No. 717,830. PATENTED JAN. 6, 1903.

L. M. FERGUSON.

DRESS SHIELD.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 5, 1902.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 1.

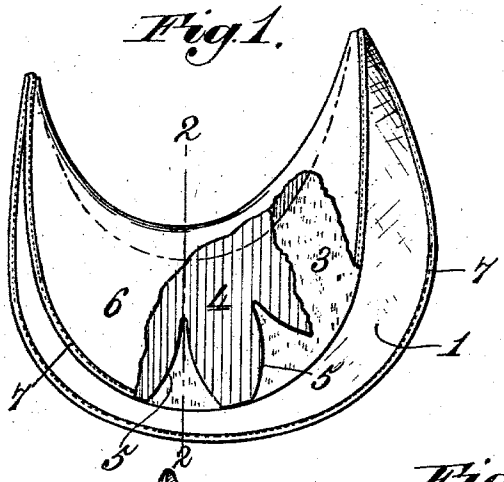


Fig. 2.

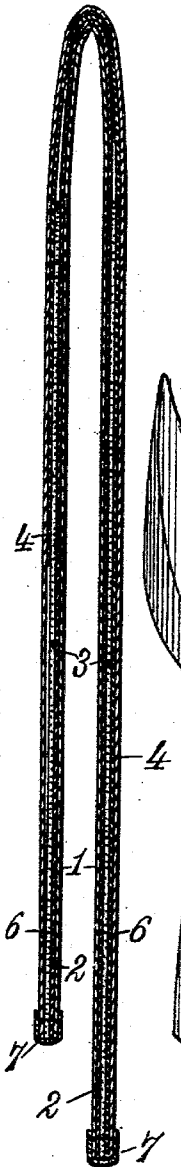


Fig. 3.

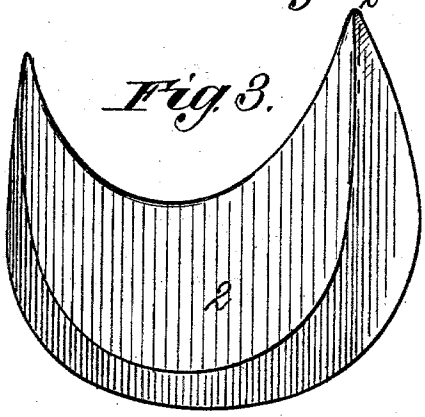


Fig. 4.

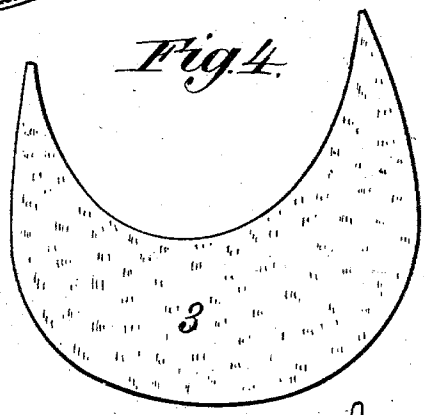


Fig. 5.

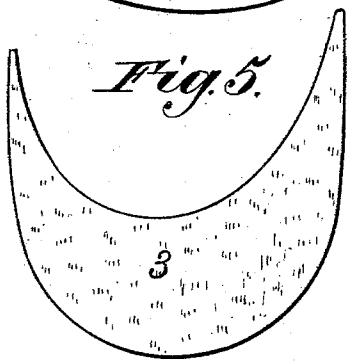
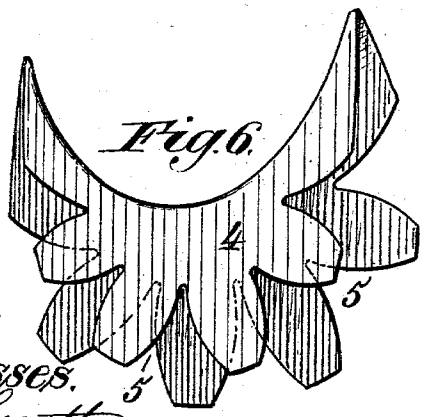


Fig. 6.



