

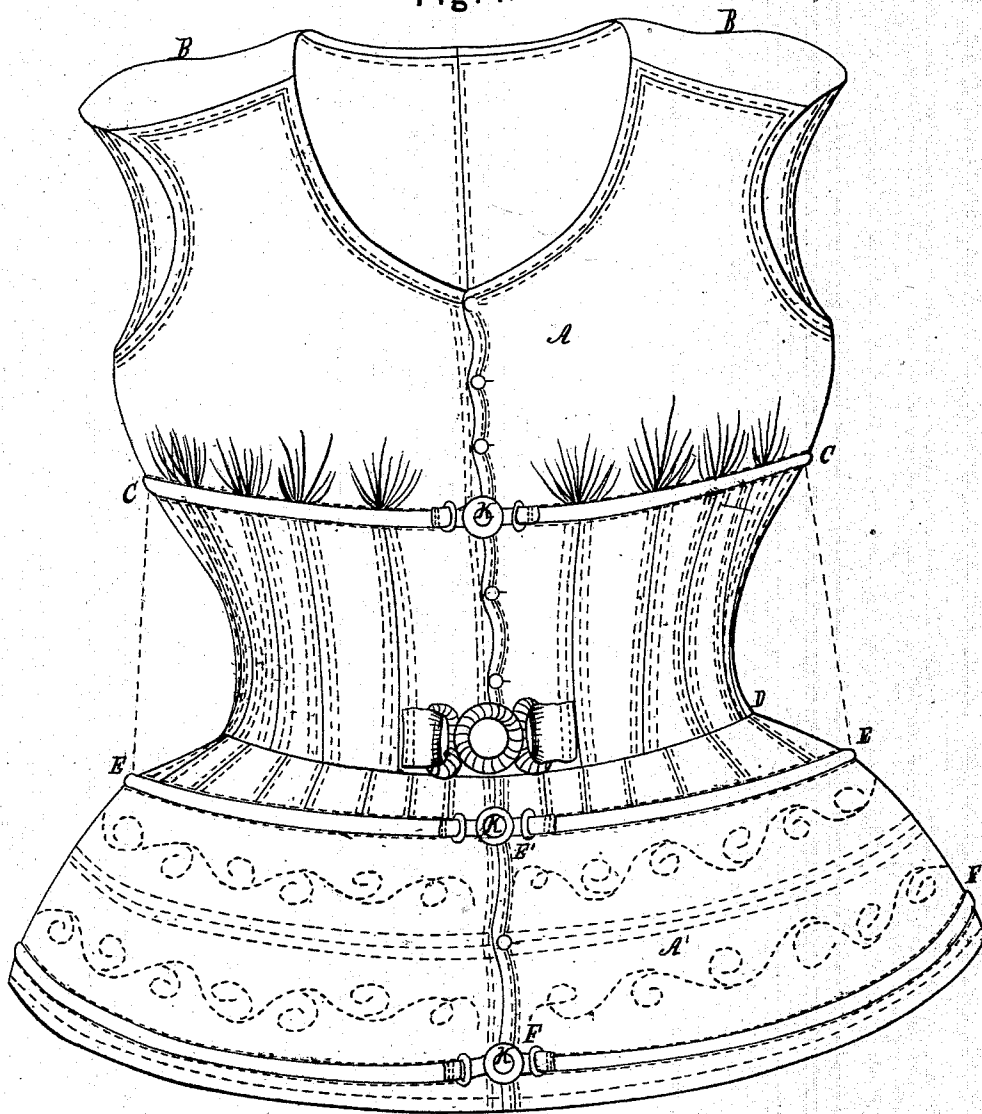
H.F. Brown.

Corset.

N^o 26,473.

Patented Dec. 20. 1859.

Fig. 1.



Witnesses.

Ephraim Sheffield
J. Brainerd

Inventor.

