M. B. GARDNER.

CORSET CLASP.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 27, 1909.

984,899.

Patented Feb. 21, 1911.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

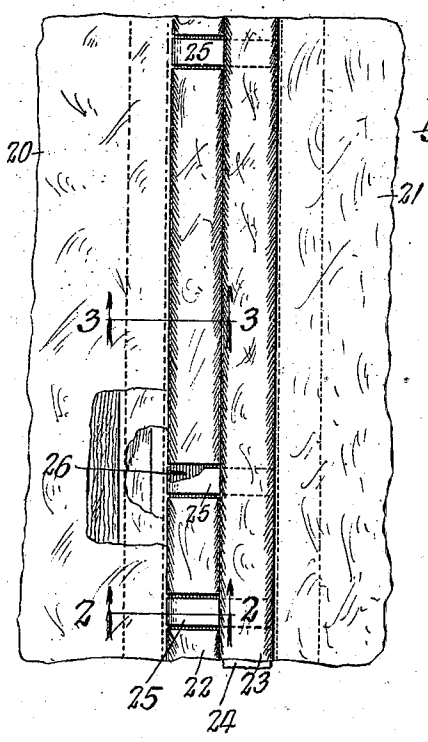

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

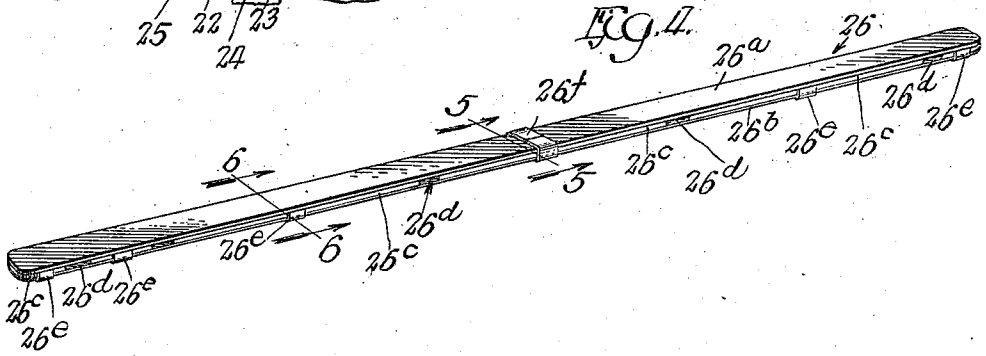

Fig. 4.

Fig. 3.

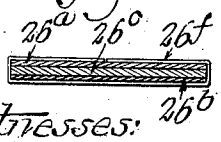

Fig. 5.

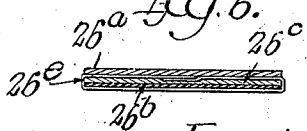

Fig. 6.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

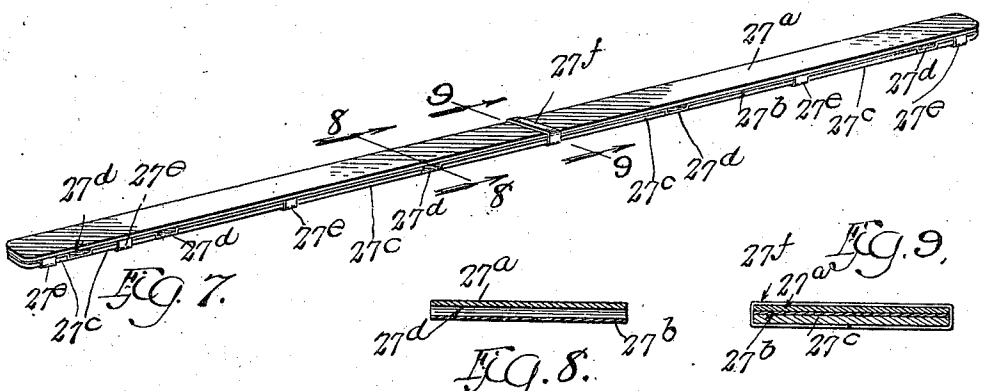

FIG. 7.

FIG. 8.

FIG. 9.

