

ANNIE V. WHITTIER & CALISTA ANDREWS.

CORSET.

No. 175,224.

Patented March 21, 1876.

Fig. 1

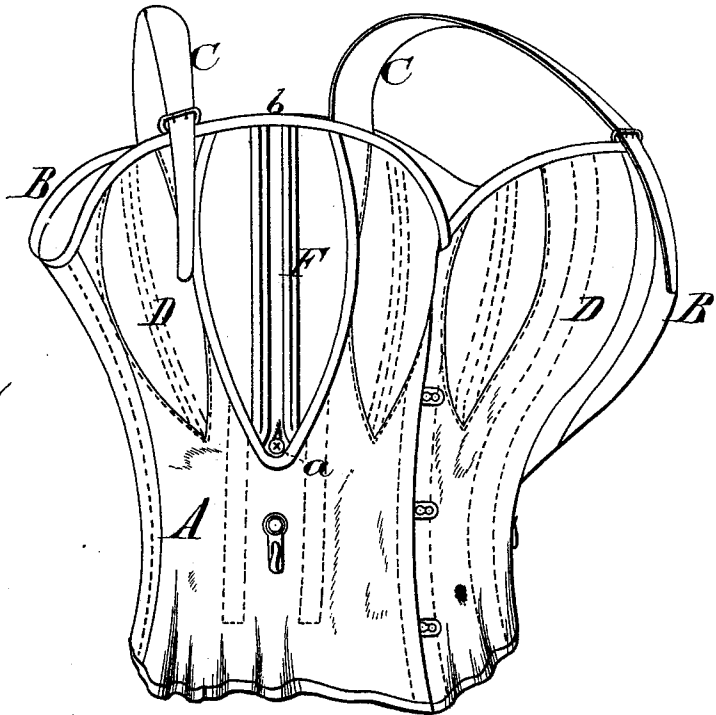
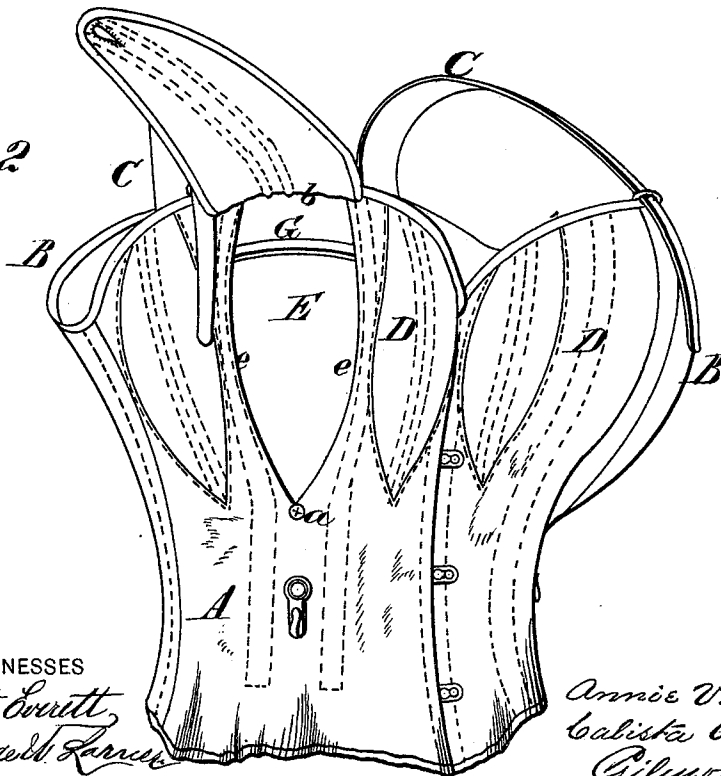


Fig. 2



WITNESSES

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INVENTOR &

Annie V. Whittier
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Gilman & Co.
ATTORNEYS.

