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W. J. PARKER.

ATTACHMENT FOR CORSETS AND OTHER GARMENTS.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 10, 1907.

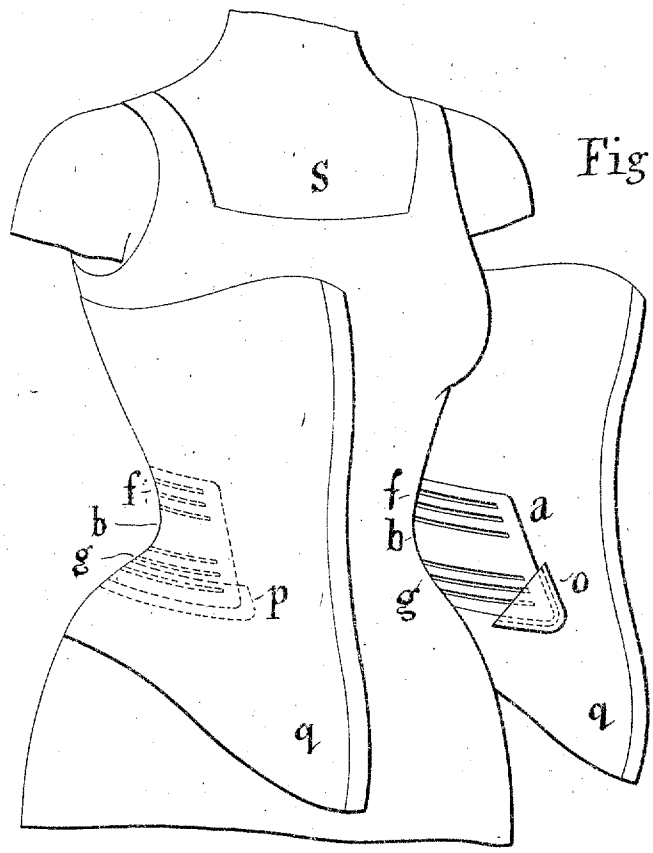


Fig 1



Fig 4

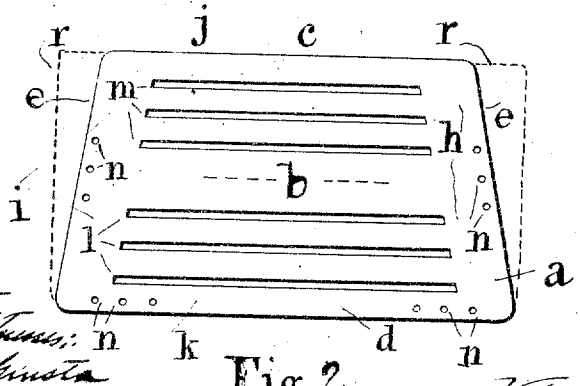


Fig 2

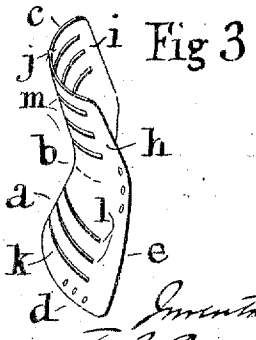


Fig 3

Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM JAMES PARKER, OF WANDIN SOUTH, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.

ATTACHMENT FOR CORSETS AND OTHER GARMENTS.

No. 882,412. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented March 17, 1908.

Application filed June 10, 1907. Serial No. 378,216.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM JAMES PARKER, a subject of the King of Great Britain and Ireland, &c., residing at Wandin South, in the State of Victoria, Commonwealth of Australia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Attachments to Corsets and other Garments; 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.

Wearers of corsets complain that whalebones or other strips of material used as stiffeners therein are apt to break at the waist line, and that hard broken ends or points of the said material protrude through the fabric of the corset and hurt the wearer. Sundry shields have been devised in consequence, but each has in some respect fallen short of what is desirable; for example a shield consisting itself of a series of whalebone or metal parallel stiffening strips incased in fabric does not possess the advantages of my device.

