

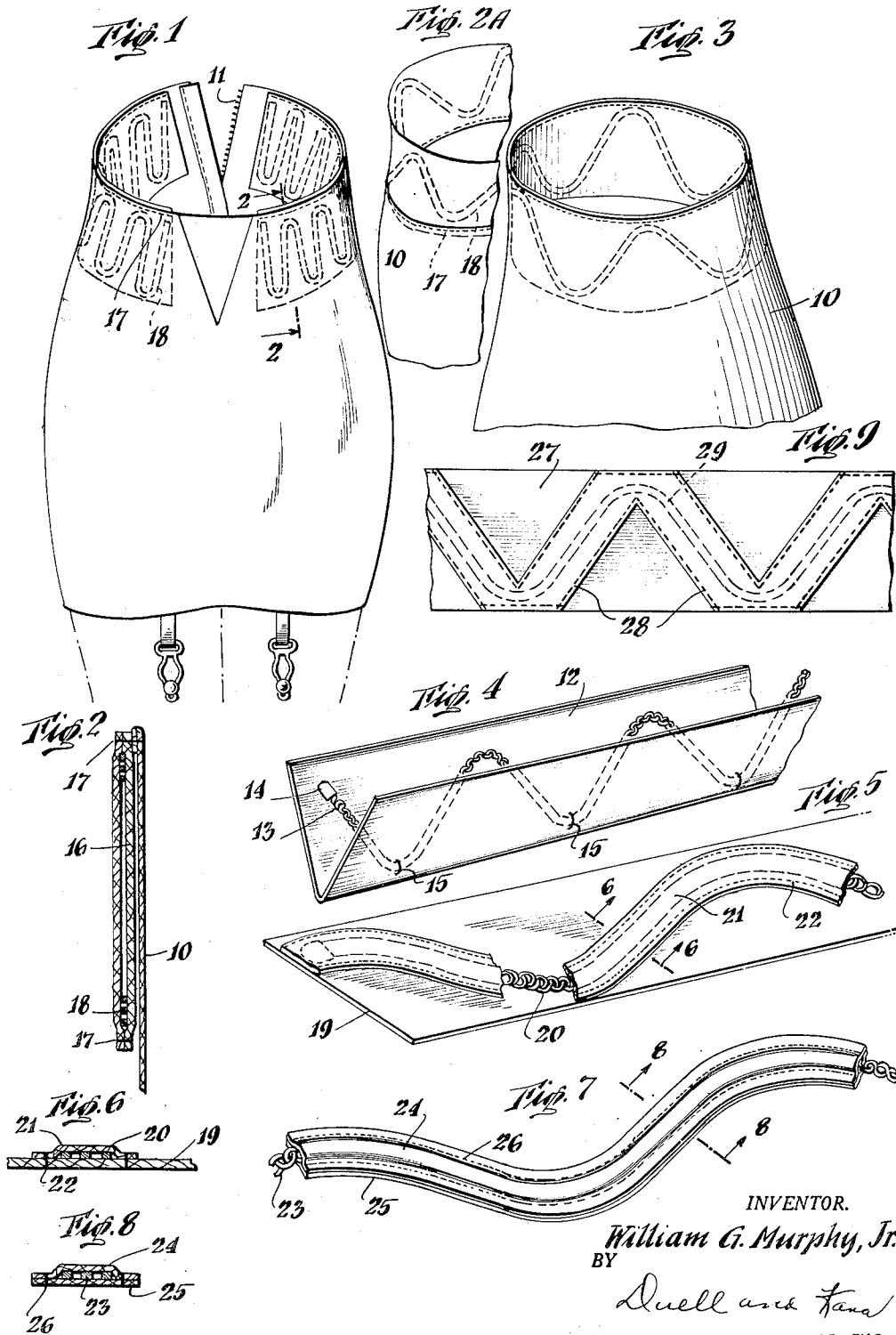
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GARMENT REINFORCEMENT

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GARMENT REINFORCEMENT

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1

This invention relates to a structurally and functionally improved garment, and especially a garment such as a corset or girdle; the present invention contemplating a reenforcement for garments of these and similar types and by means of which portions of the garment will be maintained in proper relationship with respect to the body of the wearer.

