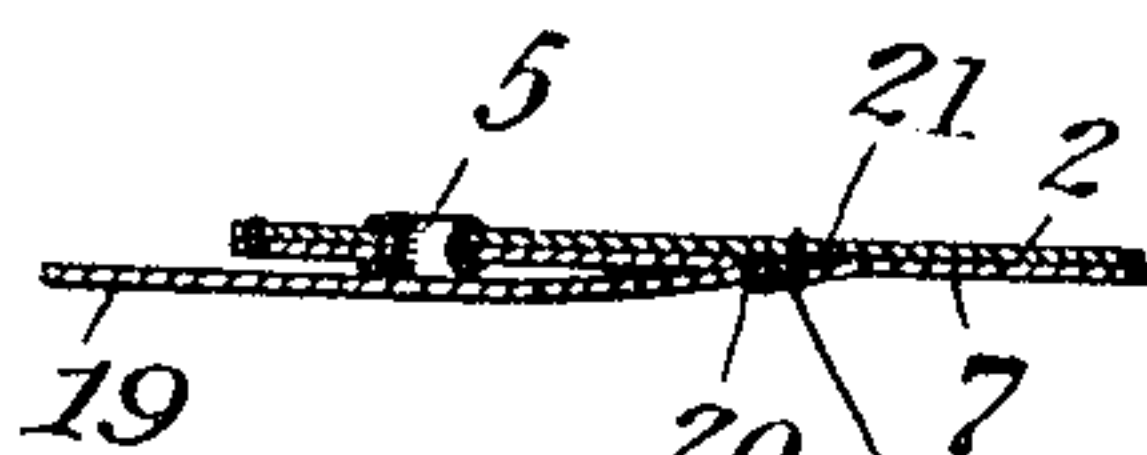
