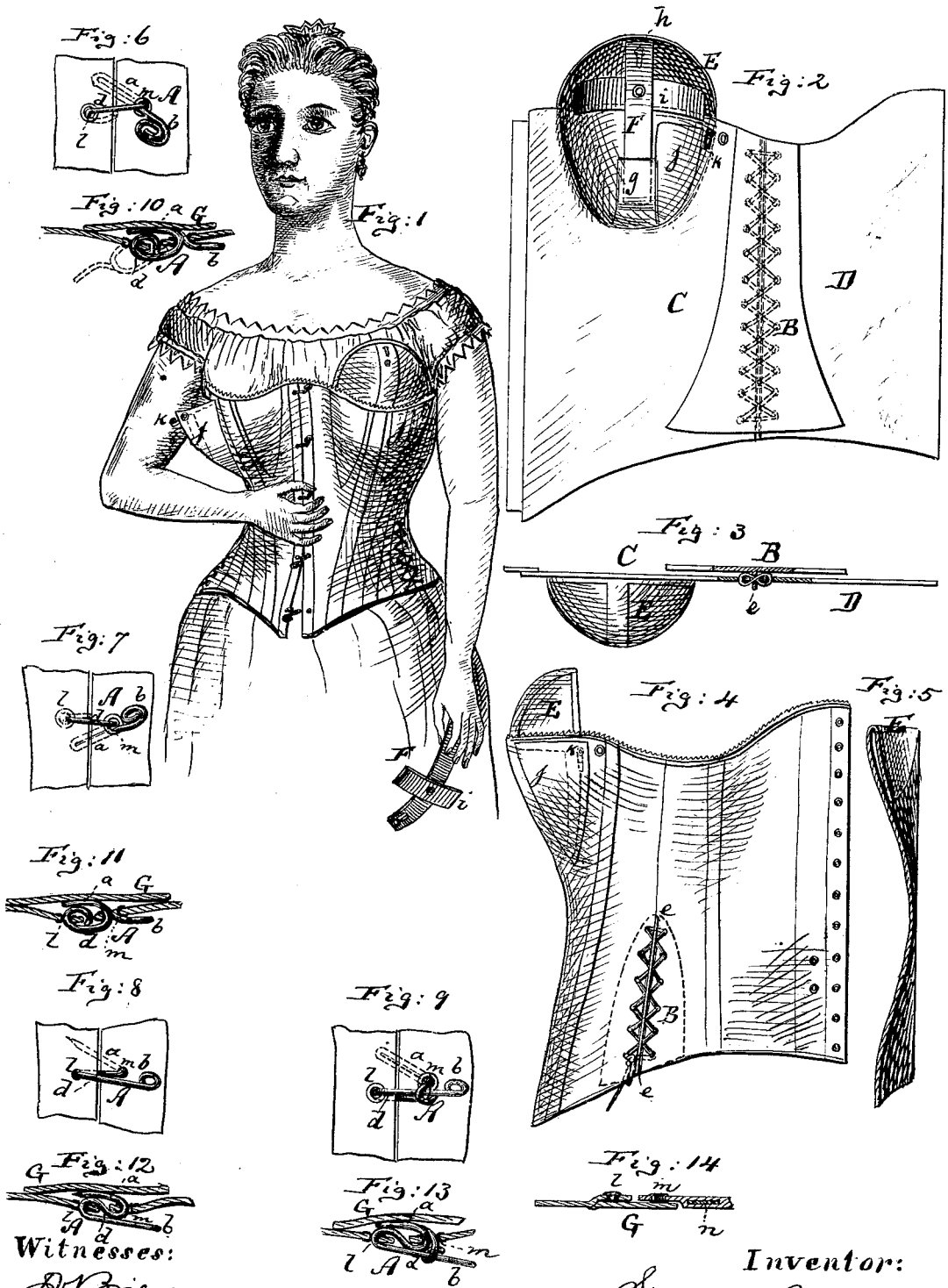


S. B. FERRIS.
CORSETS.

No. 195,755.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SHERWOOD B. FERRIS, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN CORSETS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **195,755**, dated October 2, 1877; application filed September 8, 1877.

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. Fig. 2 is an inner side view of the same; Fig. 3, a bottom view of the portion represented in Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is an outer side-view of a part of said corset; Fig. 5, an edge view of this part, showing the upper portion of the bosom-pad folded in. Figs. 6, 7, 8, and 9 are face views of the improved hook used on the corset, and showing modifications in the form of the same. Figs. 10, 11, 12, and 13 are cross-sections of the hooks shown in Figs. 6, 7, 8, and 9, respectively. Fig. 14 is a detail cross-section of the front of the corset.

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

This invention relates to several improvements in corsets, and in the devices for opening and closing the same, all as hereinafter more fully described.

In the first place I propose to employ, in place of the clasps which are usually used in corsets for closing them in front, a hook of peculiar construction, which hook is more fully represented in Figs. 6 to 13.

