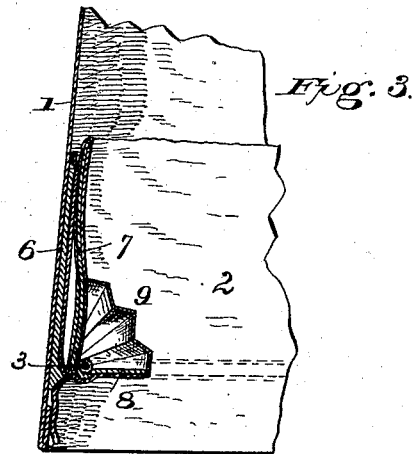
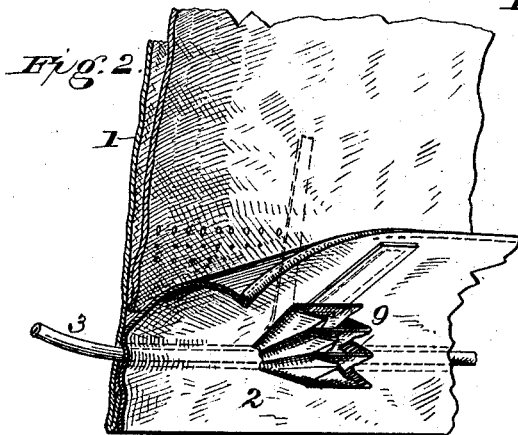
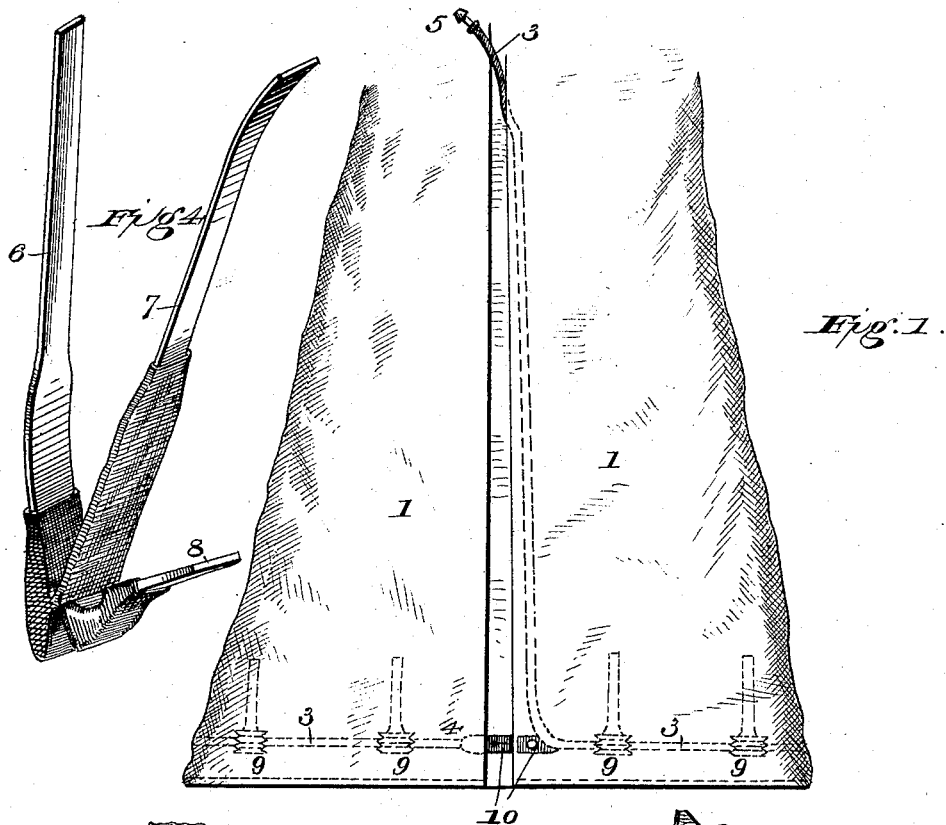


(No Model.)

W. D. STEARNS.
GOSSAMER.

No. 418,081.

Patented Dec. 24, 1889.



WITNESSES.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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GOSSAMER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 418,081, dated December 24, 1889.

Application filed October 15, 1889. Serial No. 327,071. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILFRID D. STEARNS, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Water-Proof Garments and Dress-Protectors; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to certain improvements in "gossamers" or "water-proofs" for the use of ladies, its object being to provide means to be used in connection therewith, whereby the skirts and under-garments and the lower edges of the dress may be prevented from being soiled by rain, mud, or slush.

The ordinary water-proof or gossamer, while very useful in protecting the dress or over-garments from being damaged, utterly fails to protect the skirts or under-garments and those portions of the dress which come in proximity to or contact with the ground. The splashing incident to the act of walking in rainy weather or when the streets are wet and muddy rapidly soils the under-garments and renders them unfit for wear until washed, cleansed, and ironed, which is a source of expense, trouble, and annoyance.

