R. J. WRIGHT & H. S. BRIDGMAN.

CORSET.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 21, 1914.

1,246,370. Patented Nov. 13, 1917.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

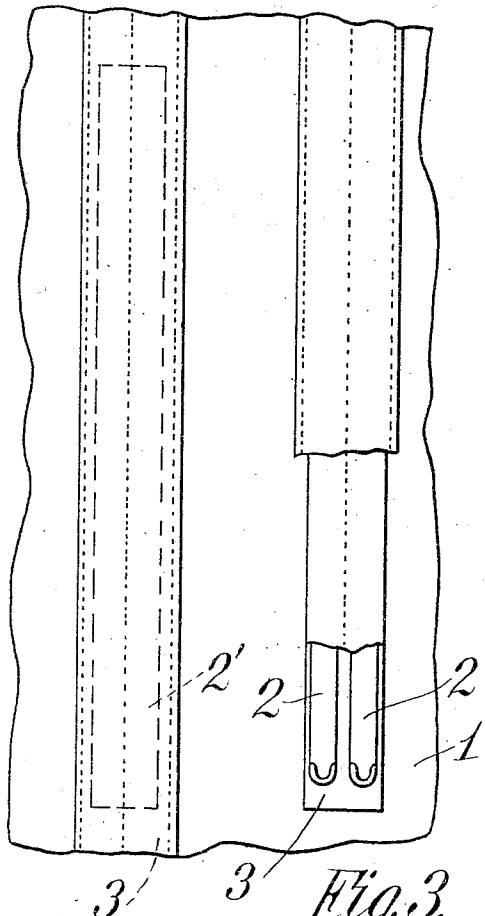


Fig. 3.

Fig. 2.

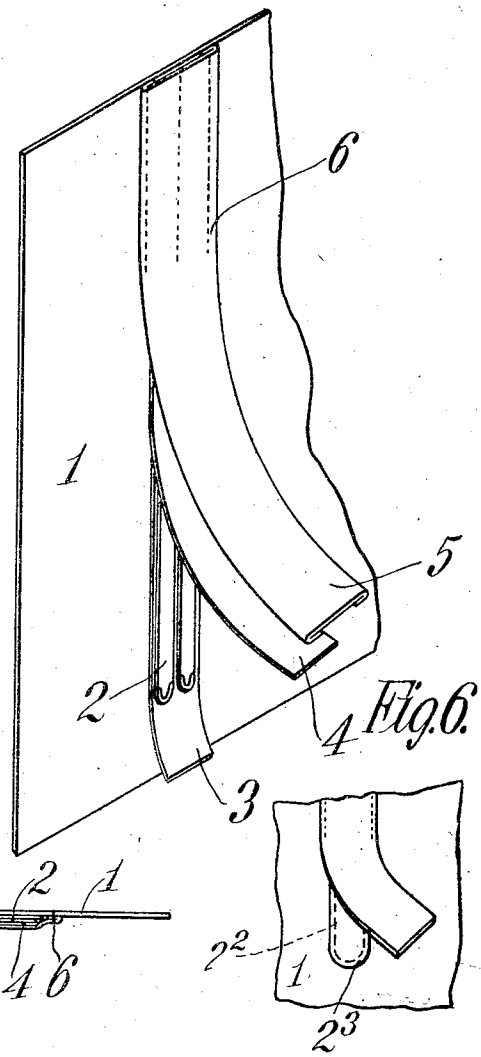
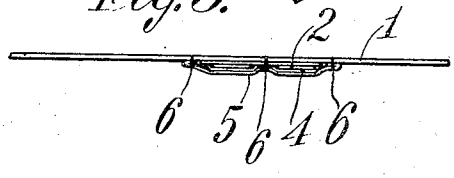


Fig. 6.



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 4.