The letter A represents this hook. The same is made of wire, sheet metal, or other material. Its distinguishing characteristics are an obliquely-placed beak, *a*, and a handle, *b*. The beak *a* is oblique to the shank *d* of the hook, as clearly indicated in Figs. 6, 7, 8, and 9 by the dotted lines in said figures; and the handle *b* is attached to the shank, preferably at or near the angle where the beak meets the shank, as in Figs. 6 and 7. But the handle may also be attached to any other part of the shank, as in Figs. 8 and 9. This hook is secured in a suitable manner, but preferably by an eye formed at the end of the shank in an eyelet of the corset. It is used by introducing its beak through another eyelet in an opposite flap of the corset, and in bringing the handle flush against such flap. This causes the beak to be beneath the two flaps, as indicated in the drawing, and oblique to the shank.

It will be seen that this hook draws the flaps of the corset closer and closer together until

the beak has been properly placed, and holds them properly connected and in their most close position, while all other fastenings heretofore used allow the flaps or parts that are connected by a hook to separate again, to a certain extent, after the hook has been closed.

The improved hook may be either double—that is, with a double beak, as in Figs. 6, 7, and 9—or it may be single, with a pointed beak, as in Fig. 8, in which case it may be used to pierce its opening through the flap to be closed.

It is evident that this hook may be used for other purposes than on corsets, although it is peculiarly adapted for use on corsets.

The letter B in Figs. 2 and 3 represents a separate piece or section of fabric, which is inserted between two pieces, C and D, of the corset, and which, at or about its center, has a projecting rib, *e*, placed at right angles to the body of said piece B, as shown in Fig. 3. Through this rib the lacing *f*, for securing the separate piece B to and between the pieces C and D, is drawn, and also, of course, through eyelets in said parts C and D. By this arrangement of the rib *e* it becomes very convenient to insert a piece or section in the corset, and secure it by the lacing, which extends from the central rib to the sides of the opening in the corset.

Such piece B may be the whole length of the corset, as in Fig. 2, or part of the length, as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 4, and may be used at the bottom or top of the corset, at the bust or hip, or between the bottom and top to less than the entire extent of the corset, when desired.

The bosom-pad E of the corset is made hemispherical, the upper half projecting above the edge of the corset, as clearly shown on the right-hand side of Fig. 1 and in Fig. 4. The pad is distended by a spring, F, of which the lower end is inserted in a pocket, *g*, that is formed at the lower part of the inner side of said bosom-pad. At its upper end the spring F is, by a hook or catch, *h*, secured to the upper part of said bosom-pad. The spring F has also, by preference, a cross-spring, *i*, attached to it, as shown, to distend the bosom-pad laterally.

By unhooking the upper end of the spring F, and withdrawing its lower end from the pocket *g*, the spring may be entirely removed to allow the upper half of the bosom-pad to be

folded inward, as in Fig. 5, and thus enable the wearer to use the corset either with the full pad or without the upper projecting bosom-pad.

j is a gore-piece, which is stitched over an opening formed in the lower part of the bosom-pad. This gore piece or flap is not observed, nor in any way loose while the corset is in its ordinary condition; but when it is desired to use the corset as a nursing-corset the upper and outer edges of the gore-piece *j* are ripped open, and said gore-piece constitutes thereupon a flap for closing or opening the aperture left in the corset, as already stated.

A hook, *k*, which is concealed in the corner of the gore-piece *j*, while the same is stitched fast, as stated, is also, by ripping the said piece open, exposed to view, and serves to hold the gore-piece closed on the nursing-corset, when desired.

The front of the corset is made without the usual springs in the flaps that contain the eyelets or clasps *l m*, (see Fig. 14,) and has a wide spring, *G*, placed under these flexible flaps. The springs *n*, if used, are placed in pockets that are at a distance from the eyelets or clasps *l m*.

The object of this arrangement is to provide the open front of the corset with an adequate support in front, and with fastening devices which will not interfere with the stiffening devices, so that the stiffening devices or springs may be readily removed for washing, or, when broken, without interfering with the position of the fastening devices, which are entirely independent of the stiffenings, as heretofore specified.

The clasps or devices for clasping the corset were heretofore invariably secured to the front springs, and when these had to be removed the corset was ripped to allow the removal also of these fastenings. This inconvenience is avoided by means of this invention.

I claim as my invention—

1. The hook *A*, made with the handle *b*, substantially as herein shown and described.

2. The combination, in the hook *A*, of the oblique beak *a*, shank *d*, and handle *b*, substantially as herein shown and described.

3. The separate piece or section *B* of the corset, said section having the projecting rib *e*, to be laced into an opening of the corset, substantially as specified.

4. The spring *F*, combined with the pocket *g* and fastening device *h*, and with the bosom-pad *E*, substantially as herein shown and described.

5. The combination of the stitched gore-piece *j* with the concealed hook *K*, and with a bosom-pad which has an opening beneath said gore, substantially as specified.

6. The combination of the wide spring *G* with the flexible flaps *l m*, which contain the clasps or fastening devices of the corset, and with a spring or springs, *n*, placed at a distance, and disconnected from said fastening devices, substantially as specified.

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