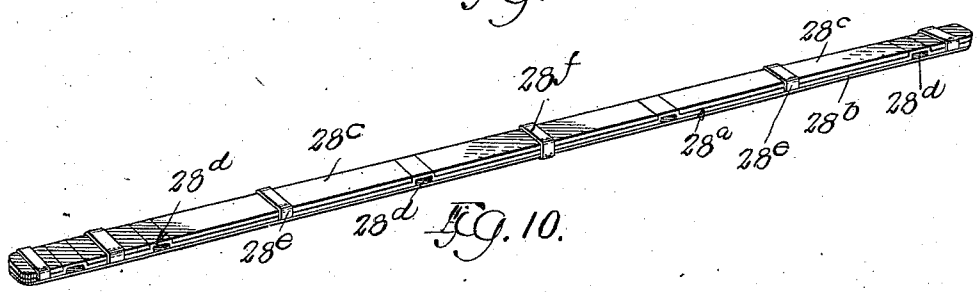

FIG. 10.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARSHALL B. GARDNER, OF AURORA, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO INTERNATIONAL CORSET COMPANY, A CORPORATION OF ILLINOIS.

CORSET-CLASP.

984,899. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Feb. 21, 1911.

Application filed December 27, 1909. Serial No. 534,925.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARSHALL B. GARDNER, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Aurora, in the county of Kane and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Corset-Clasps; and I, MARSHALL B. GARDNER, do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to improvements in corset clasps or closures for fastening together the two halves of a corset at the front thereof without the employment of the usual metallic studs in order to produce a flat fitting effect and to avoid the objectionable projections at the front of the corset due to the presence of such studs.

A corset constructed in accordance with my invention is provided at the front margin of one side of the body with a plurality of hooks or like fastening devices which are designed to hook over and engage a stiffening stay fixed to the front margin of the other side of the body.

The invention relates to improvements in the hook engaged stay and is particularly applicable for use in the corset clasp described in an application filed by me on June 1st, 1909, Serial No. 499,311. In the construction described in said application the hook engaged stay is contained in a pocket, the front wall of which is provided with longitudinally spaced openings opposite the hooks, so that said hooks may directly engage the stay. In such engagement the end of the hook engages between the rear face of the stay and the rear wall of the pocket. In this construction it is difficult to catch the hooks on the stay for the reason that no definitely formed openings are present between the rear wall of the pocket and the rear face of the stay so that it is difficult to catch the hooks on said stay.

One object of my invention is to provide a stay having permanent openings or slots to receive the ends of the hooks.

Another objection to my prior construction is that when the corset is fastened, the ends of the hooks by engaging under the hook engaged stay, come into direct contact with the flexible fabric of which the stay containing pocket is made, and cause projections to form in that wall of the pocket which comes next to the body. Such projections are objectionable and uncomfortable, and are apt to chafe or irritate the body. The ends of the hooks also tend to wear the material of which the pocket is made.

Another object of my invention is to overcome these objectionable features.

In the drawings:—Figure 1 is a front elevation, partially broken away, of a portion of the front of a corset provided with my improvement. Fig. 2 is a partial, transverse section, through Fig. 1 on the line 2—2 thereof. Fig. 3 is a similar section of Fig. 1 on the line 3—3 thereof. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of my improved hook engaged stay. Fig. 5 is a transverse section through said stay on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4. Fig. 6 is a similar section on the line 6—6 of Fig. 4. Fig. 7 is still another modification in perspective view of my invention. Fig. 8 is a transverse section through Fig. 7 on the line 8—8 thereof. Fig. 9 is a similar section on the line 9—9 of Fig. 7. Fig. 10 is a perspective view of still another modification of the invention.

As shown in Figs. 1 to 6 of the drawings, 20, 21 indicate the two sides of the corset. 22, 23 indicate marginal pockets formed at the meeting edges of the corset body, one of said pockets 23 being adapted to contain the hook carrying stay 24, to which are secured a set of flat hooks 25, and the other pocket 22, the hook engaged stay 26. The marginal pockets are preferably of the kind described in the application above referred to, and the pocket 23 containing the hook engaged stay has its outer wall cut away transversely of the length of the stay, to provide longitudinally spaced openings to expose the stay for engagement by the hooks.