H.F. Brown

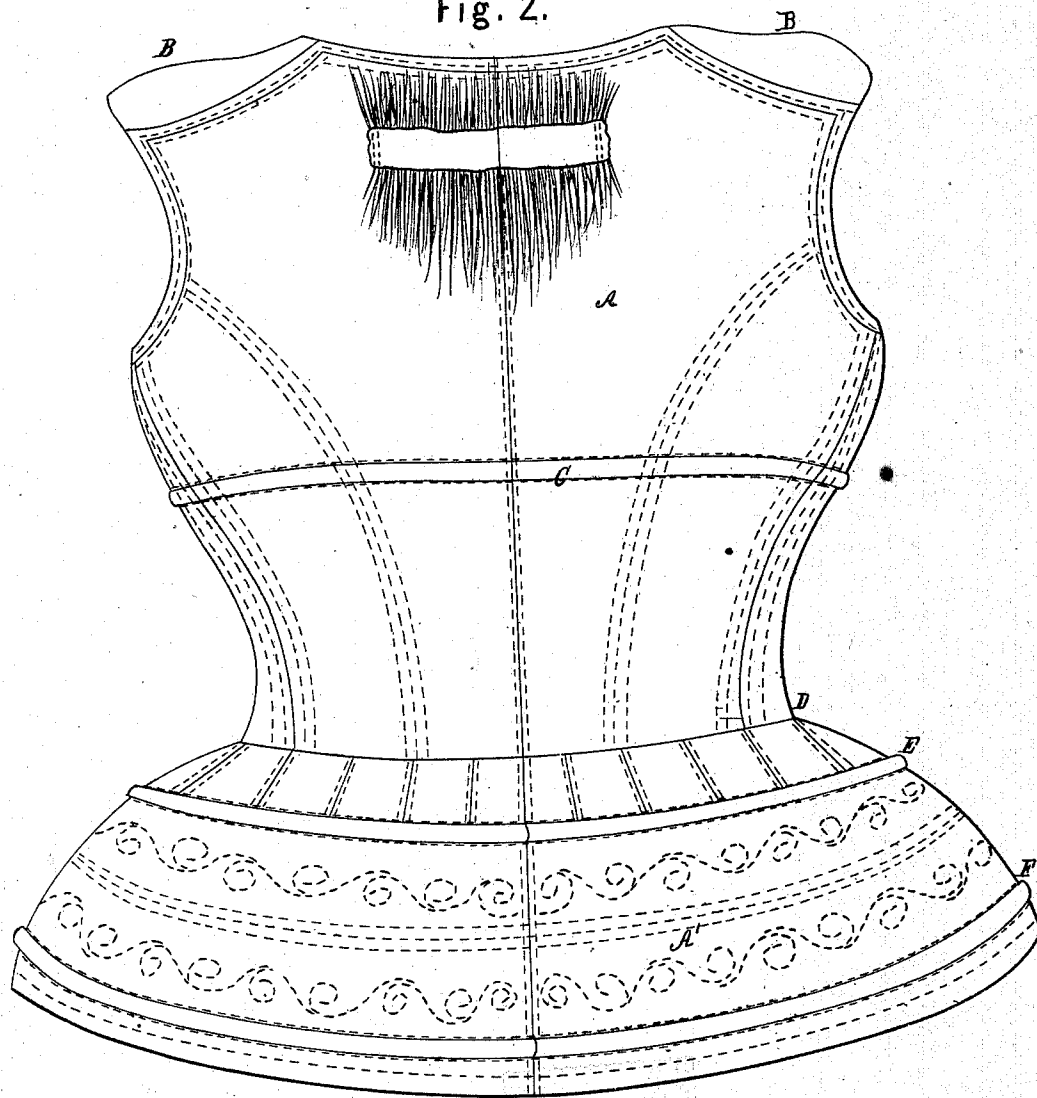
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Fig. 2.



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Fig. 3.

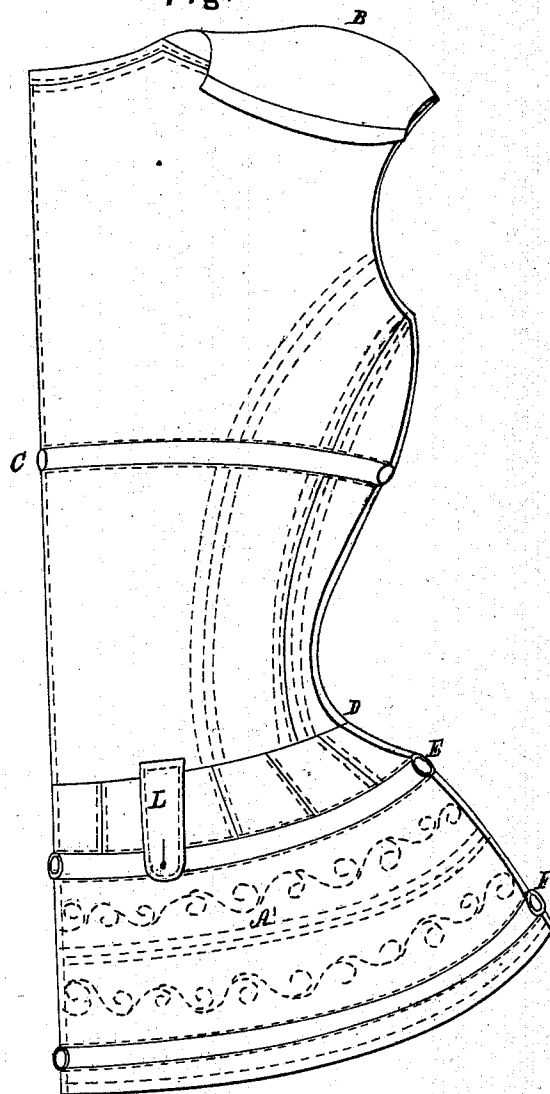
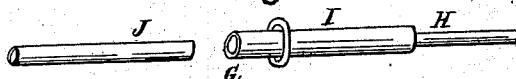


Fig. 4.



