April 2, 1935. T. G. ROBINSON 1,996,626

GIRDLE AND CORSET

Filed Dec. 1, 1932

Fig. 1.

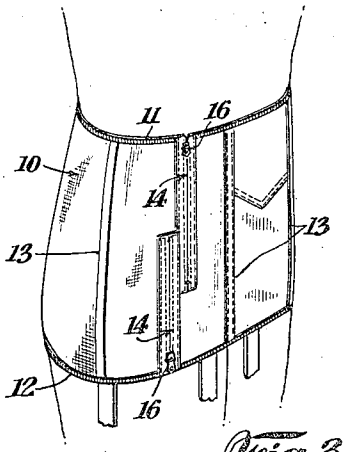


Fig. 2.

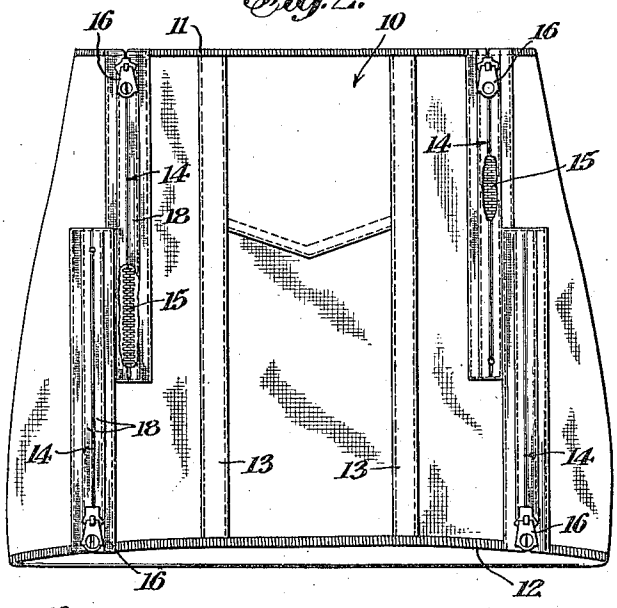


Fig. 3.

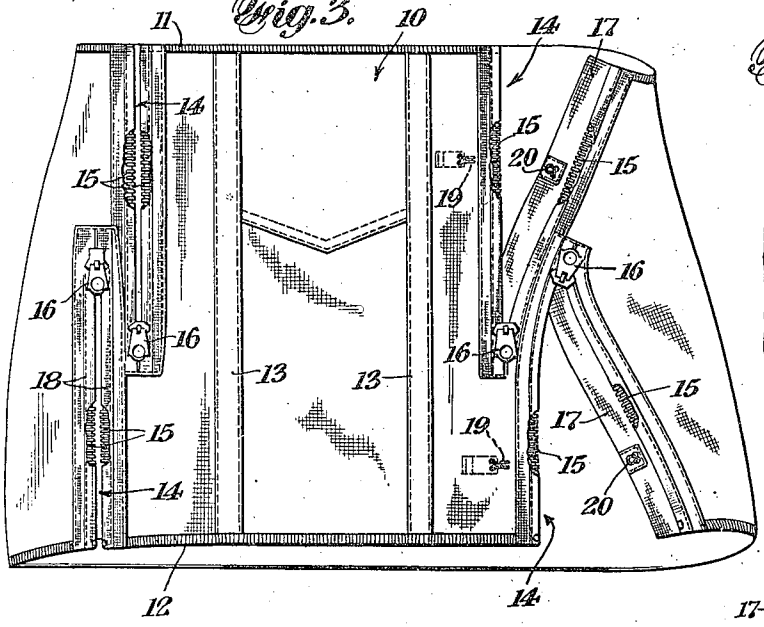


Fig. 4.

