

Sept. 29, 1953

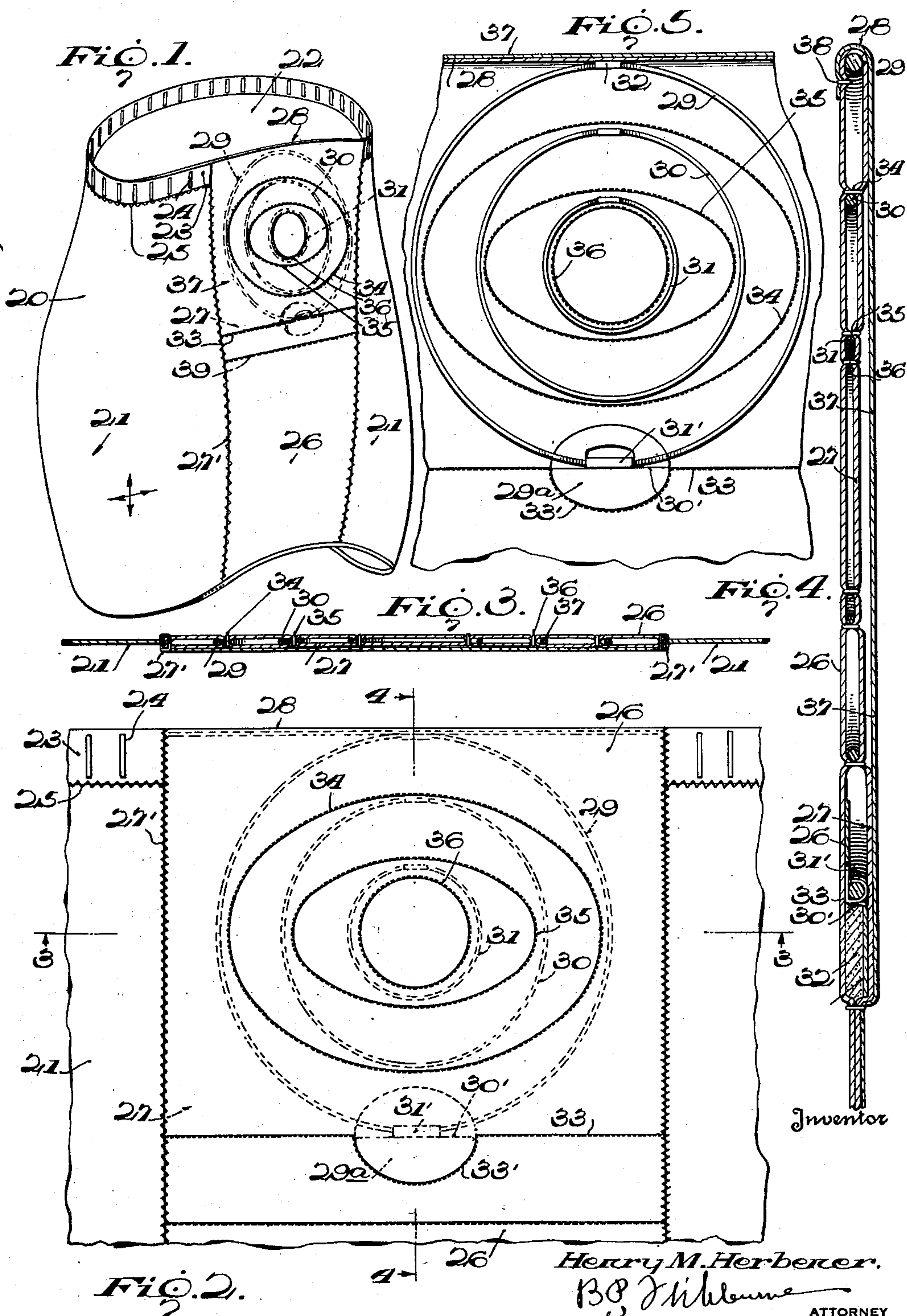
H. M. HERBENER

2,653,321

FOUNDATION GARMENT

Filed May 9, 1950

5 Sheets-Sheet 1



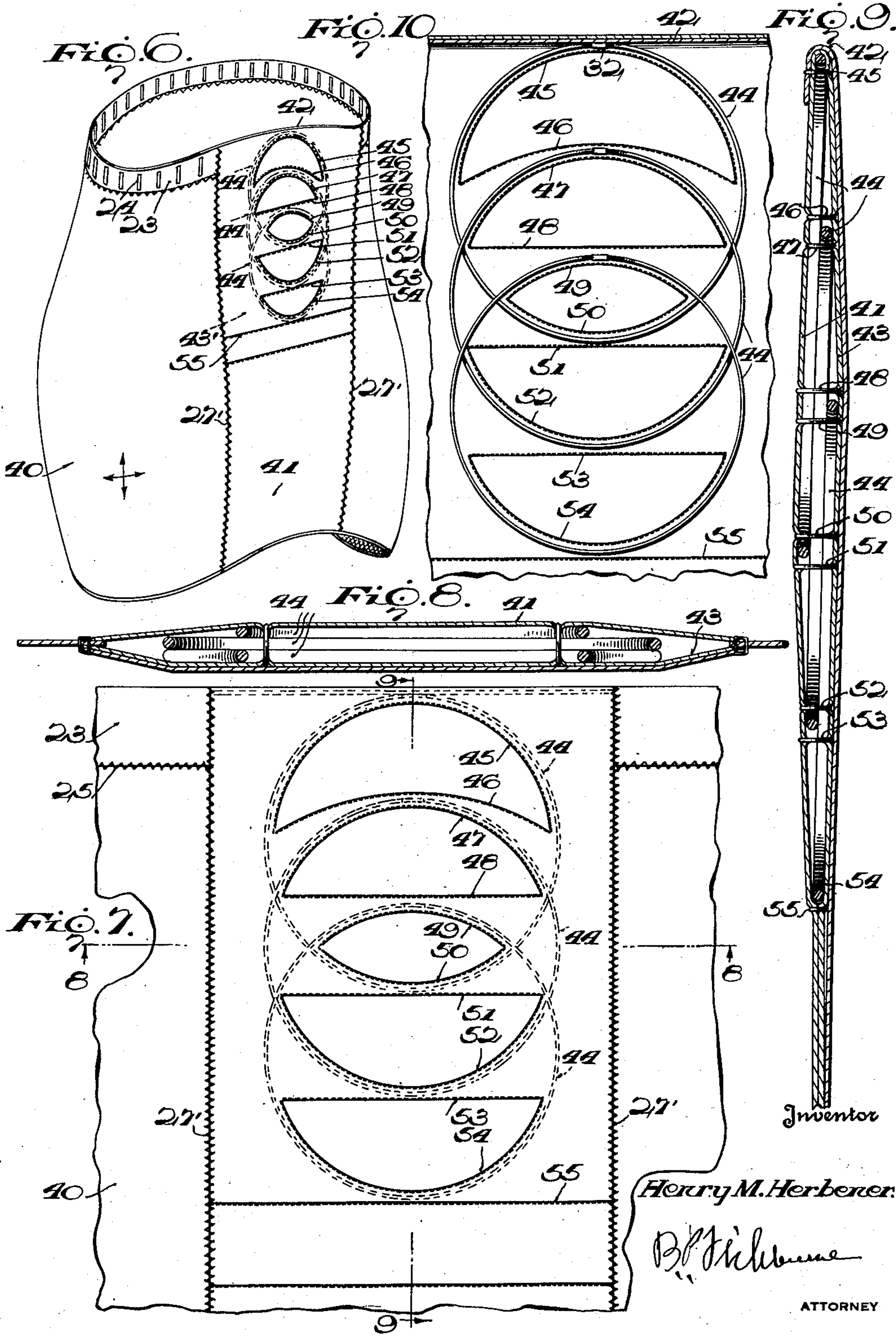
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FIG. 11.

