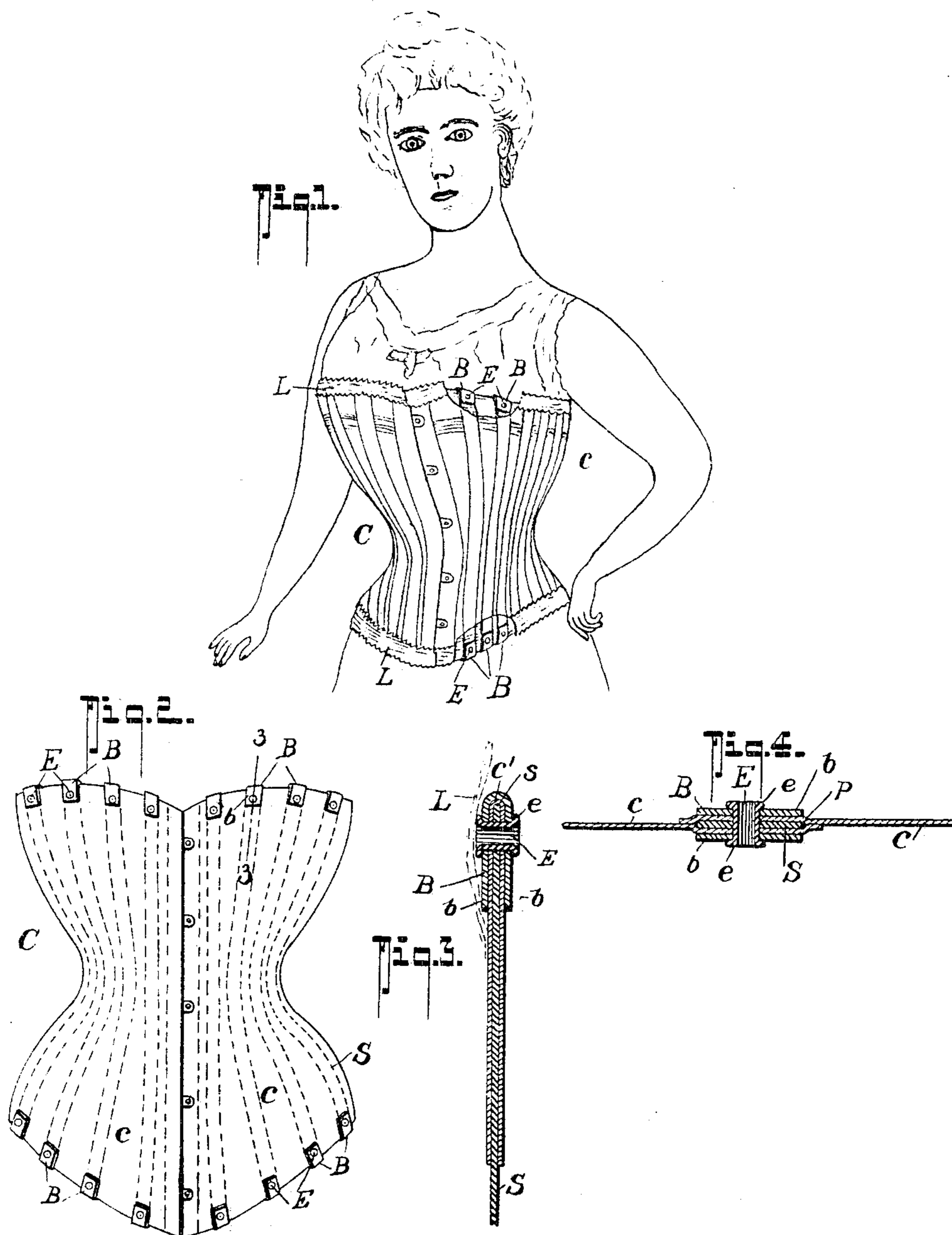


No. 798,719.

PATENTED SEPT. 5, 1905.

E. WEST.  
CORSET.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 22, 1902.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ELLEN WEST, OF VICTORIA, CANADA.

## CORSET.

No. 798,719.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Sept. 5, 1905.

Application filed September 22, 1902. Serial No. 124,387.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ELLEN WEST, residing at Victoria, in the Province of British Columbia and Dominion of Canada, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Cor-

sets, of which the following is a specification.  
In the ordinary makes of corsets means are provided for keeping the steels or stay members from creeping lengthwise in the pockets made in the corset fabric, whereby to keep the corset in its original shape and the ends of the steels from projecting through the fabric, and thereby presenting sharp or abrupt projections which tend to tear the wearing-apparel and injure the user. Heretofore to properly hold the steels within their receiving-pockets eyelets have been driven through the said steels and the fabric that covers the steels, fabric-binding edges being also usually employed to provide a reinforce for the upper and lower edges of the corset to hold the steels from working through. While the means aforesaid serve their purpose in a general way, I have found they do not effect all the results desired, for the reason that as the upper and lower edges of the corset usually wear the quickest the fabric bindings soon rot and form practically no resistance against the longitudinal creeping strain of the steels, and in cases where eyelets are used for holding the fabric and steels together the fabric is made fast to the steels only at the clamping or lateral edges of the eyelets, which in their application frequently cut through the fabric that covers the steels, whereby the said eyelets form at best a very meager grip on the goods upon the opposite sides of the steel, and by reason thereof and the quick rotting of the material around the eyelet connections the fabric and the eyelets soon separate, and thereby leave the steels free to creep longitudinally through the top and bottom ends of the fabric that surrounds or incloses the said steels.

