

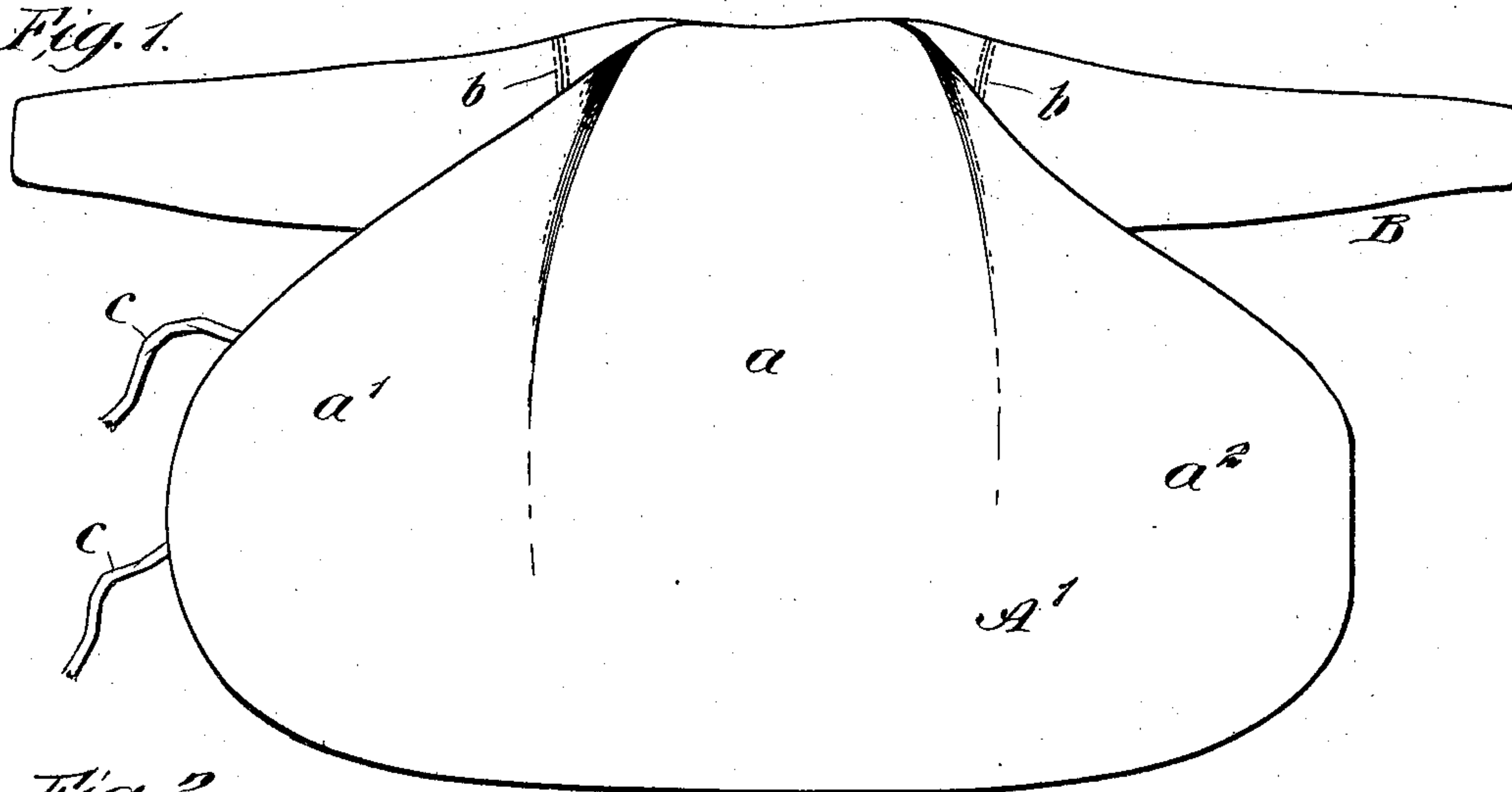
No. 842,224.

PATENTED JAN. 29, 1907.

W. S. MILLS.  
UNDERSHIRT.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 1, 1906.

Fig. 1.



