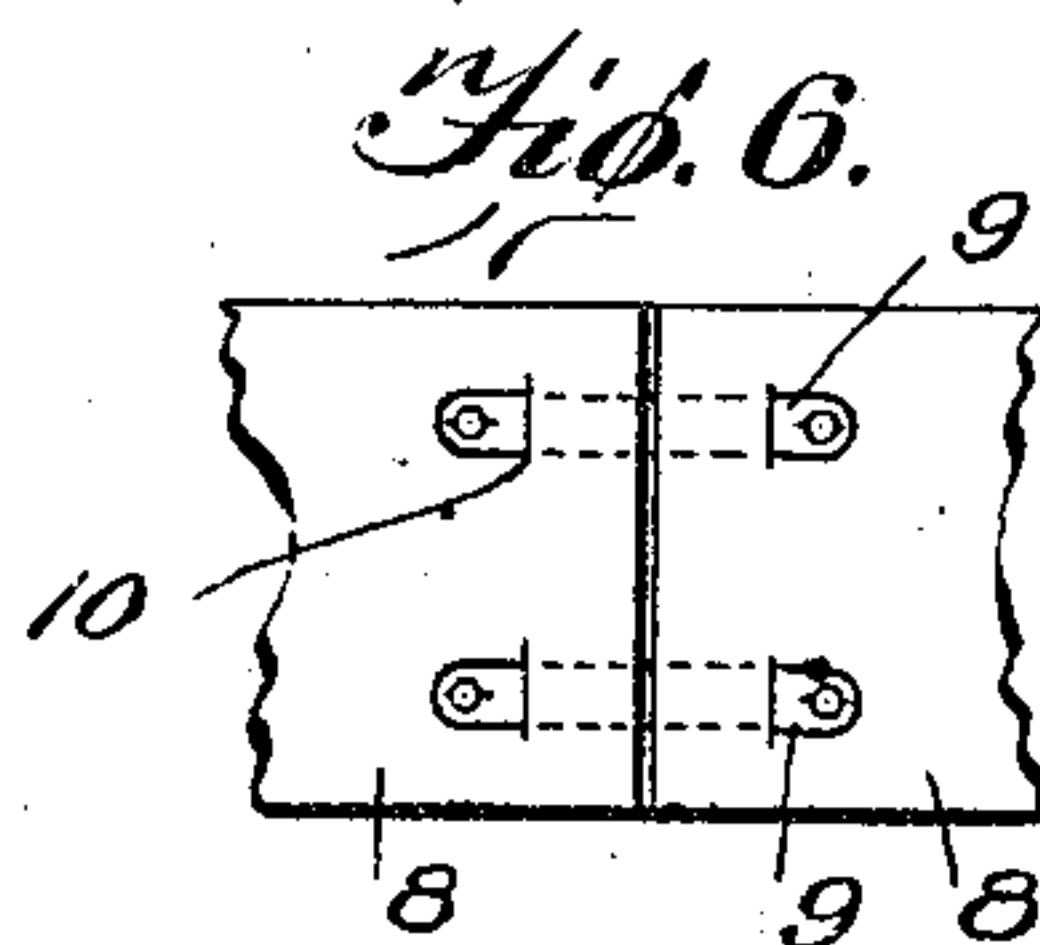