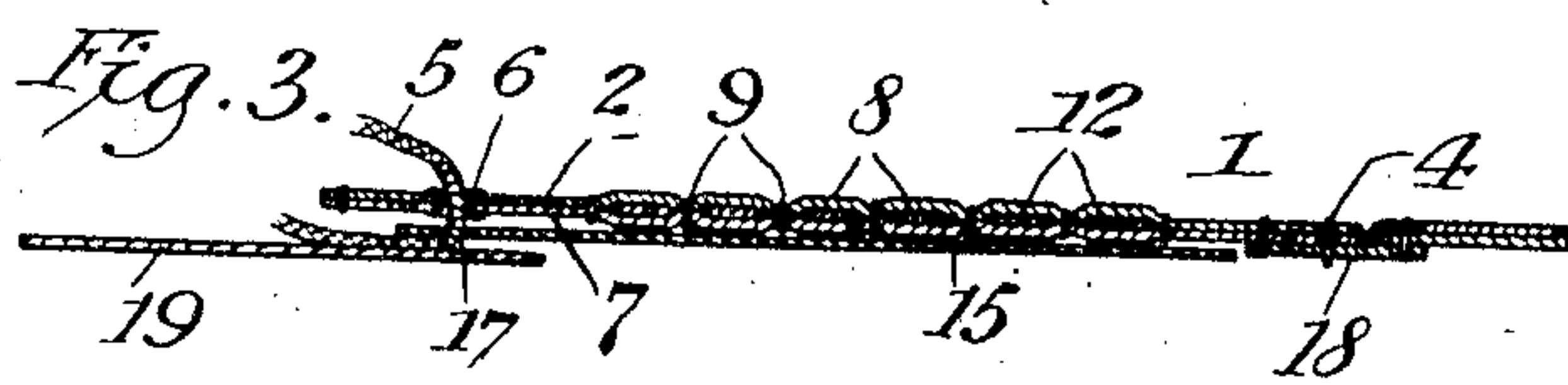
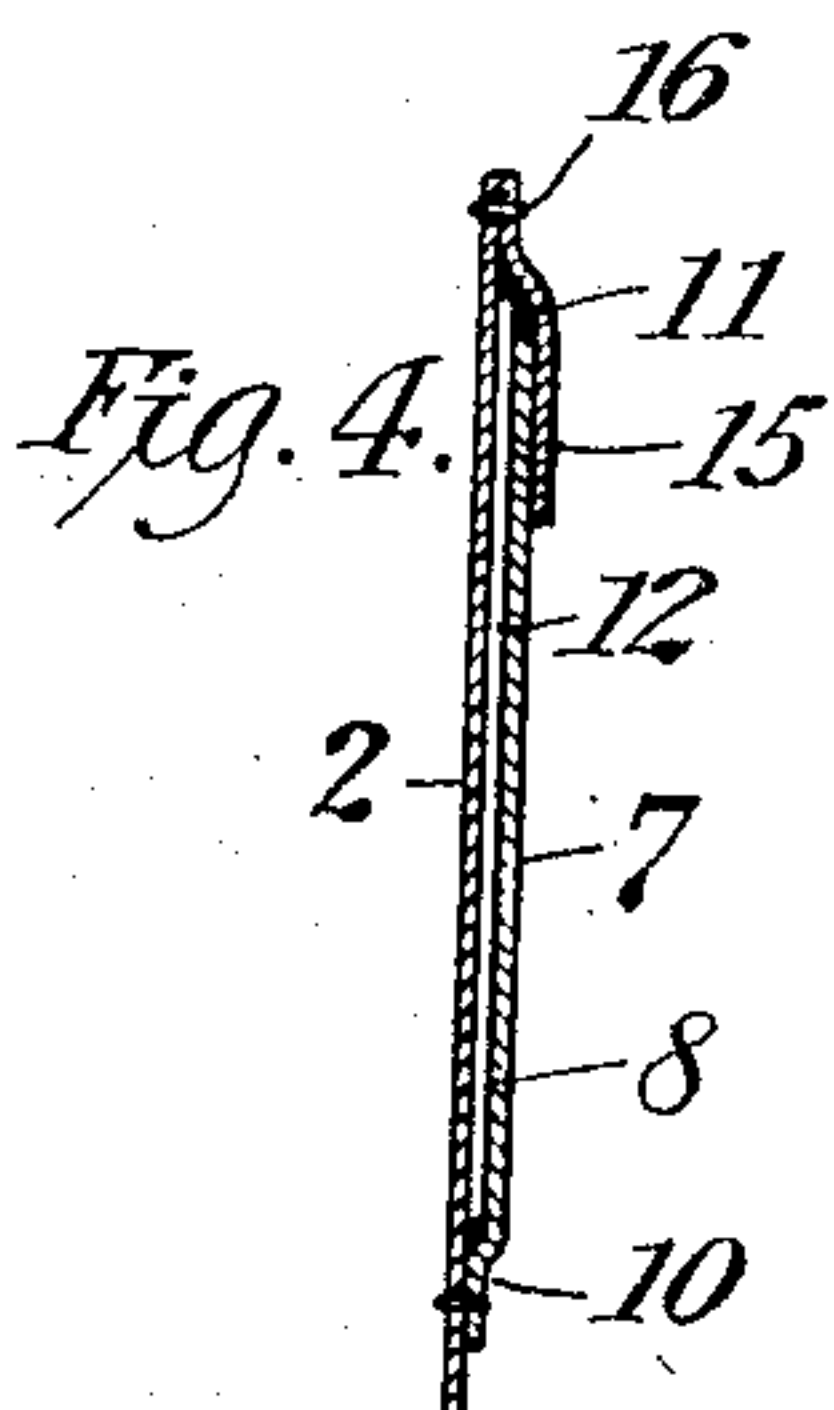
