(No Model.)

# J. L. BOYER.

## UNION GARMENT.

No. 589,241. Patented Aug. 31, 1897.

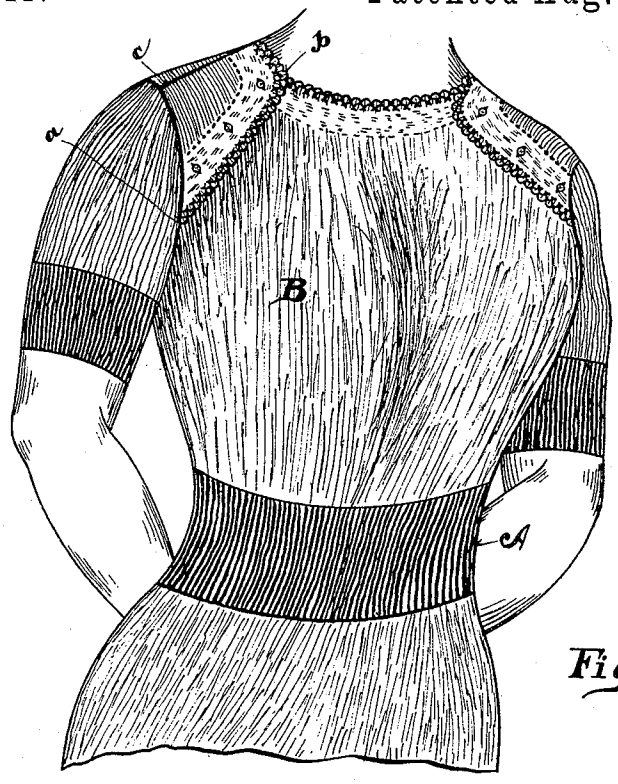



Fig. 1.

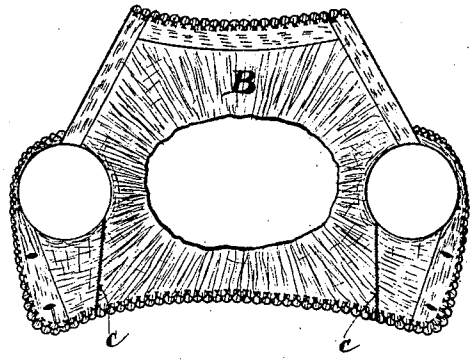



Fig. 2.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN L. BOYER, OF PIQUA, OHIO.

## UNION GARMENT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 589,241, dated August 31, 1897.

Application filed April 14, 1897. Serial No. 632,130. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN L. BOYER, residing at Piqua, in the county of Miami and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Union Undergarments, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in knitted undergarments of the class known as "union" undergarments; and it has for its object to provide such a garment possessing a neck-opening provided with diverging slits or cuts arranged and located in a novel manner by which the garment may be placed upon and removed from the person, the meeting or lapping edges of the slits or cuts having fastening devices so disposed and arranged that when the garment is adjusted upon the wearer it shall not bind across the chest or bust or cause discomfort by pressure of the fastening devices upon the person.

In the manufacture of this class of articles it has long been the aim of experts, manufacturers, and dealers to produce an article which may be worn by women without any discomfort, binding, or pressure upon the bust, and a number of different constructions have been proposed, none of which, however, have accomplished satisfactorily the result sought.

My invention consists in the undergarments constructed as hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a front view of the garment attached to the body of the wearer, and Fig. 2 a top plan view.

In the said drawings the reference-letter A represents the waist of the garment, and B the bust portion, the latter being composed of elastic knit fabric and adapted to cover the breast of the wearer without break or interruption and having greater elasticity than the waist portion.

The reference-letter *c* represents shoulder-seams, as usual in such garments where the ends of the front and back portions are united. The front of the garment above the breast portion is cut or slitted, as at *a*, from the edge of the neck-opening *b* diagonally and divergingly downward to the armpit-openings, as shown, the lines of the slits or cuts following the line of natural depression existing between the shoulders and breast or chest of the wearer. The meeting edges of the cut or slit portions are provided with suitable fastening devices, such as buttons and buttonholes, as illustrated in the drawings, and these fastening devices lie or are pocketed in the natural line of depression of the human body before referred to, so that when the outer garments are arranged upon the person there will be no disagreeable pressure of the fastening devices against the body of the wearer. This arrangement or location of the slits or cuts *a* affords also a breast portion B which is elastic throughout its extent, so that it will conform without binding to all the movements of the wearer and at the same time have a glove fit, considerations of great value in the art, especially in garments for women's wear.

In union garments constructed prior to my invention the opening for adjusting the garment upon or removing it from the wearer has been usually on a line extending directly across the breast portion. When such garment is fastened, the line of fastening devices is directly across the chest or breast and bears thereon in such manner that when the outer garments are adjusted a disagreeable pressure of the fastening devices upon the wearer is experienced. The arrangement of the slits or cuts in a direction across the breast of the wearer is also objectionable in that when the garment is fastened there is a tension or binding of the facing or reinforcement of the edges of the slits or cuts upon the wearer at that point, and this is more particularly noticeable after the garment has been laundered and there has been a shrinkage of greater or less extent. These objections have been found to exist in articles of underwear as now manufactured and in practical use, and they are entirely obviated in a garment constructed in accordance with my invention, where the slits or openings are arranged in diverging or diagonal lines extending from the sides of the neck-opening near the front thereof outwardly or downwardly to the armpit portions above the breast or chest and in the line or natural depression between the chest and shoulders of the user. When so constructed, the line of fastening devices is disposed in the natural

depression of the human body just referred to and is free of a disagreeable pressure upon the body. By so locating the slits and fastening devices I also provide an elastic knitted breast portion which is unbroken and perfectly elastic throughout its extent and is adapted to have a glove fit and to conform to the configuration and movements of the wearer and which is free of any fastening devices or other feature which could cause discomfort to the breast or chest of the wearer.

The location of the slits or openings as described also possesses the advantage of providing an ample opening at the top of the garment for its adjustment upon or removal from the wearer, the width of the opening being not only the extent of the width of the bust, but including also the width of the armholes, affording an opening which permits of the wearer putting the garment on or taking it off without undue effort or discomfort.

The slits or cuts *a* run, as shown in the drawings, diagonally with the thread fabric instead of at right angles, and the edges are faced with a suitable elastic material, by preference the same material of which the body of the garment is composed, so that the elasticity of the fabric along the lines of the cuts or slits is not impaired.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

The herein-described undergarment, consisting of an elastic, knitted fabric provided with a neck-opening and slits or cuts extending from said neck-opening, respectively, from a point about midway between the front and shoulder portions thereof outwardly and downwardly to the lower front edge of the armpit-openings, the meeting edges of said slits or cuts being provided with fastening devices, whereby the respective openings in the garment and the fastenings therefor are located along the line of the natural depression between the breast and shoulder portions of the wearer and also leave the breast portion of the garment unbroken and elastic throughout its entire width, as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

JOHN L. BOYER.

Witnesses:
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