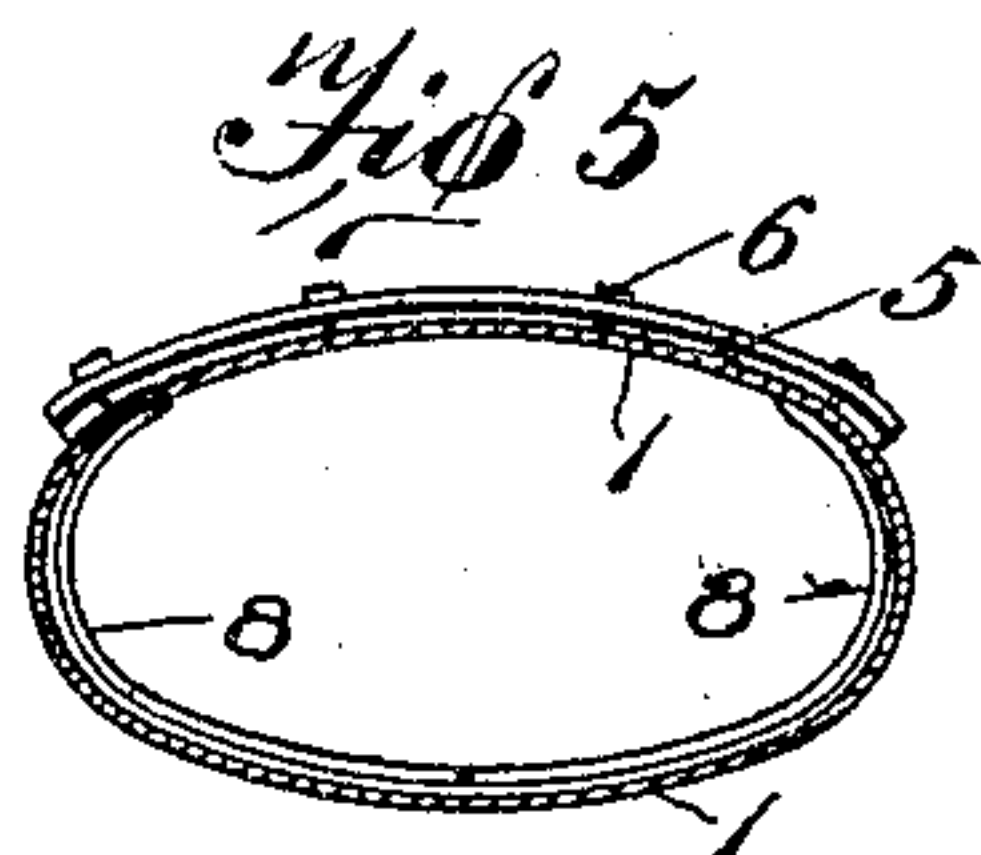
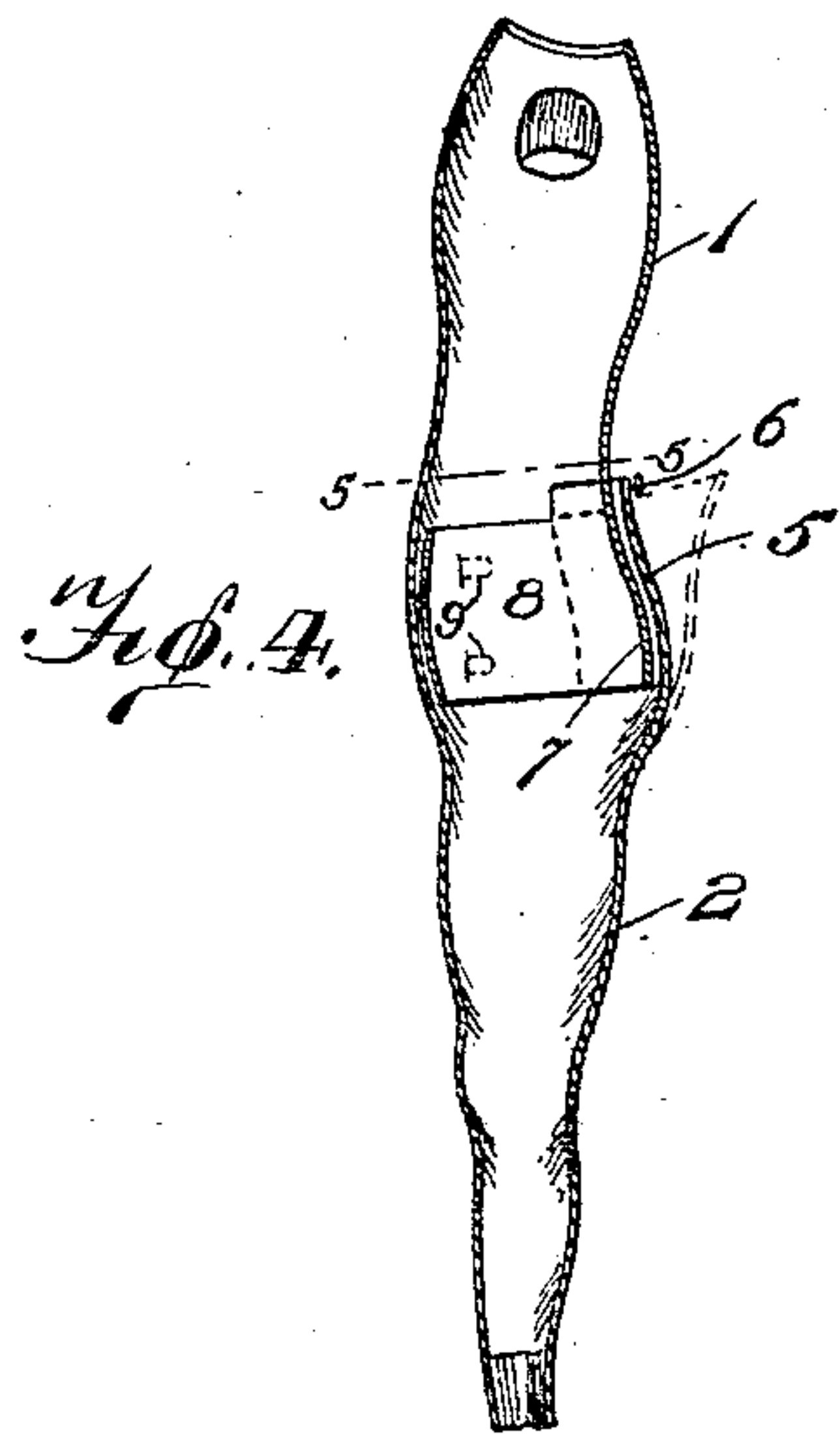