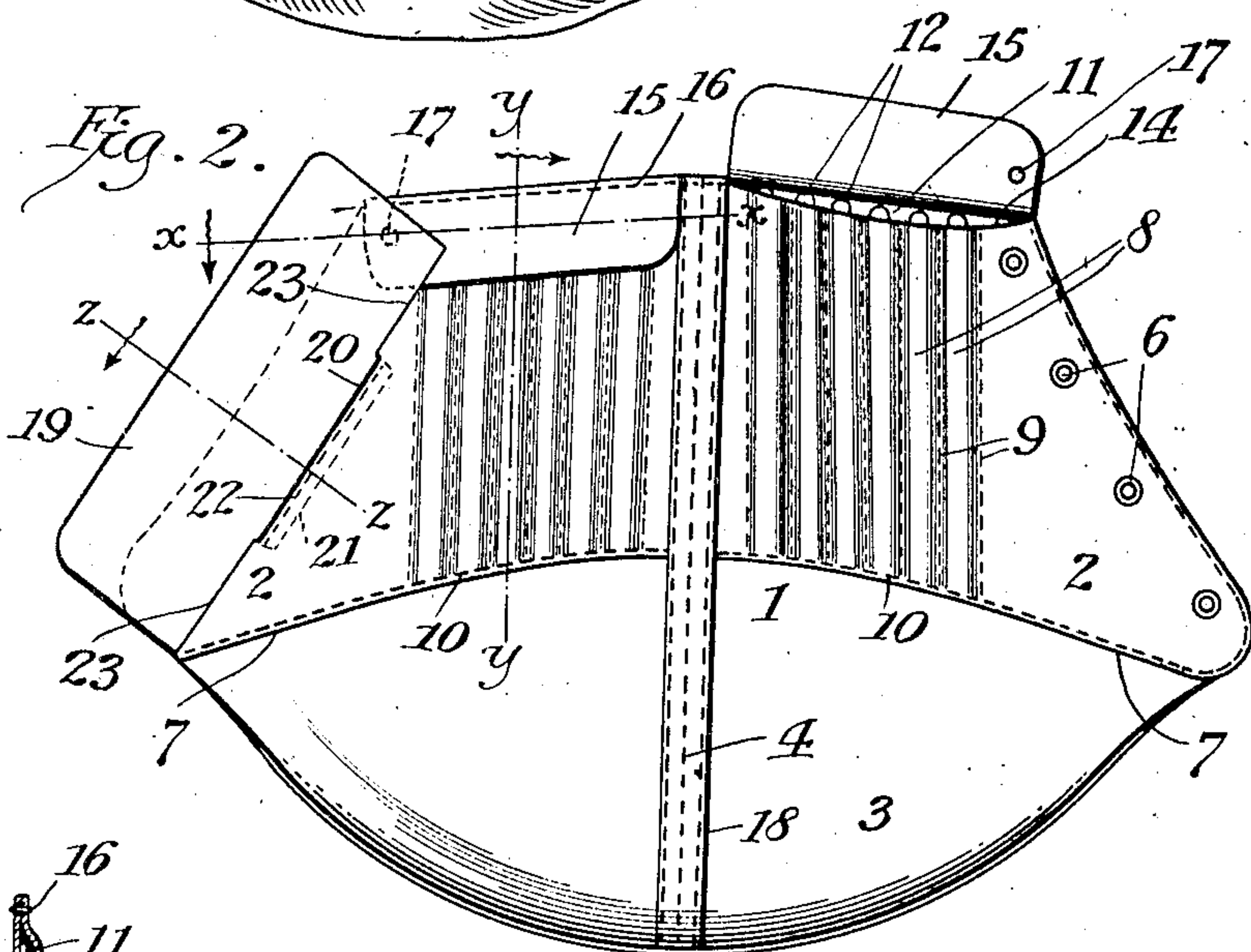