Witnesses.
Robert Everett.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LETA M. FERGUSON, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

DRESS-SHIELD.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 717,830, dated January 6, 1903.

Application filed April 5, 1902. Serial No. 101,537. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LETA M. FERGUSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented new and useful Improvements in Dress-Shields, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to dress-shields, and has for its object to provide an improved construction of the same whereby the perspiration will be effectually collected and retained without unduly increasing the thickness of the shield at the armpit. This object I accomplish in the manner and by the means hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved shield, the same being shown partly broken away to show the interior construction. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view taken on the line 2 2, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a detail view of the outer waterproof layer. Figs. 4 and 5 are similar views of the intermediate absorbent layer. Fig. 6 is a similar view of the inner waterproof layer.

Similar numerals of reference denote corresponding parts in the several views.

In the said drawings the reference-numeral 1 denotes the outer protecting layer of fabric; 2, the outer layer of waterproof material, such as rubber; 3, the intermediate layer of absorbent material, such as flannel or felt, the same being formed in two separate pieces, one for each flap of the shield, for a purpose hereinafter to be described; 4, the inner layer of waterproof material, such as rubber, the same being provided along its edges with a series of cut-away portions or substantially V-shaped indentations 5, as shown; and 6, the inner protecting layer of fabric.

The absorbent layer 3 I form in two pieces, one for each flap of the shield, as the same does not extend up to the armpit except at its extreme ends for the purpose of attachment, as shown in Fig. 1, thereby leaving the shield at the armpit thinner and preventing undue perspiration at that point, as well as not interfering with the fit of the dress.

The inner layer of waterproof material 4 I provide with the V-shaped indentations 5 in order to provide for access of the perspiration to the underlying absorbent layer 3, the parts of said layer 3 intermediate said indentations extending to the edges of the shield, as shown, for attachment to prevent working up or wrinkling of the same.

To confine the edges of the shield, I employ a binding-strip 7 and prefer to use for the same a waterproof material, such as rubber-impregnated fabric, as is commonly used in dress-shields. I also prefer to make that flap of the shield that is to go next to the body of the wearer somewhat wider and longer than the arm-flap in order to absorb the greater secretion of perspiration from the body.

In use the relatively thinner portion of the shield coming under the armpit will not tend to increase the heat and perspiration at that point, while the perspiration secreted will run down the inner sides of the waterproof layer 4 until the indentations 5 are reached, when it will pass into the underlying absorbent layer 3 and be held, the same acting by capillary attraction to absorb the perspiration throughout its whole surface, even in that portion above the indentations 5. The binding-strip 7, being waterproof material, will not become soaked with perspiration, and thus ruin the dress around the edges of the shield.

I am aware that it is old to provide an inner layer of waterproof material with a series of small perforations to permit the perspiration to pass therethrough to the underlying absorbent layer; but such a construction is by no means as efficient as the hereinbefore-described indentations, as it is well known that a liquid will have a tendency to avoid such perforations and to run down the waterproof layer and off the edge of the shield into the dress of the wearer. This defect my improved construction avoids, as the perspiration must run off the edges of the indentations, and thus be absorbed by the layer 3.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A dress-shield, comprising an external imperforate layer of waterproof material, an intermediate layer of absorbent material, and an internal layer of waterproof material provided with a series of substantially V-

shaped indentations extending from the lower edge of the shield part way up the same to expose the underlying absorbent material, substantially as set forth.

2. A dress-shield, comprising an external imperforate layer of waterproof material, an internal layer of waterproof material provided with indentations along its edges, each of said layers formed in one piece and extending throughout the whole area of both flaps of the shield, and an intermediate layer of absorbent material formed of two pieces, one for each flap, and cut away so as to terminate at their centers some distance below the point of juncture of said flaps but united at their extreme ends to retain them in position, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

LETA M. FERGUSON.

Witnesses:
HUGH M. STERLING,
PERCY B. HILLS.