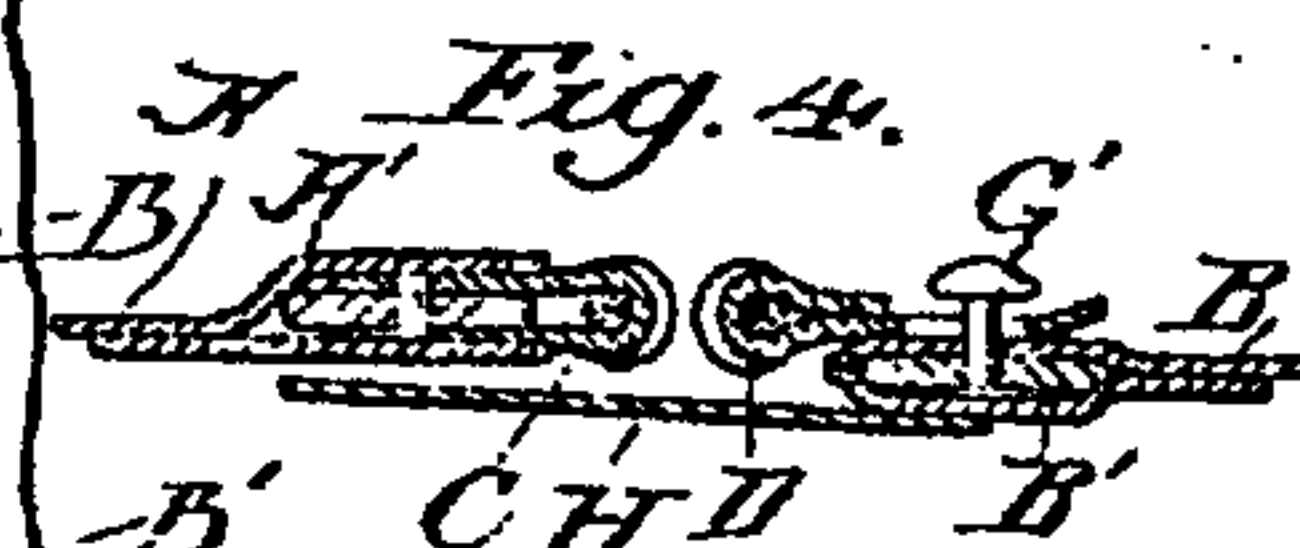
