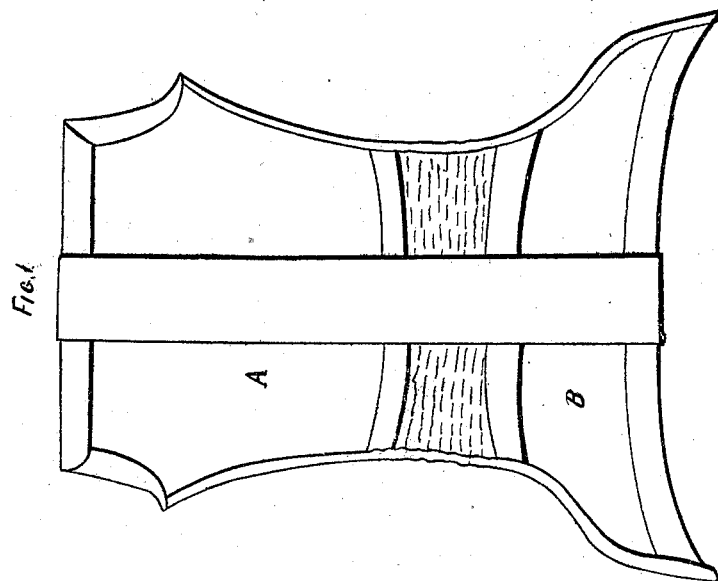
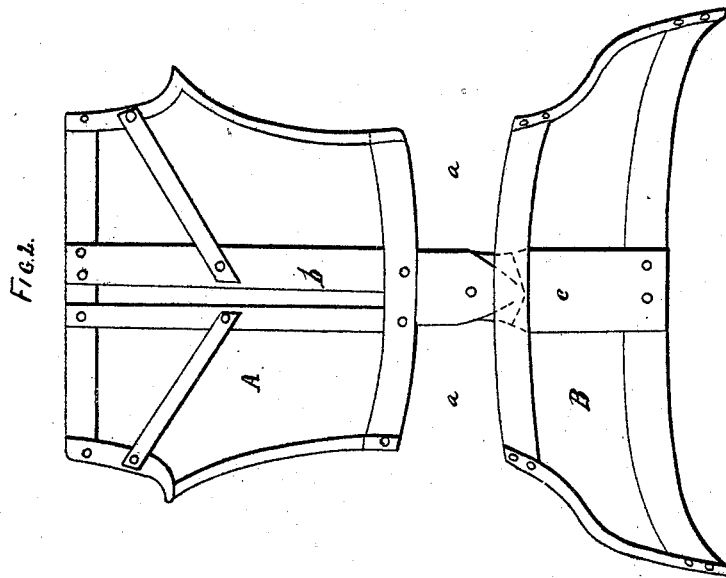


A. Abbé.

Corset.

N^o 3691

Patented Aug. 7, 1844.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALANSON ABBÉ, OF ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS.

CORSELET FOR CURVED SPINES, &c.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 3,691, dated August 7, 1844.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALANSON ABBÉ, of Roxbury, in the county of Norfolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and
5 useful improvement in certain surgical apparatus termed a "corselet" and used for the cure or relief of spinal and various other distortions; and that the following description and accompanying drawings thereof
10 constitute a full and exact specification of the construction and operation of my said invention.

Figure 1 of the drawings represents the rear or back portion of a corselet, and Fig. 2
15 denotes the frame or skeleton thereof.

The said back is formed in two parts, the one extending upward and the other downward from the loins when applied to the back of a person. The said parts (which
20 are denoted in Fig. 1 by A and B) are placed at about two or three inches more or less apart from each other, or have a space *a. a.* between them as denoted in Fig. 2, and they are connected together in the middle of the said space by extending the center piece
25 (*b*) of the top part (A) of the back down and over the center piece (*c*) of the lower part (B) thereof (which center piece is extended upward a short distance above the
30 top of the lower part B.) and securing them together by means of a rivet, screw or other proper contrivance which will permit of a lateral movement of the upper part A upon
35 the lower part B. either in one direction or the other. In other words the pieces *b.* and *c.* of the frames of the parts A and B are to be thin strips of steel or other proper material jointed together as described and made
40 so thin and elastic where they are jointed together and between the upper and lower parts A and B as to readily bend either in a direction forward or backward as circumstances may require. The lower portion (B)
45 of the back of the corselet rests directly below the loins and upon the hips of the person who wears it while the upper portion (A) is placed above the loins and in contact with the back, shoulder blades and sides of the patient and extends underneath the arms
50 or beneath the armpits so as to allow one or both arms to rest upon the corselet or not as circumstances may require. Each side or part of the space *a. a.* should be filled or partly filled with caoutchouc cloth, or other
55 proper elastic material or materials so arranged that the elasticity of either side or

part may be increased or diminished with respect to that of the other so as thereby to draw the two parts (A, B) of the back
60 down on one side with a greater force than on the opposite side, thus causing constant pressure to be applied under one or the other arm as the case may require, the object of the same being to put such a constant strain
65 upon the relaxed muscles of one side as may be necessary to eventually cure the distortion of the spine. The lower part (B) of the back is to rest firmly upon the hips and be fixed and confined in place thereon (so that
70 it may not rise therefrom) by being properly connected to the front part of the corselet, or, when the front part is not worn, by means of a band or straps arranged in any
75 convenient manner and extending around or beneath the abdomen or front part of the body as circumstances may dictate. The upper part (A) is fixed to the shoulders and
80 upper part of the chest; and the object of the instrument when so applied and arranged is to permit the free and natural motions of the body in anterior, posterior and lateral directions impeded only by the power
85 of the spring of the back pieces *b. c.* (at or near their point of junction) and the elastic substances connecting the upper and lower parts (A, B) of the back of the corselet.

In order to vary the elastic force of the elastic substances which connect the upper parts of the corselet in the spaces *a. a.* they
90 may be composed of elastic straps having buckles or other contrivances which will admit of their being shortened or lengthened; or, they may be composed of elastic lacings passing through eyelet holes suitably formed
95 in the upper and lower parts (A, B) and arranged so as to be tied and untied and taken up and let out at pleasure.

It will be unnecessary for me to enumerate all the different modes by which a greater
100 or less elastic force may be produced upon one or both sides or parts of the space *a a* or by which the said elastic force may be varied at pleasure as such are generally well understood. I therefore mean to avail
105 myself of all known means of applying an elastic force within the space *a a* on either of the sides of the central back pieces *b* and *c* (so as to permit the free and natural lateral movements of the body as set forth) and of varying the strength of the said elastic
110 force (as circumstances may require) in order to produce the necessary pressure un-

der one arm and thereby relieve the relaxed muscles to such a degree as in course of time will effect a cure of the distortion of the spine or other parts of the body for which the back of the corselet is applied. The said part of the corselet is to be shaped or made so as to properly fit the body and for this purpose the frame of it may be composed of thin blades or strips of steel or metal or other proper material suitably shaped and riveted or connected together, the whole being afterward covered in any proper manner with silk, ribbon, soft leather or any other material adapted to the purpose.

15 Having thus explained my invention what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent consists in—

The above described mode of making the

back of a corselet; viz., in constructing the same of two parts and jointing them together and otherwise arranging them with respect to each other as set forth, and connecting them by an elastic strap or straps or other proper elastic materials, which have or have not means of increasing or diminishing their elastic force; the whole being substantially as above specified.

In testimony that the above is a correct specification of my said invention I have hereto set my signature this twenty sixth day of June A. D. 1844.

ALANSON ABBÉ.

Witnesses:

R. H. EDDY,

DAVID A. GRANGER.