June 12, 1951 I. R. VERSOY ET AL 2,556,891

COLOSTOMY BELT

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Fig. 1.

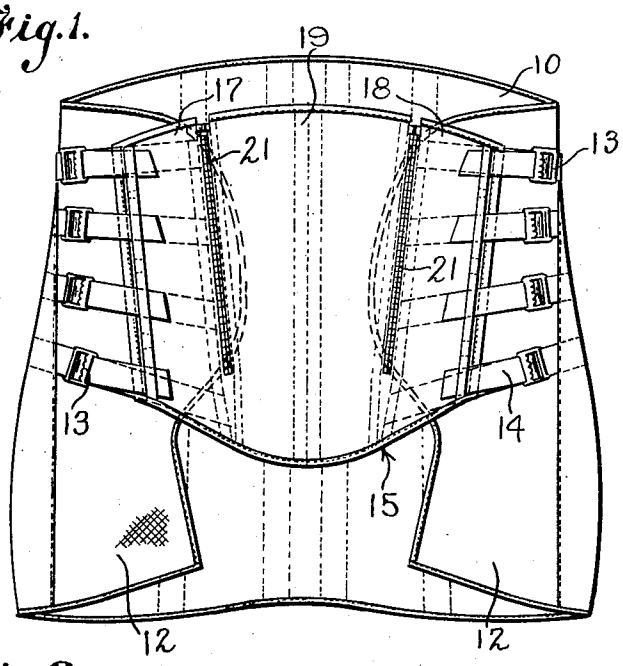
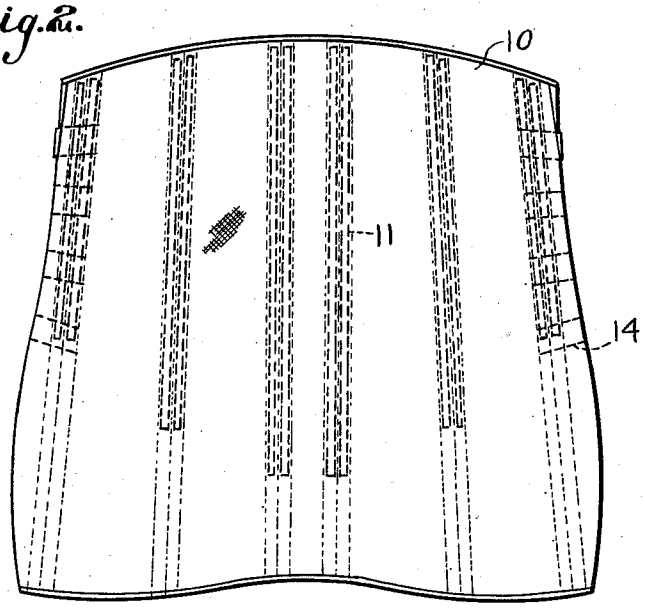


Fig. 2.



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Fig. 3.

