

(No Model.)

C. F. RITCHEL.

CORSET.

No. 346,416.

Patented July 27, 1886.

Fig. 1.

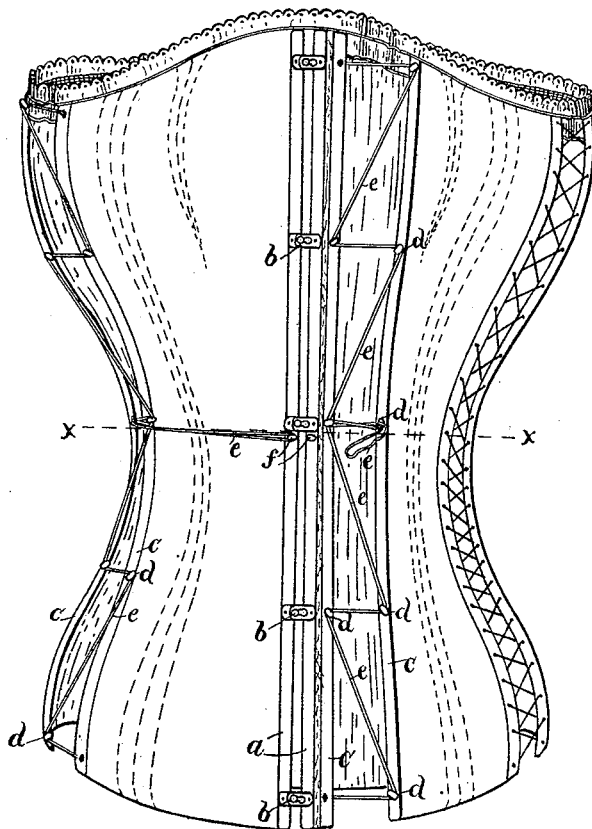
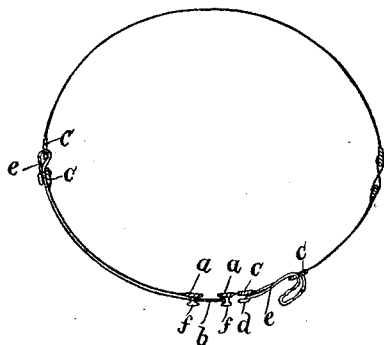


Fig. 2.



Witnesses.
Joseph S. Lockwood.
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Inventor

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att'y

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES F. RITCHEL, OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO D. KELSEY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

CORSET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 346,416, dated July 27, 1886.

Application filed November 25, 1885. Serial No. 183,991. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES F. RITCHEL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Bridgeport, in the county of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, have invented new and useful Improvements in Corsets, of which the following is a specification.

My invention consists of an improved adjusting contrivance for ladies' corsets or stays, to enable them to be relaxed in the tension, and to be taken up or tightened again at the will of the wearer by simple operations of very effective and substantial devices capable of more convenient manipulation by the wearer than as heretofore arranged, and independently of the fastenings employed at the front for the application and removal of the corset, and of the back-stays, which may be employed together with my improved adjuster, or not, as preferred, as hereinafter fully described, reference being made to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a corset in which my improvement is represented, the arrangement of the same being at the front of one side of the corset and at the side in the other side of the corset. Fig. 2 is a sectional elevation of the corset on line *xx* of Fig. 1.

Anywhere between the sides or hips and the front where—in the latter position—the usual joint of steels *a* and clasps *b* is provided I provide an extension-adjuster to each side, consisting of the steel bars *c*, hooks or eyes *d*, and lacing-cords *e*, adapted, substantially as shown, for adjusting the tension of the corset at will by taking up and letting out the lacings—that is to say, using steel strips or bars *c* for each adjuster of about the same character as the steels *a* of the front joint. I fit them with, preferably, the same number of lacing hooks, studs, or eyes *d* as there are clasps *b*, and coincident with them, and arrange the lacing-cord *e* to draw from each end of the strips when the ends of the cord are respectively fastened through the middle eye of one of the strips, and to fasten readily on hooks or studs *f* of the front strips, *a*, where the said adjusting-cords can at any time be readily reached and manipulated by unfastening two

or three of the hooks of the dress at the front opening of the same.

My invention is distinguished from the breast-puff contrivance, which affords more or less adjustability for adaptation to the breasts, but none whatever for the waist, for which mine is especially designed, the object being to enable the wearer to readily shift the adjuster to regulate the tension according to the varying conditions of the body while the corset is in use, as after a hearty meal, or bloating from other cause, and the subsidence of the same. It is also distinguished from the ordinary lacing at the back, which is to be used all the same together with my adjuster for its especial purpose—viz., to adapt the corset to the average size of the wearer, but cannot be employed for an adjuster while the corset is in wear, because the eyes or hooks through which the lacing-cords run must be within reach for enabling the cords to be adjusted in the individual eyes for an even tension.

My invention is a lacing-adjuster forming the sole connection between the corset-web and the front clasp-steel, in which the range of the lacing-cord may vary to any unlimited extent between the different eyes or hooks, as may be needed to graduate the tension of the corset to the irregular shape of the body, particularly when the lacing is located between the hips and the arms along the sides.

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

In a corset having the usual clasp-fastening at the front, a tension-adjuster in each side, located at or between the hip-section and the said front fastening, and consisting of the steels *c*, hooks or eyes *d*, and a lacing-cord, *e*, in combination with studs *f* at the front of the corset for fastening the cords thereat, substantially as described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHARLES F. RITCHEL.

Witnesses:

W. J. MORGAN,
S. H. MORGAN.