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L. E. SCOFIELD

COMBINED CORSET AND BRASSIÈRE

Filed Nov. 24, 1925

3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 2.

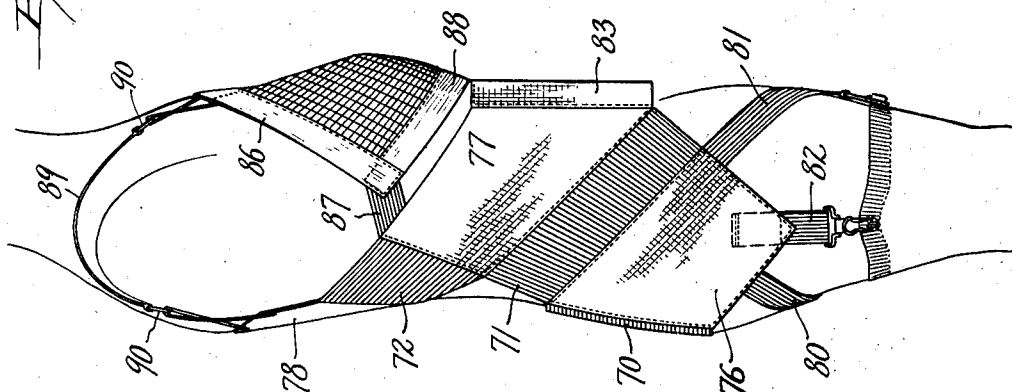
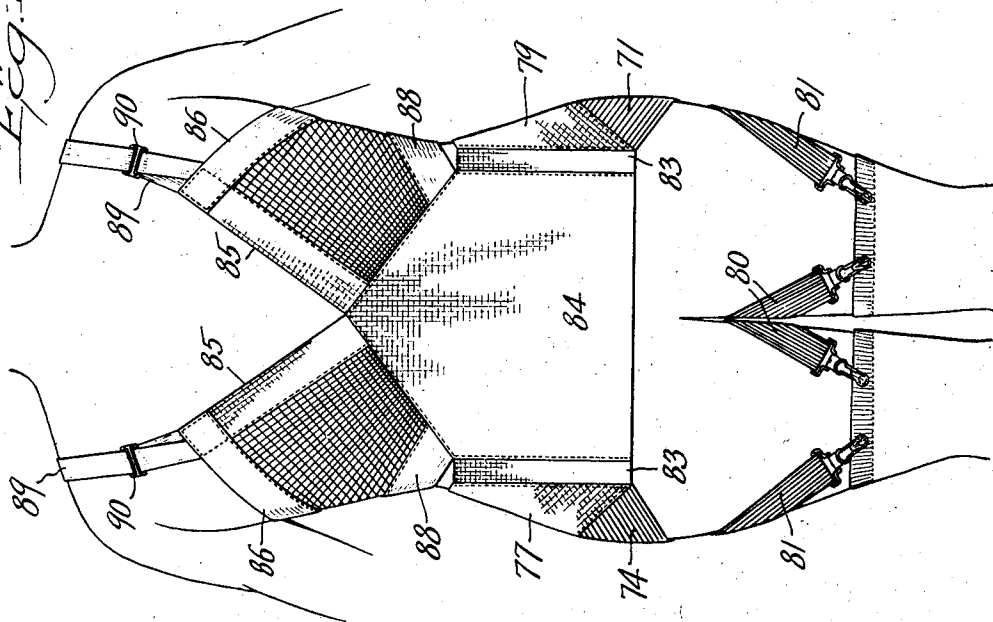


Fig. 1.