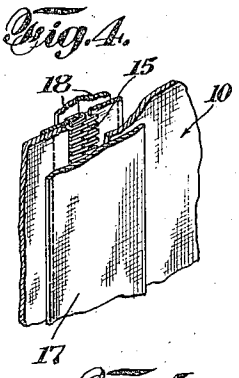
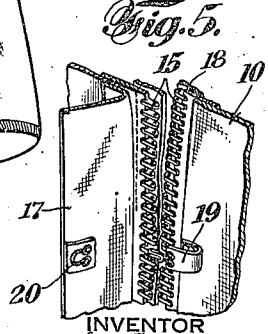


Fig. 5.



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GIRDLE AND CORSET

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2 Claims. (Cl. 2—38)

This invention relates to wearing apparel and more especially to a garment of the snug-fitting corset type such for example, as girdles, corsets and corselettes.

The invention is particularly applicable to girdles or corsets of the slip-over or step-in type. Such garments, in order to be effective, must be tight fitting and therefore are difficult to put on and arrange in proper position and equally difficult to remove.

An object of this invention is a slip-on or step-in garment of this type which may be expanded or increased in size for putting on and removing and easily and quickly reduced in size after having been put on and fitted with the desired tightness.

A further object of this invention is a slip-on or step-in garment wherein increased scope is given in design and use of materials by avoiding the need of undue regard to means for putting it on or taking it off.

In a girdle or corset embodying the invention, one or more pair of overlapping slits are provided, one slit of each pair starting at the top edge of the garment and the other slit starting from the bottom edge of the garment. Any suitable means are provided for holding the edges of the slits in juxtaposition when the garment is being worn and permitting quick separation of the slit edges either for the putting on or removal of the garment. This arrangement of slits permits expansion of the garment or increasing its size without actually opening the garment. With these expanded, the garment may be easily slipped on into wearing position, and the edges of the slits drawn together to contract the garment into form-fitting condition.

The ideal garment of the close-fitting corset type would be so designed as to give its wearer the trim, well-moulded figure which fashion demands. It would be constructed of strong material, practically non-stretchable and without any "give" except at points where gussets or inserts of semi-elastic material are required to facilitate bodily movement when the garment is actually on the body. Such a garment would resist undue pressure of anatomical parts and bulging of tissues through the garment.

The means hitherto available to provide the increase in size necessary to enable such a garment to be put on and taken off compel a compromise with this ideal, both in design and material, so that the more such means facilitate putting on and taking off the garment, the more they interfere with the desired ideal. The means commonly used are such as lengthwise elastic inserts and/or slightly elastic material for the body of the garment combined with slits from the top of the garment, closed by various means, such as lacing, hooks and eyes, slide fasteners, etc.

In resisting this compromise with the ideal, the means to provide for such increase in size usually are made so limited that the difficulty of putting on and taking off the garments is very great; and those garments which are the best fitting and provide the most attractive figure, frequently take an excessively long time to put on or remove, and require the wearer to struggle, strain and wriggle to bring them into position, and then struggle, strain and wriggle again to remove them despite full use of the means provided for enlarging the garment during this process. Further, as these garments are usually worn next to the skin, the difficulties of putting them on are greatly increased when the body is still moist, just after a bath for example, or when removing them while the body is moist with perspiration.

Hitherto, no one has succeeded in devising any means for increasing the size of such garments for the purpose of putting them on and taking them off whereby this can be accomplished easily, rapidly and conveniently under varied conditions and at the same time permit the preferred design and use of materials needed.

By the use of a garment constructed in accordance with my invention, it is obvious that no compromise need be made either in the design or the materials used to produce an ideal garment. It is practicable through the means set forth herein to increase the circumferential size to any degree that may be required for putting on or taking off the garment and yet accomplish all the purposes desired by the ideal garment when it is in wearing position.

Other objects, novel features and advantages of this invention will be apparent from the following specification and accompanying drawing, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the garment in wearing position;

Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the garment in closed condition;

Fig. 3 is a similar view of the garment partially expanded, and

Figs. 4 and 5 are fragmentary detail perspective views.

