

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CORSET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 266,644, dated October 31, 1882.

Application filed August 19, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. RAMSEY, of Newark, county of Essex, and State of New Jersey, have invented an Improvement in Corsets, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification.

My invention relates to that class of corsets composed of several sections having eyeleted edges, which are to be united to retain the corset about the body of the wearer.

In this my invention each half of the corset is supposed to be made in two pieces meeting together at the side of the wearer or under the arm-seye, and one object of my invention is to obviate pinching the clothes or body of the wearer of the corset when the said edges come together. To overcome this difficulty I have set one of the rows of the eyelets back from the edge of one of the corset-sections for a distance in excess of the width of the space which will intervene between the adjacent rows of eyelets when the corset is laced together about the person, so that there is formed a flap or underlay, the free edge of which extends under the edge of the other or adjacent section of the corset-half.

In my invention this underlay so formed keeps the crossed parts of the lacing-cord from contact with the under-clothing, which, when a lacing having india rubber is employed, is of decided advantage.

The eyelets in my improved corset are set in a novel manner. Heretofore the eyelets have been set in straight lines from bottom to top of the corset, and opposed eyeleted edges to be joined by the same lacing-cord have contained a like number of eyelets; but in my improved corset, herein shown, the eyelets, or they may be any usual hooks or studs, are set in a curved line to conform to the curve of the body at the waist, and one edge has twice the number of eyelets as the other, so that I am enabled to lace the two sections together—the one with eyelets near its edge and the other with eyelets very considerably remote from its edge—without passing the lacing over the edge of each section, so the underlay or flap may lie straight, and not be turned or affected at its edge by the lacing-cord.

Figure 1 represents in side elevation a suffi-

cient portion of the outer side of one-half of a corset to illustrate one embodiment of my invention, that portion of the front of the section which covers the breasts being broken away to economize space on the drawings; Fig. 2, an inner side elevation of Fig. 1; and Fig. 3, a detail showing a modification.

Each half of my improved corset is composed of two sections, A B, formed of two or more pieces properly shaped and stitched together at their edges. The section B is that which covers the main part of the back of the wearer, and has, as usual, the row of eyelets *a*. This section B, made in accordance with my invention, is provided with a second row of eyelets, *b*, herein shown as twenty-four set in a curve. These eyelets *b* (see Fig. 2) are set back at a considerable distance from the edge *c* of the section B, so as to form a wide free-edged underlay or flap, made to increase in width from the waist-line downward to the lower edge of the section, the broadest part of the said underlay covering the hip. I have shown this underlay or free-edged flap as stiffened by means of a series of vertical stiffeners, *d*, bone or other usual material, secured side by side between the outer and inner plies of the corset. The section A has its rear edge curved to enable it to conform to the side of the body of the wearer, and near such curved edge I place the row of eyelets *e*. (Shown as twelve in number.) The lacing-cord *f*, herein shown as an elastic or india-rubber cord suitably covered, is inserted through an eyelet *e* from, say, the inner side of the corset, and then through an eyelet *b* of the section B from its outer side, and thence immediately back from the inner side through the next eyelet *b*, and thence again through an eyelet *e* from its inner side. Such lacing of the cord *f* through one eyelet *e* and next through two eyelets *b* enables me to expose at the inner side of the corset next the under-clothing only a small portion of the said cord, as shown in Fig. 2.

It will be understood that the lacing-cord extends across the edge of section A at its outer and inner sides; but the free edge of the underlay or flap of section B is not crossed at either face by the lacing-cord, and the said underlay or flap is permitted to extend under the crossed parts of the cord *f* and for a distance far enough to cover the gap which will

occur between the row of eyelets *b* and the edge of the section A nearest the row of eyelets *e* under all adjustments of the corset, the said space being more or less, according to the requirements of the shape of the body of the wearer of the corset.

In Fig. 3 I have shown the row of eyelets *b* as inserted in a narrow piece or strip of cloth, *g*, stitched along one edge to the section B, such being shown as a modification within the scope of my invention; and so, also, I desire it to be understood that the underlay or flap might be formed as part of section A rather than section B, in which case section A would receive the greatest number of eyelets. The portion of section A broken away and not shown will be all as usual, and will contain the usual clamping-steel.

I claim—

1. The corset-section A, provided with eyelets *e*, and section B, provided with twice the number of eyelets *b*, and with the stiffened underlay increased in width from the waist of the

corset downward, combined with a lacing-cord extended through the said eyelets, as described, from opposite sides of the corset, whereby the lacing-cord is made to cross only the edge of the section A, as and for the purposes set forth.

2. In a corset, the section B, provided with the row of eyelets *b*, set therein back from its edge to form an underlay or flap extending from the top to the bottom of the corset, the underlay being increased in width from the waist of the corset downward and stiffened, as described, combined with the section A, provided with eyelets *e* and a lacing-cord, the said two sections forming one-half of a corset, as specified.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WM. H. RAMSEY.

Witnesses:

G. W. GREGORY,
FRED A. POWELL.