WITNESS

Oliver W. Holmes

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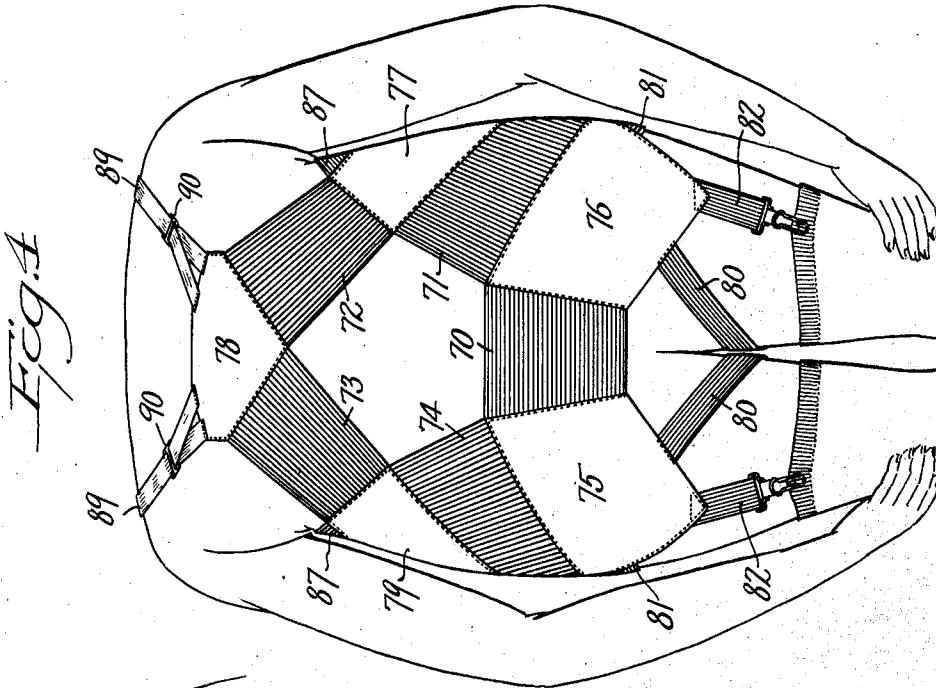
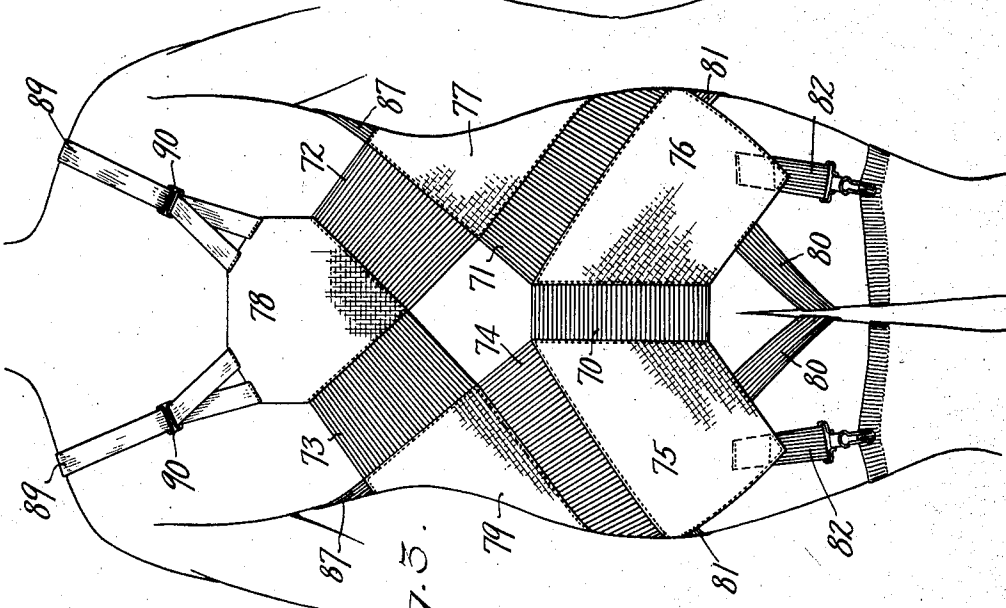
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WITNESS