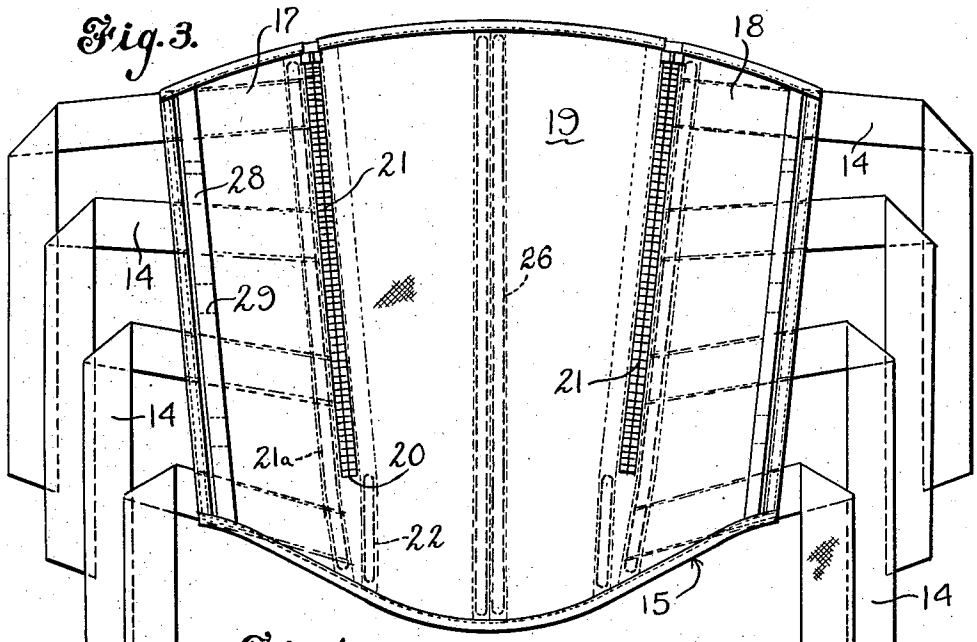
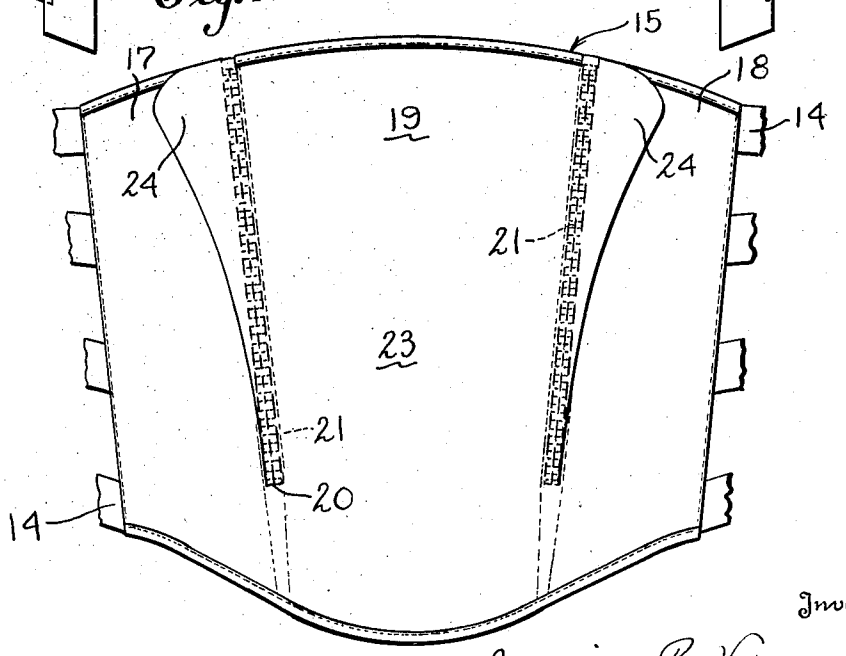


Fig. 4.



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Fig. 5.

