(No Model.)

H. O. CANFIELD.

BUSTLE.

No. 359,711. Patented Mar. 22, 1887.

FIG. 1.

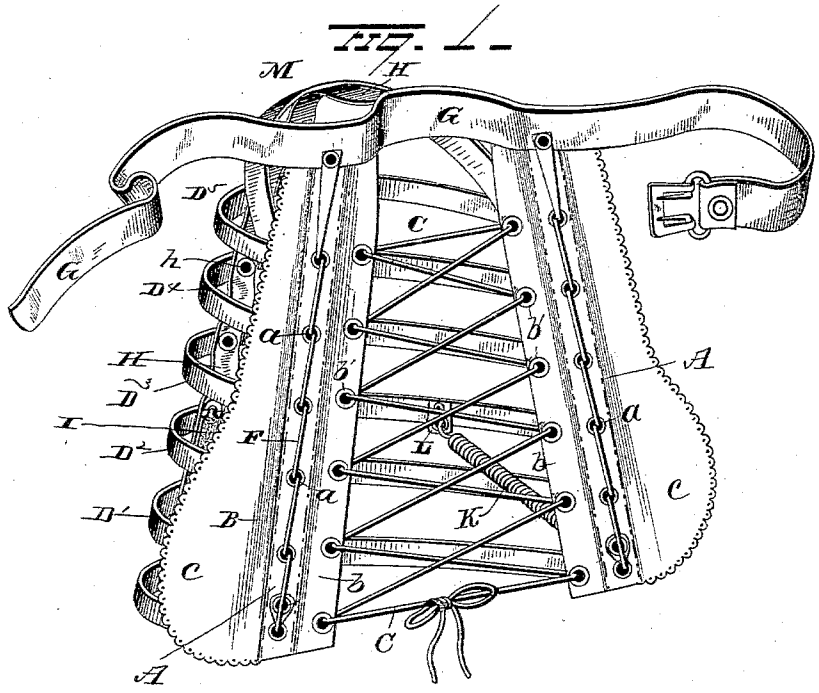


FIG. 2.

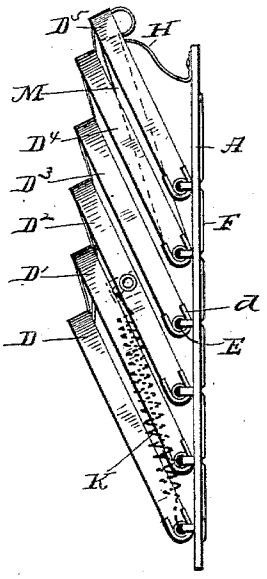


FIG. 3.

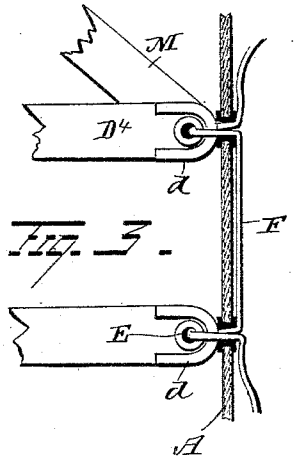
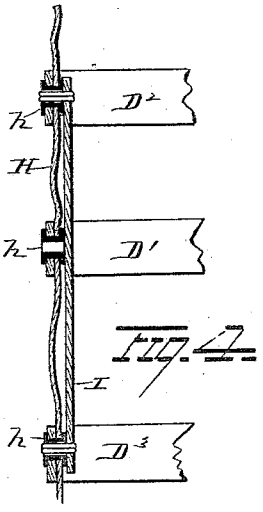


FIG. 4.



WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY O. CANFIELD, OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR TO THE CANFIELD RUBBER COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

BUSTLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 359,711, dated March 22, 1887.

Application filed September 10, 1886. Serial No. 213,239. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY O. CANFIELD, of Bridgeport, in the county of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bustles; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to an improvement in bustles.

The object is to provide a bustle which will collapse into a flattened form when subjected to pressure, as in assuming a sitting posture, and which will automatically assume its extended form as soon as the pressure is removed.

A further object is to provide simple and convenient means for securing the curved bars to the side strips, and for insuring the return of the several bars to their proper positions relatively to each other and to the side strips, and in general to provide a light, durable, graceful, and inexpensive bustle.

With these ends in view my invention consists in certain features of construction and combinations of parts, as will be hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a view of the bustle with parts extended. Fig. 2 is a view of same collapsed. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section through one of the side strips, showing manner of securing the bars thereto; and Fig. 4 is a partial vertical section through the middle points of the bent bars, showing the spacing-strip.

A A represent a pair of side strips, preferably incased in firm fabric B, which projects inwardly in narrow strips *b*, provided with eyelets *b'* along the edges, for the reception of a lacing, C, and project outwardly in the form of skirts or flaps *c*, the edges of which may be finished in a neat attractive manner by an edging or embroidery.

The side strips, A, are each provided with a series of eyelets, *a*, at such a distance apart as it is desired to place the curved bars.