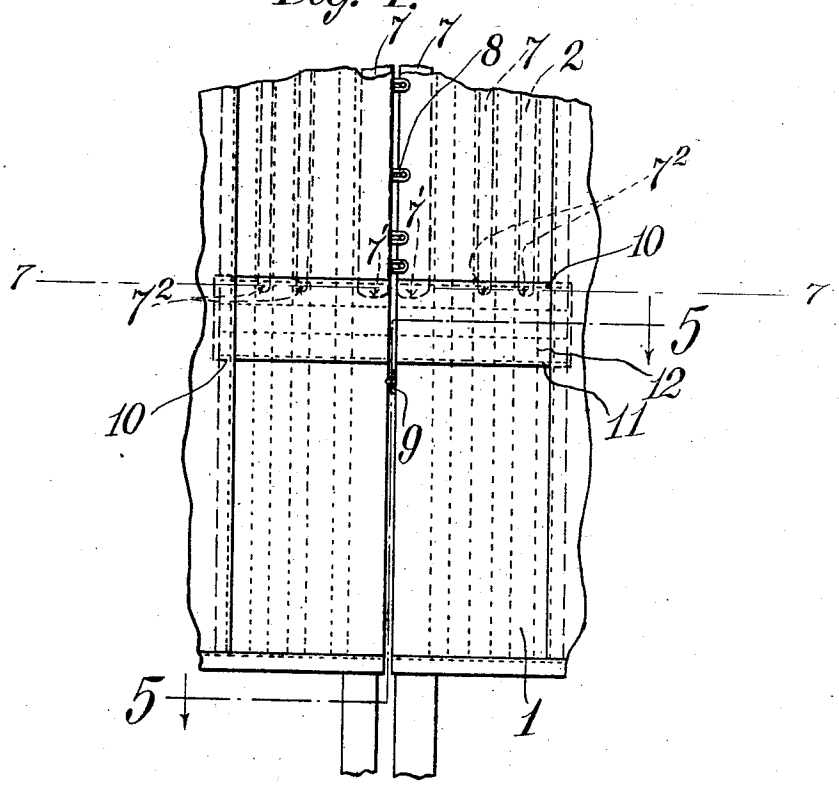
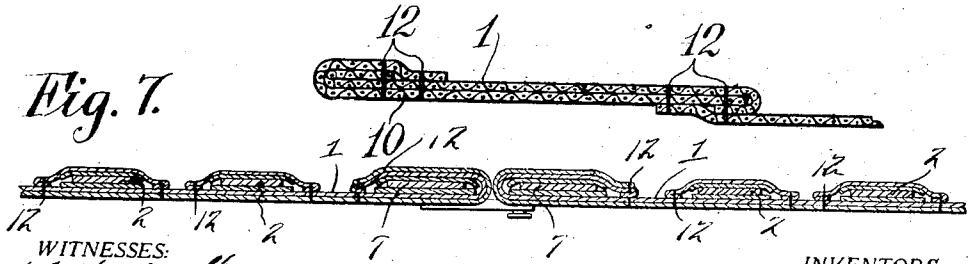


Fig. 5.

Fig. 7.



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CORSET.

1,246,370. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Nov. 13, 1917.

Application filed March 21, 1914. Serial No. 826,234.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, ROYAL J. WRIGHT and HARRY S. BRIDGMAN, citizens of the United States of America, residing at Springfield, in the county of Hampden and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Corsets, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in corsets. The object of the invention is to prevent the stiffening material, usually termed stays, and composed of various materials as, steel, ratan, whalebone, vulcanized rubber and so forth, used therein from working loose and their ends projecting beyond the outer surface of the body portion of the garment.

The usual and common practice at the present time for retaining the stays in place is to simply stitch, or otherwise secure a strip of cloth or other material directly over the stay forming a pocket in which the same is located. This practice is objectionable in that it does not prevent the stay from working loose and finally wearing an opening through the body portion of the garment. It has also been the practice to fold the covering strip over the ends of the stays before stitching the same to the garment. This method does not entirely prevent the stay from finally working loose. The old method, therefore, left the stay free to move up or down and finally to push or wear an opening through the garment. Our improvement, therefore, is to entirely overcome this objection, and relates to securing the stiffening material to the body proper by means or devices other than stitching.

The improvement, in general, consists in permanently securing the stiffening material directly to the body of the garment without the employment of stitches, and thus prevent any relative movement between the stiffening material and the body portion.

In addition a reinforcing strip of sufficient width is to be employed and placed in a horizontal position to cover the ends of the stays and so arranged that this strip is plainly visible from the outside. This reinforcing strip may cover any or all of the stays of stiffening material.

It is preferably so located as to extend over and around the lower ends of the fastening or border stays to which the clasps are attached.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a front elevational view showing, in dotted lines, the inclosed stays, and, in full lines, two of the narrow stays exposed.

Fig. 2 is a view showing the manner of attaching the stays to a strip of cloth or other suitable material.

Fig. 3 is an end elevation of a portion of the fabric composing the corset and showing the stays secured in place.

Fig. 4 illustrates the horizontally arranged strips of cloth for reinforcing the closing edges of the garment, extending over the lower ends of the stays and visible from the outside of the garment.

Fig. 5 is a transverse sectional view on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4, and

Fig. 6 illustrates the broad idea of the invention showing the stay of stiffening material permanently and directly secured to the body portion of the garment.

Fig. 7 is a transverse sectional view on the line 7—7 of Fig. 4.