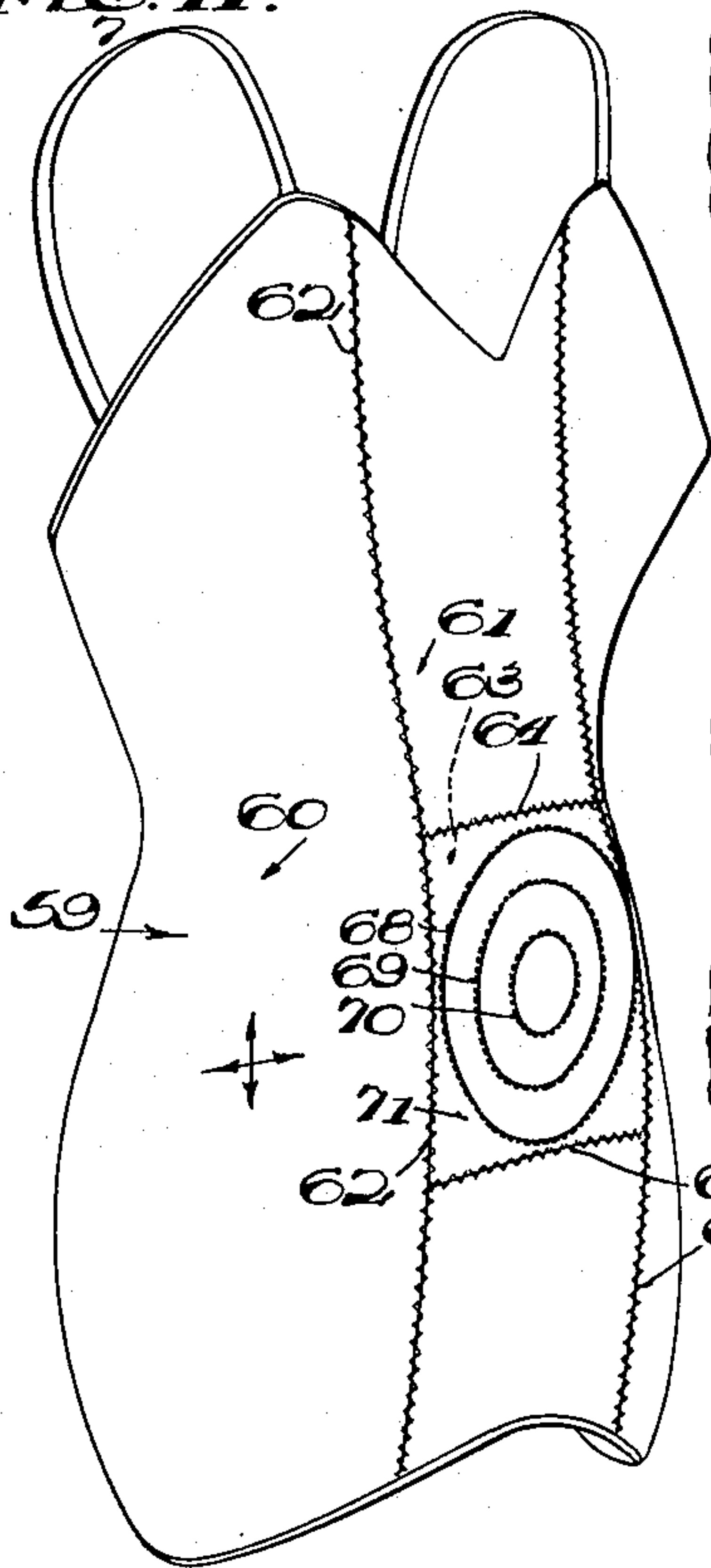


FIG. 13.

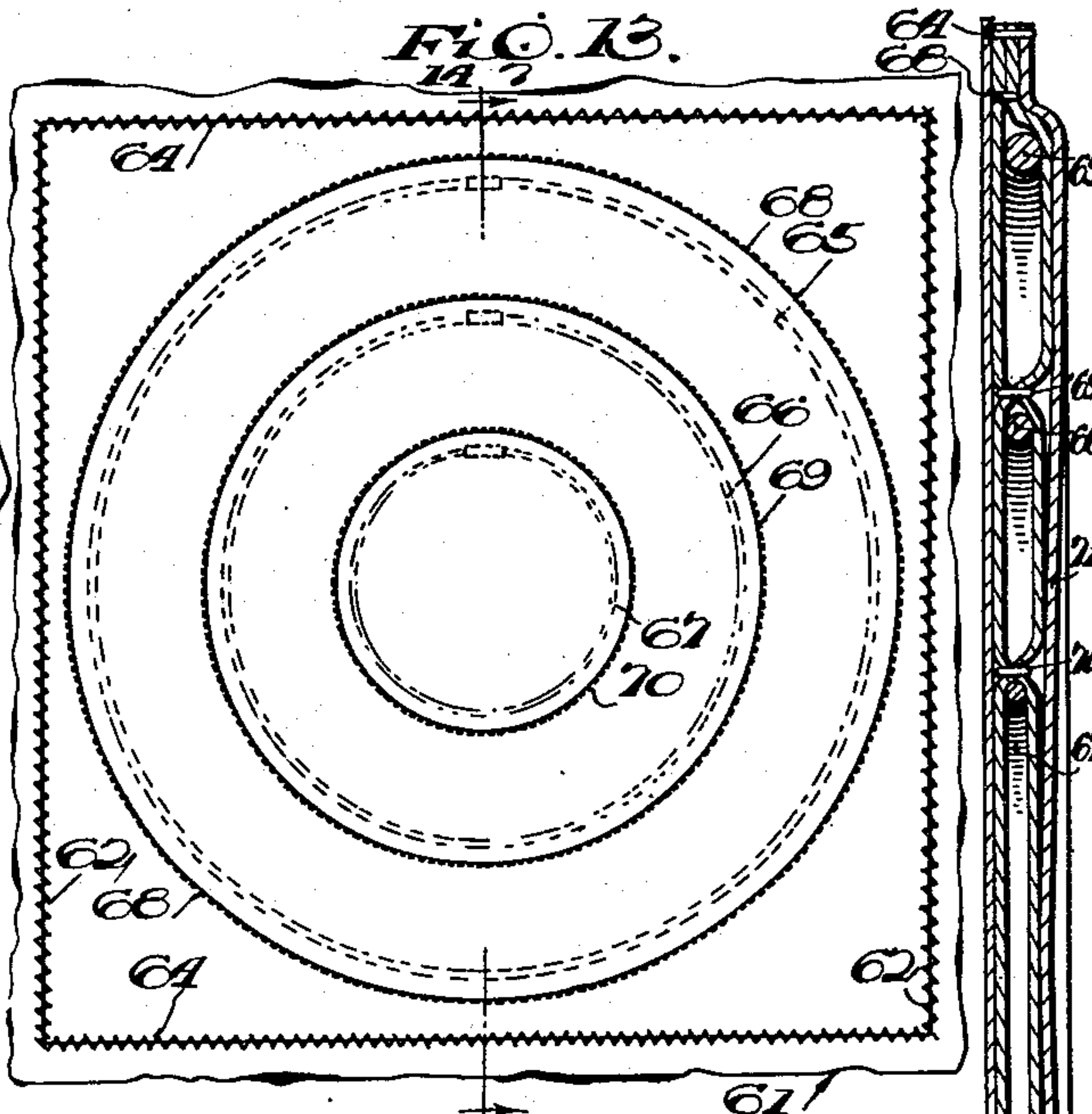


FIG. 16.

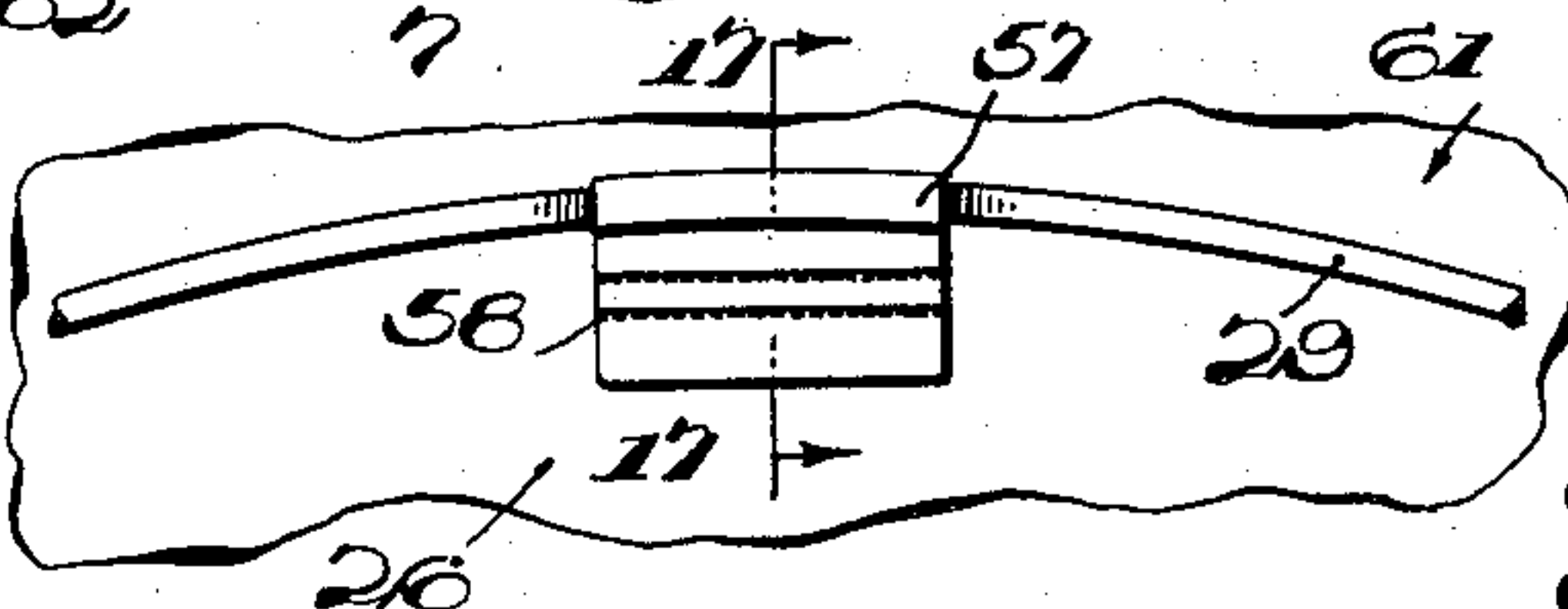


FIG. 15.

