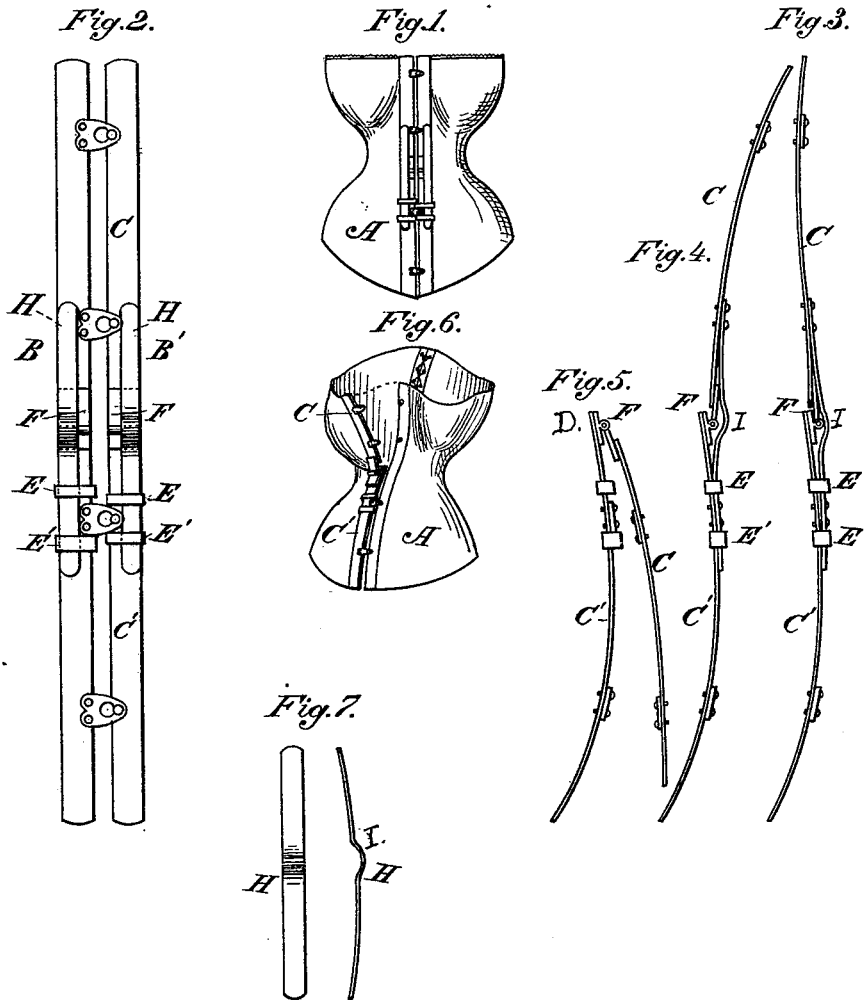


J. H. BONGARTZ.
Corset-Clasp.

No. 198,269.

Patented Dec. 18, 1877.



Attest:
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att'y.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN H. BONGARTZ, OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.

IMPROVEMENT IN CORSET-CLASPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **198,269**, dated December 18, 1877; application filed October 20, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN H. BONGARTZ, of Providence, in the county of Providence and State of Rhode Island, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Corset-Clasps; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, and to letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 represents a corset to which the improved clasp is applied, shown closed. Fig. 2 is a front view of the corset-clasp detached from the corset. Fig. 3 is a side or edge view of one-half of the corset-clasp when in position as worn. Fig. 4 is a side or edge view of the same when slightly bent outward. Fig. 5 is a side or edge view of one-half of the clasp bent downwardly. Fig. 6 represents a corset to which the improved clasp is applied, the upper frontal portion of the corset being opened and bent away from the person of the wearer; and Fig. 7 represents detached views of the removable springs.

This invention relates to an improvement in that class of corset-clasps in which hinges are employed to make the upper frontal portion of the corset yielding, and to permit it to be opened and turned downwardly to expose the breast for nursing and other purposes; and it consists of a hinged corset-clasp, provided with removable springs at the joints, for the purposes of causing the clasp to give way to the movements of the person of the wearer when stooping, and to return to place when the person is again erect; also, to permit the upper frontal portion of the same to be opened and turned down to expose the breast for nursing or other purposes; and, further, to permit the springs, when broken, to be cheaply replaced, and thereby avoid the purchase of a new set of clasps, as has heretofore been required, all of which will be hereinafter more fully set forth, and particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawing similar letters of reference indicate like parts of the invention.

The corset A may be of the ordinary con-

struction; but the clasps B B' are composed each of two pieces, hinged together at D, and the leaf of the upper portions of the hinges to which the pieces C are attached lap the lower portions C', as shown in Figs. 3 and 4, to prevent the ends of said upper portions C from pressing against the wearer when said upper portions are turned down, when the corset is worn. The clasps B B' have the usual studs and eyes, and are further provided with clasps E E' below the hinges F F, to receive the lower ends of the removable springs H H. The removable springs H H are indented at I, to receive the joints of the hinges F F.

When the upper portions of the clasps are bent downwardly they slide against the upper ends of the removable springs H H.

In ordinary use, when the wearer stoops, the springs will yield to the movements of the wearer, and will return the clasps to place when the wearer regains an erect position.

When the wearer desires to nurse her child it is simply necessary to remove the springs H H, or one of them, unfasten the clasps, and turn one or both of the frontal portions down, as shown in Fig. 6.

Should one or both of the springs H H be broken, they can be easily replaced at a trifling cost, thereby avoiding an expensive outlay for a new set of clasps, the trouble alone of inserting the clasps being quite an item, and as the springs are the weaker part, they are more likely to be broken than the clasps.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and useful, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A hinged corset-clasp, provided with the removable springs H H, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

2. The corset-clasp B B', having the hinges F F and clasps E E', in combination with the indented removable springs H H, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOHN H. BONGARTZ.

Witnesses:

GEO. S. BARNEY,
JEROME B. KIMBALL.