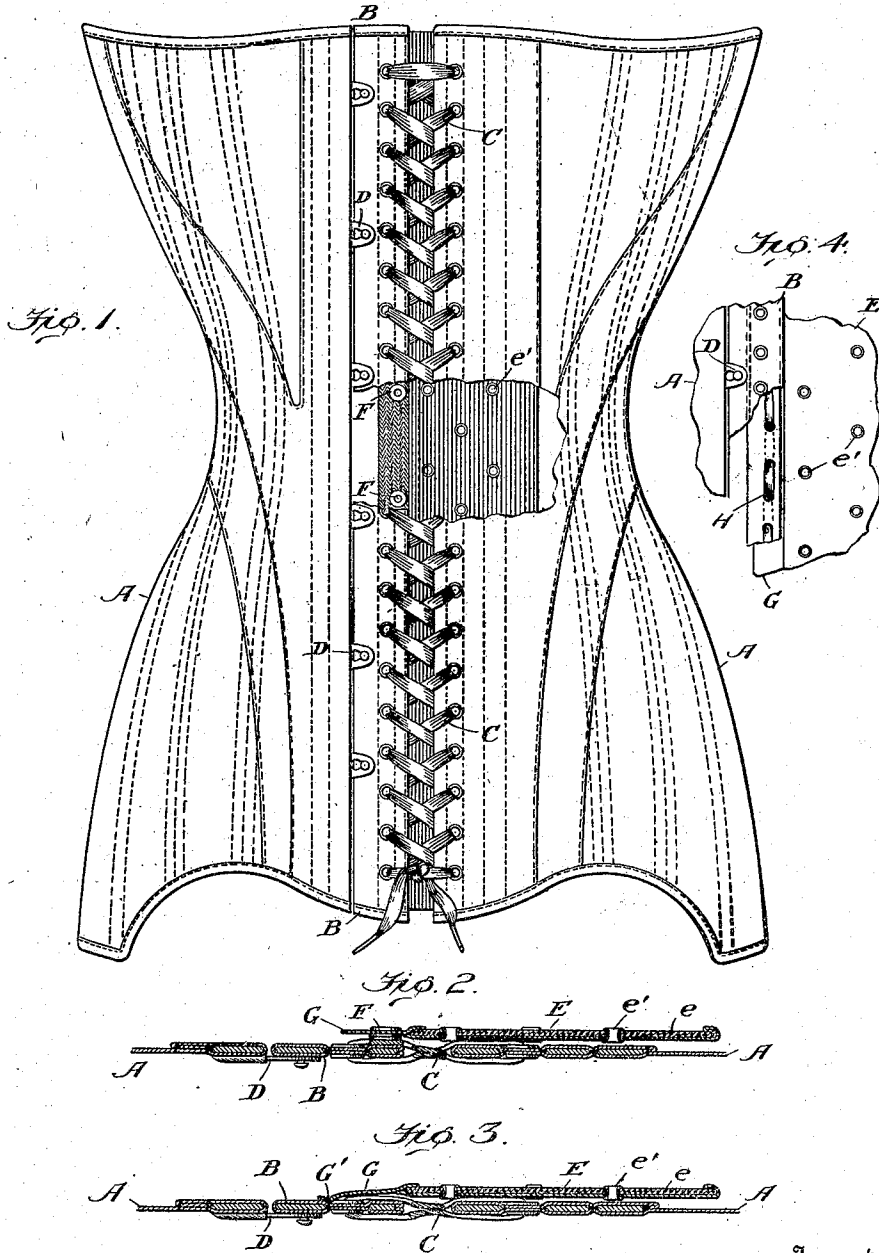


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CORSET.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARGUERITE L. SOBRA, a citizen of the United States, and resident of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Corsets; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, and to the figures and letters of reference marked thereon.

This invention relates to corsets and particularly to that type of corsets embodying in their construction a body portion and a floating edge which is adjustably connected with one edge of the body portion by lacing or equivalent adjustable fastening means, the said floating edge and the opposite edge of the body portion being provided with complementary detachable fastening means adapted to be opened or separated for the removal and application of the garment to the body.

One of the principal objects of the invention is to provide a means whereby the opening or space between the floating edge and the body of the corset which is bridged by the lacing may be so protected as to present a smooth surface for contact with the body of the wearer by protecting means which will prevent the protrusion of the flesh of the wearer between the lacings, and at the same time be of such character and so mounted and supported that the adjustability will not be interfered with, nor will the protecting means be wrinkled or forced out of proper position in fastening and tightening the garment around the body.

A secondary object of the invention is to provide a corset of the type above referred to with a shield bridging on the inner side the adjustable space between the floating edge and the body portion, which shield at one of its edges is secured in position in such manner that it may be readily removed and as readily attached in position for use without impairing the appearance, style or fit of the garment.