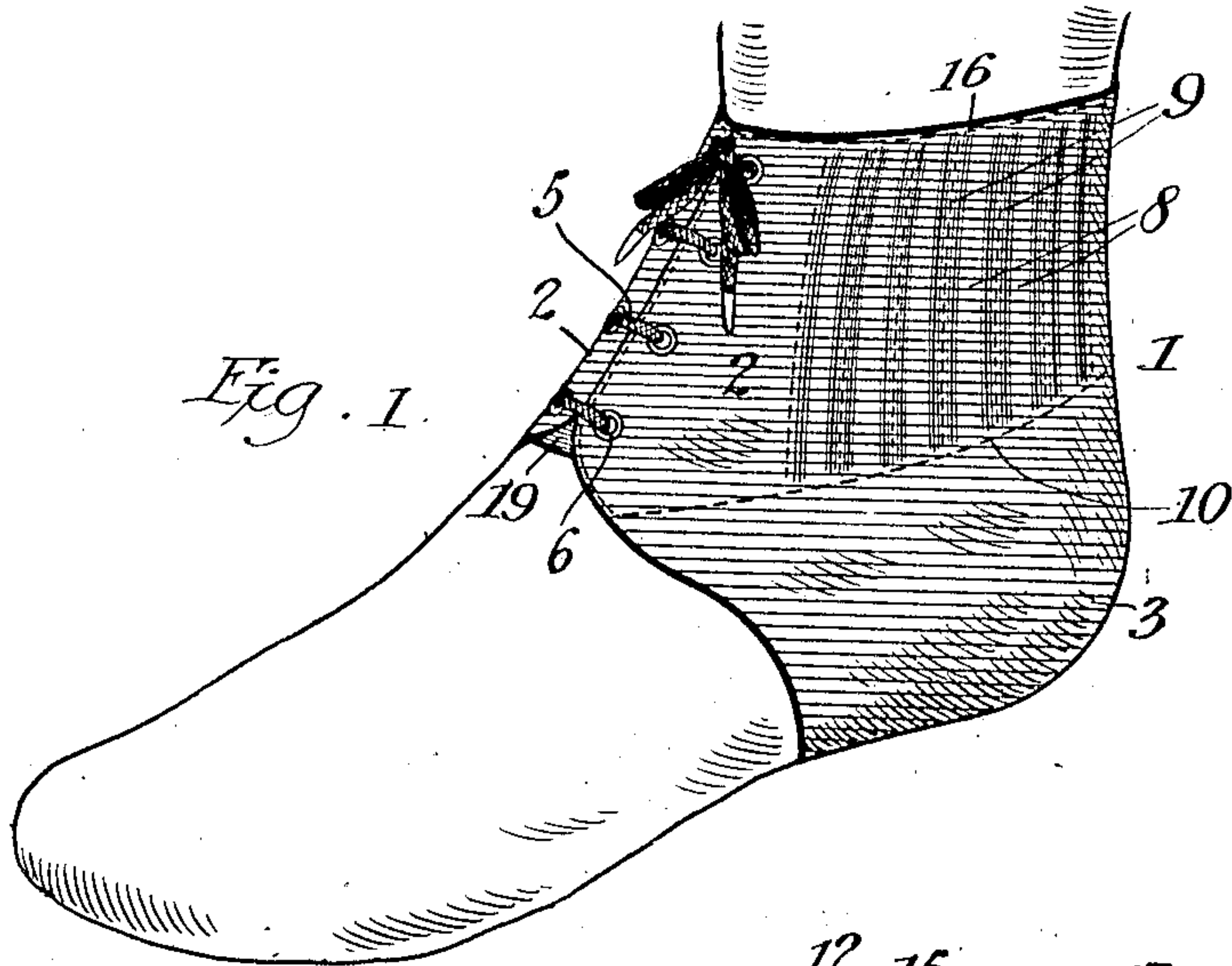


