

J. V. NEWTON.
CLASP.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 12, 1905. RENEWED FEB. 14, 1908.

900,034.

Patented Sept. 29, 1908.

Fig. 1



Fig. 3.

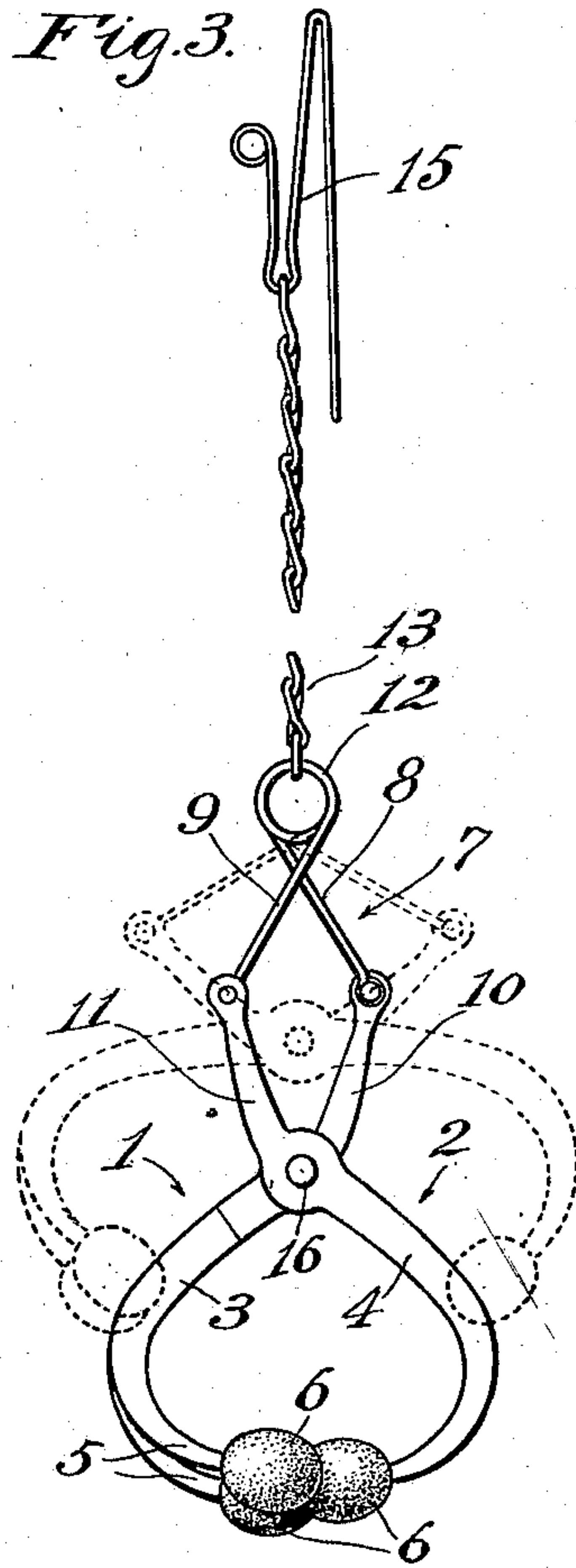