*Fig. 2*

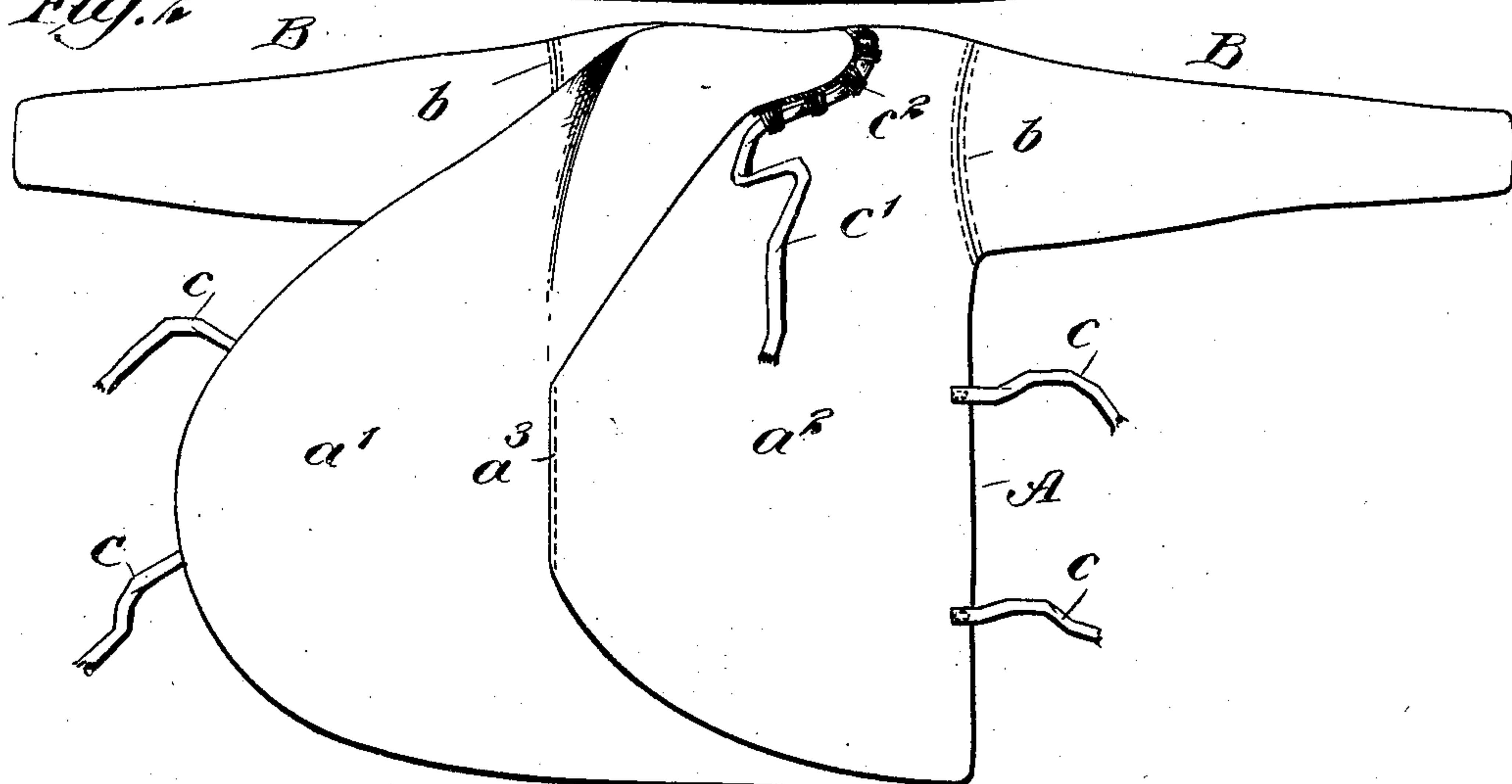
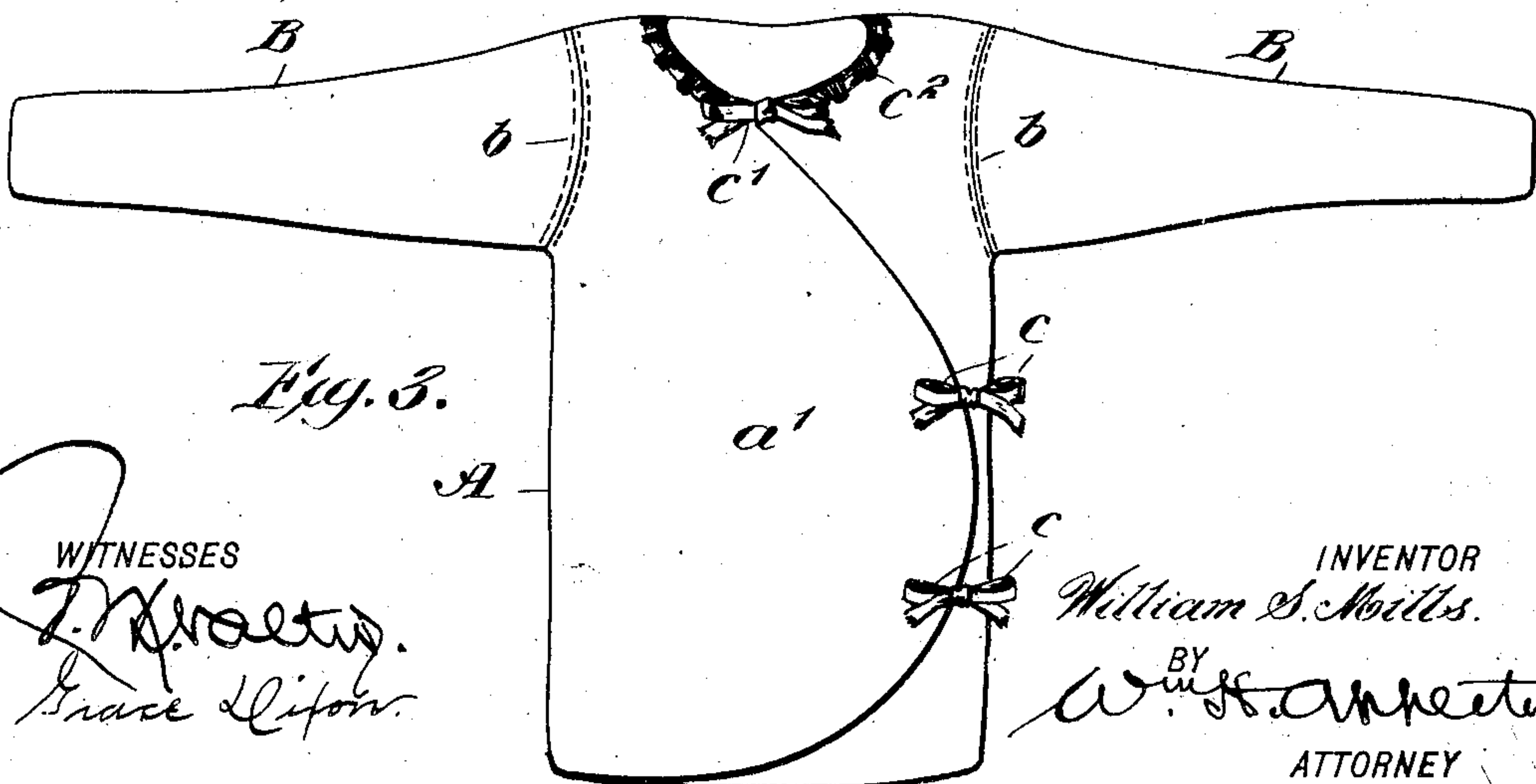


