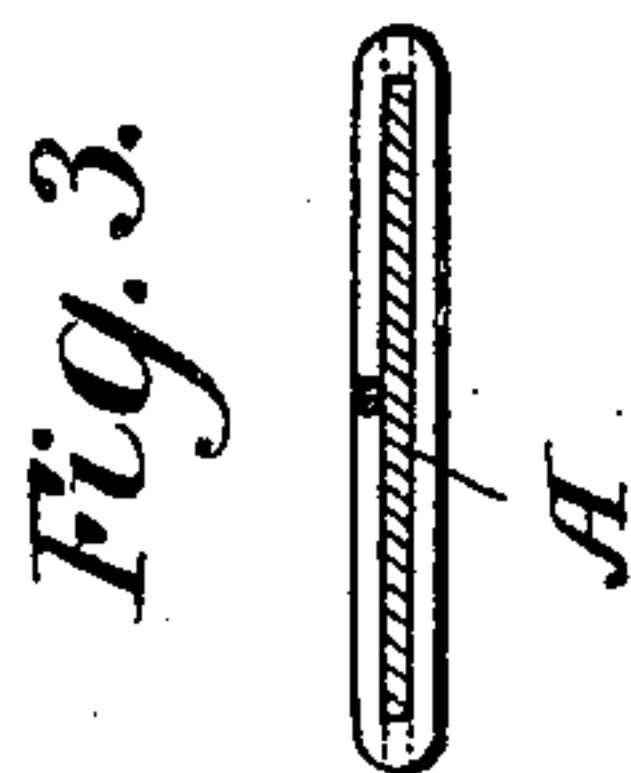
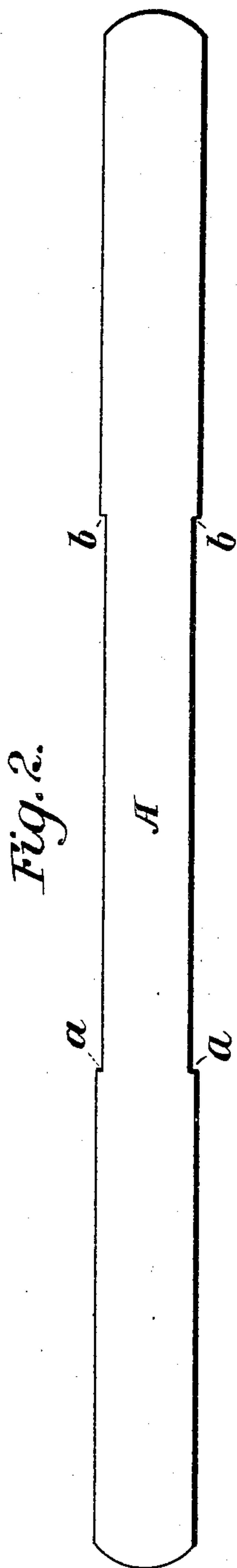
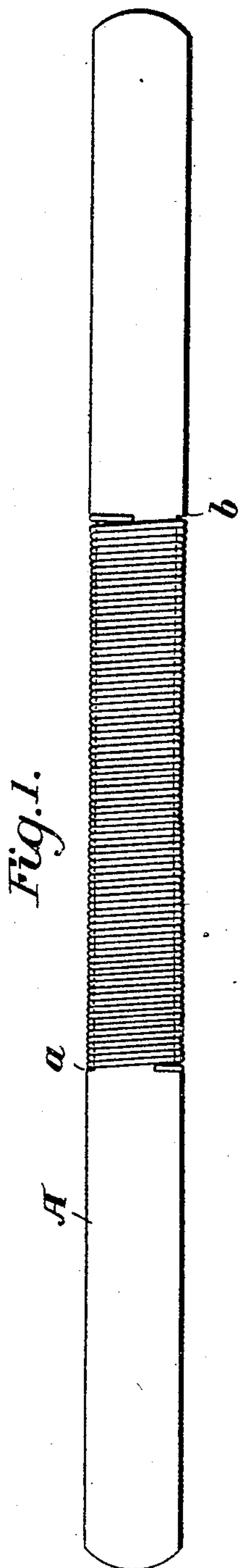


No. 835,350.

PATENTED NOV. 6, 1906.

J. E. DOOLITTLE.
SIDE STEEL FOR CORSETS.
APPLICATION FILED JULY 26, 1906.



Witnesses
J. J. McCarthy

By *James E. Doolittle*, Inventor
Foster, Freeman & Watson,
Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES E. DOOLITTLE, OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR TO
BIRDSEY-SOMERS CO., OF NEW YORK, N. Y., A CORPORATION OF
NEW YORK.

SIDE STEEL FOR CORSETS.

No. 835,350.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Nov. 6, 1906.

Application filed July 26, 1906. Serial No. 327,933.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES E. DOOLITTLE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Bridgeport, in the county of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Side Steels for Corsets, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to spring blades or steels, such as are ordinarily employed for stiffening corsets and other articles of wearing apparel, and has for its object to secure a blade of extreme flexibility at the end portions and of greater stiffness at the center, so as to prevent the latter from being bent abruptly, while insuring requisite freedom of movement at all points and without unduly increasing the thickness, width, or weight of the steel; and to this end the steel consists of a blade reduced in width near its central portion and reinforced by a wire wrapping or covering, as fully set forth hereinafter and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved corset-steel. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the blade before applying the wire reinforce, and Fig. 3 a transverse section enlarged through the reinforced portion of the blade.

The blade A is preferably of metal, but in view of my improvement need not be as heavy as the blades ordinarily employed. For a part of its length, and preferably near the center, the said blade is reduced in width, forming thereby shoulders *a a b b*, and about this reduced portion of the blade I apply a wire reinforce, the same consisting of a wire lapped around the blade with the coils in contact with each other and bearing at all points upon the blade, so as to cover the latter between the shoulders *a a b b*, against which the ends of the wire reinforce bear, thereby not only preventing any movement of the reinforce upon the blade, but also holding the coils closely together, so that the reinforce, while imparting greater stiffness to the center of the blade, is also resilient from the bear-

ing of the ends of the coiled-wire reinforce against the shoulders in case of the bending of the blade.

As the coils of wire lie flat against the blade at all points and as the bends of the coils lie between the shoulders, the reinforce adds but little to the thickness and practically nothing to the width of the blade.

The steel thus formed will be arranged in the corset or other article so that the reinforce portion occupies the position where the greatest bend occurs, and thereby tends to prevent the too abrupt bending and breaking of the steel, so apt to occur at this point. While the reinforce hugs the blade so closely that it presents practically no protuberance to wear the fabric, to further reduce this projection of the reinforce and also to bring the coils closely together I prefer to submit the reinforced portion to pressure after winding the wire about the blade, thereby flattening and spreading the coils.

I claim as my invention—

1. A spring-steel for corsets consisting of a flat blade reduced in width for a part of its length and with a reinforce of wire coiled around and covering the reduced portion of the blade.

2. A spring-steel for corsets consisting of a flat blade reduced in width for a part of its length and with a reinforce of wire coiled around and covering the reduced portion of the blade, the coils flattened and expanded laterally.

3. A steel for corsets consisting of a flat blade having separated shoulders, and a wire reinforce wound upon the blade between said shoulders and bearing at the ends against the same, the coils in contact with each other and with the blade at all points.

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

JAMES E. DOOLITTLE.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM H. O'NEILL,
C. W. BLAICKIE.