

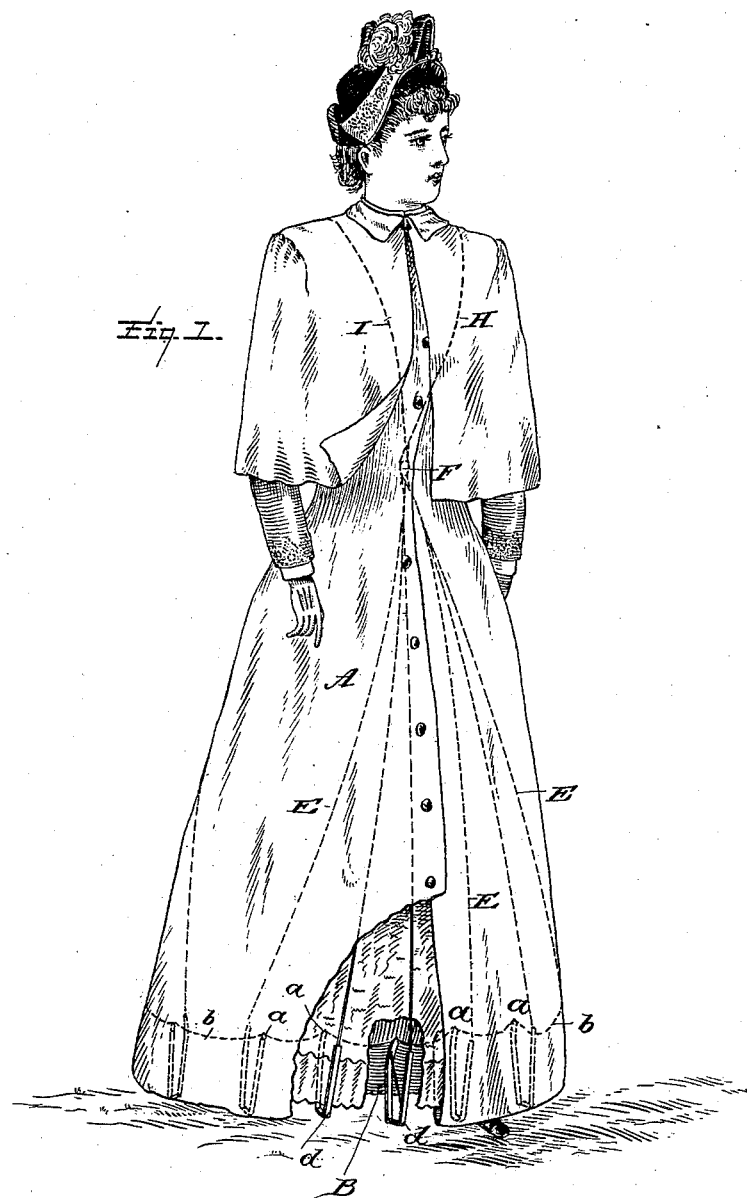
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3 Sheets—Sheet 1.

W. D. STEARNS.  
SKIRT PROTECTING GARMENT.

No. 418,082.

Patented Dec. 24, 1889.



WITNESSES

L. C. Hills  
E. A. Bond.

INVENTOR

Wilfrid D. Stearns.  
per Chas. W. Fowler  
Attorney.