It is a primary object of the present invention to provide a structure by means of which a garment such as a girdle or corset will have portions adjacent its edges reenforced in a manner such that these edges will not tend to curl or bulge outwardly.

A further object is that of providing an improved structure of this type and which in use will be extremely comfortable so that the wearer will experience no pain or annoyance in wearing a garment embodying the invention.

Still another object is that of furnishing a reenforcing structure embodying a relatively simple design, such that it may be readily and economically manufactured in large quantities and applied wherever desired to a garment so as to properly support the adjacent surfaces thereof.

With these and other objects in mind, reference is had to the attached sheet of drawings illustrating practical embodiments of the invention and in which:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of a garment showing one type of reenforcement in association therewith;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged transverse sectional view taken along the line 2-2 and in the direction of the arrow as indicated in Fig. 1;

Fig. 2a is a fragmentary view of an alternative form of structure;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary view of the upper portion of a garment and with which there has been associated an alternative form of reenforcing structure;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of one type of reenforcement constructed in accordance with the present teachings;

Figs. 5 and 7 are views similar to Fig. 4, but showing alternative types of structure;

Figs. 6 and 8 are transverse sectional views taken along the lines 6-6 and 8-8 respectively and in the direction of the lines as indicated in Figs. 5 and 7; and

Fig. 9 is a fragmentary side elevation of an alternative form of structure.

In these views the numeral 10 indicates the body of a garment for example, a girdle or corset and which has an upper or waist encircling por-

2

tion. This portion may be continuous or interrupted as indicated in Fig. 1 and provided with fastening means of a quick detachable type as indicated by the numeral 11. Structures embodying the teaching of the present invention are mounted adjacent this upper edge zone either by providing the structures in the form of a sheath attached to the garment or else directly securing a reenforcement to a face of the garment in accordance with the present teachings. In any event, the reenforcement may include arcuate sections overlying desired portions of the garment as in Fig. 1, or else extending substantially throughout 360° as in Fig. 3; this, together with the particular design of the garment being a matter for determination by the manufacturer.

As in Fig. 4 a sheath 12 of suitable material may be provided by folding a strip of material upon itself and laying within the same a reenforcing or stiffening member 13 which may be provided with capped end portions 14. This stiffening member may be of any desired type. Conveniently, however, it includes a body of wire disposed in the form of loops which are flattened upon themselves in overlapping relationship. Thus a stiffening member incorporating desired yielding characteristics is furnished. This stiffening member as shown in Fig. 4 is arranged in a sinuous path within the sheath and may be secured against displacement by loops 15 which extends through the body of the sheath. In Fig. 4 loops have merely been disclosed adjacent what might be termed the trough portions of the member 13. As will be understood after the sheath has been closed, a similar securing expedient is arranged adjacent the apices of the reenforcing member.

As in Fig. 2, a sheath may be furnished by employing layers 16 of material which are secured to each other adjacent their upper and lower edges by, for example, stitching 17. A suitable reenforcing member 18 is disposed in a tortuous or sinuous path similar to that shown in Fig. 4 and arranged within the sheath of material. The upper line of stitching 17 securing the material layers of that sheath may also serve to attach the latter to the garment. As will be apparent from Fig. 2, the sheath with its contained reenforcement lies snugly adjacent the inner face of the waist encircling portion of the garment and due to its contained reenforcement 18 will serve to properly support and stiffen that garment portion. This portion may be secured to the upper garment edge and extend above the same as shown in Fig. 2a.