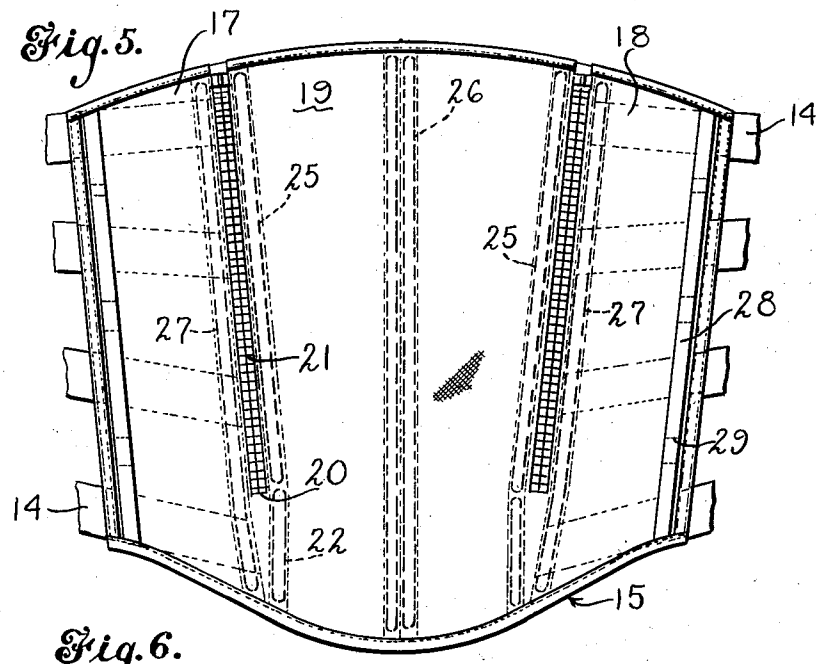
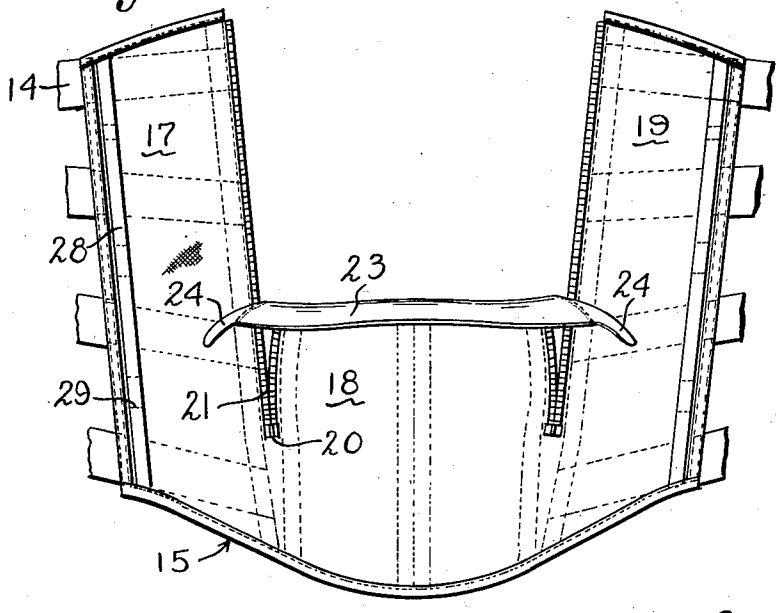


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,556,891

COLOSTOMY BELT

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4 Claims. (Cl. 2—41)

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This invention relates to a belt designed particularly for use of those who have undergone a colostomy operation, and is so designed that while it covers the abdominal opening made in this operation, this covering is effected by a hinged or removable flap or panel so that convenient access may be had to the opening. Conversely, it may be said that the front section of the belt is provided with an opening designed to lie opposite the opening in the abdomen, and that a hinged panel or flap is provided to cover this opening in the garment.

In the treatment of certain diseases, particularly those affecting the lower colon, such as cancer or ulcers for example, it is necessary to immobilize or make dormant the lower portion of the colon so that treatment of the afflicted part may be accomplished. In this operation the colon is severed and the lower end of the upper portion is brought out through an opening in the abdomen so that the lower portion, or that portion below the point of severance, will be dormant. Defecation then takes place through the abdominal opening. In some instances a water-proof bag or receptacle is attached over the opening so that the elimination takes place into the bag. In other instances, the elimination is not a continuous process but the opening in the abdomen is closed with a pad of gauze and opened at intervals for the purpose of elimination.

It is contemplated by the present invention to provide a belt which may be worn by the patient so that any type of bag or pad may be used, the latter being held in place by the belt. To effect this result the belt is provided with a front or abdominal section, which section is provided with a swinging panel or closure member covering an opening extending downwardly from the top of the section. This structure may be conveniently provided by two openings which extend downwardly from the upper edge of the section but terminate short of the lower edge, so that these two openings lie at the side edges of a central panel or flap hinged at its lower edge where, as shown, it is formed integrally with the front section of the garment.