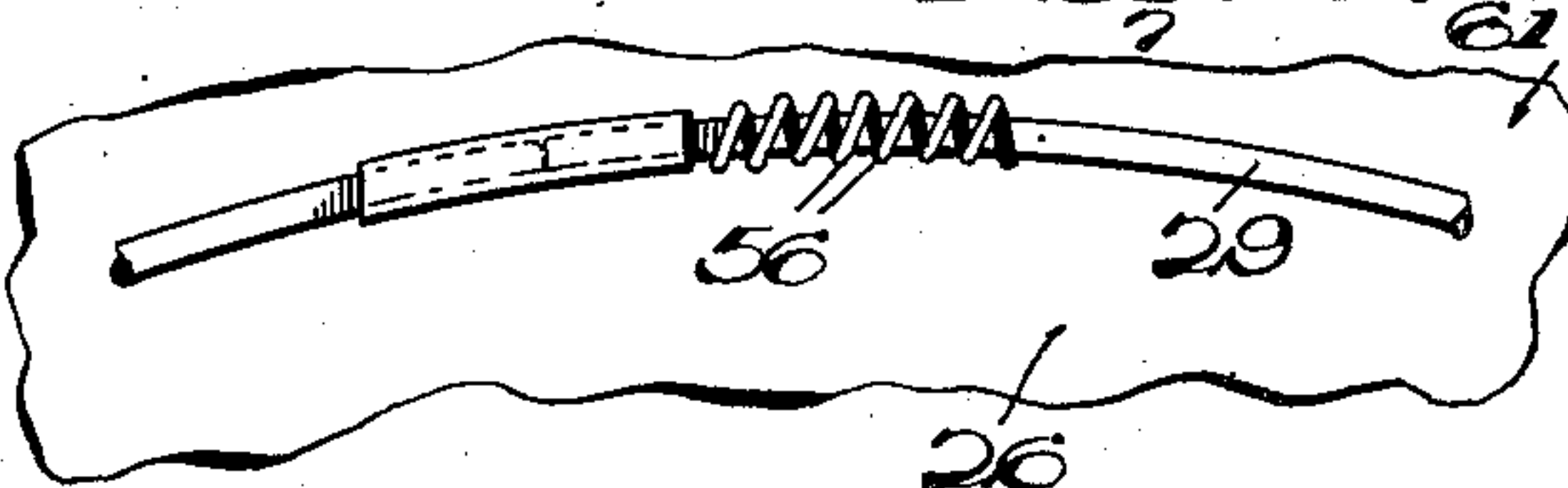


FIG. 17.



FIG. 14.

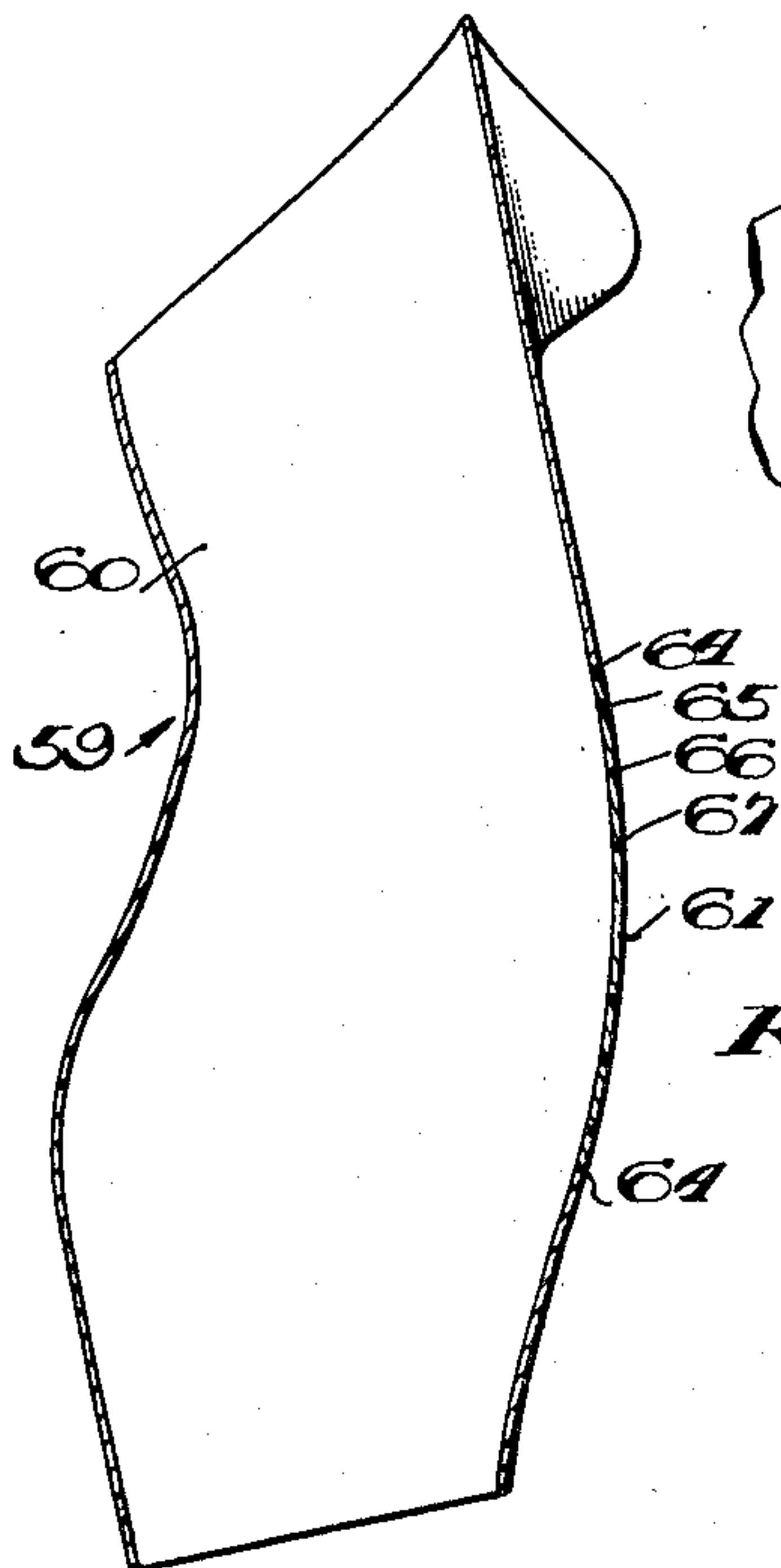
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FIG. 18.

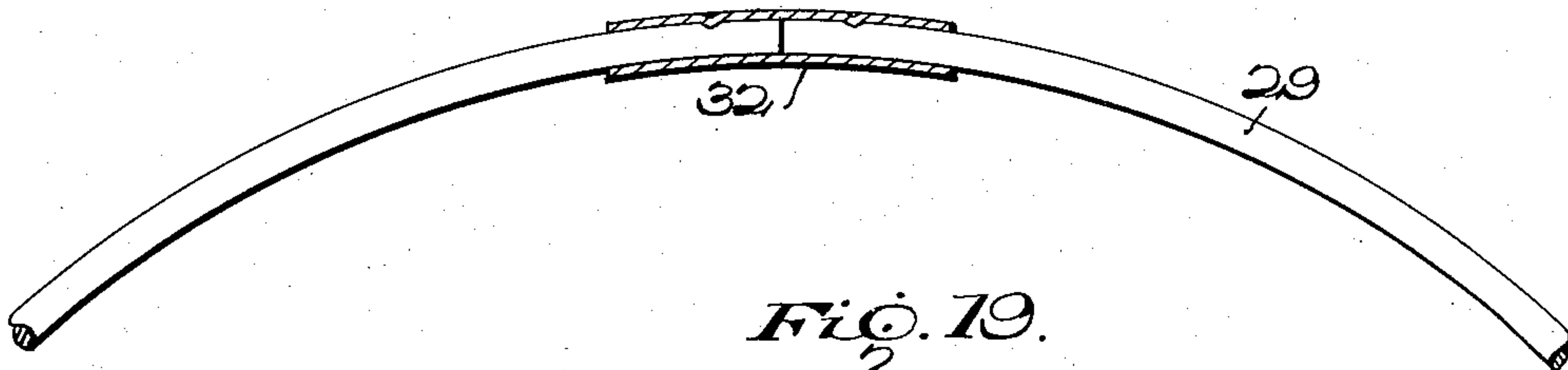


FIG. 19.

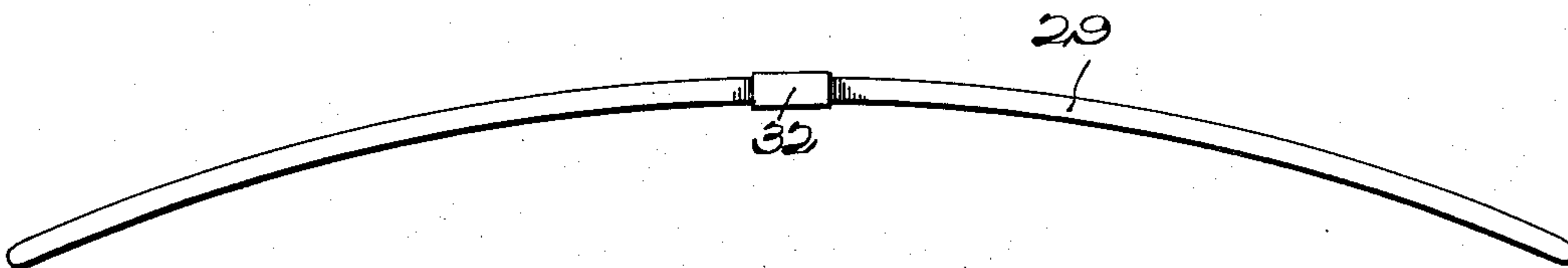


FIG. 22.