H. J. COLLIS.
ANKLE SUPPORT AND PROTECTOR.
APPLICATION FILED OCT. 26, 1908.

913,263.

Patented Feb. 23, 1909.



WITNESSES:

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Fig. 5.

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ANKLE SUPPORT AND PROTECTOR.

No. 913,263.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 23, 1909.

Application filed October 26, 1908. Serial No. 459,469.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY JAMES COLLIS, a citizen of the United States, and resident of Taunton, in the county of Bristol and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Ankle Supports and Protectors, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to devices for supporting and protecting ankles, and it has special relation to devices of this class which are designed for use in athletic sports.

The object of my invention is to provide a simple and improved ankle support and protector in which variable use of the stiffening media, to adapt the device to the ankle conditions and desires of the individual user, is conveniently enabled without disturbing the stitching and such insertible and detachable stiffening media is more conveniently secured and retained in active position, and which will furthermore possess advantages in point of ease and comfort, convenience, simplicity, adaptability, effectiveness and general efficiency.

In the drawings—Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating the appearance of the device when in use. Fig. 2 is a perspective view illustrating the inside features of the device. Fig. 3 is a detail sectional view, taken on the line *x—x*, Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a detail sectional view, taken on the line *y—y*, Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a detail sectional view, taken on the line *z—z*, Fig. 2.

Corresponding parts in all the figures are denoted by the same reference characters.

Referring to the drawings, 1 designates the body-portion, which is constructed of soft pliable material, such as leather or a suitable fabric. The body-portion comprises two half portions forming sides, 2—2, arranged to surround the ankle of the wearer, and a bottom portion, 3, extending around the heel and beneath the instep of the foot. The half portions of the body 1 may be connected by a seam, 4, at the back and beneath the bottom, when the body-portion is constructed in two pieces as herein shown, but it is obvious that the body-portion may be constructed in a single piece, in which case the seam 4 would only extend at the back, and under some circumstances of use, especially when a high shoe is worn over the device, the heel part of the bottom portion 3 may be cut away, but this heel part is especially desirable when an Oxford or low shoe is to be

worn over the device, to prevent undue pressure of the top edge of the counter against the heel of the wearer and wear of the stocking at that point. It will be understood that supporting and protecting devices of this character are, in their usual employment in athletic sports, worn inside the shoe and over the stocking, but under some circumstances of use the device may be worn beneath the stocking or otherwise employed as may be preferred by the user.

Fastening means are provided at the front edges of the sides 2, which means preferably consist of a lacing, as at 5, passing through eyelets, 6, in said side portions. The inner faces of the side portions 2 are reinforced by pieces or strips, 7—7, likewise of pliable or soft material, such as leather or a suitable fabric, and said pieces 7 preferably extend over the whole inner face of the sides from the back seam 4 to the front eyelet edges, in which case a double thickness exists at the eyelets.

Between the sides 2 and inside pieces 7 are provided a series of pockets, 8, at the portion of the device which contacts with the ankle of the wearer, these pockets being preferably parallel and extending upwardly from the bottom portion 3 to the top part of the sides. These pockets may be conveniently formed by stitching, as at 9, and are closed at their bottom, as at 10, and open at their top, as at 11. In these open-top pockets are insertibly and detachably placed strips of stiffening media, 12, which preferably correspond to the interior area of the pocket and may be constructed of any suitable or adapted material. The top edge of the pocketed portion of the inside pieces 7 is preferably cut away, as at 14, so that the top ends of the stiffening media 12 will conveniently project (as shown in Fig. 2) to facilitate the insertion and withdrawal of the stiffening media.

From the top edge of each of the sides 2 projects a flexible flap, 15, which is preferably integral with the piece of leather or other material constituting the outer portion of the sides. These flaps 15 are adapted to project downwardly within the top portion of the device and cover the open-top ends 11 of the pockets 8 and the top ends of the insertible and detachable stiffening media 12, and thus form a closure for the pockets, whereby the stiffening media is effectively retained within the pockets dur-

ing the use of the device, and the flaps retain their downwardly-projecting closing position, surrounding the leg of the wearer above the ankle, when the device is fastened in operative position. When the device is removed from operative position and opened, the flexible flaps 15 can be turned upwardly to the position illustrated in Fig. 2, to enable the ready and convenient removal or insertion of any or all of the members of the stiffening media. When the flaps are integral with the outside piece constituting the sides 2, the relationship of the flexible flap to the outside piece is preferably maintained by an edge stitching, as at 16, at the top edge of the sides 2.

The variable use of the device, which is enabled by the improved construction hereinabove described, permits of convenient adaptability of the device to the ankle conditions of the individual user, without in any way affecting the stitching or other permanent characteristics of the finished device. For instance, when it is desired to have only the soft pliable material of the sides 2 against parts of the ankle, one or more of the strips 12 constituting the stiffening media may be removed, or all of such strips may be removed when it is desired to use the device without any stiffening media, or such media can only be employed in each alternate pocket or at each side the projecting portion of the ankle, thus affording a wide range of variability according to the conditions of use or the desire of the user.