Referring to the drawings in detail, 1 designates the cloth composing the body portion of the garment. 2 are narrow strips of the stiffening material, 2′ is a stiffening strip of wider width, while 2^2 in Fig. 6, shows the stiffening material secured directly to the body portion of the garment. One manner of securing the stay is to place a strip of cloth or paper 3 between the stays and the cloth 1, next place the stay 2 or 2′ thereon, then place a strip of cloth or paper 4 over the stays, and, lastly, over the strip 4 is placed the strip 5. The whole is then stitched together and to the garment, as indicated at 6 see Fig. 2. The stays, may if desired, be first covered with paper or other suitable material, which, in turn, is covered with glue or other adhesive material to cause the stays to permanently adhere to the body portion of the garment or to the strips 3 which may be of paper or cloth. It will be seen that, when the strips 3, 4, and 5 are stitched to the cloth 1, the stays, by reason of their permanent adherence to the strip 3, are prevented from slipping out of place or working loose should the metallic capped ends thereof wear an opening through the cloth of the garment.

Referring now to the modification shown in Figs. 4 and 5, 1 designates the cloth composing the main or body portion of the garment as before; 7 the stays of stiffening

material located near the closing edges of the garment and to which the hooks and eyes or fastening devices 8 are secured, while the numeral 2 designates the stays shown in Figs. 1 and 2. 9 designates a supplemental fastening device located below the devices 8. It frequently occurs that the supplemental fastening device 9 is left unfastened causing the ends 7′ and 7^2 of the stiffening material to wear an opening in the cloth 1. In order to prevent this wear, the horizontally arranged reinforcing strips 10 are placed over the lower ends 7′ and 7^2 and securely stitched or otherwise secured to the body portion 1 of the garment, as indicated at 11 and 12. By reason of these reinforcing pieces 10 of cloth or other suitable material being located and arranged over the ends 7′ and 7^2 of the stiffening stays shown at 7 and 2, they are prevented from wearing an opening through the cloth 1 of the garment should the supplemental fastening device 9 be left disconnected.

The reinforcing strips 10, it will be observed, are located upon and plainly visible from the outside of the body portion of the garment. It is to be understood that the reinforcing strip 10 may, if desired, extend as far as the first section of the corset in order to cover the stiffening stays 7 and 2. Fig. 7, which is a sectional view on the line 7—7 of Fig. 4, clearly shows the edge 7 inserted between the folds of the reinforcing strip 10. This strip is for the purpose of preventing the ends of the marginal stay 7 and the other stays 2 from wearing a hole through the covering of the corset garment.

Referring now to the construction shown in Fig. 6, 2^2 designates a stay of the stiffening material which is covered with some suitable material, as cloth or paper 2^3, which, in turn, is covered with a suitable adhesive material that will cause the stay 2^2 to permanently adhere to the cloth 1 of the garment. This figure shows, in brief, the general idea of applicant's improvement in securing the stays of stiffening material to the garment, which is to cover the stay with some suitable material, apply an adhesive thereto in order to cause the stay to become permanently adherent to the garment, then place over the stay and its covering *a* a strip of covering material. If found desirable the intermediate strips of cloth or paper 3 and 4 may be used although it is not necessary.

It is of course clearly within the province of our invention that we do not, in practice, tend to limit ourselves in regard to the number of strips of cloth or paper that are to be used in the pockets in which the stays are located.

It is also clearly within the province of our invention not to limit ourselves to the use of any patricular kinds of material as we may, of course, use other materials than cloth or paper as specified, as for example, leather.

The adhesive material used, may if desired, be also changed, as rubber cement may be used in place of glue.

It is also understood that the substitution of other well known means for permanently securing the parts together, other than stitching, may be employed if found desirable in the manufacture of the garment.

It is also, clearly within the range of equivalents in our invention, that the stays of bone, wire, steel, or other material, may, if desired be covered with celluloid or any other suitable material or compound.

What we claim is:

1. A corset construction, comprising, a body portion, stiffening material permanently secured to the marginal edges of the body portion and terminating intermediate of the length of the body portion, and a laterally extending reinforcing strip carried over the lower ends of said material and around the marginal edges of the body portion.

2. An improvement in corsets having the usual body portion of fabric, stays for stiffening the same, means for securing the stays to the body portion to prevent relative movement therebetween comprising a strip having adhesive material between the stays and the body portion, two strips or layers of cloth over the stays, said strips being stitched to the body portion to form a pocket for the stays, whereby the stays are made permanently adherent to the body portion, and a reinforcing strip secured to the outer surface of the garment and extending in a horizontal direction across the lower ends of the stays to prevent the same from working through the body portion of the garment, said reinforcing strip being stitched to the body portion of the garment.

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