L. W. LITCH.

CORSET STEEL REINFORCER.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 12, 1909.

1,024,087. **Patented Apr. 23, 1912.**

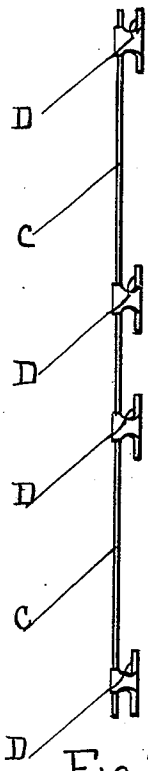

FIG. 3.

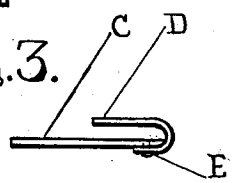

FIG. 2.

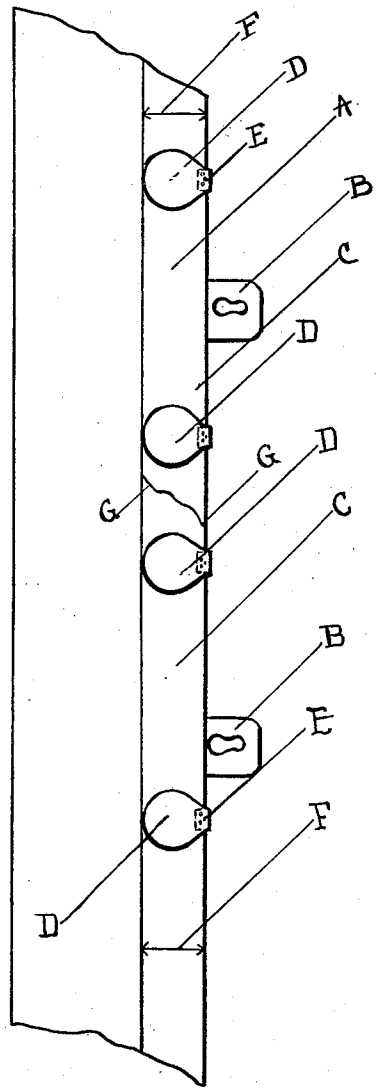

FIG. 1.

WITNESSES:

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CORSET-STEEL REINFORCER.

1,024,087. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Apr. 23, 1912.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEMUEL W. LITCH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Lynn, in the county of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Corset-Steel Reinforcer, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in corset steel reinforcers and has for its object the provision of a device of this character constructed in such manner as to efficiently brace and reinforce a corset steel through a considerable portion of its length under normal conditions and also serving to quickly and permanently repair a broken corset steel.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will be set forth in the detailed description which now follows.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 is a side view of a corset steel showing my appliance in position, Fig. 2 is an end view of my appliance and Fig. 3 is an edge view of my appliance.

Like letters designate corresponding parts in all of the figures of the drawing.

In Fig. 1, A designates the corset steel proper and B the loop or catch of the corset steel which is engaged by the hook upon the opposed corset steel, not shown. It is customary to designate the entire structure indicated by A as a "corset steel" though it is well known that it comprises a fabric covering and an interior metallic stiffening rib the width of which is indicated at F.

The parts so far described are all of the usual and well known structure.

The member comprising the invention consists of a spring strip C to which the hard-tempered metal heads or flanges D are secured by rivets E. This member is applied to the "corset steel" as shown in Fig. 1, that is, the strip C lies upon one side of said "steel" and the overhanging heads or flanges D lie upon the opposite side thereof, the space between said flanges and the strip being such as to cause the reinforcing member to frictionally engage the "steel" whereby it is firmly held in position upon said "steel." Under normal conditions the strip C and the flanges D serve merely to brace, strengthen and reinforce the corset steel but if said steel should become broken, as indicated by the line G—G, the reinforcing member serves to repair the steel by permanently holding the two portions thereof in alinement with each other. It will be observed, when the device is positioned upon the corset-steel, the spring strip lies upon one side of said steel and the hard tempered or rigid flanges upon the other side, so that, as the corset-steel is bent against said flanges or hooks, they being hard tempered or rigid, retain their relation to the spring strip and draw or bend said strip with the steel, at the same time reinforcing said strip whereby it will be strong enough to resume its normal position. The term, hard tempered metal heads D, is used to distinguish the characteristic or condition of the metal in said heads or flanges from that used in the spring strip C, which is spring tempered, therefore, what is meant by hard tempered in the present instance is, metal conditioned to a hardness, such as tool steel, which lacks the spring and elasticity of spring tempered metal. As thus constructed, with the device positioned upon the corset steel having the spring strip upon one side and the hard tempered flanges upon the other side thereof, the said corset steel will be reinforced by the device, and as the heads or flanges lack the spring of the strip to which they are secured, it is obvious that they cannot be bent or sprung out of their normal relation with the spring strip, but will necessarily retain their normal relation, holding their grip upon the corset steel, and prevent any creeping or disarrangement of the device.

From the foregoing description it will be seen that simple and efficient means are herein provided for accomplishing the objects of the invention, but while the elements herein shown and described are well adapted to serve the purposes for which they are intended it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the precise

construction set forth, but includes within its purview such changes as may be made within the scope of the appended claim.

Having described my invention what I claim is:—

A reinforcing member for corset-steels, comprising a spring strip of such length as to extend along a considerable portion of the length of the corset-steel, and a plurality of separate, independently formed, hard-tempered or rigid flanges attached to said spring strip, said flanges having one end spaced apart and lying in parallel relation to said spring strip.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand.

LEMUEL W. LITCH.

Witnesses:
ELSA M. SMERLING,
CHARLES W. LOVETT.