends due to the duplex corrugated constructions. The value of these combined advantages will be appreciated by one acquainted with the art.

What I claim is—

1. A pair of corset-stays comprising a stud member and an eye member of uniform width and a shorter reinforcing and guarding member also of uniform width secured to the rear of each of said members by rivets *a* and *b* between the clasps and some distance from the

top, said reinforcing and guarding member extending to the lower ends of said stays and free therefrom and affording with them rigidity and stiffness at the lower end, elasticity at the waist-line and great flexibility at the top, as shown and described.

2. A pair of corset-stays comprising corresponding stud and eye members of uniform width, each of said members being reinforced by a steel pivoted at a point some distance below the top and extending to a point near the bottom and free therefrom and affording a flexible top and rigid lower ends, a stud and an eye riveted to said members near the top, a stud and eye near the bottom, a third stud and eye located between the first two members and another stud and eye a short distance above the lowest pair for affording lateral resistance particularly at the lower ends without interfering with elasticity at the waist-line, as shown and described.

3. A pair of corset-stays each stay being formed of a long steel and a shorter steel attached thereto at a point some distance from the top leaving a flexible top and elastic waist-line each of said members being corrugated at the lower ends only, said corrugations co-acting with one another to give rigidity and at the same time assist in preventing lateral displacements.

Signed at New York city this 12th day of April, 1904.

FRIEND A. RUSS.

Witnesses:

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