Referring to the accompanying drawings,—Figure 1 is an elevation of a corset embodying the present improvements, a portion being broken away to illustrate the underlying shield arranged on the inner side of the adjustable opening between the floating edge and corset body. Fig. 2 is a

detail section in a horizontal plane through a portion of the front of the corset illustrating the location and arrangement of the shield in the preferred construction. Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2 but illustrating a construction in which the shield is permanently connected with the inner side of the floating edge instead of being detachably connected therewith as in Figs. 1 and 2. Fig. 4 is a detail view showing the shield removably held in place by a lacing.

Like letters of reference in the several figures indicate the same parts.

In said drawings, the reference letter A indicates the portion of a one piece corset of any usual or preferred style, and B a floating edge which is connected with one edge of the body portion by adjustable fastening means such as the usual lacing C. The floating edge itself and the opposite edge of the body portion are provided with permanent complementary fastening devices or means indicated at D, such as are customarily employed in garments of this kind. The fastening devices or means D are preferably, as usual, connected with the edge bones of the corset, and the edge bone, if so desired, may constitute practically the only stiffening device in the floating edge.

In accordance with the present invention there is attached to the inner portion of the floating edge, one edge of a shield E, which shield is adapted to extend across on the inner side of the adjustable opening between the floating edge and the edge of the body to which it is laced or adjustably connected. In the preferred construction the edge of the shield is detachably connected with the floating edge as by a series of separable fasteners F, Fig. 1, or the lacing H, Fig. 4, so that it may be readily applied or detached should it be desirable or necessary to do so, although it will be understood that the edge of the shield may be permanently connected with the inner side of the floating edge, as by stitches G' shown in Fig. 3 of the drawings. The material of which the shield is composed is of such character that while it is flexible so as to conform readily to the shape and movements of the body of the wearer and of the overlying corset, yet it is sufficiently stiff to absolutely prevent any protrusion of the soft flesh into the adjustable lacing opening. The preferred material is a heavy webbing woven with both its edges finished and embodying or having incor-

porated in it rubber strands *e* which will effectually prevent any wrinkling of the shield, or the formation of permanent bends or irregularities therein. The shield may be 5 perforated or provided with eyelets, as indicated at *e'*, for the purpose of ventilation, and in general style it is, of course, preferably covered or made to conform to the style and finish of the corset itself. By attaching 10 the edge of the shield to the floating edge of the corset and permitting the free edge of the shield to extend across the adjustable opening to a point beneath the body of the corset, it will be noted that when the corset 15 is put on and the floating edge is drawn over and the complemental fastenings brought into engagement the shield is under transverse tension, so that it cannot wrinkle and will always present a smooth inner surface which 20 substantially conforms to the lines of the corset itself. As shown in the drawings, the extreme edge of the shield which is attached to the floating edge is made more flexible than the body of the shield, and is conveniently formed by a vertically arranged tape 25 *G* which is permanently secured to the edge of the shield and is itself provided with the separable fasteners or has its edge sewed to the inner side of the floating edge just beyond the eyelet openings for the adjusting 30 lacing, thereby leaving the lacing openings free for the lacing to slip when the corset is adjusted to fit the dimensions of the body. When the shield is detachably fastened in 35 place as by the lacing *H* or separable fasteners *F*, the attachment may be on either side of the lacing opening, but it is always preferred to have the edge of the shield containing the eyelets or fasteners of less thickness than the body of the shield, so as to 40 avoid the formation of projections on the inner side of the corset.

Having thus described my invention, what

I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is:

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1. A corset comprising a body portion having fastening means permanently secured at one edge and a floating strip having permanent complemental fastening means and adjustably laced to the opposite 50 edge of the body, said strip and edge to which it is laced being in substantial alignment and a shield formed by a pliant body detachably fastened at one edge directly to the inner side of the floating strip parallel 55 with the strip, said shield extending across the lacing opening and underlapping but free from and unattached to the edge of the body to which the strip is laced, said shield forming a bridge across the lacing opening 60 to prevent protrusion of the flesh of the wearer through between the lacing.

2. A corset comprising a body portion having fastening means permanently secured at one edge and a floating strip hav- 65 ing permanent complemental fastening means and adjustably laced to the opposite edge of the body, said strip and the edge to which it is laced being in substantial alignment and a shield formed of heavy fabric 70 having rubber incorporated therein and with ventilating apertures, said shield being secured at one edge directly to the inner side of the floating strip parallel with the strip and extending across the lacing opening and 75 underlapping but free from and unattached to the edge of the body to which the strip is laced, said shield forming a bridge across the lacing opening to prevent protrusion of the flesh of the wearer through between the 80 lacing.

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