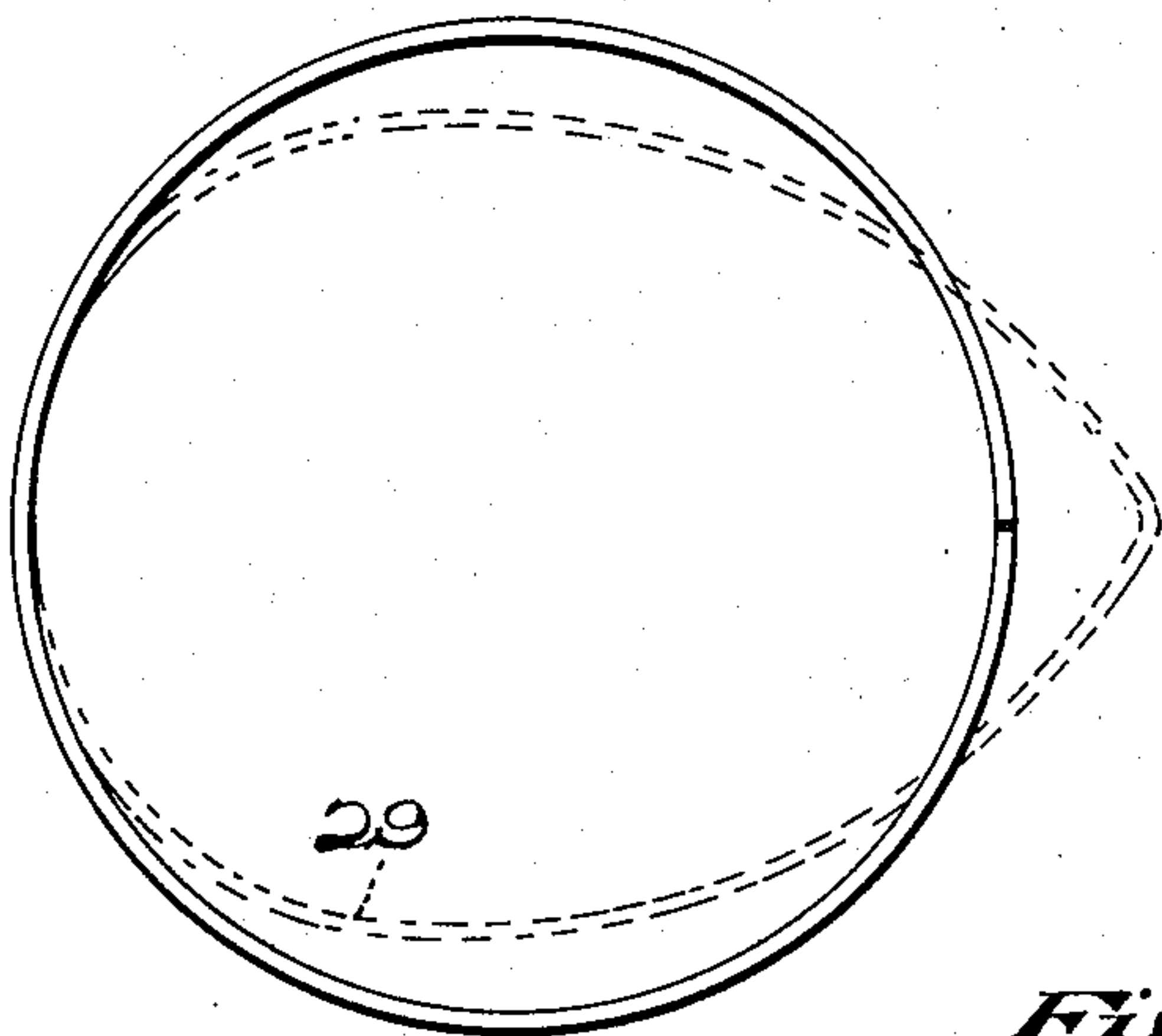


FIG. 20.

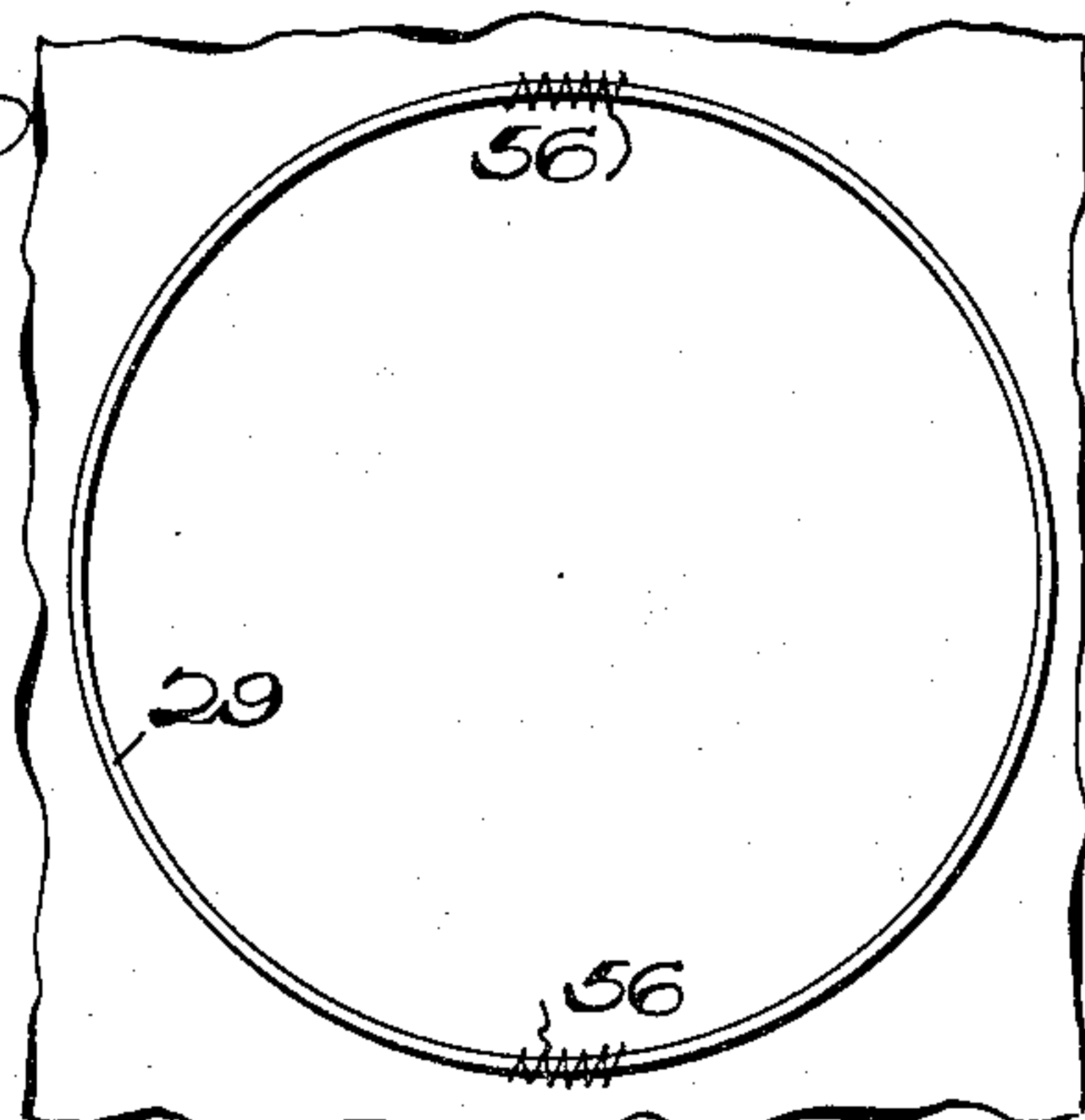


FIG. 21.