My invention especially seeks to provide an improved means for holding the steels firmly within the pockets or that portion of the fabric in which they are contained and in such way that the breaking through of the ends of the steels is rendered almost impossible and in which the fastening is of such character as to be not affected by the ordinary use of the corset and the rotting of the fabric adjacent the fastening-point and in which the fastening is also of such character as to avoid a strain on the fabric at that point just adja-

cent or directly surrounding the eyelet-flange and adapted to distribute the strain in such manner as to allow for more than ordinary handling or strain on the steels without materially changing the shape thereof or permitting a lengthwise action of the same within the fabric pockets.

My invention consists in certain detailed combination and coöperative arrangement of parts, hereinafter fully described, and specifically pointed out in the appended claim, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a view of a corset embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a face view of a portion thereof. Fig. 3 is a vertical longitudinal section thereof on the line 3 3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a horizontal section of the same.

In the drawings, C designates the corset, which in its general construction and contour may be of any well-known or conventional style, as the particular shape of the corset-body forms no part of my invention.

The steels or stays S are held within the longitudinally-extended pockets or plates P, constituting an integral part of the corset fabric c, which are formed by stitching or any other well-known and improved manner. At the upper and lower edges of the corset the fabric is turned over the upper and lower ends s of the steels S to provide closure portions for covering the said ends of the steel. As is well known, the turned portions c' of the fabric in ordinary use soon wears away or is torn by the endwise strain of the steels thereagainst, and the said covering portions, as before stated, are usually reinforced by a binding and the steels held from creeping endwise by joining them with the fabric at the opposite sides by means of eyelets arranged one near each end of the steels and at such points between the ends where the greatest strain or tendency of the steels and fabric to creep relatively to each other occurs. In my improved construction of corset I provide a special means for joining the steels and the fabric and which particularly provides for joining the said two parts in such manner that the tendency of the fabric pulling or tearing away at the eyelet connection is reduced to the minimum and a joint produced that serves to sustain a firm and rigid connection of the two parts under all of the ordinary pull strains between the fabric and the steels incident in the usual handling and wearing of the corset. In my construction the

eyelets E are used at the ends of the steels; but instead of utilizing the flanges of the eyelets for gripping the fabric against the steels I provide a supplemental means in the nature of U-shaped metal clips B, which serve the double function of providing a positive reinforcement for the covering or closure portion *c'* of the fabric and a wide or spread clamping-surface for firmly gripping that part of the fabric surrounding the eyelet-shanks *e*, that project at opposite sides of the steels, it being evident, by referring to Fig. 3 of the drawings, that the opposite flat ends *b* of the clips B form a firm and positive means for holding the fabric flatwise against the steels, and as the said ends *b* are clamped to oppose each other and against the steels it follows that the strain on the fabric is not on that portion thereof surrounding the eyelet-shank, as is ordinarily the case, but is distributed over a greatly-increased surface and around the edges of the members *b* of the clips B. Again, by reason of the clips passing over the ends of the steels, as shown, the endwise or creeping action of the steels will be effectively retarded and all danger of a sharp or abrupt edge projecting up through the fabric, which might tear the apparel or effect an injury to the wearer, may be avoided.

The metal clips B in practice may be readily held from view by the lace edging L, sewed on the upper and lower edges of the corset, as shown. At points between the ends of the steels, where desired, the ordinary eyelet-fastenings may also be used.

From the foregoing, taken in connection

with the drawings, it is believed the advantages of my invention will be readily apparent to those familiar with the art.

I am aware that washer-plates have heretofore been employed in tag-fastening devices in which an eyelet is included, and I therefore make no broad claim for such feature. My invention differentiates from the ordinary tag-fastenings and other like eyelet-fastening devices, so far as I know, in the application of the U-shaped clip in connection with the eyelets for fastening the corset-steels from endwise creeping within the fabric body that surrounds them and which acts as a positive means for covering the sharp or abrupt ends of the steels in such manner that the danger of tearing the wearing-apparel or injuring the wearer is entirely overcome.

I therefore claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States—

As an improvement in corsets, the combination with the corset fabric having longitudinal pockets formed by the overlapping ends of the fabric, and the steels held in said pockets with the fabric surrounding the edges, sides and ends thereof, of U-shaped metal clips adapted to fit over the ends of the steels and the fabric surrounding said ends, and eyelets passing through the steels, the fabric and the clips to hold the same together, substantially as shown and described.

ELLEN WEST.

Witnesses:

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KATHERINE MCGUIRE.