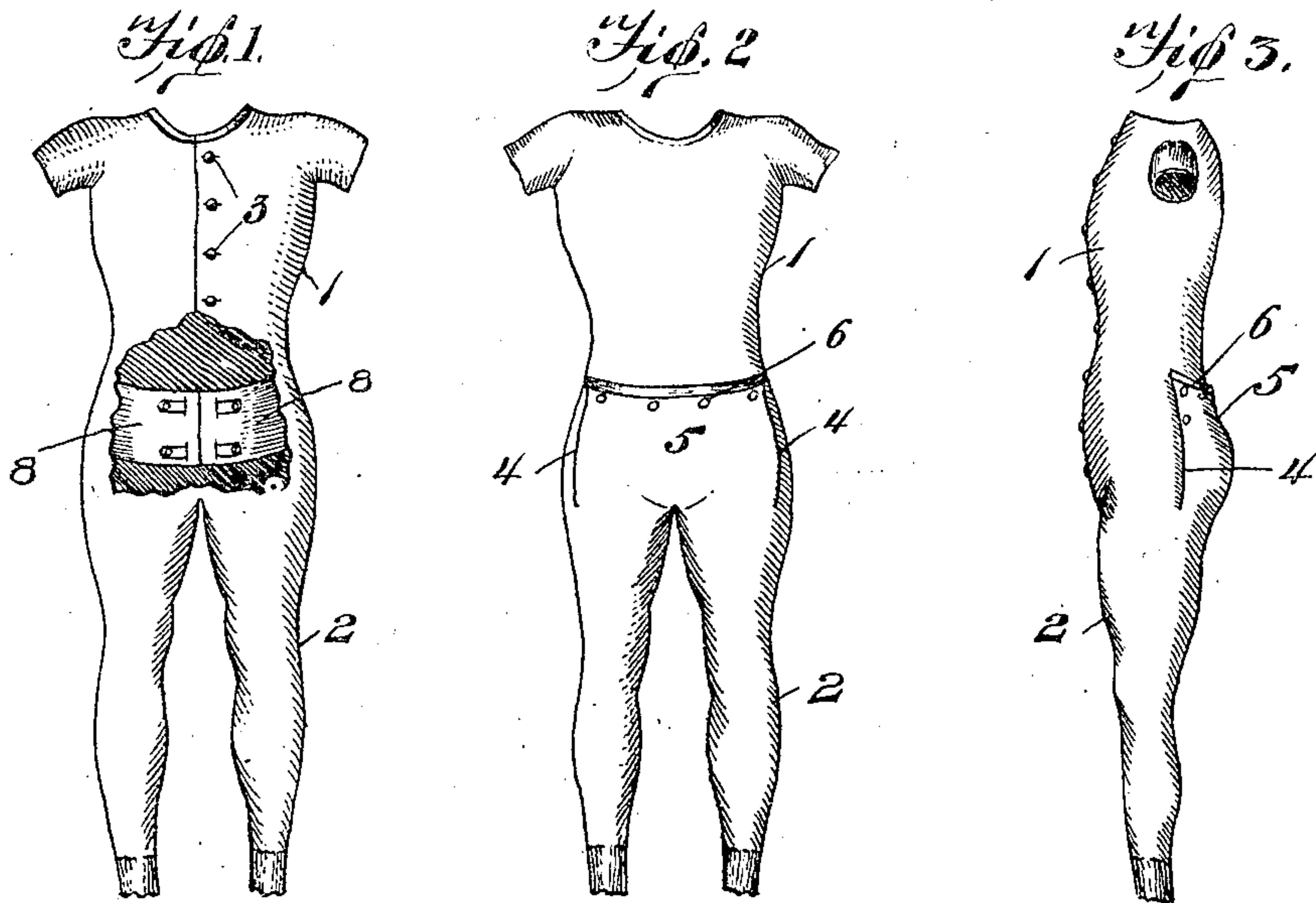