Referring now more particularly to my improved form of hook engaged stay and especially to that embodiment of my invention illustrated in Figs. 1 to 6, inclusive, said stay comprises two flat strips of metal or other suitable material, an outer member 26^a of comparatively thick material, and an inner member 26^b of thinner material. Said outer and inner members are spaced apart by means of some light fabric, such as strips of pasteboard, indicated at 26^c, which are cut away to leave openings between the inner

and outer stay members, as indicated at 26^d, within which openings the ends of the hooks engage. The pasteboard strips are secured to the thinner metallic strips 26^b by means of thin bands of metal 26^e located between the openings 26^d, while the outer and inner stay members 26^a, 26^b are secured together by one band 26^f preferably located near the middle of their length. This permits a slight longitudinal play between said stay members when curved to fit the body. It is apparent that by reason of this construction permanent openings are formed for the reception of the hooks and when the hooks are in place and in engagement with the outer, heavier stay member 26^a, the underside of the end of the hook will lie above the thin strip of metal 26^b which will prevent it from coming in contact with the inner wall of the pocket and from wearing through said wall or causing said wall to project in such a way as to chafe the wearer of the corset. The rear wall will, at all times, present a flat, smooth surface unaffected by the presence of the hooks.

Instead of locating the spacing or filler strips of pasteboard between the two metallic strips as above described, the two stay members may be brought into contact throughout their length, except at the places where the hook openings are to be provided, where the thinner metallic strip may be bent away from the thicker metallic strip, (see Fig. 7) to form such openings. Such a modification of the invention is shown in Figs. 7 to 9. In this case 27^a indicates the heavy stay member, 27^b, the lighter stay member, and 27^d, the hook openings formed by bending the thin stay member away from the stay member 27^a. 27^c indicates the filler strips which occupy the spaces intermediate the hook openings and thus make the thickness of the stay, as a whole, uniform throughout its length. Here again the filler strips are attached to the stay member 27^b by means of thin bands of metal 27^e, while a metallic band 27^f engages all of the parts to hold them together at a point preferably near the middle.

In Fig. 10 is shown a modification of the construction shown in Fig. 7 in which the loops forming the hook openings are made in the heavier stay member 28^a in which case the filler strips 28^c are secured to said stay member 28^a, the construction being otherwise the same.

It will be noted that in all the modifications above described, there is what may be called a hook-engaged member upon which the hook catches and a guard member spaced apart from said hook engaged member, to form a permanent, definitely formed slot or opening to receive the end of the hook.

While I have described herein certain embodiments of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not wish to be limited to them except as pointed out in the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:—

1. A stay for corsets adapted for engagement by flat hooks extending transversely of the stay, comprising a hook-engaged member and a guard member adapted to underlie the hook end, said hook-engaged member and said guard member being separated by slots or openings transverse of the stay at longitudinally spaced points opposite said hooks, and filler members attached to one of said stay members to fill the spaces intermediate said hook openings.

2. A stay for corsets adapted for engagement by flat hooks extending transversely of the stay comprising a hook-engaged member extending the full length of the stay, a guard member spaced apart from said hook-engaged member and also extending the length of the stay, filler members secured to one of said stay members, said filler members being cut away at points opposite said hooks to leave slots or openings between said hook-engaged member and said guard member at longitudinally spaced points opposite said hooks, and means for securing said members together.

3. A stay for corsets adapted for engagement by flat hooks extending transversely of the stay, comprising a hook-engaged member extending the full length of the stay, a guard member extending the full length of the stay, said two members being spaced apart, filler members located between said hook engaged member and said guard member, said filler members being cut away to leave slots or openings transverse of the stay at longitudinally spaced points opposite said hooks, bands adapted to secure said filler members to one of said stays intermediate said openings, and means located near the middle of the stay adapted to secure said hook engaged member and said guard member together.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses, this 21st day of December A. D. 1909.

MARSHALL B. GARDNER.

Witnesses:
S. I. Mott,
E. S. Parmeter.