Detachable fastening members are provided at the side edges of the hinged panel or along the edges of the openings which extend downwardly from the top of the section, so as to secure the panel in closed position when desired, but at the same time render it a convenient and simple operation for the user of the garment to detach these members and permit the flap or panel to swing about its hinged edge to permit access to the opening in the abdomen.

One object of the invention is to provide a colostomy belt of such construction that the belt will properly fit and confine the patient and at the same time will permit access to the abdomen.

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A further object of the invention is to provide a belt or girdle of the character described which is provided with a front or abdominal section, this abdominal section being provided with a hinged flap or closure member permitting access to the abdomen.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a belt having a front or abdominal section provided with a portion intermediate its side edges which is formed integrally with the section at its lower edge, but which is joined along its side edges (these edges extending to the top of the section) by detaching fastening members so that when the latter are released this panel or intermediate portion of the section may be swung about its hinged edge to provide access to the abdomen of the wearer.

To these and other ends the invention consists in the novel features and combinations of parts to be hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings:

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view of a colostomy belt embodying our improvements;

Fig. 2 is a rear elevational view thereof;

Fig. 3 is a front elevational view of the abdominal or front section of the garment;

Fig. 4 is a rear elevational view of this section of the garment;

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 3 showing a front or abdominal section of slightly modified form; and

Fig. 6 is a front elevational view of the front section showing the intermediate portion in open position.

To illustrate a preferred embodiment of our invention, we have shown a garment comprising a main section 10 having suitable stiffening stays 11 extending vertically thereof at spaced points along the horizontal dimension of the garment. These stays will lie principally at the back portion of this section of the belt, and extending forwardly from a point adjacent the side edges are relatively soft members 12 which extend toward the center of the front portion of the garment.

Adjacent the side edges of this main section of the garment are provided buckles 13 adapted to receive the free ends of straps 14 connected to the side edges of a front or abdominal section designated generally by the numeral 15.

This abdominal section is shown in greater detail in Figs. 3, 4, and 6, and, as shown in Fig. 3, may be described as being divided into side sections 17 and 18, and a center section or panel 19. These sections are integrally connected at the lower edge of this section of the garment but, beginning at points 20 spaced from the lower edge, openings are formed in this section which extend upwardly to the upper edge of the section and define the edges of the center panel 19. Thus,

by the formation of these openings, the center panel 19 is in the form of a flap or closure member hinged about its lower edge and forming a closure member to close the opening between its side edges.

The side edges of the central portion 19 may be connected to the side portions 17 and 18 by suitable detachable fastening means 21, such, for example, as those commonly known as hookless fasteners or zippers. This will enable the edges of the openings along the sides of the central panel 19 to be secured together or detached conveniently and quickly so that the central panel may fold downwardly from the position shown in Fig. 3 to that shown in Fig. 6.

The straps 14 are secured to the side portions 17 and 18 of the abdominal section and, as shown in Fig. 3, there may be four of these straps which extend across each of the side portions to the inner edges thereof so that the strain upon these members will be distributed entirely over the width of these side portions. As shown in Fig. 3, a stay pocket may be provided on the outside of each of the fastening members 21, and within these stay pockets are inserted stiffening members or steels 21a which extend from the top to the bottom of the section. On the inside of the fasteners 21, a stiffening member 22 may extend from the lower edge of these fasteners to the lower edge of the garment. This will serve to stiffen the central section or panel 19 of the garment, but at the same time leave the upper portion of this section free to fold down when the fasteners 21 are detached.

Also, as shown in Fig. 4, the rear or inner side of the central section of the garment is covered by a sheet 23 of water-proof plastic material such as vinylite. Openings are made in this sheet adjacent the fasteners 21 and flaps 24 may underlie these openings so that the fasteners will not come in contact with the body of the wearer.