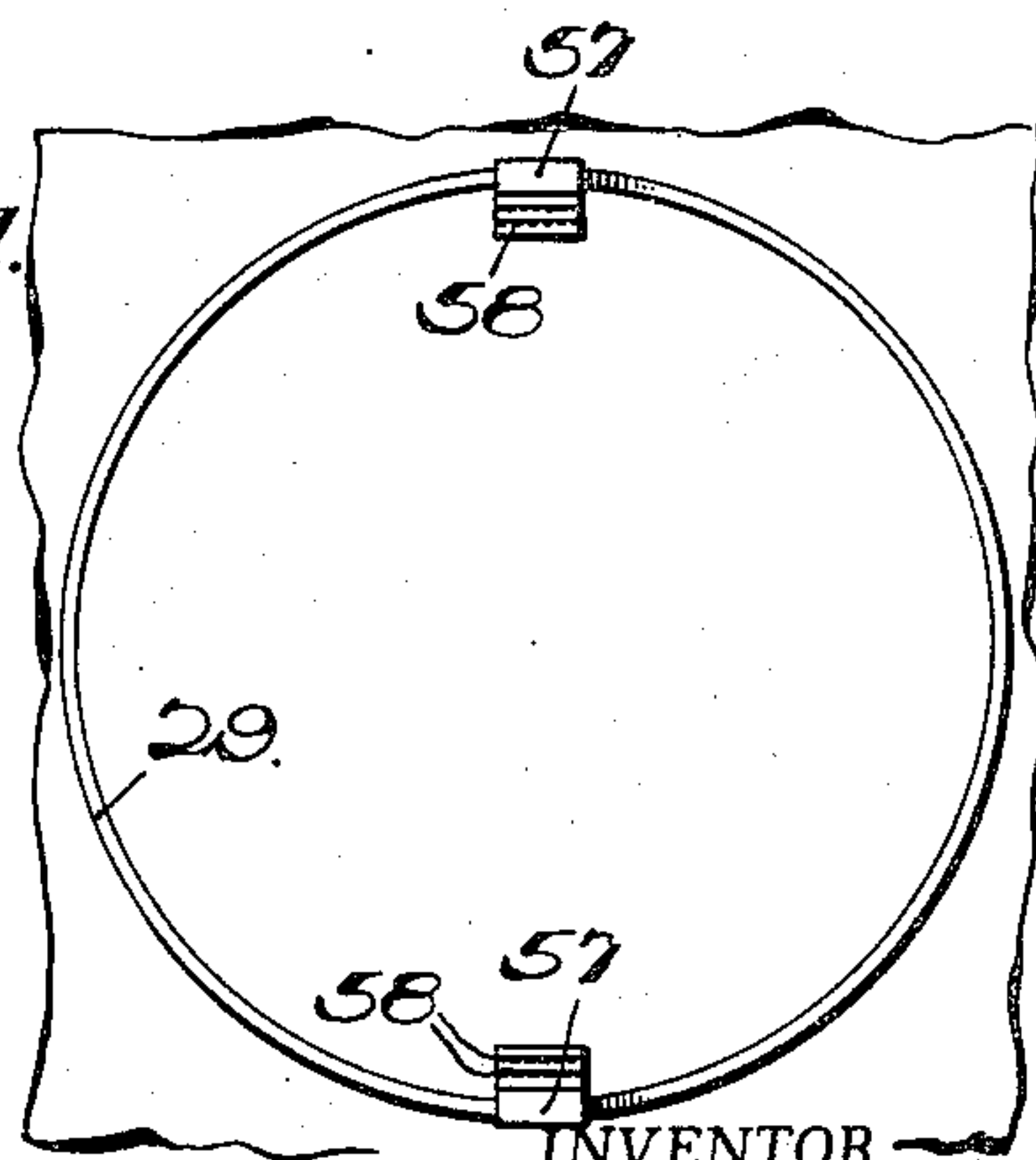


FIG. 23.

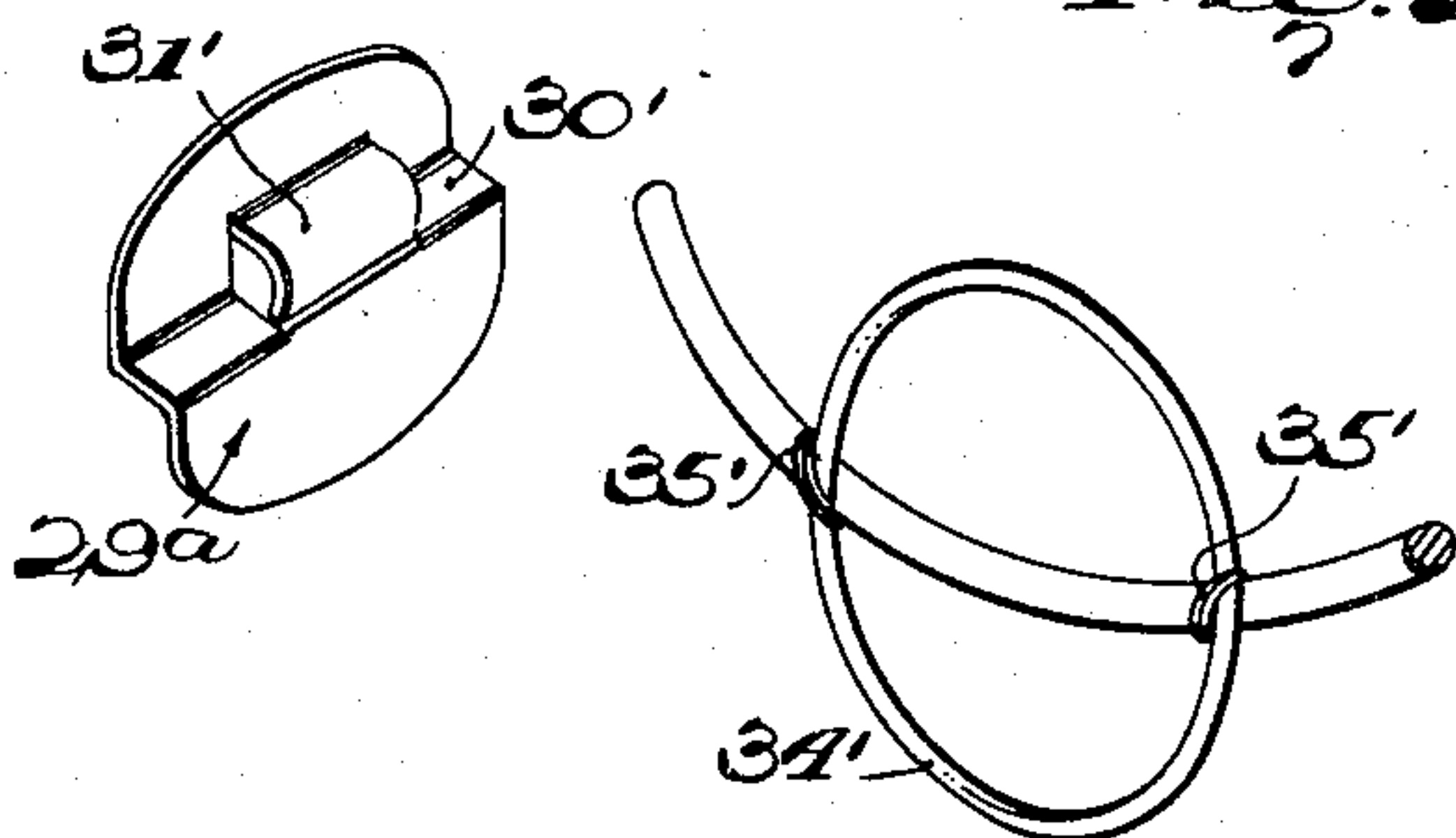


FIG. 24.

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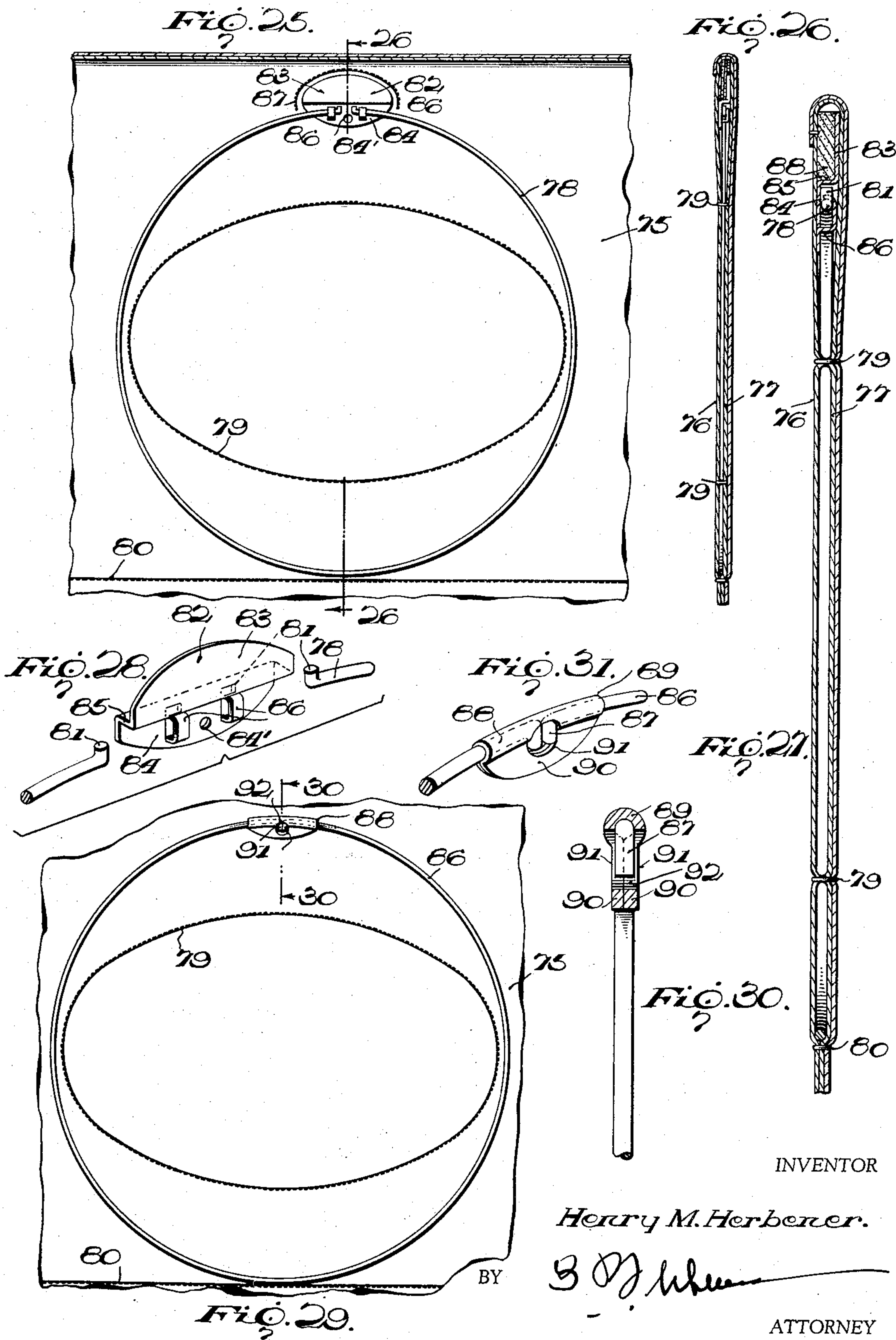
H. M. HERBENER

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,653,321

FOUNDATION GARMENT

Henry M. Herbener, Thomasville, Ga.