No. 837,516.

PATENTED DEC. 4, 1906.

C. B. STEPHENSON.
UNDERGARMENT.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 11, 1906.



Witnesses
R. E. Wilson
George Oltsch

Clinton B. Stephenson
by *Theodore Dalton*, atty.
Inventor

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CLINTON B. STEPHENSON, OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA.

UNDERGARMENT.

No. 837,516.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 4, 1906.

Application filed January 11, 1906. Serial No. 295,563.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CLINTON B. STEPHENSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at South Bend, in the county of St. Joseph and State of Indiana, have invented new and useful Improvements in Undergarments, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to undergarments of that style known as the "union" suit, in which the shirt and drawers are in one piece or part; and the object is to provide a garment of this character with certain improvements or reinforcements which give additional protection for the vital parts of the body, especially the abdomen and posterior.

With these objects in view the invention consists in providing the shirt part of the garment at its lower end with lateral extensions which cover the hips, waist, and abdomen and support and protect the latter.

It further consists in providing the drawers with a placket at each hip to provide a flap which is detachably connected at the waist-line at the back and covers the bottom or skirt portion of the shirt part; and, further, the invention consists in the construction and combination of the various parts, flaps, and extensions, all as will be more fully described hereinafter, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and finally pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a front elevation of the garment with a portion broken away to show the abdominal supporter. Fig. 2 is a rear elevation. Fig. 3 is a side elevation. Fig. 4 is a vertical section of the garment. Fig. 5 is a transverse section on the line 5 5 of Fig. 4. Fig. 6 is a detail in elevation showing the fastening means for the ends of the abdominal belt or supporter.

Making renewed reference to the drawings, 1 designates the shirt part of the garment, and 2 the drawers. The front of the garment is one continuous piece from top to bottom, but separated longitudinally from the crotch to the neck, one edge being provided with buttonholes and the other with buttons, as indicated at 3 in Fig. 1. The back of the garment is provided with plackets 4 4 at the hips, forming a flap 5, which covers the posterior, the upper edge of the flap terminating in the waist-line and provided with buttonholes to engage buttons on the shirt part, as indicated at 6 in Figs. 2, 3, and 4. The shirt part has a skirt portion 7, that underlaps the flap 5 of the drawers and extends down be-

neath the posterior, forming, with said flap, a double thickness, as shown in Fig. 4. From the sides of this skirt portion 7 of the shirt part extend belt-straps 8, which may be either integral with the skirt portion 7 or sewed or otherwise secured to it. These belt-straps are of such length as to extend around and cover the hips and abdomen, and when the free ends are fastened together in front of the abdomen they provide an abdominal supporter which is disposed within the shirt part of the garment. The means for fastening the ends of this abdominal supporter is immaterial so far as the invention is concerned; but the preferred fastening consists of straps 9, which pass through slits 10 in adjacent ends of the belt and engage buttons thereon, there being several buttonholes in each strap, so that the abdominal belt or supporter may be properly adjusted to the wearer.

From the above description it will be seen that the body around the hips, posterior, and abdomen is protected by a double thickness of material, inasmuch as the dependent skirt portion 7 of the shirt part 1 forms one thickness over the posterior, while the flap 5 of the drawers forms a second thickness over the posterior, and this flap may be detached or unbuttoned from the shirt part when occasion may require, the same being shown in a detached position in dotted lines in Fig. 4. The double thicknesses around the hips and over the abdomen are provided by means of the abdominal belt or strap 8 8, which extends from each side and slightly in the rear of the skirt portion of the shirt part, as shown in Fig. 5, the said belt forming one thickness for the abdomen and the front of the garment forming the other thickness for the abdomen.

To adjust the garment to the wearer, the latter inserts his limbs and body into the garment from the front, the fastening means 3 being unbuttoned. The abdominal belts are then brought around and fastened in front, as shown in Fig. 1. The rear flap 5 is then fastened to the shirt part at the waist, and the front-fastening means 3 may then be connected. The garment may of course be removed by a reversal of these movements.

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

1. As a new article of manufacture, a union suit having its shirt part provided

with belt-straps which are disposed on the inside of the garment with their free ends covering the abdomen.

2. As a new article of manufacture, a union suit having its shirt part provided with a rear skirt portion, and abdominal belts extending from said skirt portion and adapted to be connected together at the front of the garment.

3. As a new article of manufacture, a union suit having its shirt part provided with a rear skirt portion, and an abdominal supporter connected to the said skirt portion and disposed on the inside of the garment.

4. As a new article of manufacture, a union suit comprising a shirt part and drawers, the upper rear portion of the drawers having a flap terminating at approximately

the waist and the lower portion of the shirt part having a skirt underlying the said flap and provided with abdominal belts, and means to fasten the ends of the abdominal belts at the front and inside of the garment.

5. The combination with the shirt and drawers formed in one piece, of belt-straps connected to the lower, rear portion of the shirt on the inside thereof and adapted to extend around and cover the abdomen, and means to fasten the free ends of said straps together at the front of the abdomen.

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

CLINTON B. STEPHENSON.

Witnesses:

GEORGE OLTSCH,
T. J. TEARNEY.