Fig. 2

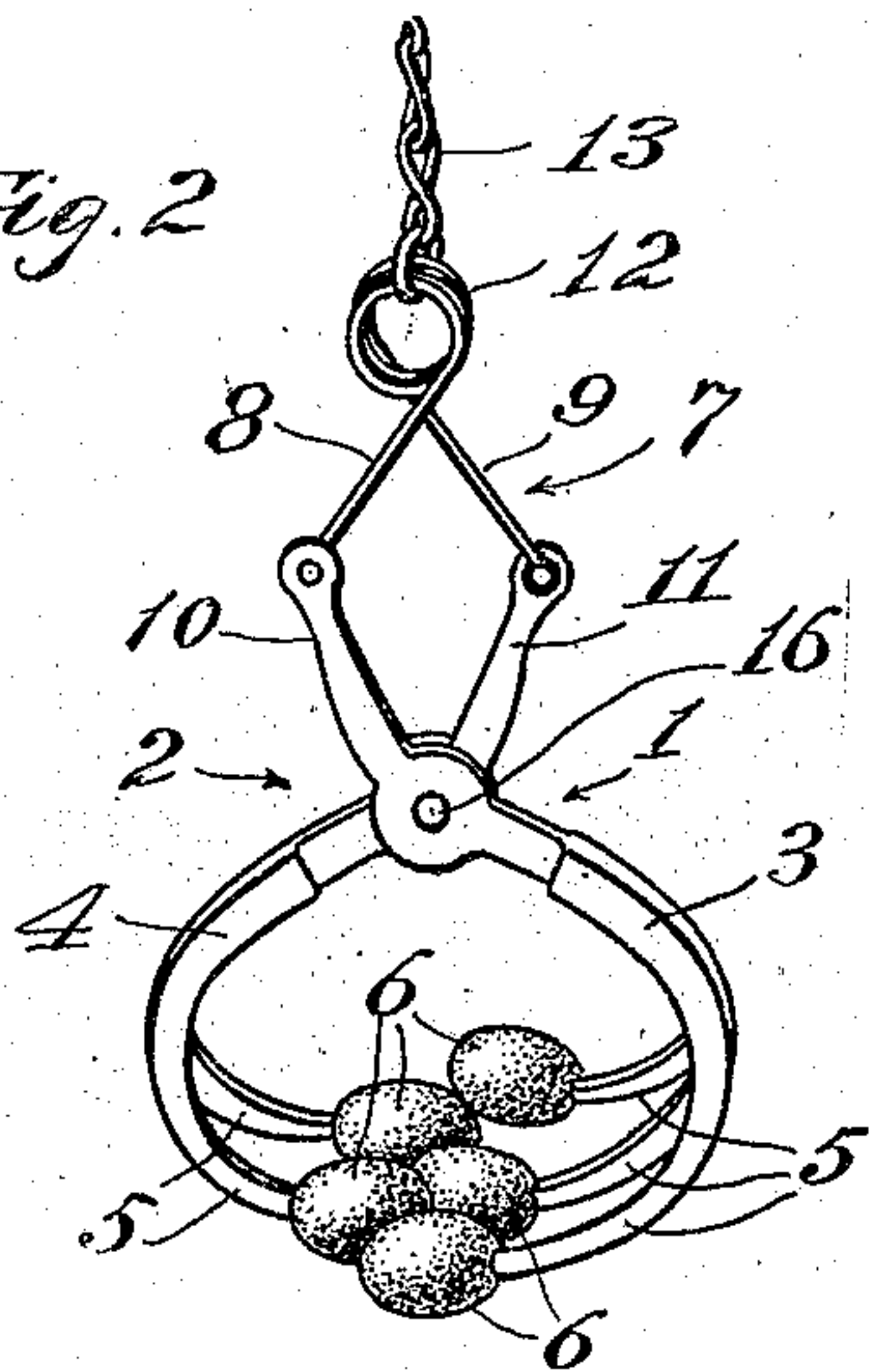
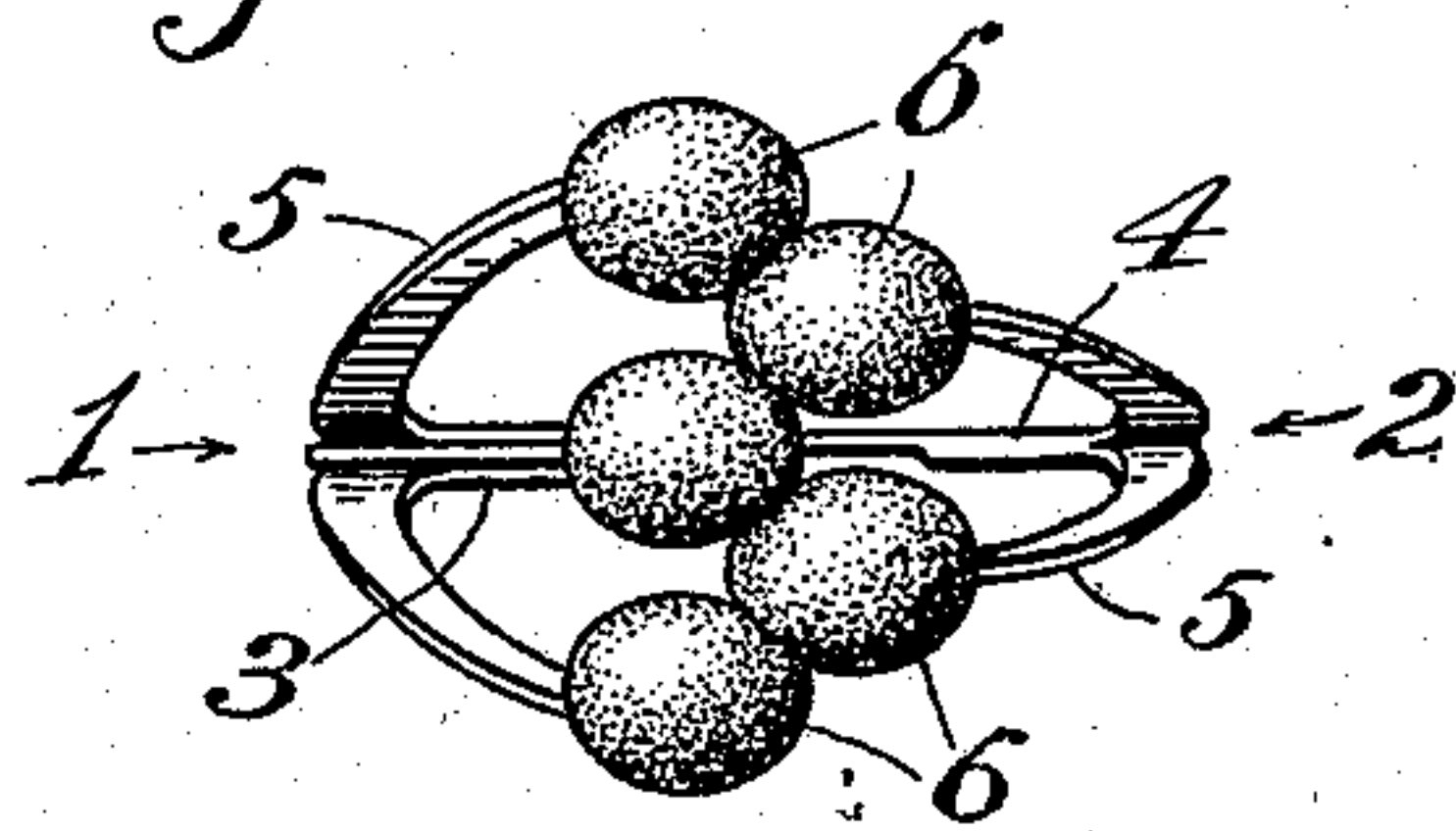