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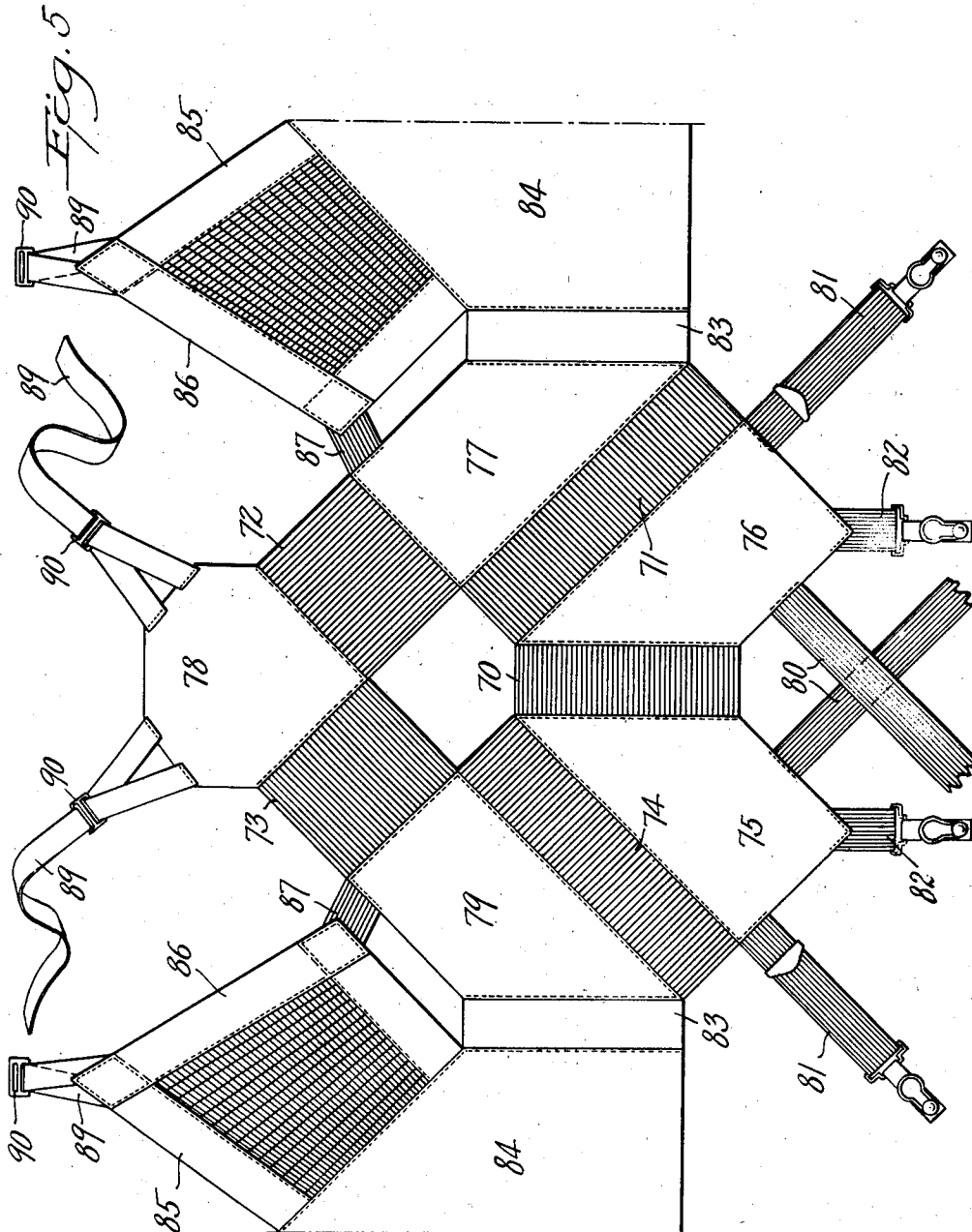
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3 Sheets-Sheet 3



WITNESS

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LILLIAN E. SCOFIELD, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

COMBINED CORSET AND BRASSIÈRE.

Application filed November 24, 1925. Serial No. 71,252.

This is a continuation in part of my previous application filed July 23, 1924, Serial No. 727,825.

This invention relates to an undergarment comprising a combined corset and brassière which has been particularly designed to remedy certain defects met with in the ordinary type of corset.

With the ordinary corset, the compressive forces are all substantially horizontal, that is to say, the forces have no vertical components, and the forces on a given horizontal plane are equal and balanced, so that there is no tendency for the corset to straighten up the body of the wearer to the correct posture.

One of the essential and basic ideas involved in this corset is to provide a garment which imposes at different levels forces acting in directions so as to form a couple which tends to straighten up the body to correct standing position.

In the case of the average stout woman, the stomach and abdomen tend to project too far to the front and the seat tends to project too far to the rear, thus throwing the center of gravity of the body off of the proper vertical line, a situation which oftentimes results in backache for the woman.

The effect of such drooping of the body results in a deformation of the skeleton from its proper erect position. The backbone leans forward, the ribs are forced together, and the shoulder blades are tipped outward. I have found that if the skeleton is restored to its proper erect position, the abdomen will take its natural shape without applying sensible pressure thereto. I have also discovered that this restoration of the bones of the body to their proper position cannot be effected by any horizontal tensions nor by vertical stays, but can only be corrected by the application of forces acting as a couple and that the couple must be applied with one force acting upwardly and rearwardly under the breasts, with the other force of the couple applied inwardly at the hips. Such a couple will tend to straighten up the backbone, pivoting the body on the hip joint to its proper vertical position, expanding the anterior ribs and forcing in the shoulder blades.