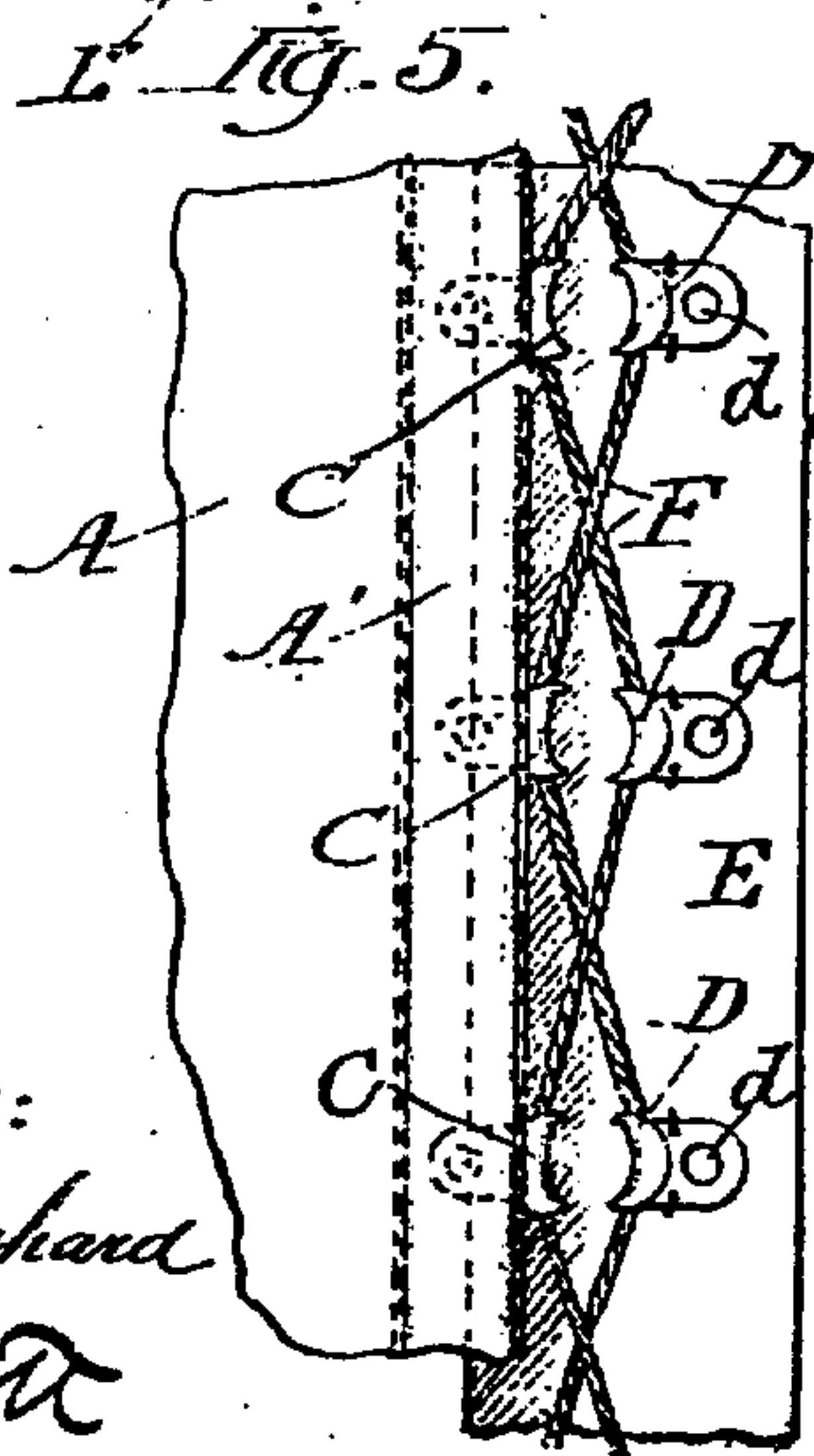
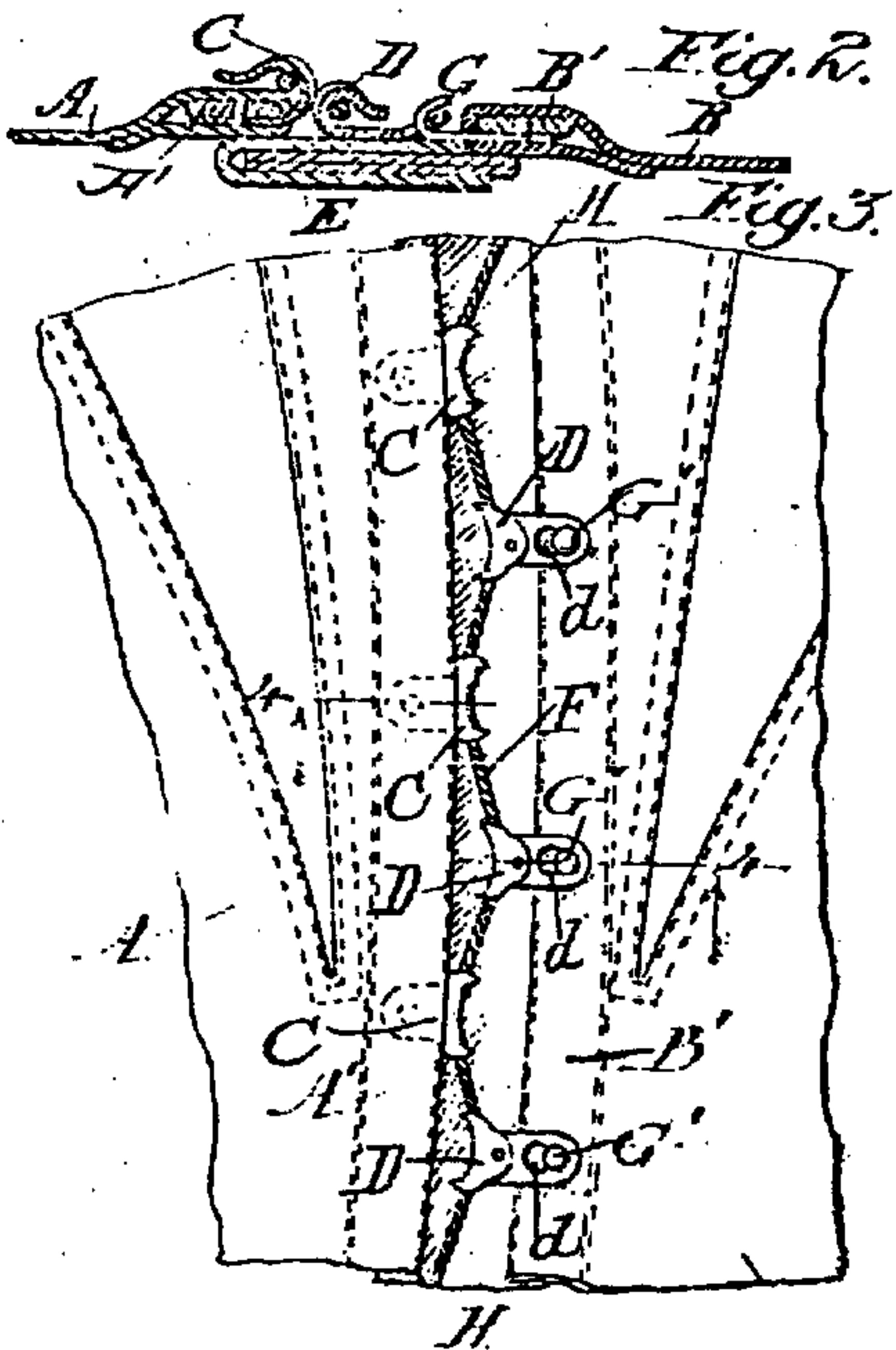