It may be found desirable to provide stiffening members throughout the length of the garment on the central panel 19 adjacent the fasteners 21. This is done, as shown at 25 in Fig. 5. It will be noted, however, that these upper stiffening members extend only to the lower edges of the fastening members 21 and that a separate stiffening member 22 extends downwardly to the lower edge of the garment. Thus the stiffening members on the panel 19 are arranged in sections so that this panel may hinge downwardly at points between the upper stiffening members 25 and the lower stiffening members 22. The central portion or panel 19 of the abdominal section may be provided with stays or stiffening members 26 adjacent the central portion of the garment and, likewise, adjacent the side edges as shown at 27. Also, adjacent the side edges, straps 28 are stitched to the garment at spaced points as at 29 to provide pockets to receive the ends of the straps 14, as shown in Fig. 1.

It will be understood that this improved belt illustrated herein may be used either by men or women, and that it is provided with an abdominal section having an opening to expose a part of the abdomen, this opening being closed by a central section or panel hinged at one edge to the section of the garment and adapted to be detachably secured at two opposite edges to the edges of the opening in order to normally close the opening and give the proper support to pads or other appurtenances which may be used by the user. It will also be seen that when the zippers or fastening members 21 are detached this central panel may swing downwardly about its lower edge to give access to the abdominal opening which is present after a colostomy operation.

While we have shown and described a preferred embodiment of our invention, it will be understood that it is not to be limited to all of the details shown, but is capable of modification and variation within the spirit of the invention and within the scope of the claims.

What we claim is:

1. A colostomy belt comprising a main section to embrace the back and sides of the wearer, a front section, means adjustably connecting the side edges of said front section to the main section to form a body-embracing garment, said front section having spaced openings extending downwardly from its upper edge but terminating short of the lower edge to form a downwardly swinging panel between said openings, detachable fastening members at the edges of said openings, a stiffening member extending along the outer edge of each of said openings, and a stiffening member extending upwardly from the lower edge of the front section and terminating terminating adjacent the lower edge of each of the openings adjacent the inner side thereof.

2. A colostomy belt comprising a main section to embrace the back and sides of the wearer, a front section, means adjustably connecting the side edges of said front section to the main section to form a body-embracing garment, said front section having spaced openings extending downwardly from its upper edge but terminating short of the lower edge to form a downwardly swinging panel between said openings, detachable fastening members at the edges of said openings, a stiffening member extending along the outer edge of each of said openings a stiffening member extending upwardly from the lower edge of the front section and terminating adjacent the lower edge of each of the openings adjacent the inner side thereof, and an additional stiffening member extending upwardly from a point adjacent the upper edge of said last named member whereby the stiffening members at the inner sides of said openings are sectional.

3. A colostomy belt comprising a main section to embrace the back and sides of the wearer, a front section, means adjustably connecting the sides of said front section to the main section to form a body-embracing garment, said front section having spaced openings extending downwardly from its upper edge but terminating short of the lower edge to form a downwardly swinging panel between said openings, detachable fastening members at the edges of said openings, a stiffening member extending along the outer edge of each of said openings, a stiffening member extending upwardly from the lower edge of the front section and terminating adjacent the lower edge of each of the openings adjacent the inner side thereof, and substantially vertically extending stiffening members at the intermediate portion of the panel member.

4. A colostomy belt having an openable panel member to expose that portion of the body of the wearer covered by the panel, said belt comprising a main section embracing the back and sides of the wearer with the front edges of said section being spaced apart, a front section overlapping the free edges of the main section and covering the space between said edges, means adjustably connecting the side edges of the front section to the main section to form a body-embracing gar-

ment, said front section comprising an openable panel intermediate its edges, said panel being permanently secured to the front section at its lower portion, zipper means detachably securing the side edges of said panel to the adjacent portion of the front section above said lower portion and said securing means extending through the upper edge of the panel to permit the latter to swing downwardly upon release of said securing means to permit access to the portion of the body of the wearer covered by the panel, and the inner surface of the panel being covered with a waterproof material having side flaps to underlie the meeting edges of the panel and front sections.

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