S. B. FERRIS.

CORSETS.

No. 181,781. Patented Sept. 5, 1876.

Fig: 1

Fig: 2

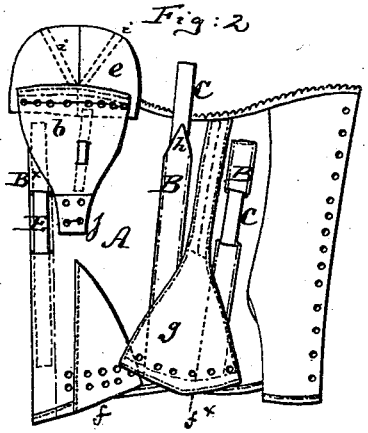


Fig: 3

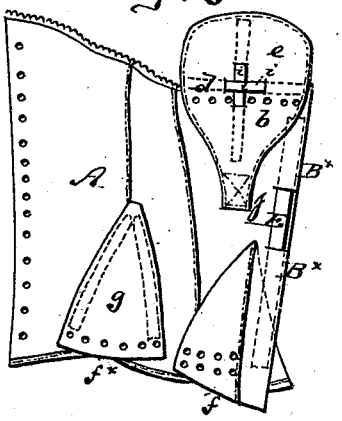


Fig: 4

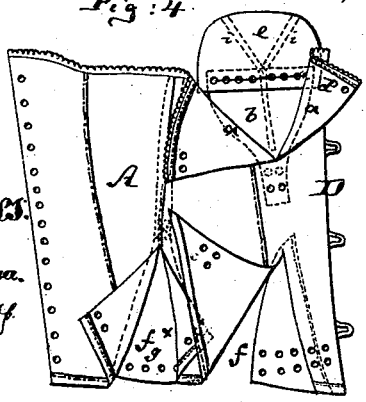
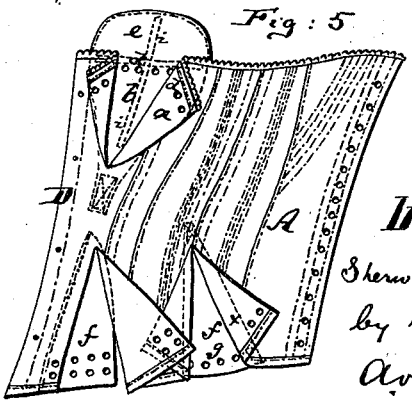


Fig: 5



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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IMPROVEMENT IN CORSETS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **181,781**, dated September 5, 1876; application filed May 18, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SHERWOOD B. FERRIS, of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Corset, of which the following is a specification:

Figure 1 is a front view of my improved corset. Figs. 2, 3, 4, and 5 are detail views of different portions thereof.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

This invention relates to an improved adjustable corset, which may be widened or contracted at the top and bottom, to suit the convenience, and contains other features of improvement, all as hereinafter more fully pointed out.

In the drawing, the letter A represents a corset of suitable size, material, and shape. The upper part of the corset has two slits, *a a*, cut into it for the gore-pieces *b b*, which are of triangular or other shape. Every such gore is stitched or otherwise fastened at its lower end to the inner side of the corset, directly below the slit *a*, and extends to the upper edge of the corset, so as to close the slit *a* from the inner side. A series of eyelets, *d d*, or other suitable fastening devices, are applied to the corset A at both sides of the slit *a*, and also to the gore *b*, in line with the fastenings in the corset A, as clearly shown in Fig. 1. The construction and position of the loose gore allows the edges of the slit *a* to be drawn together or spread apart to a greater or less extent, or even to overlap, and yet the gore will always properly close the slit, and also keep the edges thereof from coming in contact with and chafing the body of the wearer. By means of the series of fasteners *d*, the extent to which the upper part of the corset is to be contracted may be regulated. Instead of sewing or otherwise permanently securing the lower end *j* of the gore to the corset A, as in Fig. 3, it may, if desired, be provided at its lower portion with eyelets, and tied with a string, as in Fig. 2, to be readily detachable from the corset, in which case the corset can, whenever desired, be worn entirely without the gore. At the upper portion the gore *b* may be provided with a semicircular or similar top piece, *e*, which projects above the upper edge of the corset, and increases the efficiency of the gore. This projection *e* may be either made in one piece with the gore *b*, as in Fig. 3, or it may be removable therefrom, and fastened to the same with a string or other suitable fastening devices, as in Fig. 2. *i i* are suitable stiffening devices—such as whalebones or steel rods—applied to the inner side of the gore *b* and top piece *e*, or to either of them. These stiffening devices may be either made removable, in the manner hereinafter described, with reference to the other steels of the corset, or they may be permanently sewed in the gore or top piece. They aid in giving to the same the peculiar desirable concavity. These stiffening devices may either cross each other, as in Fig. 3, or project radially, as in Fig. 2. The gore *b*, instead of being fastened to the inner side of the corset A, may be fastened to the outer side thereof; but I prefer to fasten it to the inner side, as in that case the edges of the flaps will not be exposed. The lower part of the corset I make with four slits, $f f^{\times} f f^{\times}$, of which those next the hips of the wearer are provided with gores *g*, of substantially the same arrangement as the gores *b*, only inverted, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. The front slits *f f* are preferably made with flaps, as described in my Patent No. 169,159, but may also have gores; but the slits $f^{\times}$ may also have such flaps. I attach importance to the provision of a corset with four slits at the lower edge, as it renders it much more perfectly adjustable than the usual arrangement of two slits.

Figs. 2 and 3 show the inner side of the corset, and the manner in which the flaps are attached to the same. Figs. 3 and 4 show the outer side of the corset, the slits being opened to expose the flaps. B B are the pockets formed on the inner side of the corset for the reception of the whalebones, steel rods, or other stiffening devices C C of the corset. This device is shown at the right side of Fig. 2, and also in Fig. 3, in which the pocket $B^{\times}$ is completely closed at both ends, but open at or near the middle, through which opening the stiffening material may be inserted into the pocket, though at all times readily removable from the same. The opening may either be a slit cut into the pocket, or the pocket may be completely cut away for a greater or less

portion of its length, to suit convenience. I also apply to the corset, directly behind each of the two corset-springs D D, which carry the necessary buttons or clasps, a removable spring-plate, E, which serves to strengthen said corset-springs, and also aids in imparting to the front of the corset the curvilinear outline required to make it fit close to the body of the wearer. Each spring-rod E is inserted, in the manner heretofore described, in open pockets, that are closed at their ends, so that the spring-rod may be removed, if the corset-springs C are to be taken out, or if it is to be replaced or repaired. The spring-plate E is of such width that it does not project laterally beyond the spring D, behind which it is placed.

I claim as my invention—

1. The combination of the corset with the triangular gore *b*, which is secured to the corset at its lower end or point *j* only, leaving both edges free, and is placed over the slit of the corset, to close the same and permit its adjustment, substantially as specified.

2. The combination of the gore *b* with the upper projecting piece *e*, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

3. A corset made with two slits at the top and four slits at the lower edge, each of said slits being provided with an adjustable closing-flap, substantially as specified.

4. The corset-flap *e*, applied to the upper end of, and combined with, the gore *b*, and provided with stiffening-ribs *i*, substantially as and for the purpose herein shown and described.

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