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES

~~J. H. Roalson.~~  
Grace Ligon.

INVENTOR

William S. Mills.

BY

BY  
W. H. Appleton

ATTORNEY



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM S. MILLS, OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR TO THE W. S. MILLS COMPANY, OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT, A CORPORATION OF CONNECTICUT.

## UNDERSHIRT.

No. 842,224.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 29, 1907.

Application filed October 1, 1906. Serial No. 336,871.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM S. MILLS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Bridgeport, in the county of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Undershirts, of which the following is a specification.

In the manufacture of undershirts, and especially of those which are designed to be worn by infants, it is desirable that when applied to the person they shall so fit as to prevent all objectionable bunches and wrinkles and that in addition to being easily applied and removed and to being provided with a double thickness of material in the front for warmth and protection the garment shall be so formed that all buttons, safety-pins, and other similar hard and rigid fastening devices may be dispensed with and provisions made whereby it may be drawn up around the neck of the wearer to fit closely thereto. Heretofore in the manufacture of these garments it has been essayed to accomplish these ends, but without success, as in all instances with which I am familiar fastening devices involving buttons or safety-pins have been employed, and that in addition to objectionable bunches being formed at the point where the strap on the edge of one of the overlapping flaps or fronts is passed through the other no provisions have been made for drawing up the upper edge of the garment, whereby to fit it more closely to the neck of the wearer.

The objects of my invention are therefore to remedy these and other defects and at the same time produce an undershirt which shall fit the person of the wearer more accurately than those heretofore in use and which in addition thereto shall prevent all gaping of the parts.

To these ends the invention consists in certain peculiarities of construction of which the embodiment preferred in practice is herein-after more particularly described and the features of novelty then pointed out in the subjoined claim.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, Figure 1 shows an inside face view of an undershirt constructed in accordance with my invention with the edge of the flap that is secured to the body portion of the garment separated

therefrom and both flaps spread outward or extended; Fig. 2, a similar front view of the garment with one of the flaps folded inward upon the body of the same and its outer edge fixedly secured thereto, as in the completed garment; and Fig. 3, a similar front view of the garment, showing its parts in the position they occupy when the garment is applied to the person.

In all the figures like letters of reference are employed to designate corresponding parts.

