The present invention relates to corsets of the girdle type and, more generally, to undergarments designed for making more slender the outline of women's bodies by retaining or improving the shape of the hips, whether such undergarments are of elastic or non-elastic fabric and whether they are, or are not associated with bustings, means or brassieres.

It is well known that existing girdles flatten the natural round bottom forms or buttocks of the woman and press them together so that they merge into a single form. Such effects are serious drawbacks when the modes in fashion emphasize the natural forms of the woman and require that such natural forms be perceived under the skirt or the gown.

The object of the present invention is to provide simple and effective means for avoiding the above mentioned drawbacks of existing girdles.

For this purpose, according to the present invention, the girdle is formed, at the lower part of its back, with two preshaped pockets adapted each to receive a buttock so as to preserve and improve the shape of the normal and individual projections of the natural round forms. At the same time, the girdle is securely prevented from slipping upwards and accurately maintained in its proper position.

Further features of the invention will appear from the following description of illustrative embodiments which is to be read with reference to the accompanying drawings.

In the drawings:

Figs. 1 and 2 are back views of girdles according to two different embodiments of the invention, and which are shown as worn by women;

Fig. 3 is a view of the lower back portion, laid flat, showing a modification of the embodiments illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2; and

Figs. 4 and 5 are views similar to parts of Figs. 1 and 2, but showing the lower back portions of two further embodiments.

In all the embodiments illustrated in the drawings, the front of the girdle is not distinguished from known girdles; therefore, it is not part of the invention proper and may be of any known and suitable form and arrangement.

The back of the girdle illustrated in Fig. 1 is formed of three panels of elastic net, specifically, two upper panels 1, 2 and a single lower horizontal panel 3, which are all assembled in the usual fashion with the girdle front, for example by means of sewed side seams as at 4, with the piece 3 extending along the lower part of the girdle back portion in simultaneous contacting engagement with the rear parts of both of the wearer's thighs.

The panels 1, 2 are of soft elastic tulle which is relatively easily stretched and the panel 3 is preferably made more resistant, either by suitably choosing the texture of the net, or by using two layers of net.

The lower edges of the panels 1, 2 and the upper edge of the panel 3 are cut accurately to form two successive convex lines adapted to conform to the lower natural contour of the buttocks that is, the fold connecting the buttocks and the upper thighs, and the three panels 1, 2, 3 are assembled together by means of elastic or open work bands 5, 6, 7, the band 7 between the panels 1, 2 being preferably formed as an extension of either one of the bands 5, 6.

The open work or elastic bands 5, 6 and 7 may be of any known type. They serve to define weakened zones for preventing horizontal displacements of the girdle and riding up thereof by accurately locating the lower contours of the pockets 8, 9 which are each intended to snugly fit the fold between a buttock and the adjacent upper thigh. The bands 5, 6 and 7 may be replaced by a simple open work stitching of known type.

If the woman is not too stout and the fabric of the panels 1, 2 is sufficiently soft, the pockets 8, 9 may be formed by simply stretching the fabric of the panel 3 during the sewing of the bands 5, 6.

In the embodiment shown in Fig. 2, darts 10, 11 are provided for shaping the pockets 8, 9, in the same way that darts are often used to form the pockets of brassieres. This embodiment may be applied quite generally to any women's bodies, however stout they may be and whatever the degree of elasticity of the fabric employed, which may even be non-elastic.

In the embodiment of Fig. 2, the upper portion of the central joint between the panels 1, 2 is in the form of a slide fastener 12. In the embodiment shown in Fig. 1, a similar fastener is provided on one side of the girdle front.

Fig. 3 shows a way of obtaining the swelling of the pockets 8, 9 by cutting out the panels 1, 2, as at 13, to a shape markedly jutting out with respect to the sides of the lower panel 3.

Of course, the means mentioned above for shaping the pockets 8 and 9, namely, sewing under stretching, darts and shaped cutting, may be used separately or in any suitable combination.

The embodiment partially shown in Fig. 4 differs from that illustrated in Fig. 1 only in that the parts 1, 2 are made in a single panel, thus dispensing with the joint 7. The band 6 is then preferably an extension of the band 5 in the last embodiment illustrated in Fig. 5, the panel 3 of the preceding embodiments is not used, the lower round edges 17, 18 of the panels 1, 2 being left free so as to form the edge of the girdle at the back. However, for properly maintaining the latter, it is convenient to attach the lowermost parts 15, 16 of the round edges 17, 18 to an elastic band 14 sewn at 4a, at each end, to the girdle front.

Of course, without departing from the scope of the present invention as defined in the appended claims, various modifications may be made in the particular features of the described and illustrated embodiments.