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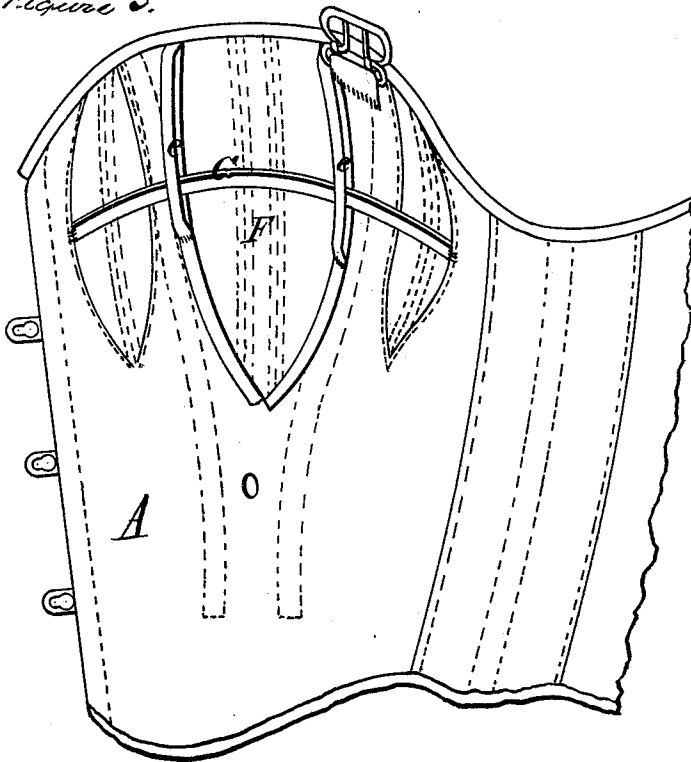
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Figure 3.



WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ANNIE V. WHITTIER AND CALISTA ANDREWS, OF OBERLIN, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN CORSETS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **175,224**, dated March 21, 1876; application filed February 19, 1876.

To all whom it may concern :

Be it known that we, ANNIE V. WHITTIER and CALISTA ANDREWS, of Oberlin, in the county of Lorain and State of Ohio, have invented a new and valuable Improvement in Corsets; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings are representations of perspective elevations of our corset, and Fig. 3 is a detail view thereof.

This invention has relation to corsets which are designed for mothers who suckle their children; our object being to allow an exposure of the breast without the necessity of unfastening the front stays of the corset or detaching any portion of the upper edge thereof, as will be hereinafter explained.

Prior to our invention the breast portions of corsets have been formed with slits, which were open at the top and provided with flaps for closing said slits when not nursing a child. The objection to such corsets is that there is no provision for keeping those portions which cover the breasts expanded by bows, and also keeping their upper edges connected when the flap or flaps were partially detached for nursing a child.

In the annexed drawings, A designates the body of the corset, B B the upper portion of the back thereof, C C the shoulder-straps, and D D the expanded breast portions.

The back portions of the corset are united by a lacing-string, and the front portion by buttons and eyes, in the usual well-known manner.

An opening, E, is made through one of the breast portions D, which extends from a button, *a*, to the upper edge of said portion, and is connected by a binding-tape and edging, *b*, to which a flap, F, is suitably stitched. When this flap F is brought down and secured to the button *a* it completely covers the opening E and protects from view the parts behind it.

The edges of the opening E have whalebones or their equivalents stitched to them, which, with other stiffeners stitched into the breast portions, preserve the proper form of these portions.

G designates a bow of suitable material, which is stitched to the back of each breast portion and extends transversely across the opening E near the upper terminus thereof. This stiffening-bow keeps the breast portion properly expanded, and the bow is fastened at its ends only, and plays freely up and down through loops formed by the whalebones *c c*. This allows the bow G to be raised out of the way while suckling a child.

What we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The flap F, stitched along its upper edge to the connecting strip *b*, in combination with the breast-opening E and fastening *a*, substantially as described.

2. In combination with the opening E and flap F, the stiffening-bow G, movable as described.

In testimony that we claim the above we have hereunto subscribed our names in the presence of two witnesses.

ANNIE V. WHITTIER.
CALISTA ANDREWS.

Witnesses:

BENJAMIN HECKERT,
ANN A. SOPER.