Application May 9, 1950, Serial No. 160,970

15 Claims. (Cl. 2—36)

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My invention relates to foundation garments, such as girdles, corselettes, corsets, or the like.

An important object of the invention is to provide resilient means for supporting the top of a girdle portion, to permit the same to yield downwardly, and to return the top to the raised position, when the pressure is removed.

A further object of the invention is to provide resilient means of the above mentioned character of simplified construction and which will afford the maximum area or areas in opposing the downward pressure upon the garment, thereby promoting the comfort of the user.

A further object of the invention is to provide means for attaching a resilient hoop to the garment portion so that the top and bottom of the hoop are held against relative movement with respect to the garment portion while the sides of the hoop are free to move laterally within limits as the hoop compresses and expands.

A further object of the invention is to provide an arrangement of stitching for holding the hoop or hoops to the garment and retaining them centered while permitting of their proper action, whereby the hoop or hoops may be readily applied to the garment during its manufacture.

A further object of the invention is to provide a resilient hoop unit which may be properly applied to wide or narrow portions or panels of a girdle.

A further object of the invention is to provide a hoop unit which is applied to a corselette or like garment over the abdomen to serve as a reducer.

A further object of the invention is to provide means for securing the ends of the resilient wire together from which the hoop is formed so that the resiliency of the hoop will not be injuriously affected.

A further object of the invention is to provide a plurality of hoops assembled in a unit with each hoop having substantially the same degree of resiliency.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent during the course of the following description.

In the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this application, and in which like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the same,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a girdle embodying my invention,

Figure 2 is an enlarged side elevation of the front panel,

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Figure 3 is a horizontal section taken on line 3—3 of Figure 2,

Figure 4 is a vertical section taken on line 4—4 of Figure 2,

Figure 5 is a side elevation of the front panel, parts in section and parts broken away,

Figure 6 is a perspective view of a girdle embodying the modified form of the invention,

Figure 7 is an enlarged side elevation of the front panel,

Figure 8 is a horizontal section taken on line 8—8 of Figure 7,

Figure 9 is a vertical section taken on line 9—9 of Figure 7,

Figure 10 is an elevation of the front panel, parts in section and parts broken away,

Figure 11 is a perspective view of a corselette, embodying my invention,

Figure 12 is a central vertical longitudinal section through the same, partly diagrammatic,

Figure 13 is a fragmentary enlarged side elevation of the front panel,

Figure 14 is a vertical section taken on line 14—14 of Figure 13,

Figure 15 is a fragmentary side elevation of a resilient hoop showing a modified form of attachment,

Figure 16 is a fragmentary side elevation of a hoop showing a further modified form of attachment,

Figure 17 is a transverse section taken on line 17—17 of Figure 16,

Figure 18 is a fragmentary enlarged side elevation of the hoop shown in the first form of the invention and in the other forms, with the connecting sleeve shown in section,

Figure 19 is a plan view of one of the hoops shown in the first form of the invention and in the other forms,

Figure 20 is a side elevation of the complete hoop illustrating the attaching means shown more completely in Figure 15,

Figure 21 is a similar view of a complete hoop showing the attaching means illustrated more completely in Figure 16,

Figure 22 is a side elevation of a hoop having its ends welded, illustrating local bending,

Figure 23 is a perspective view of a shield pivotally mounted upon one of the hoops, and,

Figure 24 is a perspective view of a modified form of shield applied to a hoop, parts broken away.

Figure 25 is a side elevation of a front panel showing the improved hoop applied thereto, the outer layer of the front panel being removed,

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Figure 26 is a vertical section taken on line 23—26 of Figure 25.

Figure 27 is a similar view upon an enlarged scale.

Figure 28 is an exploded perspective view of the shield and hoop, parts of the hoop being broken away.

Figure 29 is a side elevation of the front panel and a further modification of the resilient hoop applied thereto, the outer layer of the panel being removed.

Figure 30 is a vertical section taken on line 33—30 of Figure 29, and,

Figure 31 is a perspective view of the hoop and coupling, parts of the hoop being broken away.

As shown in Figures 1 to 5 inclusive, the numeral 20 designates an elastic girdle as a whole, comprising sides 21 and a back 22, preferably formed integral and made from an elastic fabric having a horizontal and vertical stretch. Attached to the top of the sides 21 and back 22 is a horizontal elastic fabric band 23, having short vertical stiffening ribs 24. This band may be of the same construction as shown in my Patent #2,136,742. The waistband 23 is secured to the sides and back by a horizontal zig-zag line of stitching 25. The girdle further comprises a front fabric panel 26, which is preferably horizontally and vertically non-elastic. The panel 26 is secured to the sides 21 and band 23 by a vertical zig-zag line of stitching 27'. The bottom of the panel 26 terminates with the bottoms of the sides 21, but the panel is much longer than the sides and is folded transversely upon itself for providing an outer layer 27 and a top folded edge 28, at the elevation of the tops of the sides 21. The vertical edges of the outer layer 27 are secured to the sides 21 by the vertical lines of stitching 27', and the panel 26 is arranged upon the inner faces of the sides 21 while the layer 27 is upon the outer faces of the same.

Arranged between the panel 26 and the outer layer 27 are a plurality of resilient hoops 29, 30 and 31 which are preferably substantially circular, concentric, and of different diameters so that one is arranged within the other in spaced relation. These hoops are resilient and are preferably formed of piano wire. The wire of the outer hoop 29 has the largest diameter and the wire of the intermediate hoop 30 has its diameter smaller than the wire of the hoop 29 and the wire of the inner hoop 31 has its diameter smaller than the wire of the hoop 30. These differences in diameter are such that the three hoops of different diameters will have substantially the same degree of resiliency and stiffness. In the formation of each hoop, the free ends of the resilient wire are inserted in a metal tube 32, Figure 18, securely attached thereto by pinching the tube upon the ends of the wire. By this manner of securing the ends of the wire together, the welding of such ends together is eliminated, which is disadvantageous inasmuch as the heat from the welding destroys the temper of the resilient wire so that it will locally bend at the point of welding, as illustrated in Figure 22. Each hoop is also formed horizontally curved slightly to fit the shape of the body, Figure 19. The tubes 32 may be arranged at the tops of the hoops, but the invention is in no sense restricted to this arrangement. The panel 26 and the outer layer 27 are secured together by a horizontal line of stitching 33, substantially parallel with the folded edge 28, and the top of the hoop 29 bears against the folded edge 28. A stiff shield 29^a Figures 1, 2, 5, 23 is disposed at the bottom of the hoop 29 and

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is arranged with the hoop between the layers 26 and 27. This shield may be formed of metal or the like and has a horizontal shoulder 30', and a knuckle 31' is carried by the shoulder and pivotally receives the lower portion of the hoop 29. The inner side of the lower portion of the shield is filled in with plastics material 32', secured thereto, so that the inner face of the shield next to the body is substantially flat and continuous. The lower horizontal line of stitching 33 has a depending curved portion 33' which extends beneath the shield to support the same. It is thus seen that the downward pressure upon the bottom of the hoop is transmitted to the shield, and this shield remains in substantially flat contact with the body when the hoop tilts, due to the bending action of the body. While I have shown this shield as applied to the hoop 29, I also contemplate applying the same to the hoops 30 and 31. I may also form the shield from a metal loop 34', Figure 24, and hinge the same to the bottom of the hoop 29 by thread or cord 35', Figure 24. This loop will be arranged between the layers 26 and 27 and will engage within the curved portion 33' of the line of stitching.

It is preferred that the hoop be slightly compressed when placed between the folded edge and line of stitching 33. A continuous elliptical line of stitching 34 connects the panel 26 and the outer layer 27 and has its long axis horizontal. The elliptical line of stitching 34 is arranged within the outer large hoop 29, and will therefore retain the same centered upon the panel but will render the sides of the hoop 29 free to move laterally outwardly, when the hoop is vertically compressed. This is important as the arrangement does not impair the resiliency of the hoop in maintaining the top of the panel raised. The intermediate hoop 30 is arranged within the elliptical line of stitching 34 and bears at its top and bottom against the elliptical line of stitching 34, but its sides are spaced from the ends of the elliptical line stitching 34 so that such sides are free to shift laterally outwardly when the hoop 30 is vertically compressed. A continuous elliptical line of stitching 35 connects the panel 26 and the outer layer 27 and has its long axis horizontal. This elliptical line of stitching 35 is arranged within the intermediate hoop 30 and retains the same centered with respect to the panel, but renders the sides of the hoop free to move laterally outwardly when vertically compressed. The inner hoop 31 is arranged within the elliptical line of stitching 35 and the sides of this inner hoop are spaced from the ends of the elliptical line of stitching 35. A circular line of stitching 36 connects the panel 26 and the outer layer 27 and this circular line of stitching retains the hoop 31 centered with respect to the panel, while permitting its sides to move outwardly toward the ends of the elliptical line of stitching 35. The upper or lower halves of the circular stitching 36 may be omitted or a horizontal line of stitching substituted therefor. The hoop 31 bears at its top and bottom against the elliptical line of stitching 35. All hoops are preferably slightly compressed when held within or between the lines of stitching.