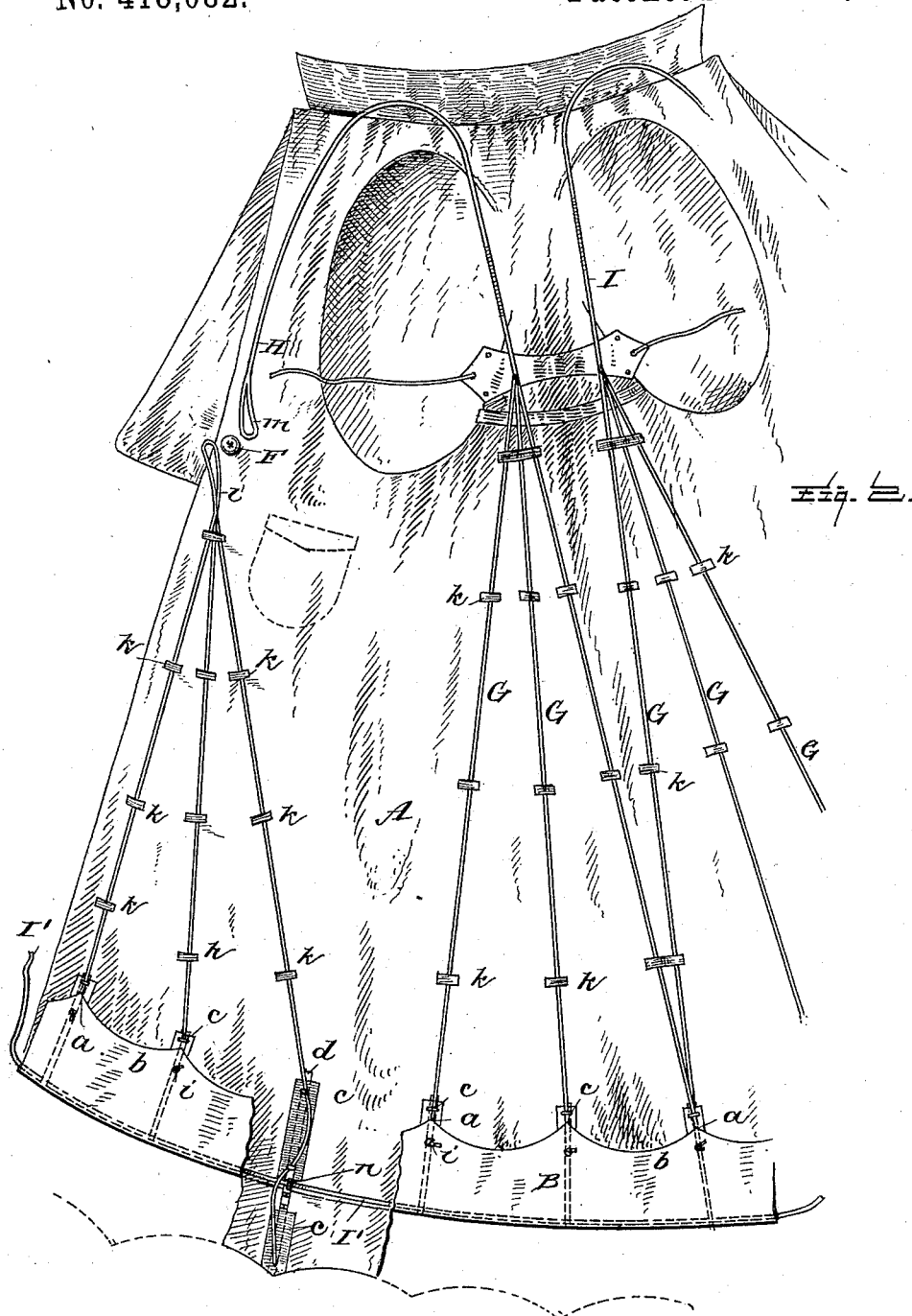
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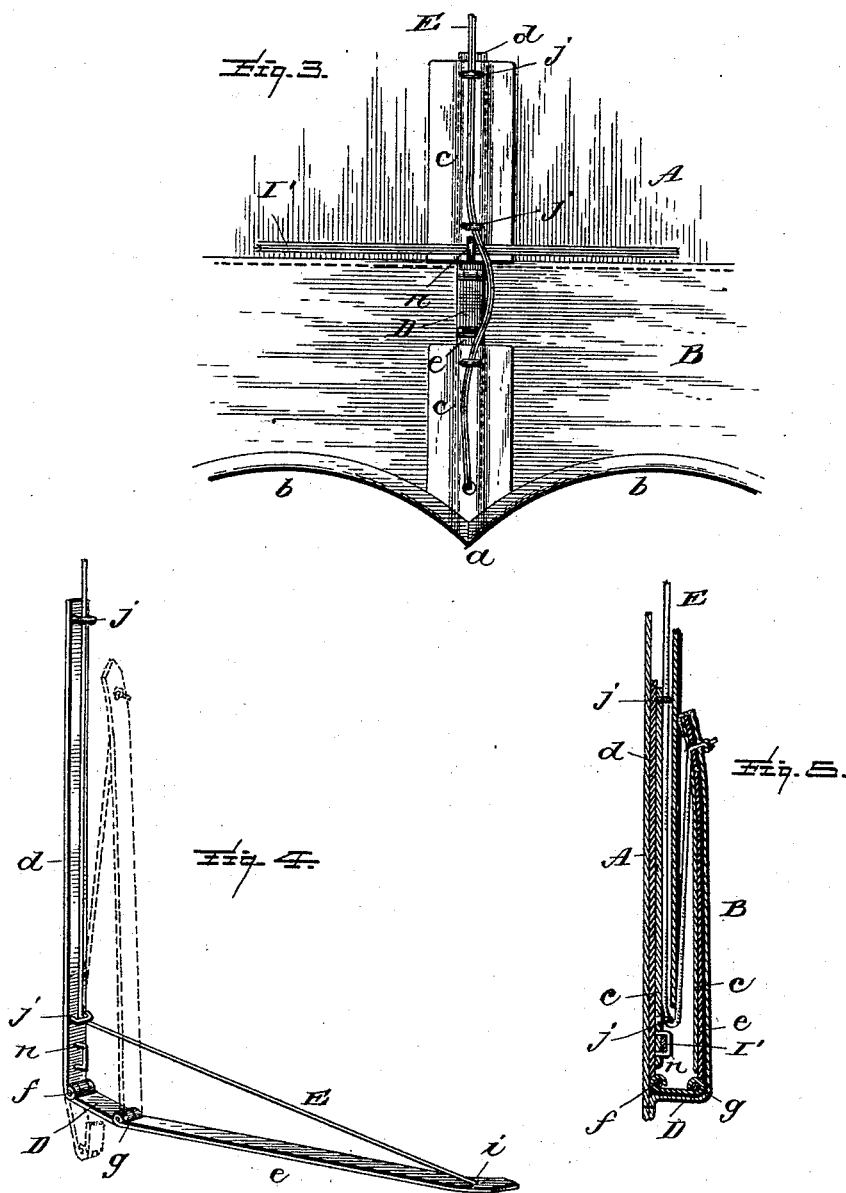
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILFRID D. STEARNS, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## SKIRT-PROTECTING GARMENT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 418,082, dated December 24, 1889.

