

(No Model.)

J. S. CROTTY.
DRESS STAY.

No. 559,683.

Patented May 5, 1896.

Fig. 1.

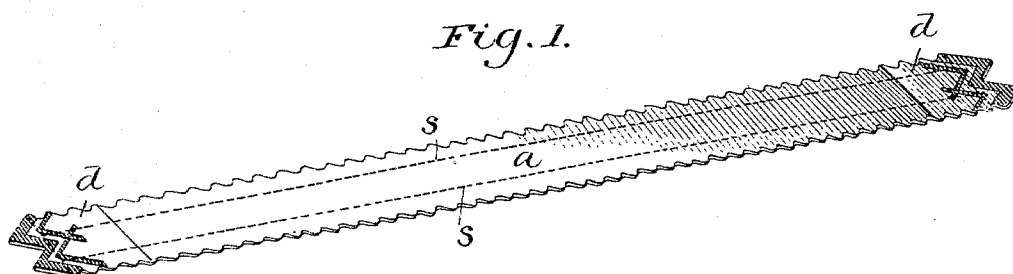


Fig. 2.

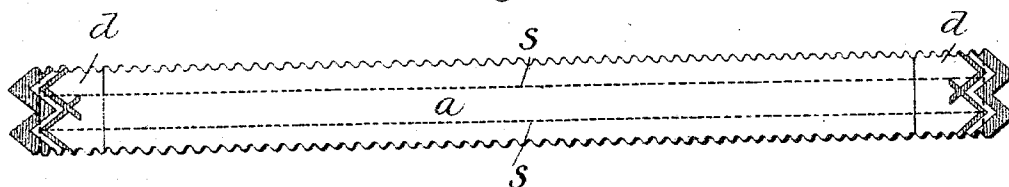


Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.

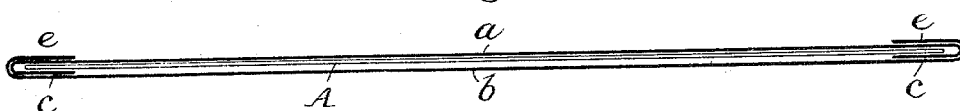
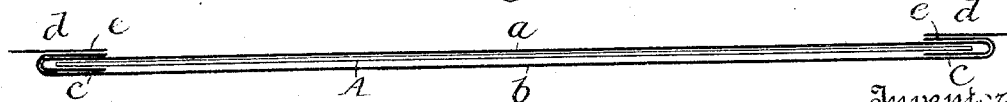


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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DRESS-STAY.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 559,683, dated May 5, 1896.

Application filed December 2, 1895. Serial No. 570,766. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN S. CROTTY, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Dress-Stays, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to dress-stays, and has for its object to construct a stay with very little manipulation and without the use of any intricate or unusual machinery and of such a character that the ends of the stay will be protected and not work through the dress; and to this end I cover the blade with two strips folded across the ends, as fully set forth hereinafter, and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved dress-stay; Fig. 2, a plan view; Figs. 3, 4, and 5, longitudinal sections illustrating the progressive formation of the stay.

The blade A may be of steel or of any of the materials for stiffening purposes in dress-stays and is cut to the proper length and is then placed upon a strip *a*, which may be coated with paste, if necessary, and the ends of the strip *cc* are then folded over the blade, as shown. If desired, the strip *a* may be of sufficient width to form a dozen or more stays, in which case a dozen or more blades A are placed side by side, but separated from each other, and the entire strip is bent over at *cc*, and after subsequent operations the material is severed between the separate blades. After the ends *cc* have been folded over, the blade thus partly covered is placed upon another strip *b*, longer than the blade, and the ends *ee* of this strip are then folded over upon the blade and upon the strip before applied, the uncovered face of the blade being applied to the strip *b* and the latter or the blade being coated with suitable cement or other material, if desired; or in some instances the cement may be wholly dispensed with or used only at the ends. There is then applied to either one or both ends of the article, in such position as to lie over the intumed ends *e* of the strip *b*, cap-pieces *d*—one at each end—of the same width as that of the covering-strips, but preferably projecting a little beyond the end of the covered blade, and ornamented, being either a different color or with a surface orna-

mentation that will impart an ornamental effect to the stay. Two rows of stitching *ss* are then sewed along the entire length of the stay adjacent to the side of the blade, passing through both the cover-strips *a b*, through the folded ends *c* and folded ends *e*, and through the cap-pieces *d*, thereby securing the blade in place, securing the covering-strips to the blade and the cap-piece to the strips. It will therefore be seen that by such stitching, with the strips arranged as described, the use of paste is not absolutely essential, although I prefer in many instances to employ it, because it serves to give a neater finish to the edges of the stay, where they are preferably scalloped or pinked.

It will thus be seen that without any slitting of the strips or covering-pieces, or without any other manipulation than is required merely to fold the end of each strip over the end of the blade, I am enabled to secure two thicknesses of material opposite each end of the blade and in addition to protect the end by the projecting cap-piece, and that thus these ends will not tend to wear through the dress as readily as they would without such protection. I am aware that different means have been employed for securing the additional thickness of material at the ends of the blade of stays; but I am not aware of any which can be applied with such facility and so readily and with so little manipulation as by the folding in in opposite directions of the two strips as I have before described. It will also be seen that the cap-pieces not only increase the thickness of the stay at the ends and tend to prevent the ends from working into the dress, but they also add greatly to the ornamental appearance of the article.

In some instances where a cheaper stay is required the parts may be cemented together in place of stitching, and, if desired, the stays may be run between embossing-rolls, making a series of indentations *ss*, imitating stitches.

Without limiting myself to the precise construction and arrangement shown and described, I claim—

1. A dress-stay consisting of a blade having a covering-strip *a* applied to one side, and folded over at the end in one direction, and another covering-strip *b* applied to the opposite side and folded over the ends in the op-

posite direction with two rows of stitching *s*, securing the covering-strips together on opposite sides of the blade, substantially as set forth.

- 5 2. A dress-stay consisting of a blade having a covering-strip *a*, applied to one side, and folded over at the end in one direction, and another covering-strip *b*, applied to the opposite side and folded over the ends in the opposite direction the parts secured together, substantially as set forth.

- 10 3. The combination in a stay, of a blade, a covering-strip *a*, applied to one side and folded over the ends in one direction, another strip

b applied to the other side and folded over the ends in the other direction, and a cap-piece *d* at one or both ends, and two rows of stitching passing through both covering-strips and through the cap-piece on opposite sides of the blade, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN S. CROTTY.

Witnesses:

JOHN LAWRIE,

D. D. AUSTIN.