E. L. SPANGLER.

GARMENT STAY.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 6, 1916.

1,242,064.

Patented Oct. 2, 1917.

Fig. 1.

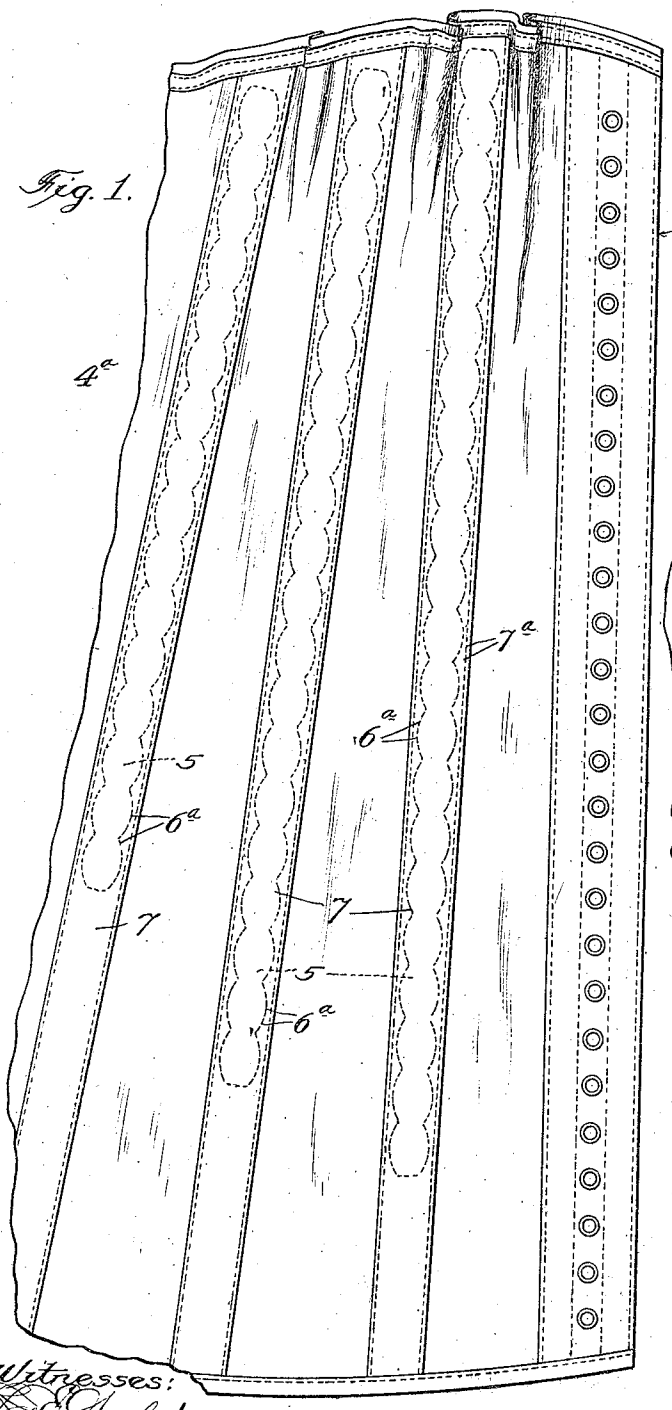


Fig. 2.

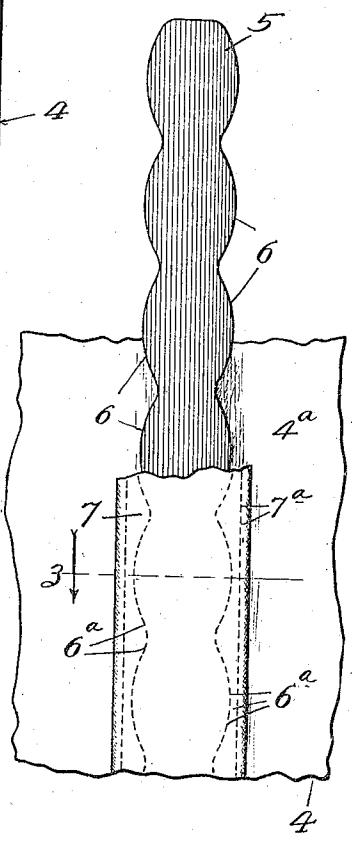
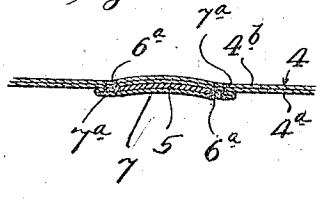


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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GARMENT-STAY.

1,242,064. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 2, 1917.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ERNEST L. SPANGLER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Garment-Stays, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in the class of stays employed as a yielding stiffening medium in corsets, abdominal belts, waists and various garments to support and give shape to the body of the wearer.

The stay proper, or stiffening element, in an article of wear for the supporting and shape-giving purpose, is a flat blade of elastic material, more usually thin metal and less frequently whalebone, celluloid, or the like; and this is commonly confined in an elongated sheath, which may be one body stitched to such article or be formed by stitching together a narrow section of the inner and outer layers of cloth of which such article is made; or the sheath may be formed by laying a tape, or narrow strip of cloth on the inner layer of the article of wear and stitching it along its edge-portions through both layers to reinforce them, the stiffening medium being confined in the sheath thus provided.