The front layer 27 is covered by a fabric shield or lining 37, preferably formed of satin, and the lines of stitching do not pass through this shield. At its top, the shield is folded over the folded edge 28 and is secured to the panel 26 by a horizontal line of stitching 38, and is secured to the panel at its bottom by a horizontal line of stitching 39. The shield preferably extends down-

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wardly below the outer layer 27. The vertical edges of the shield are preferably secured in place by the zig-zag lines of stitches 27'.

In the use of the garment, when the wearer bends over a downward pressure is applied to the rounded edge 28 of the panel and to the panel at points below this rounded edge. This downward pressure will cause the resilient hoops to vertically yield, but when the pressure is removed the several hoops will again expand to the normal shape and return the panel to its normal raised substantially flat condition. The several hoops are free to yield vertically since their sides are free to shift laterally outwardly when the hoops are vertically compressed. The concentric arrangement of the hoops is advantageous when applied to a girdle having a relatively front panel.

In Figures 6 to 9 inclusive I have shown a modification of the invention. In these figures the numeral 40 designates a girdle having a front panel 41 folded at its top to provide a folded edge 42 and an outer layer 43. The front panel and outer layer are identical with the front panel 26 and the outer layer 37, except that the front panel 41 and its layer 43 are narrower. The second form of girdle is identical with that shown and described in Figures 1 to 5 inclusive, except that the hoop arrangement and the lines of stitching controlling their action is different. In the second form of the invention a vertical group of resilient hoops 44 are arranged between the panel 41 and the front layer 43. The hoops 44 are resilient and are identical with the hoops in the first form of the invention except that they are all of the same size and the wires from which the hoops are formed are of the same diameters, since the hoops will have the same resiliency or stiffness due to the fact that they are of the same size. The upper hoop 44 is overlapped by the intermediate hoop 44 and the lower hoop 44 while the intermediate hoop overlaps the lower hoop 44. The tubes 32 are preferably at the top of the hoops. A line of stitching is arranged within the top of the upper hoop 44 and connects the panel 41 and the layer 43 and includes an upper curved portion 45 and a lower generally horizontal portion 46. The upper curved portion 45 may be omitted if desired. A line of stitching is arranged within the top of the intermediate hoop 44 and includes an upper curved portion 47 and a lower horizontal portion 48 and connects the panel 41 and layer 43. The upper curved portion 47 may be omitted. An elliptical line of stitching is arranged within the top of the lower hoop 44 and the bottom of the upper hoop 44 and includes portions 49 and 50, connecting the panel 41 and the layer 43. Either curved portion 49 or 50 may be omitted or a horizontal line of stitching substituted. A line of stitching is arranged within the bottom of the intermediate hoop and includes an upper horizontal portion 51 and a lower curved portion 52, connecting the panels 41 and 43. The lower curved portion 52 may be omitted. A line of stitching is arranged within the bottom of the lower hoop 44 and includes an upper horizontal portion 53 and a lower curved portion 54, connecting the panel 41 and the layer 43. The lower curved portion 54 may be omitted. A horizontal line of stitching 55 connects the panel 41 and layer 43 and is arranged outwardly of and adjacent to the bottom of the lower hoop 44. In the arrangement shown, the top of the upper hoop 44 bears against the folded edge 42 while its

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bottom bears against the horizontal line of stitching 51. The top of the intermediate hoop 44 bears against the line of stitching 46 while its bottom bears against the horizontal line of stitching 53. The top of the lower hoop 44 bears against the horizontal line of stitching 48 while its bottom bears against the horizontal line of stitching 55. The lines of stitching within the hoops retain them centered with respect to the panel, but leave their sides free to move outwardly laterally, when the hoops are vertically compressed.

In use, when the wearer bends over forwardly, a downward pressure is applied to the panel at its top folded edge and at points beneath this edge, and the several hoops will yield, since their sides are free to move outwardly laterally. When this downward pressure is removed the hoops will return the panel to the raised flat condition.

In connection with the first two forms of the invention it is preferred that the panels and hoops be first assembled, and the panels subsequently attached to the girdle, but of course this is optional.

While it is preferred to retain the hoops in place by the lines of stitching described in connection with the first two forms of the invention, yet the hoops may be retained in place by other means. In Figure 15 I have shown the hoop 29 secured to the panel 26 at its top by a zig-zag line of stitching 56, passing through the panel 26 and inclosing the hoop 29. A similar line of stitching will be employed to secure the bottom of the hoop to the panel. These short lines of stitching will retain the hoop centered with respect to the panel and the hoop will bear against these lines of stitching at their top and bottom. In Figure 16, a loop 57 formed of tape or the like surrounds the top of the hoop 29, and may be secured thereto by cement or the like and the ends of this tape are secured to the panel 26 by lines of stitching 58. A similar tape is employed to secure the bottom of the hoop to the panel and each tape may be cemented to the hoop and stitched to the panel. The hoop will bear at its top and bottom against the loops which will retain the hoop centered while its sides are free to move laterally outwardly.

In Figures 11 to 13 inclusive, I have shown a further modification of the invention wherein a hoop arrangement is employed as an abdomen reducer. In these figures, the numeral 59 designates a corselette including a body portion 60 formed of elastic fabric preferably having a vertical and horizontal stretch and a front panel 61 preferably horizontally and vertically non-elastic. The panel 61 is secured to the body portion 60 by vertical zigzag lines of stitching 62. Outer and inner layers 63 and 63' of preferably non-elastic fabric are secured at their top and bottom to the panel 61 by horizontal lines of stitching 64 and at their vertical edges by zigzag lines of stitching which may be the stitching 62. Arranged between the layers 63 and 63' are resilient hoops 65, 66 and 67, identical with the hoop 29, except that they are of different diameters. The wire forming the hoop 65 has a larger diameter than the wire forming the hoop 66 and the wire forming the hoop 66 has a larger diameter than the wire forming the hoop 67, so that these hoops have substantially the same resiliency or stiffness. These hoops may be flat or only slightly curved horizontally, and if so curved such curvature will be less than the curvature of the abdomen. Surrounding the outer

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hoop 65 in close relation thereto is a circular line of stitching 68, connecting the layers 63 and 63'. A circular line of stitching 69 surrounds the hoop 65 in close relation thereto and connects the layers 63 and 63'. A circular line of stitching 70 surrounds the inner hoop 67 and connects the layers 63 and 63'. The several hoops are arranged in spaced concentric relation and the circular lines of stitching do not permit the hoops to be radially compressed and they are substantially radially rigid. An outer layer or cover 71 extends over the outer layer 63 and is held in place by the lines of stitching 64 and the lines of stitching 62 or separate lines of stitching at the lines of stitching 62.

When the garment is applied to the wearer the hoops 65, 66 and 67 press against the abdomen, forcing the same inwardly and serving as a reducer.

In Figures 25 to 28 inclusive, I have shown a further modification of the invention. In these four figures, the number 75 designates the front panel of the garment corresponding to the panel 26, Figure 1. This front panel includes an inner layer 76 and an outer layer 77. Arranged between the inner and outer layers is a resilient hoop 78 disposed near the upper edge of the front panel. An elliptical line of stitching 79 connects the inner and outer layers 76 and 77 and is arranged within the resilient hoop 78 and retains it centered, while the lower end of the hoop bears against a horizontal line of stitching 80, connecting the inner and outer layers 76 and 77. The resilient hoop 78 is split at the top and its free ends are bent to provide vertical lateral extensions 81.

The numeral 82 designates a shield or guard, which is stiff and preferably formed of metal. This shield is preferably elliptical and horizontally elongated. The shield includes an upper upstanding section 83 and a lower upstanding section 84 connected by a horizontal shoulder 85. Stamped from the lower section 84 are elongated loops or knuckles 86, spaced from the shoulder 85. The loops or knuckles 86 are sufficiently long to permit of the passage through them to the vertical lateral extensions 81, and the hoop then springs upwardly and the extensions 81 bear against the shoulder 85, and free ends of the hoop can not be improperly withdrawn from within the knuckles. The inner and outer layers 76 and 77 are connected by a curved line of stitching 87, forming a pocket to receive the shield 82. The inner face of the upper section 83, next to the wearer, may be covered by a section 88 of plastics material or the like secured to the shield by cement or the like so that the inner face of the shield may be continuous. The lower section 84 may have an opening 84', so that the shield may be stitched to the panel 75. When the section 84 is stitched to the panel, the stitching 87 is omitted.

The resilient hoop 78 is thus held in place between the inner and outer layers 76 and 77 and is under tension so that its free ends tend to move upwardly. The force supplied to the upper end of the hoop 78 and to shield 82 is always in a downward direction, and this force tends to more securely hold the shield upon the ends of the resilient hoop.

In Figures 29 to 31, inclusive, I have shown a further modification of the invention. In this modification, the same panel 75 may be used having the same elliptical stitching 79 and horizontal stitching 80.

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The numeral 86 designates a resilient hoop, held centered by the elliptical line of stitching 79 and bearing against the horizontal line of stitching 80. The upper end of the resilient hoop is split and the free ends are bent downwardly to provide vertical lateral extensions 87.