Application filed November 7, 1889. Serial No. 329,519. (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 I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

This invention has relation to certain new and useful improvements in over-garments, especially water-proof garments, of that class designed for protecting women's skirts, more particularly the bottoms thereof; and it has for its object, among others, to provide an improved device of this character having a folding portion upon its inner face at the bottom, the said folding portion being designed to form a pocket to receive the bottom edge of the skirt, and constructed to be manipulated through the medium of cords or tapes connected with the hinged arms and extending to within convenient reach of the hand of the wearer. The upper edge of the inner wall of the pocket is preferably scalloped to provide points which facilitate the insertion thereof behind the lower edge of the skirt, and the upper edges or ends of the folding arms are turned slightly outward also to facilitate the insertion behind or beneath the skirt, and also to avoid all liability of the same catching into or injuring the leg of the wearer.

Other novel features and advantages of the invention will hereinafter appear.

The invention consists in the peculiar combinations and the novel construction, arrangement, and adaptation of parts, all as more fully hereinafter described, shown in the drawings, and then particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

The invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, which, with the letters of reference marked thereon, form a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a view showing in use a lady's water-proof cloak constructed in accordance with my invention with parts broken away. Fig. 2 is a view of the cloak thrown open and showing the inner or under side thereof with

portions broken away. Fig. 3 is an enlarged view of a portion of the lower part of the cloak, looking at the inner side, with the folding portion distended. Fig. 4 is a perspective view, on an enlarged scale, of one of the metal arms employed, with its operating cord or tape attached thereto. Fig. 5 is a vertical section through the lower portion of the cloak with the skirt in the pocket thereof.

Like letters of reference indicate like parts throughout the several views.

Referring now to the details of the drawings by letter, A designates a lady's water-proof cloak of ordinary construction, except as hereinafter specified. It is provided at its lower edge with an inner folding portion B, which may be provided by making the cloak of extra length, or by means of a separate piece attached to the bottom of the cloak in any suitable manner. The upper edge of this inner folding portion B is scalloped, as shown at *b*, providing the points *a*, which serve to aid in the insertion of the said inner portion by means of its arms, hereinafter described, behind or beneath the lower edge of the skirt. The number of these scallops and points may be varied as desired, but I prefer about twelve, as shown.