My invention comprises means to make such a couple effective, I provide an anterior member in the form of a brassière and a posterior member back of the hips and connect the two members with diagonal bands of

alternate cloth and elastic members. Anchorages must be provided. For the lower anchorage I extend a diagonal band from the compressive member posterior to the hips to garters secured in front of the leg to a stocking. For the upper anchorage I extend straps passing over the top of the shoulders from a cloth member on the shoulder blades to the brassière. Where necessary, diagonally elastic members are incorporated between inelastic cloth members so that the garment will permit the easy movement of all parts of the body, its simple function being to apply an elastic straightening-up force to the skeleton of the body without applying severe circumferential compression at any one point. Owing to the anchorages on the legs and the shoulders, the vertical tensions engendered by the diagonal elastic bands will all be added together and applied to the vertical members of the skeleton of the wearer or, to put it in another way, the various horizontal forces applied to the front of the leg, the rear of the hips, and shoulder blades and under the breasts, are made to result in couples tending to straighten up the body on the hip joint as a hinge, the longitudinal tensions engendered thereby being all borne by the vertical members of the skeleton.

In the drawings:—

Figure 1 is a front view of the garment applied to a figure.

Figure 2 is a side view of the same.

Figure 3 is a rear view of the same.

Figure 4 is a rear view of the same in a stooping position.

Figure 5 is a view of the same cut in two and laid out in plan.

The back of the corset is composed of five rectangular pieces of elastic webbing 70—71—72—73 and 74 alternately seamed to five pieces of cloth 75—76—77—78 and 79. Two of these cloth members 75 and 76 are at the base of the garment and with the elastic webbing 70 between them, form a posterior member adapted to press yieldingly against the seat of the wearer, the elasticity of the web 70 being sufficient to allow the expansion of the hips that follows when the wearer takes a sitting position. These lower pieces of cloth are made of trapezoidal form each having its diagonal edge seamed to the central elastic band 70. This manner of attachment disposes these pieces diagonally to the vertical and their angle of inclination, which should be about 45°, determines the angles of

all the other pieces of the back as all the other pieces have their edges either parallel or at right angles to the parallel sides of these trapezoidal pieces. It follows from this bias construction, that the garment is vertically and horizontally elastic and therefore permits the easy flexure of the body into any position. Garters 80 and 81 lead off at right angles from these lower cloth members and when secured to a stocking form a means of anchoring the said lower members forward of the leg, so as to induce a forward pull on the said members. Side garters 82 may also be provided. The forward pull of the garters passes diagonally across the seat of the wearer and thence thru elastic bands 71—74 and cloth side members 77—79 where the strain is passed on thru side fillers 83 to an anterior cloth member 84. The side pieces 77—79 are also trapezoidal and are complementary to the lower members 75—76; in their case the diagonal or bias sides being seamed to the fillers 83. The angle of the bias of these trapezoidal members will be slightly different for different figures. Thus for example, if the wearer is shorter between the upper and lower convexes of the rear of the torso, the said angle may be increased as for example, to 50°. The anterior member 84 has a horizontal lower edge, two vertical sides and an angular top with its apex adapted to lie between the breasts of the wearer. From this apex, straps 85 extend diagonally to points over the breasts, where they are secured to complementary straps 86 leading from the back of the garment to which they are secured by straps 87. From the junction of the straps 86 and 87, other straps 88 pass to the base of the angular top of the anterior member. From the junction of the upper straps 85—86 shoulder straps 89 which may have buckles 90 are adapted to pass over the shoulders of the wearer and are secured to the top member 78 of the back part of the corset. The straps 85—86 and 88 with the diagonals of the apex of the anterior member 84, form symmetrical pear-shaped quadrilaterals which are covered with net or other suitable fabric, preferably gathered at the lower edges so as to form pockets for sustaining the breasts. The effect of the weight of the breasts will be passed up thru the shoulder straps and down thru the back members, over the shoulder blades and hips and thence forward through the garters to exert a rearward force on the legs at the knees. It will be seen from the construction that while the stresses all follow diagonal lines, thus giving free lateral expansion, they result in a purely forward and back couple. Starting from the garter anchorage at the front of the leg the stress passes diagonally by means of the garters and the base pieces 75—76 to the seat of the wearer. From thence the stress passes diagonally upward

and forward thru elastic bands 71—74 and side members 77—79 to the anterior member 84, and to the shoulder blade member 78. The top back member 78 exerts its forward pull by resting on the upper convex of the back. It will be observed that the diagonal downward force due to the weight of the breasts coacting with the diagonal pull of the garters have their vertical components resisted by the skeleton structure so that couples are generated that have for their horizontal factors forward stresses against the shoulder blades and hips and rearward forces against the knee and the anterior upper ribs. The effect of these couples is to tend to straighten up the body of the wearer. The stresses being all along diagonal lines, there is no need for, and it is a prime object of this invention to prevent, such compression around horizontal zones as is a common feature of corsets. With my improved garment, the body is free to expand laterally at any part, as clearly shown in Figure 4. The elastic members 70—74 surrounding the open space yield in all directions to the expansions which all center in the middle of the back. It will be seen too that the stresses transmitted to the part 78 are redistributed diagonally right and left to the sides and from thence are again redistributed diagonally to the garters, particularly the inner garters.