To provide for the securing of the flaps 15 in their downwardly-extending position, and to enable such securing of the flaps without special supplementary fastening means or by the same fastening means which operate to secure the device itself in position, the front edge of the flap is provided with an eye or perforation, 17, registering with one of the eyelets 6 at the front edge of the side portion 2, whereby the lacing 5, when passed through both the eyelets 6 and the perforation 17, will serve the double office of a fastening means for the device and for the flap. The provision of means whereby the flap is fastened by engagement with the fastening devices for the device itself not only results in a simple and inexpensive construction but enables the fastening of both the device itself and the flap by one operation.

An inside back-strip, 18, is preferably provided to bridge the space between the rear adjoining edges of the inside pieces 7 of the side portions 2 at the back seam 4, this back-strip 18 being formed of thin flexible fabric or material and being adapted to provide a smooth inner surface at the seam 4. The strip 18 is preferably secured by stitching, and when the body of the device includes the heel part of the bottom portion (as herein illustrated) and is constructed in two

half portions with the seam 4 extending through the bottom portion 3, in lieu of being constructed in a single piece, the inside fastening strip 18 is preferably extended to cover the seam 4 in the bottom portion, as shown in Fig. 2.

A tongue, 19, is provided at the front of the side portions 2, so that it extends beneath the lacing or fastening means, which tongue is secured at one of its side edges, so that it forms a laterally-projecting flap. It is desirable, with a tongue secured in this manner at its side edge, in a flexible device for supporting and protecting ankles, to have a smooth flat surface at the secured edge of the tongue, for comfort in wearing, and this is accomplished by providing a slit, as at 20, in one of the inside pieces 7, at a point near the front edge, in which slit is inserted an extension, 21, at the central portion of the side edge of the tongue, which extension is thus received between the inside piece 7 and the outer main portion of the side 2 and secured by stitching, as at 22, thus producing a smooth continuous inside surface at the junction of the side edge of the tongue and the inside piece 7. The extension 21 being at the central portion of the side edge of the tongue, the top and bottom portions of the tongue are left free, as at 23, thus enhancing the flexibility of the tongue and also enabling the operation of the front perforated end of the flap 15 and the positional projection of the top of the tongue beneath said operatable front end of the flap.

It will be understood that the various pieces constituting the device are connected together in any suitable manner, preferably by stitching. Under some circumstances of use, especially where the device is intended to be worn inside a high shoe, it is evident that the pieces 7, pockets 8 and flaps 15 could in corresponding manner be provided at the outside instead of the inside of the device, under which circumstances the tongue could be correspondingly arranged with its extension 21 projecting between the main portion of the side 2 and the piece 7.

The operation and advantages of my invention will be readily understood by those familiar with the athletic arts and the uses for which the device is adapted. The improved construction provides the maximum of comfort, convenience and simplicity, and enables a wide variable employment of the ankle-bearing media, according to particular conditions and circumstances of use, as above set forth.

Having thus described my invention, I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. An improved ankle support and protector of the class described, comprising a flexible body-portion having open pockets, ankle-bearing media detachably and inserti-

bly mounted in said pockets, means for closing said pockets, and fastening means for securing the device in position upon the foot of the wearer, said fastening means also engaging the closing means for said pockets, whereby said fastening means conjointly secures both the device and the pocket-closing means in position.

2. An improved ankle support and protector of the class described, comprising a flexible body-portion having sides for surrounding the ankle and open pockets in said sides for containing ankle-bearing media and flaps at the top edge of said sides and projecting downwardly over the open ends of said pockets, fastening means at the front of said sides, a supplementary piece extend-

ing over the face of the side and provided with a slit adjacent the front of the side, and a tongue having an extension at the central portion of one of its side edges, said extension being inserted and secured between the side and the supplementary face piece and said tongue having a free portion projecting beyond said side-edge extension and adjacent the front ends of the flaps.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name in the presence of the subscribing witnesses.

HENRY JAMES COLLIS.

Witnesses:

KATE A. GALLIGAN,
JOHN H. ELDRIDGE.