The numeral 88 designates a coupling to connect the free ends of the hoop. This coupling is formed at its top with a sleeve 89 and has depending flat plates 90 formed integral with its lower portion. Large openings 91 are formed in the plates 90 and the lower portion of the sleeve 89.

The coupling 88 may be formed resilient, so that it can be partly opened and the ends of the hoop 86 passed into the ends of the sleeve 89 and the depending vertical extensions 87 passed between the plates 91. When the extensions 87 move into the openings 91, the plates 90 spring closed into contact with each other. The extensions 87 will then be held within the combined opening produced by the openings 91 and contact with the side walls of such combined opening, whereby the ends of the split ring will be securely locked together. While it is preferred that the coupling be resilient, it need not be resilient and may be formed with the sleeve 89 and plates 90 and formed originally partly open, and when applied to the ends of the resilient hoop, the coupling may be pinched closed. The coupling can be entirely formed upon the ends of the hoop, if desired. There is sufficient space between the ends of the extensions 87 and the bottom of the openings 91 so that the coupling may be stitched to the panel 75, as indicated at 92. The hoop serves to retain the upper end of the garment raised.

While I have shown a single hoop in Figures 25 to 31, inclusive, it is obvious that this hoop may be used alone or with other hoops as indicated in connection with the first and second forms of the invention.

It is to be understood that the forms of my invention herewith shown and described are to be taken as preferred examples of the same, and that various changes in the shape, size and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the subjoined claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A girdle or like garment including a flexible front portion having a top, a flexible layer arranged upon one face of the front portion, a generally elliptical line of stitching connecting the front portion and layer and forming a generally elliptical pocket having a top and bottom and sides, the generally elliptical pocket having its long axis substantially horizontal, and a resilient hoop arranged within the pocket and having a top and bottom and sides, the top of the hoop engaging the top of the pocket and the bottom of the hoop engaging the bottom of the pocket and the sides of the hoop being spaced from the sides of the pocket, the arrangement being such that the hoop may be substantially vertically compressed and its sides will move outwardly toward the sides of the pocket.

2. A girdle or like garment including a flexible front portion having a top, a flexible layer arranged upon one face of the front portion and connected with the front portion for forming a packet having a top and a bottom and sides, a resilient hoop arranged within the packet and having a top and bottom and sides, the top of the

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hoop engaging the top of the pocket and the bottom of the hoop engaging the bottom of the pocket and the sides of the hoop being spaced from the sides of the pocket, a generally elliptical line of stitching connecting the front portion and layer and arranged within the hoop and having a top and bottom and sides, the sides of the generally elliptical line of stitching being arranged close to the sides of the hoop to hold the hoop centered and the top of the line of stitching being spaced from the top of the hoop and the bottom of the line of stitching being spaced from the bottom of the hoop, the generally elliptical line of stitching forming a generally elliptical pocket section having a top and bottom and sides, the long axis of the generally elliptical pocket being arranged substantially horizontal, a second resilient hoop arranged within the generally elliptical pocket section and having a top and bottom and sides, the top of the second hoop engaging the top of the pocket section and the bottom of the second hoop engaging the bottom of the pocket section and the sides of the second hoop being spaced from the sides of the pocket section, and means for retaining the second hoop centered within the pocket section.

3. A girdle or like garment comprising a flexible front portion having a pocket, said pocket having a closed top and a closed bottom and sides, said pocket having a pocket section adjacent to its closed bottom, a resilient hoop mounted within the pocket and having a top and bottom and sides, the top of the hoop bearing against the closed top of the pocket and the bottom of the hoop being disposed adjacent to the pocket section and the sides of the hoop being spaced from the sides of the pocket, and a shield hinged to the bottom of the hoop, said shield including plates extending upwardly and downwardly for a substantial distance beyond that portion of the bottom of the hoop upon which the shield is mounted.

4. In a girdle or like garment, a resilient stiffening device including a resilient hoop, and a shield, said shield comprising a shoulder and oppositely extending plates carried by the edges of the shoulder and offset thereby, and a knuckle secured to the shoulder and pivotally receiving a portion of the hoop, such hoop portion engaging the shoulder.

5. A resilient hoop to be applied to the flexible part of a garment and being split and having lateral extensions at its ends, a coupling sleeve and plates carried by the coupling sleeve, said plates being arranged in close relation and extending generally radially of the sleeve, said sleeve and plates having a common opening formed therein, the sleeves receiving the end portions of the hoop and the common opening receiving the lateral extensions, the lateral extensions engaging the wall of the common opening.

6. A resilient hoop to be applied to the flexible part of a garment and being split and divided at its ends with lateral extensions, a coupling sleeve and plates carried by the sleeve and extending generally radially beyond the same, said plates being provided between their ends with opposed openings which also pass through the adjacent portion of the sleeve, said sleeve receiving the end portions of the hoops and the openings receiving the lateral extensions, the plates being arranged in close relation when the sleeve receives the end portions of the hoop.

7. A girdle or like garment comprising a body portion having an upper end which is depressed

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by the movement of the body, means for opposing the downward movement of said upper end and returning the same to the raised position, said means including an upstanding resilient hoop including a top and sides and a bottom, said hoop being split and having end portions, the end portions being arranged substantially within the circumference of the hoop, a stiff tube receiving both end portions of the hoop for connecting them, the stiff tube being clamped to the end portions, means for securing the resilient hoop to the body portion and movably securing said sides to said body portion so that the sides may move outwardly in a generally horizontal direction with relation to the body portion when the top is depressed.

8. A girdle or like garment comprising a body portion having an upper end which is depressed by the movement of the body, means for opposing the downward movement of said upper end and returning the same to the raised position, said means including an upstanding resilient hoop including a top and sides and a bottom, a shield pivotally mounted upon the top of said hoop and including a side which is adapted to bear against the body of the wearer, and means for securing the resilient hoop and shield to the body portion and movably securing said sides to the body portion so that such sides may move outwardly in a generally horizontal direction with relation to the body portion when said top is depressed.

9. A girdle or like garment comprising a body portion having an upper end which is depressed by the movement of the body, means for opposing the downward movement of said upper end and returning the same to the raised position, said means including an upstanding resilient hoop including a top and sides and a bottom, said hoop being split at its top forming ends which are provided with lateral extensions, a shield provided with attaching elements having openings to receive the ends of the hoop, the lateral extensions engaging behind the attaching elements to prevent the ends from being withdrawn from within said openings, and means for securing the resilient hoop and shield to the body portion and movably securing said sides to the body portion so that such sides may move outwardly in a generally horizontal direction with relation to the body portion when the top is depressed.

10. A girdle or like garment comprising a body portion having an upper end which is depressed by the movement of the body, means for opposing the downward movement of said upper end and returning the same to the raised position, said means including an upstanding resilient hoop including a top and sides and a bottom, said hoop being split at its top for forming ends which are provided with lateral extensions, and a shield arranged at the top of the hoop and provided with knuckles having openings to receive the ends of the hoop, the knuckles being arranged outwardly of the lateral extensions.

11. A girdle or like garment comprising a body portion having an upper end which is depressed by the movement of the body, means for opposing the downward movement of said upper end and returning the same to the raised position, said means including an upstanding resilient hoop including a top and sides and a bottom, said hoop being split at its top for forming ends which are provided with generally vertical extensions, and a shield arranged at the top of the hoop and having knuckles provided with openings to

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pivotally receive said ends, the knuckles being arranged outwardly of the vertical extensions.

12. A girdle or like garment comprising a body portion having an upper end which is depressed by the movement of the body, means for opposing the downward movement of said upper end and returning the same to the raised position, said means including an upstanding resilient hoop including a top and sides and a bottom, said hoop being split at its top for forming ends which are provided with generally vertical extensions which are upwardly faced, and a shield having knuckles, said knuckles having openings which are sufficiently large for the passage of said extensions, said extensions being adapted to engage behind said knuckles.

13. A girdle or like garment comprising a body portion having an upper end which is depressed by the movement of the body, means for opposing the downward movement of said upper end and returning the same to the raised position, said means including an upstanding resilient hoop including a top and sides and a bottom, a shield pivotally connected with the hoop near a vertical center line of the hoop, said shield having one end extending outwardly beyond the hoop and its opposite end extending inwardly beyond the adjacent portion of said loop, said shield having a side which is adapted to bear against the body of the wearer, and means for securing the hoop and shield to the body portion.

14. A girdle or like garment comprising a body portion having an upper end which is depressed by the movement of the body, means for opposing the downward movement of said upper end and returning the same to the raised position, said means including an upstanding resilient hoop including a top and sides and bottom, shield means mounted adjacent to the bottom of the hoop and near a vertical center line of the hoop, said shield means having relative swinging movement with respect to the hoop and bearing

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against the bottom of the hoop, said shield means extending outwardly beyond the hoop and also extending inwardly beyond the adjacent portion of the hoop, said shield means being adapted to bear against the body of the wearer, and means for securing the hoop and shield means to the body portion.

15. A girdle or like garment comprising a body portion having an upper end which is depressed by the movement of the body, means for opposing the downward movement of said upper end and returning the same to the raised position, said means including an upstanding resilient hoop including a top and sides and a bottom, a shield pivoted upon the top of said hoop near a vertical center line of the hoop, said shield extending outwardly beyond the hoop and also extending inwardly beyond the adjacent portion of the hoop, said shield having a side which is adapted to bear against the body of the wearer, and means for securing the hoop and shield to said body portion.

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