Witnesses.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY F. BROWN, OF CHAGRIN FALLS, OHIO.

SKIRT-SUPPORTER.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 26,473, dated December 20, 1859.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, H. F. BROWN, of Chagrin Falls, in the county of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, have invented new and useful Improvements in Skirt-Supporters; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and complete description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1, is a front view, Fig. 2, is a back view, Fig. 3, is a section and Fig. 4, is a view of the inflexible clasp.

The skirt-supporter consists of two parts; the body A and expanded portion A'. The body of the supporter A' may be made of any suitable material or fabric and in general form nearly corresponding to the body of the wearer, and of such form of construction that it can be clasped or buttoned up in front, as seen in Fig. 1. That part that rests upon the shoulders, seen at B, is made of elastic material and wrought in such a manner as to fit the convexity of the shoulder. Between the shoulders on the back part of the waist is attached an elastic band or shoulder brace O, which acts as an efficient shoulder-brace. Just below the arm pits is placed, as seen at c, a metallic hoop of sufficient dimensions to encircle the body of the wearer without coming in contact therewith. This hoop is of sufficient strength to withstand the pressure of the skirts suspended below without collapsing, is quilted into the body of the supporter and is clasped in front in the manner hereinafter described. A little distance above the hips the supporter body expands as seen at D and an inch or two still lower is another metallic hoop E, quilted or stitched into the fabric of the supporter body, the ends meeting in front at E' and clasped as hereinafter specified. The circumference of the hoop E is five or six inches greater than the circumference of the body of the supporter at D. The body of the supporter continues to increase in circumference from E to F, a distance of about four inches, where is inserted another hoop like those above mentioned, but large enough to pass freely over the hips of the wearer. This has a clasp, like the former, in front of the body, as seen at F'.

The clasps are made in the following named manner. The hoops being made of wire and of sufficient strength to withstand the requi-

site pressure without collapsing, the ends of the wire are caused to meet in front of the body, and upon one end is soldered a tube G, Fig. 4. The end H of the wire hoop enters this tube to I, leaving the balance of the tube, from I to G open. The opposite end of the hoop J, enters the pipe G, I, the ends of the wire meeting in the tube, and in this manner an inflexible clasp is formed. The inflexible clasp thus formed is held together by an elastic clasp K, attached to each end of the hoop. Each separate hoop is clasped in the same manner. Upon the inside of the supporter is attached short straps L, at proper distances from which drawers can be suspended.

The skirts of the wearer are supported simply by buttoning the waist-band around the body, above the hoop E, the hoops E and F, acting as a continuous arch to support the weight of the skirt; the constant tendency being to draw the waist C, D, of the supporter away from the body, as indicated by the dotted lines C, E, C, E', thus giving the chest a free and unobstructed motion.

The hoops E, F, (one or more may be used,) are introduced into the body of the supporter, not for the purpose of expanding the skirts, but for the purpose of preventing the contact and consequent pressure of the waist bands of the skirts and drawers upon the loins and abdomen of the wearer, the weight being suspended entirely from the shoulders, the hoops E, F, forming as it were a horizontal arch entirely around the body and thus protecting the loins and abdomen wholly from the pressure of the under garments and at the same time giving the bust a handsome and symmetrical form. In a state of pregnancy this relief of the abdomen from external pressure is a feature of special importance, and the same remark applies with equal force to all cases of uterine prolapsus. Another new and useful effect of my skirt supporter is its action as a shoulder brace. The weight of the skirts when hung upon the rigid arch E, F, pulls the flexible arch D from the person, thus throwing the entire support of the skirts directly upon the shoulders through the pads or elastic braces B. In this manner the weight of the skirts tends to draw the shoulders backward when the person is erect so that the skirts and waist together become a complete shoulder brace. These advantageous effects are greatly assisted by the elas-

tic shoulder brace O, which gives considerable freedom to the shoulders and yet constantly tends to bring them backward, expanding the chest and facilitating the full
 5 inflation of the lungs at every breath. My skirt supporter therefore is truly an anti-lacer, holding the skirts away from the person and also drawing the flexible circle D away from the waist. It is also a true shoulder
 10 brace, making the weight of the skirts aid in expanding the chest and thus facilitate the breathing, instead of restraining the respiration, as is common with most waists and corsets now in use.
 15 I do not claim as my invention the skirt

supporter suspended from the shoulders with an extension provided with hoops or bands, arranged at intervals and united in front by a tie or flexible fastening, but

What I do claim and desire to secure by 20 Letters Patent, is—

An improvement in the supporter aforesaid, by connecting the hoops or bands by a clasp, or inflexible joint substantially as described.

H. F. BROWN.

Witnesses:

J. BRAINERD,

EPHRAIM SHEFFIELD.