As in Figs. 5 and 6 a strip 19 of material of suitable width may be employed and upon which there is disposed in a sinuous path the reinforcing member 20. The latter is secured in position by means of an overlying strip 21 conveniently secured to strip 19 by lines of stitching 22. It is, of course, to be understood that with a structure such as is shown in these latter figures a proper reinforcement is furnished and which may be suitably secured to the garment by, for example, stitching through layer 19 adjacent one of its longitudinal edges and securing it by such stitching to the garment throughout the desired zone, of the latter. Preferably the mounting strip 19 will be so secured to the garment that the covering strip 21 intervenes the body of that garment and such strip 19.

A similar result is achieved by the structure shown in Figs. 7 and 8 in which the numeral 23 again indicates the suitable reinforcement or stiffening member. The latter is contained between strips of material 24 and 25. These may be secured to each other by, for example, lines of stitching 26. These same lines of stitching may secure the element or assembly under a sinuous disposition either directly to the desired portion of the garment or to mounting strips of, for example, the character shown in Figs. 5 and 6. Also if desired, additional lines of stitching (not shown) might be employed for so mounting the assembly.

In Fig. 9 the reference numeral 27 indicates a mounting strip or else the body of the garment. In any event, a series of inter-connected pockets 28 are secured to this mounting surface by, for example, stitching. The parts being inter-connected, it follows that the bone or reinforcing member 29 may be threaded through the same and disposed in a sinuous or tortuous path. If such a construction is employed, it will not be necessary to associate the reinforcement with the garment until the final stage of manufacture of the latter. In other words, the inter-connected pockets 28 may be provided either as a part of the garment or as a part of the mounting strip. They may extend throughout desired and pre-determined zones. Only with the garment completed, will the reinforcing member 29 be threaded through the pockets to stiffen the zone of the garment.

As afore brought out, while the reinforcing member may be formed of metal and specifically looped wire it may likewise be formed of any other desired material suitable to provide a bone or reinforcement. Also, as afore-brought out, only certain portions of the garment may be thus reinforced or else a major part or the entire circumference of the garment may be stiffened. If only arcuate portions are reinforced, then these may conveniently overlie the hip portions of the wearer. Otherwise they may overlie the diaphragm, the back, or extend around the entire circumference. Likewise, according to the width of the zone of application of the reinforcement of the garment, the latter may extend a greater or lesser distance throughout the length of the wearer's body. In any event, care should be exercised that the apices and trough portions do not present acute bends or pointed portions but are rather rounded as shown in the drawings. In this manner a structure is fur-

nished which will not tend to bear in an uncomfortable manner against the underlying portion of the wearer's torso. Also, while a suitable support will be furnished, it will in no wise interfere with the freedom of movements of the wearer's body.

Regardless of whether the reinforcement extends throughout only arcuate zones of the waist line or whether it extends throughout a major portion or all of the same, a proper support is provided. In other words, the reinforced zones of the garment will be maintained against any tendency to curl or extend outwardly. Also, by securing the sheath to the garment merely adjacent the upper edge of the latter (as in Fig. 2) the reinforcing member, while properly supporting the garment against curling adapts itself freely to the wearer's movements. Additionally when the garment is to be cleaned no difficulty will be experienced in that the sheath may be moved away from the adjacent face of the garment or in other words hinged around the line of the stitching or anchorage by means of which it is secured to the garment.

Thus, among others, the several objects of the invention as specifically afore noted are achieved. Obviously numerous changes in construction and rearrangement of the parts might be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention as defined by the claims.

I claim:

1. A reinforcing structure for a garment including a mounting portion, pockets forming a part of said structure and extending angularly with respect to each other, the successive upper and lower ends of adjacent pockets being inter-connected to provide a continuous passage extending lengthwise of said mounting portion, a single reinforcing member threaded through all of said pockets and disposed in a sinuous path through the successive pockets and said member comprising a resilient body resisting lateral flexing.

2. A reinforcement for a garment comprising a mounting member, a covering strip, said strip having its side edges secured against movement with respect to said member and spaced from each other, said covering strip moreover being disposed in a sinuous path upon said mounting member, a resilient reinforcing member disposed within the channel defined by said covering strip with its apices and trough portions being rounded and said reinforcing member being movable with respect to said mounting member within the limits defined by said covering strip.

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