A indicates the body portion of an undershirt, which is preferably constructed in tubular form, and B indicates the sleeves with which the garment is provided.

In the manufacture of the body portion I preferably knit or otherwise form a flat web A' of approximately the contour of that shown in Fig. 1 with a central section  $a$  and outwardly-extending flap-sections  $a'$  and  $a''$ , which may be formed either integrally with the central section or separate therefrom and united to it by seaming or otherwise, as may be preferred. As thus formed this web is converted into the body of the undershirt by folding one or the other of the flap-sections over upon the central section  $a$  and by fixedly securing its outer edge to the web at about the line of joinder of the other flap-section to the central section by a line of stitches  $a^3$  or other equivalent means, whereby to give it a tubular contour, as shown in Fig. 2. In the drawings I have illustrated the flap-section  $a''$  as thus folded over upon and its outer edge secured to the web to form the tubular body of the garment and the other flap-section  $a'$  as left free to fold over upon and away from the other whenever it is desired to apply the garment to or remove it from the person of the wearer; but this is merely illustrative, and either of the flap-sections may be secured at its outer edge to the web and the other left free, as may be preferred.

With the body of the undershirt thus formed the sleeves B may be secured thereto in proper positions in various ways. When the body portion of the undershirt is made up from sections united along the respective lines of joinder of the flap-sections  $a'$  and  $a''$  with the central or back section  $a$ , the holes for the sleeves may be conveniently formed by leaving the upper ends of the adjoining edges of the flap and back sections



disunited, and in such case the selvage edges of each of the holes may be taken up on the knitting-machine or other knitting-needles and the sleeve properly knitted and fashioned thereon. On the other hand, when the central and flap sections of the web are made integrally appropriate slits may be cut therein at the proper points near its upper end and the sleeves previously knitted or otherwise fashioned by cutting and seaming secured in their appropriate slits or holes by rows of stitching, as shown, for instance, at *b*, and either of these methods of securing the sleeves to the body of the garment may be adopted and the sleeves either knitted in tubular form or otherwise fashioned and seamed up, as may be desired.

While the body of the undershirt and the fastening of the sleeves in place are thus effected, the securing of the garment upon the person of the wearer is accomplished by a plurality of pairs of strings *c*, which are disposed at the proper distances apart up and down its front, with one member of each pair secured to the edge of the overlapping flap—as, for instance, to the edge of the flap *a'*—and the other member thereof secured to the outside of the garment in proper relationship thereto, while in order to draw up and cause the upper edge of the undershirt to fit closely around the neck of the wearer I find it convenient to employ a string or cord *c'*, which is passed around such edge in a suitable welt *c''*, formed around the same in the shape of a hem or series of loops to receive it. By these means, as will be seen, not only may the undershirt be fastened upon the person of the wearer and caused to fit closely around his neck, but in consequence of the construction and arrangement of the fastening and taking-up devices a more accurate fit of the garment upon the person of the wearer is assured than has been possible with the garments of this character as heretofore in use. With the undershirt constructed as above described its application to the person of the wearer is effected by first loosening and turning back the loose flap and then thrusting the arms upward through the tubular body portion and through the sleeves, to be followed through the tubular portion by the head and upper portion of the body of the

wearer, after which the loose flap is folded over the front, the upper edge of the garment drawn up to the required extent by the drawing-up string, and such string with those employed in connection with the loose flap properly secured by tying after the proper adjustment of the parts of the garment upon the wearer has been effected. From the foregoing, therefore, it will be seen that I produce an undershirt which in addition to obviating all objectionable bunches and wrinkles and insuring of a more perfect fit of the garment than has been possible with articles of this character as heretofore in use it at the same time dispenses with the necessity for buttons, safety-pins, and other hard and unyielding fastening devices and permits of the employment of soft pliable strings, which in their use supplies fastening devices that are more or less adjustable.

Although in the drawings I have shown and in the above described a particular form of web from which the body of the undershirt is produced, I wish it distinctly understood that I do not limit myself thereto, as it is obvious that this particular form may be modified in various ways without departing from the spirit of my invention, so long as it retains the other essential characteristics of the garment.

Having now described my invention and specified the best means contemplated by me for carrying it into effect, I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States—

The combination in an undershirt, with a tubular body provided with a welt around its upper edge, and a loose reinforcing-flap for cooperating therewith, of a string for engaging with such welt for drawing up such upper edge, and a plurality of pairs of strings disposed at proper distances apart on the front of the garment for securing the reinforcing-flap in proper position over such front, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand, in the presence of two witnesses, this 26th day of September, 1906.

WILLIAM S. MILLS.

Witnesses:

C. W. BEARDSLEY,  
KATHLEEN B. BLIGHT.