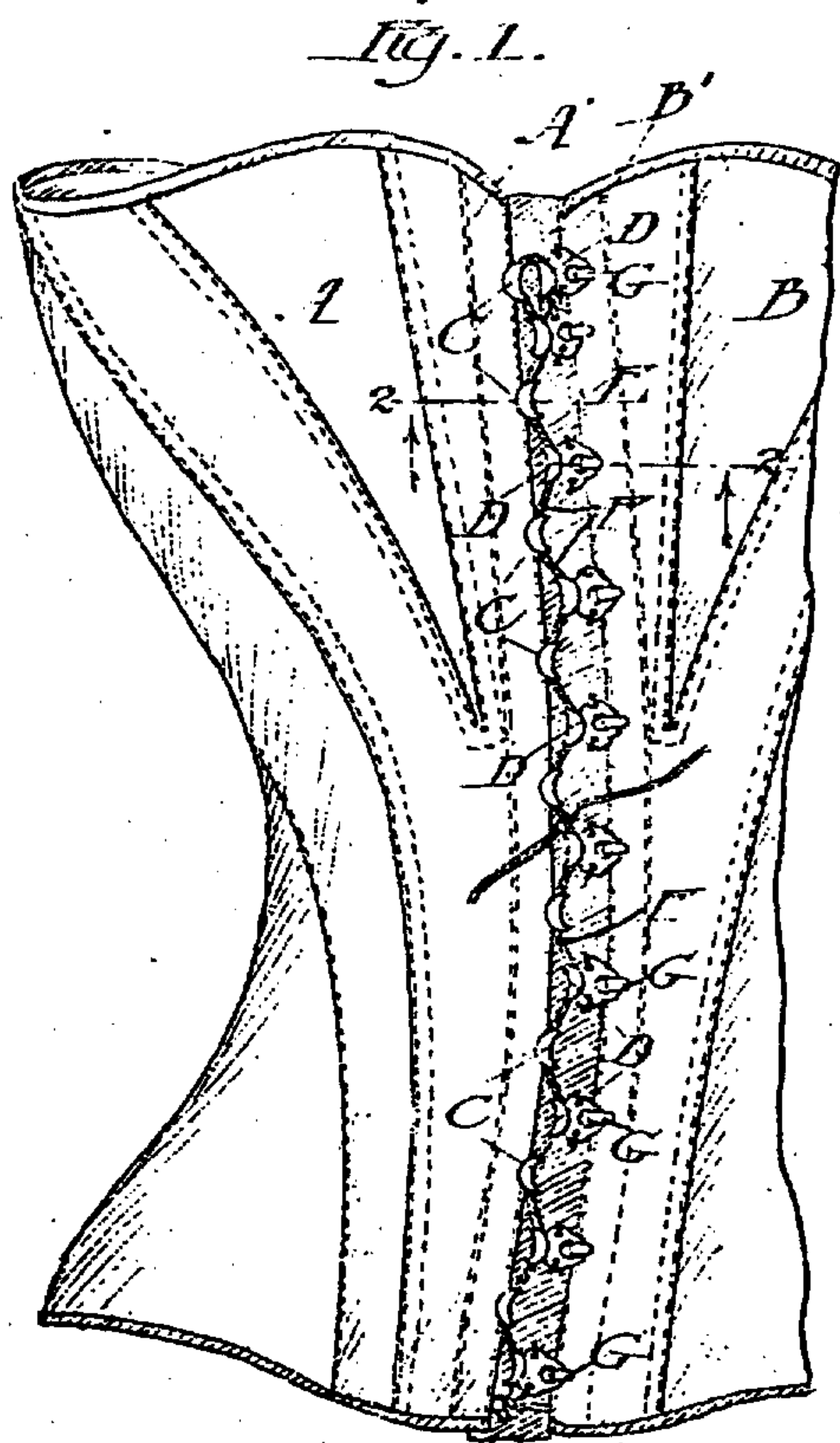