The garment 10 is of generally tubular closed form and is of such length that the upper edge 11 terminates slightly above the waist-line and the lower edge 12 extends somewhat below the hips. The garment may be composed of substantially

non-elastic material or material which is very slightly elastic and may be provided with suitable stays 13 and elastic inserts to permit the garment to snugly embrace the wearer's body in different positions.

In order to permit expansion of the garment to a larger overall circumference for ease in putting on and taking off, one or more pairs of slits 14 are provided, one slit of each pair starting from the top edge 11 and the other slit starting from the bottom edge 12, the slits of each pair being of such length that they overlap each other. In order to close these slits, releasable fastening means 15 are provided, such fastening means being located in the slits and being in the form of hooks or ball and socket members located on one side of the slit that engage with complementary members on the opposite edges of the slit. These fastening members are engaged to close the slit or disengage to open the slit by movement of the slide 16. Preferably, such fastening means are of the well-known slide fastener type, although any other suitable fastening means may be used for the purpose.

When the slits are closed, the garment is in the normal wearing condition and fits the body snugly as shown in Fig. 1. When it is desired to remove the garment, the slides 16 are moved upwardly and downwardly past each other to the position shown in Fig. 3. The overlapping relationship of the slits permits expansion of the garment or increase in its size to a larger overall circumference which allows easy slipping off of the garment. Likewise with the slides 16 in the position shown in Fig. 3, the garment may easily be slipped on and then brought into wearing condition simply by returning the slides 16 to the position shown in Fig. 2.

Preferably a flap member 17 is provided on the inside of the garment to protect the wearer's body from contact with the fastener members 15. Such protection may be in the nature of a single flap fastened along one edge of the slit and extending across the fastening members and conveniently beyond the other edge of the slit as shown in Fig. 4. Preferably, also protective flaps 18 are provided for covering the outside surfaces of the connecting members.

As shown in Fig. 5, there is preferably provided near the closed end of each slit a fastening member which may be in the form of a tape sewn at one end to the inside of the garment on one side of the slide fastener and equipped with a hook 19 on its other end designed to engage an eye 20 sewn preferably to the front side of the flap on the other side of the slide fastener. By these fastening members the inner edges of the slits may initially be drawn together part way to place the fastening members 15 in such relation to each other that no difficulty is experienced in starting the slide 16 on its slit-closing movement. Any other suitable fastening construction may be used as for example a snap fastener instead of a hook and eye.

Although the well-known slide fastener has been disclosed as the means for fastening the slit edges together, any other suitable fastening means, such as hooks and eyes, lacing and the like may be used for the purpose. Also, while it is preferable in general use to have a single pair of slits, it is to be understood that two pairs of slits may be used or more than two pairs of slits may be used to meet the particular requirements of different types of wearers. Furthermore, it is not necessary that the two slits of a pair be in juxtaposition, but they may even be on opposite sides of the garment just so long as the lower end of the upper slit extends beyond the upper end of the lower slit to permit the desired increase in overall circumference.

It is, of course, to be understood that the invention is not limited to the particular use above described, but may be utilized in connection with any type of covering member of substantially tubular form and dependent upon close fitting for proper use of the same. Furthermore, modifications may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention as defined in the appended claims and the invention may be embodied in any device wherein change in dimension is desired without complete severance.

I claim:

1. A one-piece girdle type garment, said garment being circumferentially continuous and provided with a pair of slits extending from the top and bottom edges respectively, such slits being in overlapping relation to such a degree that when they are open a reasonable increase in the circumference of the garment is effected, each said slit terminating a substantial distance from the opposite edge of the garment, and releasable means for fastening together the edges of said slits, said fastening means comprising a plurality of fastener elements located on the opposing edges of said slits and slides for moving said fastening elements into and out of interengagement.

2. A one-piece girdle type garment, said garment being circumferentially continuous and provided with a pair of slits extending from the top and bottom edges respectively, such slits being in overlapping relation to such a degree that when they are open a reasonable increase in the circumference of the garment is effected, each said slit terminating a substantial distance from the opposite edge of the garment, and releasable means for fastening together the edges of said slits.

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