To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, Theodore J. Wall, a citizen of the United States, residing at Buffalo, in the county of Erie and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Bustles or Distenders, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to bustles or distenders such as are usually worn under the clothing.

The object of this invention is to produce a bustle or distender of this character which is light and washable, and which is constructed to permit of free ventilation, thereby rendering the same more comfortable to the wearer owing to the absence of any heating effect and also rendering the same perfectly sanitary.

In the accompanying drawings consisting of 2 sheets: Figure 1 is a front view of one form of my improved bustle or distender. Fig. 2 is a side view of the same. Fig. 3 is a vertical section, on a reduced scale, taken centrally through Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a rear elevation of the bustle shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 5 is a side view showing a modification of a bustle embodying my invention. Fig. 6 is a vertical section, on a reduced scale, of the last mentioned construction.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views.

The body of the bustle or distender shown in Figs. 1–4 consists of a pair of crescent-shaped marginal bands of tape or similar material which are arranged side by side and consist each of a lower transverse portion a and two upright portions a', a' projecting upwardly from opposite ends of the lower portion, and a plurality of pairs of intermediate bands B, B' arranged transversely one above the other to form a tier and having their opposite ends connected with the upright portions of the marginal bands, and one or more vertical spacing or retaining bands C connected with the intermediate parts of the marginal and intermediate bands and serving to hold the same in the proper position relatively to each other. Around this body is arranged a marginal ruffle D of crescent-shape which has a lower transverse portion d and two upright portions d' extending upwardly from opposite ends of the transverse portion. The inner or upper edge of this marginal ruffle is free or disconnected from the marginal bands of the body throughout its length. Within the marginal ruffle a plurality of intermediate ruffles E are arranged transversely each of which extends from one upper right part of the marginal ruffle and bands to the other and is secured at its upper edge between the members of one of the intermediate pair of body bands while its lower edge is unattached from end to end said body. The intermediate ruffles are so arranged and of such width that the lower edge of each overlaps the upper edge of the one next below the same so that together the several ruffles form a mass or cluster of ruffles. The uppermost pair of intermediate bands B are arranged at the upper ends of the upright portions of the marginal bands and ruffle and one member of this uppermost pair of intermediate bands, preferably the front one, as shown in Fig. 1, is extended to form tie strings F whereby the bustle or distender may be fastened around the waist or other part of the body of the wearer to which the distender is to be applied.

By constructing the body by means of the bands in the form of a skeleton in the manner described the amount of material in the bustle and weight of the same is reduced to a minimum, thereby avoiding undue heating of the person which otherwise would be produced, rendering the same particularly desirable for use by persons having ailments which are injuriously affected by such heating. Furthermore this construction of the body of the bustle permits free circulation of air through the same which also tends to keep the same cool.

The entire bustle is made of fabric, thereby permitting the same to be washed as readily as other clothing and rendering the same sanitary.

Inasmuch as the lower or outer edges of the ruffles are all free or disconnected from the body throughout their length the same may be easily and properly ironed after being washed.

By constructing the marginal part of the bustle in the form of a crescent-shape ruffle and the intermediate part thereof by means of a plurality of transverse ruffles, these ruffles are permitted to merge one into another so as to taper off at the edge of the bustle, thereby causing the same to lead evenly over to the body of the wearer and
fit the same so that the outer garment will lie smoothly on the body and bustle and no wrinkles or depressions will be perceptible at the edge of the bustle. Furthermore by arranging the outer ruffle and band of the body in crescent form a strong and durable structure is produced which is not liable to derangement under the strain to which the same is subjected while in use.

Instead of constructing the body of the bustle of skeleton or open work form, as shown in Figs. 1-4, the same may be constructed of a solid or perforate sheet of fabric G, as shown in Figs. 5 and 6. This last mentioned construction has all the advantages of the first mentioned except that it is somewhat warmer, heavier and lacks the capacity of thorough ventilation.

I claim as my invention:

1. A bustle or distender comprising a body, a crescent shaped marginal ruffle having its transverse portion secured to the lower edge of the body and its side portions secured to opposite vertical edges of the body, and a plurality of intermediate ruffles secured transversely to the body one above the other within the marginal ruffle and having their opposite ends terminating at different points along the upright parts of the marginal ruffle, substantially as set forth.

2. A bustle or distender comprising a skeleton body composed of a marginal band of crescent-shape having a lower transverse portion and two upright portions extending upwardly from opposite ends of the lower portion, and a plurality of intermediate bands arranged transversely one above another and each connected at opposite ends with the upright portions of the marginal band, a marginal ruffle of crescent-shape secured to said marginal band, and a plurality of intermediate ruffles secured to said intermediate bands, substantially as set forth.

3. A bustle or distender comprising a skeleton body composed of a marginal band of crescent-shape having a lower transverse portion and two upright portions extending upwardly from opposite ends of the lower portion, a plurality of intermediate bands arranged transversely one above another and each connected at opposite ends with the upright portions of the marginal band, and a plurality of intermediate ruffles each of which is secured between the members of a pair of intermediate bands, substantially as set forth.

4. A bustle or distender comprising a skeleton body composed of a pair of marginal bands of crescent-shape having its members arranged side by side and each consisting of a lower transverse portion and two upright portions extending upwardly from opposite ends of said transverse portion, and a plurality of pairs of intermediate bands arranged transversely one above another, the members of each intermediate pair being arranged side by side and connected at opposite ends with the upright portions of said marginal pair, a marginal ruffle secured between the members of said marginal pair of bands, and a plurality of intermediate ruffles each of which is secured between the members of a pair of intermediate bands, substantially as set forth.

5. A bustle or distender comprising a skeleton body composed of a marginal band of crescent-shape having a lower transverse portion and two upright portions extending upwardly from opposite ends of the lower portions, and a plurality of intermediate bands arranged transversely one above another and each connected at opposite ends with the upright portions of the marginal band, a marginal ruffle of crescent-shape secured to said marginal band, a plurality of intermediate ruffles secured to said intermediate bands, and tie strings forming extensions at opposite ends of the uppermost intermediate band, substantially as set forth.

6. A bustle or distender comprising a skeleton body composed of a pair of marginal bands of crescent-shape having its members arranged side by side and each consisting of a lower transverse portion and two upright portions extending upwardly from opposite ends of said transverse portion, and a plurality of pairs of intermediate bands arranged transversely one above another, the members of each intermediate pair being arranged side by side and connected at opposite ends with the upright portions of said marginal pair, a marginal ruffle secured between the members of said marginal pair of bands, a plurality of intermediate ruffles each of which is secured between the members of a pair of intermediate bands, and tie strings forming extensions of one of the members of the uppermost pair of intermediate bands, substantially as set forth.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 1907.

THEODORE J. WALL.

Witnesses:

Theo. J. Popp,
E. M. Graham.