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CORSET.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 25, 1907.

899,113.

Patented Sept. 22, 1908.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES B. HOWD, OF BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS.

CORSET.

No. 899,113.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Sept. 22, 1908.

Application filed January 25, 1907. Serial No. 353,945.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES B. HOWD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Belvidere, in the county of Boone and State of Illinois, have invented new and useful Improvements in Corsets, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the drawings forming a part thereof.

The object of this invention is to provide an improved construction particularly designed for a front-laced corset for the purpose of simplifying the construction and diminishing the area of rigidly stayed surface at the central front portion of the garment.

It consists in the elements and features of construction described and shown in the drawings and indicated in the claims.

In the drawings: Figure 1 is a front elevation of a portion of a front-laced corset embodying the present invention in one of its forms. Fig. 2 is a detail section at the line 2-2 on Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a detail elevation showing a slightly modified construction of some of the lacing devices. Fig. 4 is a detail section at the line 4-4 on Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a detail elevation of a second modification corresponding in certain respects to the form shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

In the garment shown in the drawings the two parts, A and B, connected at the front by lacing devices, are provided respectively with rigid stays, A', B', on their proximate edges. To the stay, A', on the part, A, there are made fast at convenient intervals in its length lacing guides, C, which are preferably secured so as to project from the edge of the stay through the fabric casing or pocket in which the stay is lodged. Preferably also these guides are in the form of elongated and curved eyes to permit the lacing to slip easily in drawing the lacing, but it is not necessary to the fundamental purpose of the present invention that the guides should be, strictly speaking, eyes; that is, it is not necessary that they should be closed so as to require the lacing to be threaded or reeved through them. On the contrary, they may be, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, constructed open so that the lacing may be drawn in laterally or sidewise instead of endwise, as is necessary in case of a closed eye. Similar cord-retaining guides, D, are provided on the part, B, called the planchet; by which is to be understood, according to the usage of the art in respect to this term, a flexible strip of fabric or tape for carrying a series of lac-

teners of any sort, and the lacing, F, is engaged with the eyes, C and D, alternately along the length of said lacing, as seen in Fig. 1. Each of the lacing guides, D, on the planchet, E, is constructed or provided with a feature for engaging a hook or button on the other part of the garment. Such feature may be an eyelet, G, as shown in the drawings, the size and form of the eyelet being adapted to the size and form of the hook or button. The engaging device is shown as a hook in Figs. 1 and 2.