What I claim is:

1. A woman's undergarment of the girdle type comprising a conventionally shaped front portion made of soft, relatively easily stretchable elastic fabric, a back portion having an upper part made of the same soft elastic fabric as said front portion and a single lower back panel extending horizontally along the lower edge of said upper part and made of an elastic fabric more resistant to stretching than said soft elastic fabric, side edges of said upper part and end edges of said lower panel being joined to side edges of said front portion, said lower edge of said upper part having the shape of two successive, downwardly convex lines adapted to coincide with the folds connecting the buttocks and the upper thighs of the wearer while said lower back panel is in simultaneous contacting engagement with the rear parts of both of the wearer's thighs, and a sewed seam of the open
work-type joining said lower horizontal back panel to said lower edge of said upper part, whereby a weakened zone is defined by said open work seam between said upper part and lower horizontal panel for ensuring a good anchorage for the convex lines of said lower edge within such folds in order to prevent any riding up of the girdle.

2. A woman's underwear of the girdle type comprising a conventionally shaped front portion made of soft, relatively easily stretchable elastic fabric, a back portion having two generally parallel vertical upper panels made of the same soft elastic fabric as said front portion and a single lower back panel extending horizontally along lower edges of said upper panels and made of an elastic fabric more resistant to stretching than said soft elastic fabric, whereby weakened zones are defined by said seam between said upper panels for preventing horizontal displacements of the girdle and between said upper panels and lower horizontal back panel for ensuring a good anchorage for said convex lines of said lower edges within such folds in order to prevent any riding up of the girdle.

3. A woman's underwear of the girdle type comprising a conventionally shaped front portion made of soft, relatively easily stretchable elastic fabric, a back portion including an upper section made of the same soft elastic fabric as said front portion and having a lower part which forms two side pockets adapted to respectively receive the wearer's buttocks and a single lower back panel extending horizontally along the lower edge of said upper section and being more resistant to stretching than said soft elastic fabric, sides of said upper section and end edges of said lower back panel being joined to side edges of said front portion, the lower edge of said upper section having the shape of a downwardly convex line adapted to coincide with the folds connecting the buttocks and the upper thighs of the wearer while said lower back panel is in simultaneous contacting engagement with the rear parts of the wearer's thighs, and a sewed seam of the open work type joining said lower horizontal back panel to the lower edge of said upper section, whereby a weakened zone is defined by said seam between said upper section and lower horizontal back panel for ensuring a good anchorage for said convex lines of said lower edge within such folds in order to prevent any riding up of the girdle.

4. A woman's underwear according to claim 3, wherein said lower horizontal back panel includes two layers of said soft elastic fabric.

5. A woman's underwear of the girdle type comprising a conventionally shaped front portion made of soft, relatively easily stretchable elastic fabric, a back portion comprising two generally parallel vertical upper panels made of the same soft elastic fabric as said front portion and having lower parts which are shaped as pockets adapted to respectively receive the wearer's buttocks and a single lower back panel extending horizontally along lower edges of said upper panels and made of an elastic fabric more resistant to stretching than said soft elastic fabric, outer side edges of said upper panels and end edges of said lower back panel being joined to side edges of said front portion, the lower edge of each upper panel having the shape of a downwardly convex line adapted to coincide with the fold connecting the corresponding buttock and upper thigh of the wearer while said lower back panel is in simultaneous contacting engagement with the rear parts of both of the wearer's thighs, and a sewed seam of the open work type joining together the inner longitudinal edges of said upper panels and joining said lower horizontal back panel to said lower edges of said upper panels, whereby weakened zones are defined by said seam between said upper panels for preventing horizontal displacements of the girdle and between said upper panels and lower horizontal back panel for ensuring a good anchorage for the convex lines of said lower edges within such folds in order to prevent any riding up of the girdle.

6. A woman's underwear according to claim 5, wherein said lower horizontal back panel includes two layers of said soft elastic fabric.

7. A woman's underwear of the girdle type comprising a conventionally shaped front portion made of soft, relatively easily stretchable elastic fabric, a back portion having an upper part made of the same soft elastic fabric as said front portion and a single lower back panel extending horizontally along the lower edge of said upper part and made of an elastic fabric more resistant to stretching than said soft elastic fabric, sides of said upper part and edges of said lower panel being joined to side edges of said front portion, the lower edge of said upper part having the shape of two successive downwardly convex lines adapted to coincide with the corresponding buttocks and the upper thighs of the wearer while said lower panel is in simultaneous contacting engagement with the rear parts of both of the wearer's thighs, said lower back panel being connected to the lower edge of said upper part only at the lowest points of said convex lines, whereby open spaces occur between said upper part and lower horizontal panel to define weakened zones for ensuring a good anchorage for the convex lines of said lower edge within such folds in order to prevent any riding up of the girdle.

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