My invention is designed to obviate the above defects and to provide a water-proof which will effectually prevent the under-garments from being soiled, no matter what the condition of the weather or of the streets.

The invention consists in details of construction, which may be fully hereinafter set forth, and then specifically defined in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a water-proof or gossamer, showing the flap turned inwardly to embrace and protect the under-garments. Fig. 2 is a sectional view of a portion of the water-proof, the flap being let down to release the garments. Fig. 3 is a similar view with the flap projected upwardly to embrace the gar-

ments. Fig. 4 is a perspective of the ribs forming the bellows.

In the said drawings, the reference-numeral 1 designates the body of the water-proof or gossamer. At its lower edge and extending entirely around the same is a flap or extension 2, which is capable of being projected inwardly and upwardly, as hereinafter described, so as to embrace between it and the inner lower portion of the body 1 the dress, skirts, and other garments. At the junction of the flap and body portion, and placed between them so as to be concealed thereby, is a flexible tube 3, of rubber or other suitable material. This tube extends entirely around the water-proof, and is closed at one end and secured to one of the front edges of the garment, as at 4. The other end of said tube is extended upwardly along the edge of the opposite front portion of the water-proof to near the collar or top thereof, where it is provided with a mouth-piece 5, having a valve for opening and closing the same. 6, 7, and 8 designate three ribs hinged to each other at one end. Two of these ribs 6 and 7 are much longer than the one 8. The ribs 6 and 7 are about six or eight inches long, being about equal in length to the width of the flap 2, although it is obvious that the length may be varied as occasion may require, or as it may be found most desirable in practice, without departing from the invention. The rib 6 is secured to the interior of the water-proof at the lower portion and extends vertically upward from the bottom or lower edge thereof. The rib 7 is secured in like manner to the inside of the flap. As before stated, the ribs 6 and 7, and also the short rib 8, are hinged to each other, which may be done by connecting them together at their meeting ends by strips of textile material. Placed between each of the ribs 7 and 8 is a small bellows 9, which is secured, respectively, to said ribs 7 and 8, and is in communication with the flexible tube, so that when the air is forced into said tube the bellows will be inflated and ribs 7 and 8 forced apart, and when the air is allowed to escape said ribs are forced together.

The mouth-piece 5 may be provided with any suitable means for closing the same and confining the air within the tube.

The operation is as follows: When the water-proof is put on, the flap 2 will lie in its normal position—that is to say, it will project inward at about a right angle to the body of the water-
 5 proof, and just below the lower edge of the dress and under-garments, as seen in Fig. 2. The wearer now places the mouth-piece 5 in her mouth and blows therein, causing the bellows 9 to be inflated through the medium of
 10 the flexible tube, thus forcing the ribs 7 and 8 apart and causing the flap to be projected upwardly, as shown in Fig. 3, embracing the skirts between it and the inner side of the
 15 body 1, thereby preventing said garments from being soiled. When the flap has been forced or turned up, the valve in the mouth-piece is closed and the air confined in the bellows and tube, which will keep the flap in an upwardly-
 20 projected position. When it is desired to allow the flap to drop down and release the garments, the valve in the mouth-piece is opened and the confined air permitted to escape, when the bellows will collapse and ribs 7 and 8 come
 25 together and the flap drop down. The flap or extension is made separate from the body of the water-proof, and may be applied thereto in any manner desired. From this it will be seen that the flap and the devices by which it is
 30 operated can be applied to any water-proof, it simply being necessary to sew my flap thereto and affix the devices, which will be apparent to any one.

The numerals 10 10 designate two rubber flaps or strips secured to the flexible tube at
 35 the front of the water-proof at the lower portion thereof. One of these flaps is provided

with a button, while the other has a corresponding button-hole, so that they may be connected when the front portions of the water-proof are brought together, thus bring-
 40 ing the bottom of the water-proof close around the garments.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. The combination, with a water-proof or
 45 gossamer, of the flap secured thereto at its lower edge, the flexible tube extending around the body of the water-proof and upwardly in front to near the top thereof, and a series of
 50 bellows located at suitable intervals around the lower edge of the water-proof, communicating with said tube and connected to said
 55 flap by means substantially as set forth, so as to raise and lower the same, substantially as described.

2. The combination, with a water-proof or
 60 gossamer, of the flap 2, the tube 3, having mouth-piece 5, the ribs 6, 7, and 8, hinged together at one end, and the bellows 9, secured to the ribs 7 and 8, substantially as described.

3. The combination, with the water-proof or
 65 gossamer, of the flap 2, the flexible tube 3, bellows 9, ribs 6, 7, and 8, and the strips 10, provided with fastening devices and secured to said tube, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WILFRID D. STEARNS.

Witnesses:

A. L. MORSELL,
 JNO. ENDERS, Jr.