In Figs. 3 and 4 the corresponding device is in the form of a headed stud or button, G'. It will be understood that the headed stud or button shown in the second form may be used in either form. In the form of the device shown in Figs. 3 and 4 the planchet is omitted, and the cord or headed stud D, merely carried on the lacing. In such case a closed eye is to be preferred to avoid accidental disengagement of the devices when the garment is not laced. In either form of construction, or in any modifications which may be made embodying the different features shown in the two forms differently assembled, it is designed that the lacing guides or eyes, D, alternate on the tape with the guides or eyes, C, and remain thereon when the garment is not in use, and that the closure is effected in front by engaging these guides with the hooks or buttons, G, so that unlacing is not necessary for such disengagement or re-engagement.

Lacing has the advantage over other forms of construction for the purpose of shaping or fitting the garment to the form and applying the necessary stress or pressure at the different parts of the length of the laced opening in order to suitably effect the purposes of the garment, both for accommodation to the form and for shaping the form by the varying restraint produced at different parts of the length of the laced openings. One especial advantage gained by the construction shown and above described is the reduction of the rigid area caused by metal stays at the front of the garment without sacrifice of the advantage of lacing as a form of fastening. Such rigid area, it will be observed, is reduced in the construction herein shown to the area of two stays, one on each of the two connected members of the garment.

When the planchet is dispensed with, it is preferable to provide a fly, as H, secured to and projecting from the under side of either of the connected parts lying back of the lac-

ing and lapping under the edge of the stay of the other part. The planchet when present is not attached to either member of the garment except by the lacings and disengageable fastenings described. It serves both the purpose of carrying the lacing guides, D, which otherwise would be carried only by the lacing, and of affording a backing behind these guides which prevents them from being pressed into the form of the wearer and leaving marks, this latter purpose being served by the fly when the planchet is dispensed with. In either of the forms of construction shown in Figs. 1 and 3, two laces may be employed crossing each other intermediate each pair of guides, as seen in Fig. 5. When two laces are used there will be guides, D, provided opposite each of the guides, C, and each lace will engage only with the alternate guides, D, and with the alternate guides, C, as seen in Fig. 5. Considering each lace by itself, the construction and operation will be the same as that shown in Fig. 1,—that is, the guides, D, engaged with each tape will alternate along the same with the guides, C, engaged with the same tape.

I claim:—

1. In a front-laced corset, in combination with the two members to be connected by lacing, a rigid stay in the edge of each member; engaging devices secured to the stay in one of the members; lacing guides on the stay in the other member; a lace engaged with such guides, and other guides devoid of rigid connection with each other alternating therealong with said first mentioned guides and adapted to be disengageably engaged with the engaging devices of the first member.
2. In a front-laced corset, in combination with the two members to be connected by lacing, a rigid stay in the edge of each of said members; engaging devices on the stay in one of the members; lacing guides on the stay of the other member; a flexible fabric strip planchet having lacing guides secured to it and a lacing engaging alternately the guides on the stay and the guides on the planchet, said guides on the planchet being

provided with means for disengageably engaging the engaging devices on the first mentioned stay.

3. In a front-laced corset, in combination with the two members of the garment to be connected by lacing, a rigid stay in the edge of each member; lacing guides on one of said stays; a lacing extending through said lacing guides; other lacing guides devoid of rigid connection with each other alternating along the lacing with those on the stay, and means for disengageably engaging said other lacing guides with the other stay.

4. In a front-laced corset, in combination with the two members of the garment to be connected by lacing, a lacing cord on one member and means connecting the cord with said member at a plurality of points along the length of the cord; engageable devices on the other member alternating in position with the points of connection of the lacing cord on the first member and devices having cord run-ways and mounted on the cord in the intervals between the engagement of the cord with the first member, said devices each comprising, in addition to the cord run-way, a feature for engaging such engageable devices on the other member.

5. In a front-laced corset, in combination with the two members to be connected by lacing, a rigid stay in the edge of each member; engaging devices secured to the stay in one of the members; lacing guides on the stay in the other member; a lacing engaged with such guides; and other lacing guides alternating therealong with the first mentioned guides free for movement independent of each other along the lacing between said first mentioned guides respectively, and provided with a feature for disengageably engaging the engaging devices of the first member.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand at Belvidere, Illinois, this 21 day of January, A. D., 1907.

CHARLES B. HOWD.

Witnesses:

IRVING TERWILLIGER,
FRANK SEWELL.