Secured in suitable pockets, as *c*, upon the inner adjacent faces of the cloak and the portion B are the metallic arms C, each of which consists of a portion *d*, which is attached to the cloak, and a portion *e*, which is secured in the pocket in the portion B. These two portions *d* and *e* are connected together by means of a short arm D, hinged at each end to the portions *d* and *e*, as shown best in Figs. 4 and 5, by means of hinges *f* and *g*, as shown in said figures. These hinges are so constructed that the short arm D cannot go beyond a horizontal position in a downward direction, but will permit of the short arm and the portion *e* being folded flat against the portion *d* when it is desired to fold or roll the cloak into a small space. These arms are inserted, one at each scallop or point of the folding portion B, with the point of the portion *e* beveled upon opposite sides to make it conform to the shape of the pocket at this point, and the upper end is slightly bent inward, as shown at *h* in Figs. 1, 4, and 5, to facilitate the insertion of the same behind or

beneath the lower edge of the skirt, and also to prevent its coming in contact with the leg of the wearer.

Fig. 5 shows the position the parts assume when the cloak is on the body of the wearer and the skirt held in the pocket and the folding portion B drawn up and fastened. In order to provide for the ready manipulation of this folding portion by the wearer after the cloak is on, I have devised the following: E are tapes or cords attached at one end, as at *i*, to the free ends of the portions *e* of the arms C near one side of the front of the cloak. The cords or tapes are then passed through suitable loops *j* on the portions *d* of the arms and through suitable guides *k* on the inner side of the cloak, as shown best in Fig. 2, and at their upper end are united and formed into a loop or button-hole *l*, as shown in said Fig. 2, designed to engage a button F on the under face of the cloak. The three arms at the other side of the cloak are arranged in the same manner, and the loop or button-hole thereof is designed to be engaged with the same button. The arms at the back of the cloak are provided with similar tapes or cords G, which pass through similar guides upon the inner face of the cloak, as shown in Fig. 2, and at their upper ends are divided into two sets, each terminating in a tape or cord H and I, designed to pass over the shoulders of the wearer, and at the ends provided with a loop or button-hole *m*. These tapes are designed to pass over the shoulders, as indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 1, and together with the tapes or cords E to be buttoned all upon the one button F, as indicated by the dotted lines in Fig. 1. When the cloak is first put on, the folding portion is distended, and after it is partially buttoned up the wearer has simply to pull upward upon the tapes or cords E and downward upon the tapes or cords G and fasten them all upon the button F, the pulling of the tapes or cords pulling upward the arms C, or the folding portions thereof, from their distended position into the position in which they are shown by dotted lines in Fig. 4 and in Fig. 5 by full lines. For the comfort

of the wearer and to provide an even strain or tension upon the cords or tapes, some portion of the tapes or cords should be elastic, of any suitable nature. The parts are all hidden from exterior view, and thus do not detract from the appearance of the garment, and tend to better the fit thereof and render it more presentable to the eye.

Around the bottom of the garment, arranged in suitable guide-loops *n* on the portions *d* of the arms C, I run a tape I', the ends of which may be secured in any suitable manner, and this tape is for the purpose of holding the lower portion of the cloak in position and prevent its being pulled upward as the cords are pulled upon to close the pocket. This should be fastened before the tapes are pulled upon, otherwise the pulling on the tapes is liable to pull outward the lower edge of the cloak and give it a rumpled appearance, which is objectionable.

What I claim as new is—

1. An over-garment having an extension at its bottom to fold up inwardly and envelop the bottom of a skirt and having a series of folding clasps connected to the body of the garment and to the extension, in combination with a series of cords connected to said clasps and loosely to the garment above the clasps, whereby by elevating the cord the extension is caused to fold, and means for securing the cords in their elevated position, as set forth.

2. An over-garment having an extension at its bottom to fold up inwardly and envelop the bottom of a skirt, in combination with a series of clasps secured to said extension and the body of the garment, each clasp consisting of two arms connected at their lower ends by hinges to a short arm, and means for retaining said extension and clasps in a folded position, as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the above I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

WILFRID D. STEARNS.

Witnesses:

JOHN J. CLANCY,  
JOSEPH HOBLITZ.