D D' D², &c., represent a series of reeds or spring-bars, gradually decreasing in length from the lower one, D, to the upper one. The ends of the spring-bars are preferably bound by metallic clips *d*, as is common, and are provided with eyelets E.

The bars D D', &c., are secured to the side strips by means of a tape or lacing, F, the lower end of which is secured firmly to the face of the side strip conveniently by an eyelet, *a*², at a point above the eyelet, to which the ends of the lower bar D is secured. From its point of fastening the tape or lacing extends down to and through the lower eyelet *a*, thence through the eyelet E in the end of the spring-bar, thence back through the eyelet *a*, and up along the face of the strip A to the next eyelet *a*, where it secures the end of the spring-bar D' in the same manner as it did the end of D. The ends of each of the bars D D', &c., are secured successively by the tape or lacing F, and the latter at its upper end is secured to the upper end of the strip A, preferably by means of an eyelet, *a'*, which also secures the band or strap G.

The above-explained method of securing the ends of the spring-bars enables them to swing freely.

A flat tape, H, is secured to the several spring-bars at their middle points by eyelets *h*, set through the spring-bars and tape, and the lower bar is further connected with the second or other bar above it by a short spring-bar, I, of the same general construction as the bars D D', &c. The bar I is located in front of the tape H, and is secured to the bars D D² by means of a lacing, which extends through the eyelets *h* and through the eyelets in the ends of the bar I. By means of the bar I the three (more or less) lower bars, D D' D², &c., are retained at the proper distance apart, but are free to be rocked.

A pair of fine spiral springs, K, have one end secured at the ends of the lower bar D, or at the lower ends of the side strips, A, or to the loops formed by the securing tape or lacing F. The opposite ends of the spiral springs are secured to tags L, attached to the second or other spring-bar, at points about half-way between the ends and middle of the spring-bar. The bars which the springs connect are preferably somewhat larger and stiffer than the others, but not necessarily so.

The effect of the springs K is to hold the

three or more lower bars D D' D², &c., in a normally-extended adjustment at right angles to the side strips, A, and hence, because of the attachment of the strip H, to draw the remaining bars down into position.

To afford a stay for the upper bars, and also to give the bustle a gracefully-rounded shape from the top band to the top bars, D⁵, and at the same time render the upper portion of the bustle capable of being pressed into a flat adjustment, I provide a diagonal spring-bar, M, the ends of which are secured in the same loops which secure the ends of some one of the bars D D', &c., below the upper one, preferably the second from the top, and the bow of which extends above the upper bar, D⁵. The tape H is attached to the middle of the bar M and to the back of the band G. The band G consists of a strong strip of webbing firmly secured to the upper ends of the side strips, A, and to the fabric which incases them. The lacing C serves to draw the ends of the spring-bars together, and thereby change the shape of the bustle, making it more or less prominent, as may be desired.

It will be observed that the bars, when pressed from the bottom, are free to swing upwardly into a position which will render the bustle essentially flat, and that when such pressure is removed the tension of the springs K will promptly return the bars to their extended positions. Furthermore, the weight of the dress and skirts is received on the crown of the diagonal bar M and in a direction nearly in line with its length, which prevents it from being sprung out of shape, as is liable to be the case with the horizontal upper bar or bars when used alone.

It is evident that slight changes might be resorted to in the arrangement and shapes of the different parts described without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention; hence I do not wish to limit myself strictly to the construction herein set forth; but,

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

1. In a bustle, the combination, with a pair of side strips extending throughout the length of the bustle and having perforations, a series of horizontal spring-bars having perforated ends, and a tape connecting said spring-bars, of pivoting devices secured to the side strips and passing through the perforated ends of the spring-bars for pivotally connecting the latter to the side strips, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination, with side pieces, a series of horizontal or approximately horizontal spring-bars having perforated ends, and pivoting devices secured to the side pieces and passing through said perforated ends for pivotally connecting the said spring-bars to said side pieces, of the diagonal spring-bar loosely secured in position, with its bow extending above the upper horizontal spring-bar, substantially as set forth.

3. In a bustle, the combination, with a pair of side strips provided with series of perforations, of a series of spring-bars provided with perforations in their ends, and a tape or lacing adapted to secure the ends of the spring-bars to the side strips in swinging adjustment, substantially as set forth.

4. In a bustle, the combination, with a set of spring-bars secured to side strips in swinging adjustment, of a tape connecting the crowns of the several bars with the top band, a spacing-bar connecting the lower horizontal bar with a bar above it, and diagonal springs connecting one of the bars above the lower bar with the lower ends of the side pieces, whereby the several bars are automatically returned from a collapsed to an extended adjustment, substantially as set forth.

5. The bustle consisting, esentially, of the perforated side strips, horizontal spring-bars perforated at their ends, a lacing for securing the spring-bars to the side strips, the diagonal spring-bar the bow of which extends above the upper horizontal spring-bar, the spacing-bar connecting two or more of the horizontal spring-bars, and the springs, all of the above parts combined substantially as set forth.

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

HENRY O. CANFIELD.

Witnesses:
FRED W. HALL,
I. B. PRINDLE.