S. B. FERRIS.

CORSET.

No. 188,007. Patented March 6, 1877.

Fig. 1.

Fig. 8.

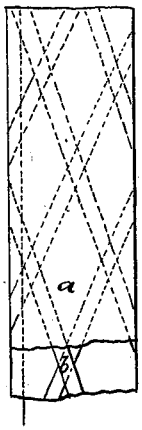


Fig. 9.

Fig. 10.

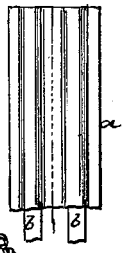


Fig. 11.

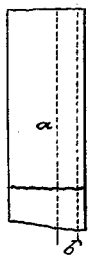


Fig. 12.

Fig. 4.

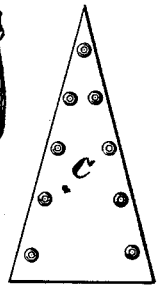


Fig. 2.

Fig. 5.

Fig. 3.

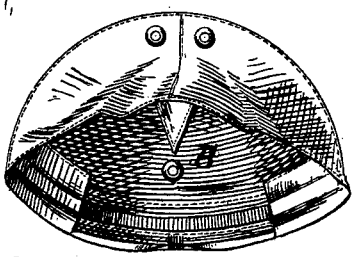
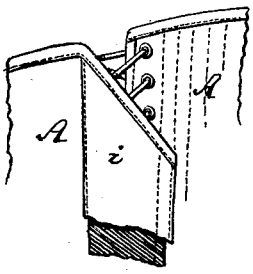


Fig. 6.



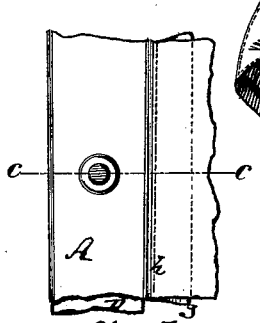


Fig. 7.

Witnesses.
John G. Tumbridge
A. V. Briesen

Inventor.
S. B. Ferris
by his attorney
A. V. Briesen

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SHERWOOD B. FERRIS, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN CORSETS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **188,007**, dated March 6, 1877; application filed February 6, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

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

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved corset; Fig. 2, a detail vertical section through the bosom portion thereof; Fig. 3, an inner face view of the half bosom-pad; Fig. 4, a detail view of a section of the wedge-gore used in the slit of the corset. Fig. 5, a detail inner view of part of the lacing at the side of the corset; Fig. 6, a partial face view; and Fig. 7, a cross-section of one edge of the corset, showing how the springs are held in place. Figs. 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 are detail face views, showing various kinds of paper-stiffener used in said corset.

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

The principal feature of this invention is the use of flat paper strips as stiffeners for ladies' corsets and for the pads and gore pieces pertaining thereto. These paper stiffeners are stitched into the pockets, which are formed in the corset and are, or may be, provided with additional stiffeners in the form of whalebone, metal, or other material. If it is not desired to stitch the paper into the corset it may be held in closed pockets thereof. The invention also consists in other details of construction of the corset, hereinafter more fully described.

The letter A in the drawing represents the body of the corset, made of suitable fabric, of suitable shape, and of customary style, to be supplied with springs in front and with lacings at the side. The pockets, which are formed in this corset for the reception of the stiffening devices, are supplied with strips of paper *a a*, such paper being sufficiently stiff to give shape to the garment, and yet sufficiently elastic to allow the garment to yield to the motion of the wearer. The paper may receive additional strength by combining it with strips *b* of whalebone, as indicated in Figs. 9 and 10, and also in Fig. 8, or with strips of other material, at those parts of the corset where still greater strength may be desired; but for all ordinary purposes I deem stiff paper to be sufficient without additional strengthening. The paper may, if desired, be perforated to render it more fully ventilating, and may be used in upright strips or diagonal, if desired.

The bosom-pad B of the corset may also be stiffened with paper, with substantially the same effect as bosom-pads are heretofore stiffened with other material. Even the triangular gore-piece C, which I propose to use in the slit of the corset, whenever it is desired to widen the same, may be stiffened with paper. This gore-piece in itself constitutes part of my invention, for I provide it with eyelets or holes along both edges, so that, when needed, it may be laced into openings in the corset, and when not needed may be entirely removed therefrom.

Another feature of my invention consists in the use of a bosom-pad, B, which is directly attached to the main body of the corset, where the same is not slit. This bosom-pad I propose to fasten by one or more buttons, *d*, or other fastening, and to stiffen it with paper or equivalent material, and it may, in addition, be lightly stitched along the upper edge of the corset, and may be readily removed by loosening the button or stitching, in which case the corset remains complete in every respect. At the edge of the corset where the steel D is introduced (see Figs. 6 and 7) I leave a projecting flap or strip, *g*, which extends beyond the seam *h* that secures the steel D in place, as shown in Fig. 7. This strip *g* permits me, when the steel is to be replaced, to substitute a wider or a narrower steel, as may be desired, and does not, as is now always the case, confine the corset to a certain width of steel. I am, also, more readily enabled to open the seam *h* when I have the means, *g*, of handling the parts there sewed together.

Furthermore, my invention consists in applying a flap, *i*, to the inner side of the corset, behind the lacing, the flap being of sufficient width to allow the various degrees of expansion of the corset, and yet prevent the lacing from cutting into the body. A similar flap may be applied over the outer side of the lacing, if desired, but not necessarily so.

I claim as my invention—

1. A corset provided with flat paper as stiff-

ening devices, substantially as herein shown and described.

2. The combination of a corset-body, A, with the semicircular bosom-pad B, whose straight lower edge is directly joined to the body, so that the body will constitute the lower half of the pad, substantially as herein shown and described.

3. The combination of the corset A and steel D with a strip of fabric, *g*, that extends beyond the seam *h*, substantially as herein shown and described.

SHERWOOD B. FERRIS.

Witnesses.

F. V. BRIESEN,

ERNEST C. WEBB.