Fig. 4.



Witnesses:
C. C. Holly.
J. Townsend.

Inventor:
John V. Newton.
by Townsend Bros.
his Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN V. NEWTON, OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

CLASP.

No. 900,034.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Sept. 29, 1908.

Application filed June 12, 1905, Serial No. 264,918. Renewed February 14, 1908. Serial No. 415,967.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN V. NEWTON, a citizen of Canada, residing at Los Angeles, in the county of Los Angeles, State of California, have invented a new and useful Clasp, of which the following is a specification.

An object of the invention is to provide a neat, simple and effective device which will be acceptable to ladies of fashion and others for holding their skirts up from the ground and which will clasp the fabric and hold the same firmly and strongly without liability of slipping under ordinary conditions and which will not injure the most delicate fabric. The clasp is also intended to be used for holding delicate draperies, etc. for show windows and the like.

Another object of the invention is to provide such a construction as will normally hold the gripping arms of the clasp in their gripping positions.

The device comprises a pair of tongs, the gripping arms of which have a plurality of terminals so constructed and arranged that when the arms are in gripping position the ends of the terminals may interlock. The terminals are in the form of knobs, said knobs being preferably provided with a resilient or elastic surface.

The accompanying drawings illustrate the invention.

Figure 1 is a view of the appliance in use. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the appliance in its normal gripping position. Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the appliance in its normal gripping position. Dotted lines indicate the position of parts when the clasp is open to receive the object to be gripped. Fig. 4 is an end view looking from the bottom in Fig. 3.

1 and 2 are the crossed members of the tongs; 3 and 4 the gripping arms thereof; 5 the terminals of said arms, and 6, the knobs on said terminals which are provided with a resilient surface, being composed of rubber or some other soft or elastic material.

7 is a looped spring having crossed arms 8 and 9, pivoted at their ends respectively to the ends of the operating arms 10, 11, respectively. Preferably the bight of the loop 12 of the spring is in the form of a spiral spring. The resilient closing means for the tongs are thus made to consist solely of a substantially V-shaped spring, each end of which is pivotally attached to an arm of the tongs.

13 is a suspending device in the form of a chain in which a spring 14 may be interposed

to give the dress held by the clasp a resilient support. Usually the spring may be omitted. The chain 13 is caught in the loop 12 of the spring and is provided with a hook 15 by which it can be looped over the belt of the wearer.

By this invention a novel and convenient mode of opening the clasp results on account of the clasp being formed as a pair of tongs having crossed arms and being provided at the end opposite the gripping portions with resilient closing means consisting solely of a substantially V-shaped spring having an intermediate coil and crossed ends, one of which engages each of the arms of the tongs and tends to close the same.

In practical use as a dress supporter, the hook 15 will be looped over the belt and the clasp will be allowed to dangle at the side. When the wearer desires to lift the skirts, she will catch them up with one hand and with the fingers of the other hand may press the spring loop 12 and the pivoted portion 16 of the clasp toward each other, thus bringing the parts into the position indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 3. Then the dress may be inserted between the gripping jaws and the clasp released; whereupon the spring will force the jaws together into the position shown in the several views. The resilient knobs tend to chamber with each other so that when released, the fabric will be bent in a wavy line between the knobs and no injury to the fabric will occur, yet the same will be held firmly. The strain on the clasp caused by the weight of the fabric held thereby, tends to draw the clasp tightly together; the force of the spring 8, 9, 12, acts in conjunction with the weight of the suspended fabric to force the jaws together by a toggle action or operation of the actuating arms 10 and 11 and the spring arms 8 and 9.

By thus providing a clasp having cushioned interlocking gripping means and a flexible connection and a hook for supporting the clasp, the same may be readily attached to the belt and used when required. When not in use it is not in the way or obnoxious to the wearer but, being neatly constructed, has an attractive and ornamental appearance.

The clasp may be made of any desired size and of any appropriate material.

When a garment is gripped between the convex surfaces of the elastic knobs, said knobs flatten to some extent and thereby af-

ford a broad smooth gripping surface which securely holds the garment without injury to the same.

What I claim is:—

5 1. A clasp comprising tongs having crossed arms, said arms being provided with gripping terminals at one end and at the other end with resilient closing means, said means consisting solely of a spring having a coil at the
10 middle thereof and crossed ends, one of which is pivotally attached to each arm of the tongs.

2. A clasp comprising tongs having crossed

arms, said arms being provided with gripping terminals at one end and at the other end 15 with resilient closing means, said means consisting solely of a substantially V-shaped spring, each end of which is pivotally attached to an arm of the tongs.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set 20 my hand at El Paso, Texas, this 29th day of May 1905.

JOHN V. NEWTON.

In presence of—

P. R. PRICE,

RANDOLPH TERRY.