My invention relates to an attachment to be worn within the corset to prevent the said breakages; it also has these characteristics:— 1. It is thin, smooth, light and sufficiently flexible; so that it does not needlessly increase the girth, nor prevent adequate bending. 2. It provides for ample ventilation, thus causing less heating; and it allows of a variation of shape under strain. 3. It is readily supported by the wearer in comfort, and without causing pain tends to give desired contour to the figure.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which

Figure 1 is a perspective view in outline showing a corset worn with shields. Fig. 2 shows an elevation and Fig. 3 a perspective of a shield on a larger scale than Fig. 1. Fig. 4 shows a detail, in section.

The invention is not limited to the design illustrated as some variations may be used while keeping to essential features of my device.

In these views *a* is a moderately flexible plate of springy leather, or other suitable material, molded or formed into such curves that at line *b* which is somewhat higher than the middle of the height of the plate, it will fit close to the narrowest part of the waist. This curved plate extending a shorter distance above than below line *b*, and of truncated cone shape has the part above waist level *b* marked *c*, and that beneath it *d*. The plate is of even thickness ordinarily except that its outer edges *e* are tapered or skived so as to be thin as seen in Fig. 4. This thinning reduces the stiffness and strength of the plate at its edges and allows these edges to bend readily under strain. In order that plate *a* shall fit close to the body, it is given the desired curves for that purpose, so that the curve on line *f* Fig. 1, above level *b*, is nearer to vertical, than that on line *g* below it. Extra depth and breadth of lower part *d* enables the latter to take a more firm and comfortable seat on the hip of the wearer, while short height in part *c* facilitates adequate bending by the wearer. When the latter bends no heavy strain can be suddenly applied on the central or waist level or zone of the plate, as the strain will be in part resisted by the fore and rear side strips *h*, *i* of the plate; and along the top *j* of the plate there is also a strip or zone which assists in the said resistance. The plate lower zone *k* will be under less curving strain when the wearer bends; it acts materially as a fulcrum or support and distributes on the hip the pressure the bending causes.

Series of slots, shown parallel and horizontal, at *l* and *m* are provided in the plate below and above the waist line. These elongated, transverse—or equivalent—slots are for several purposes and particularly two, to allow the plate to readily vary its shape somewhat when worn, till it acquires a form which will better and more comfortably fit the wearer's figure and corset under the pressure of the latter, than when the plate is new; and secondly to allow of a more suitable variation of shape when the wearer bends, than would be possible if the plate were unperforated. Such bending may temporarily close or open the slots more or less in my device. Additional perforations are added for ventilation if desired.

In some cases, if desired, devices for attaching the plates to the inside of the corset *q* take the form of eye holes *n*, by which the plate is sewed on—the side holes only, or the bottom holes only being used in some cases to allow the plate suitable play and adjustment. In other cases the plate is supported by pockets or the like of any suitable form

inside the corset so that the plates can be put on or taken out at any moment at will.

o shows an angular pocket for a plate lower corner, and *p* a horizontal pocket for the whole lower edge of a plate. It has been found on trial that a rectangular form of plate with edges as dotted at *r*, Fig. 2, will also act satisfactorily.

My shield may be attached when desired to other garments, and although a single homogeneous piece of leather or material is used as above specified, yet leather in a plurality of sheets permanently cemented together to form a single sheet might be used in some cases.

What I do claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:—

1. A flexible shield for corsets, composed of a sheet of thin springy material of truncated conical form, curved to fit against the wearer's body, and extending above and below the waist line of the corset, but a greater distance below than above said waist line, having elongated transverse slots, and skived or tapered edges to give flexibility thereto, substantially as described.

2. An attachment for corsets composed of a single curved piece of springy leather slotted parallel to the waist line to allow of adjustment of form during wear, and variations of form during bending, and extending above said waist line and also a greater distance below it, substantially as described.

3. An attachment for corsets composed of a single curved resilient piece of perforated leather with skived edges and of a truncated conical form adapted to extend above and below the waist line, but a greater distance below said line than above it, and having parallel slots both above and below said line, substantially as described.

4. A corset provided with pockets, and a shield adapted to be held in said pockets, said shield composed of a single curved resilient piece of perforated leather with skived edges and of a truncated conical form adapted to extend above and below the waist line, but a greater distance below said line than above it, and having parallel slots both above and below said line, substantially as described.

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

WILLIAM JAMES PARKER.

Witnesses:

G. G. TURRI,

B. M. LOWE.