It is the more common practice to confine these stiffening blades in their sheaths by stitching the latter along their longitudinal edge-portions and at their ends, the longitudinal stitching extending parallel with the straight smooth edges of the blades. This method is objectionable, however, since it permits longitudinal play to the blades, causing them to wear and protrude at their ends through those of the sheaths, and more particularly because of the frequent bending to which they are subjected in use, to wrinkle transversely, in numerous corrugated or flute-like folds along the sheaths, whereby these wrinkles on the inner sheath-faces present protuberances which, if the stay-equipped article is worn over very thin garments or next to the skin, as is often the case, cause discomfort to the wearer and even chafing of the skin.

I know of a construction of dress-stay which tends to overcome some of the objections referred to. It involves a stiffening blade serrated along its opposite edges and having a confining sheath of fabric so woven about it, to constitute the fabric and blade an integral whole, as to draw the threads between the edge-teeth in the blade and thereby fasten the latter against endwise movement in the woven sheath. However, that construction is not only expensive and provides an unduly thick stay, while stays should be as slender as possible to lend to the body on which they are worn the appearance of slenderness, but the edge-serrations tend to irritate the flesh of the wearer, with attendant discomfort, and to wear the fabric.

I overcome all these objections by providing a stay-blade of the kind referred to, having at least one edge, or preferably both edges, scalloped, whereby the lobes present comparatively broad surfaces to bear against the body of the wearer. Moreover, the scallops enable the blade to be fastened against longitudinal movement in its sheath by stitching through the latter along the scallops in a manner to follow the edge-contour of the blade whereby it is immovably secured in place; and, incidentally, the scalloped line of stitches renders the stay attractively ornamental and enhances the appearance of the article provided with it.

While, as aforesaid, my improvement is intended for use on all articles of wearing apparel for which it is adapted, I have more especially devised it for corsets and therefore confine thereto the description hereinafter contained and illustrate it in that connection in the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is an inner face view of a portion of a corset provided with stays of my improved construction; Fig. 2 is an enlarged broken view showing the scalloped blade partly stitched in its confining sheath and partly without the latter; and Fig. 3 is a section on line 3, Fig. 2.

The corset 4 may be of any known or desired kind and construction. As shown it comprises an inner layer 4^a and an outer layer 4^b of suitable cloth. The blade 5 is of adequately thin sheet-steel and has its edges scalloped, as shown at 6, Fig. 2, preferably by stamping, and each blade used in the corset (only three being indicated in Fig. 1) is confined under a cloth strip 7 stitched along its straight infolded edge-portions, as represented at 7^a, and at its opposite ends, the stitches penetrating both layers 4^a and 4^b, whereby the strip 7 reinforces these layers to prevent the stitches pulling out, and forms a sheath for confin-

ing the blade. Obviously, if the layers be of sufficiently heavy material the blade may be stitched along its opposite edges between them, thereby forming the blade confining sheath. When the blade has been confined in place, the pocket is stitched along the edge-scallops 6, as represented at 6a, in a manner to follow and conform thereto, whereby the blade is secured against longitudinal movement and the cloth is prevented from slipping and puckering, in the objectionable transverse wrinkles referred to, along the flat surfaces of the blade.

It is preferred to curve the blade 5 longitudinally, but very slightly, into the concavo-convex form represented in greatly exaggerated degree in Fig. 3, with the concave surface innermost, since the blade is thereby stiffened against tendency to become more or less twisted under the various or relatively contrary strains to which it may be subjected at different parts of the corset by the movements of the respective parts of the body crossed by the stay.

From the foregoing description of my improvement, it will be apparent that its use does not appreciably thicken the article provided with it, but serves to lend a comparatively slender appearance to the body of the wearer; that the lobes of the scalloped edges of the blades not only adapt the latter to be fastened in their sheaths by stitching through them along the lobes, against longitudinal play and resultant objectionable puckering or wrinkling of the sheaths, and with the further advantage of ornamentation by such stitching, but the wide surfaces of the lobes, because of their expanded flatwise bearing against the body of the user, cause a garment or article provided with my improvement to be worn with comfort. The preferred curvature of the blades is too slight to impair the desirable flatwise pressure of the lobes 6 against the person, while it serves effectively to maintain the surfaces of the blades smooth and flat.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. As a new article of manufacture, a garment-stay blade having a longitudinal edge formed of convex curves in uninterrupted series, said curves resembling segments of circles and presenting expanded lobes.

2. As a new article of manufacture, a garment-stay blade of sheet-metal having its opposite longitudinal edges formed of convex curves in uninterrupted series, said curves resembling segments of circles and presenting expanded lobes.

3. A garment-stay comprising a sheath and a scallop-edged blade fastened therein by stitching through the sheath, the stitches extending along and conforming to the scallops.

4. A garment-stay comprising a sheath and a sheet-metal blade provided with scalloped edges and fastened in the sheath by stitching therethrough, the stitches extending along and conforming to the scallops.

5. A corset or like article provided with stays, each stay comprising a sheath on the article and a scallop-edged blade fastened in the sheath by stitching, with the stitches extending along and conforming to the scallops.

6. A corset or like article provided with stays, each stay comprising a sheath on the article and stitched along its longitudinal edges through said article, and a longitudinally concavo-convex sheet-metal blade provided with scalloped edges and fastened in the sheath by stitching therethrough with the stitches extending along and conforming to the scallops.

ERNEST L. SPANGLER.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."