I prefer to make the cloth members of double thickness with the finished side of the cloth turned toward the outside. This gives a very strong construction and a finished appearance. It is important also to insure that the warp and weft of the cloth members shall run in the proper directions to properly carry the stresses. In the drawings I have indicated in each member the warp threads by full lines and the weft by dotted lines. By careful observance of these points, the lines of the garment will be preserved and the stresses properly cared for.

I claim:—

1. An undergarment comprising alternating diagonal posterior members of cloth and elastic, garters attached at the lower portion thereof adapted to pass diagonally around each leg and be attached to the front of the hose on each side of the median line of the leg, a brassière, and shoulder straps extending from said posterior members to said brassière whereby the strain from the weight of the breasts passed over the shoulders diagonally over the back and thence diagonally over the hips is taken up by the garters to give a backward effect on each leg at the knee balanced against a forward effect on the hips and shoulder blades to tend to straighten up the frame of the wearer.

2. An undergarment comprising posterior hip members, garters extending from the front of the knee diagonally to both sides of each leg to the posterior hip members tend-

ing to straighten the knees and throw the upper parts of the thigh bones forward, an anterior member, diagonal elastic members connected thereto, shoulder straps, and a
 5 brassière connected by the shoulder straps through diagonal elastic members to the sides of the anterior member and to the hip members so that the weight of the breasts will be lifted off the diaphragm and the stress there-
 10 from carried over the shoulders and diagonally down to the side of the anterior member and thence rearwardly to the hip member and forwardly by the garters to be finally balanced by a direct backward force on the
 15 knee.

3. An undergarment comprising an anterior cloth member adapted to fit against the stomach of the wearer, diagonal side cloth members attached to each side of the ante-
 20 rior member and extending upwardly and rearwardly therefrom, diagonal elastic bands extending downwardly and rearwardly from said side members, diagonal hip cloth members extending downwardly and rear-
 25 wardly from said elastic bands, and garters extending downwardly and diagonally from the said hip members, an elastic band connecting the hip members across the back below the waist, diagonal upper elastic mem-
 30 bers above the waist line, a cloth shoulder member uniting the upper elastic members, a brassière attached to the top of the anterior member, and shoulder straps connecting the top of the brassière to the shoulder member.

4. A brassière, an upper posterior cloth member adapted to rest on the shoulder blades, shoulder straps connecting the bras-
 35 sière and said upper posterior member, two lower posterior cloth members fitting diagonally across the hips, diagonal elastic webbing connecting said upper and lower mem-
 40 bers, and two pairs of garters leading diagonally from said lower members, each pair adapted to extend on each side of one leg of

the wearer to be secured to the front of the
 45 hose of the wearer at points equi-distant from the median line of the knee whereby a vertical couple is established tending to lift the breasts and press forward the shoulder blades and hips while leaving ample room
 50 for lateral expansion.

5. An anterior cloth member across the stomach of the wearer, an upper posterior member across the shoulder-blades, a bras-
 55 sière and shoulder straps uniting the said posterior and anterior members, a lower posterior member adapted to lay diagonally across the hips, garters leading diagonally from said member and diagonal elastic side members uniting the said anterior member
 60 with said upper and lower posterior members, whereby the diagonal elastic members cooperating with the cloth members transfer a rearward effort against the knees, a forward effort against the hips and shoulders
 65 and a lifting effort applied to the breasts to a vertical stress on the skeleton frame of the wearer.

6. A corset comprising at the back five elastic bands seamed alternately with five non-
 70 elastic cloth members, all of said pieces being diagonal to the vertical with two of the cloth members at the base, two at the side and one at the top, a front member of cloth having
 75 diagonal upper seams, intermediate cloth spacing bands between the front member and bias edges of the two cloth side members of the back, garters attached in pairs to the base cloth members of the back, the garters
 80 of each pair being at an angle to the vertical and adapted to reach around each side of a leg and meet a stocking at points equi-distant the median line of the front of the leg, and a
 85 brassière attached to the diagonal seams of the upper part of the front member and having shoulder straps connecting with the upper cloth member of the back.

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