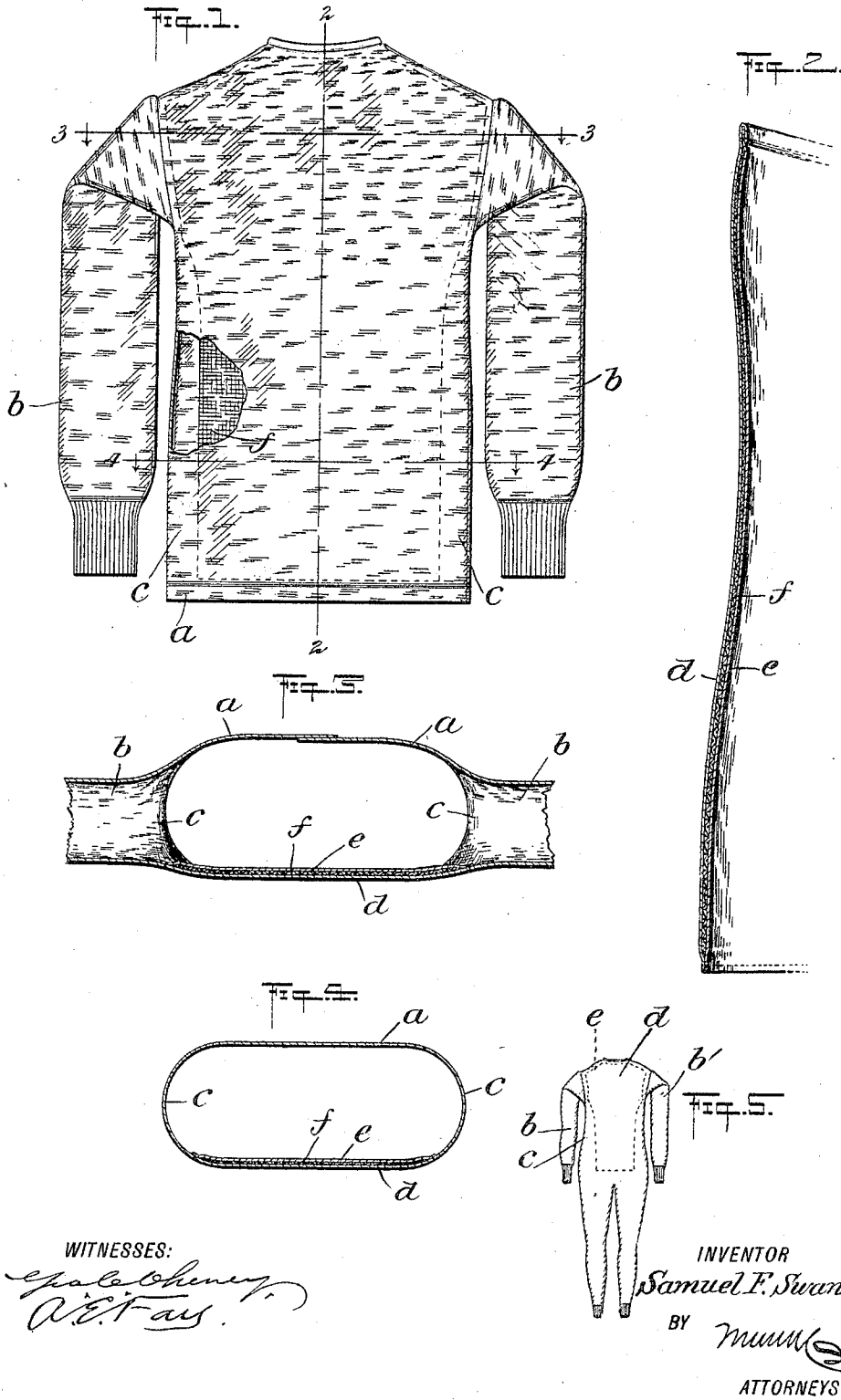


No. 812,612.

PATENTED FEB. 13, 1906.

S. F. SWANTEES.
BACK PROTECTION GARMENT.
APPLICATION FILED MAR. 22, 1905.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL F. SWANTEES, OF ITASCA, ILLINOIS.

BACK-PROTECTION GARMENT.

No. 812,612.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 13, 1906.

Application filed March 22, 1905. Serial No. 251,403.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL F. SWANTEES, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Itasca, in the county of Dupage and State of Illinois, have invented a new and Improved Back-Protection Garment, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to improvements in garments, and while capable of general use it is especially adapted for underwear.

The principal object of the invention is to provide a reinforcement for certain parts of a garment without encumbering the remainder of the garment with additional and unnecessary thicknesses.

A further object of the invention is to provide means for presenting a soft surface to certain parts of the body, so that garments otherwise of a rough and irritating nature can be worn with comfort; and a further object is to provide means for forming an air-space between the soft material forming the inside surface and the main part of the garment.

Further objects of the invention will appear in the course of the subjoined description.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a rear view of a shirt embodying the principle of my invention. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view thereof on the line 2 2 of Fig. 1, somewhat enlarged. Fig. 3 is a sectional view on the line 3 3 of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a sectional view on the line 4 4 of Fig. 1; and Fig. 5 is a rear view of a union suit, showing a method of applying my invention thereto.

The front *a*, sleeves *b*, and sides *c* of the garment are made in the usual or any desired manner of woolen or other fabric, and the main part *d* of the back is also formed as usual, all these parts preferably being of the same kind of material and being formed either in one piece or several, as desired. Upon the inside of the back upon a space designed to cover the spine and the back part of the shoulders is placed a soft piece of fabric *e* to come into contact with these parts of the body. This is preferably of such soft texture that whatever the material of the main part of the garment it will not irritate the skin or cause any discomfort to the wearer. The material to be used may be any material

that will accomplish this result. It preferably extends from the upper part of the shoulders to the lower part of the back; but obviously its exact shape is not material, as it can be made to cover any desired parts of the body and, in fact, may be placed elsewhere than on the back, if desired, to protect any tender part.

It will be seen that by the construction so far described garments may be made of rough or coarse material or of the ordinary materials employed which have irritating properties and yet the back, which is very sensitive to woolen and similar fabrics, will be provided with additional protection and at the same time will be relieved from the discomfort of the main part of the garment. This also is accomplished without the use of additional thicknesses in parts of a garment where it is not desired or where it is actually injurious, as it would be if applied over the chest.

In order to add to the beneficial results of the reinforcement *e*, I provide means for separating it a slight distance from the body of the back *d*, and thus provide an air-space between the two, the protecting properties of which are well understood. To accomplish this result, I preferably place between the parts *e* and *d* a fabric *f* of very loose mesh, having thick threads, either of woven cloth or knitted goods.

It of course will be understood that the garments may be of knit or woven goods, that the parts may be fastened together in any desirable manner, and that the reinforcement may be applied to any of the garments now ordinarily worn. It will be seen that the lessening of friction and irritation on the back of the wearer, usually caused by woolen or rough goods, is entirely done away with by use of the inner layer of soft fabric, also that the spinal cord and its branches will be thoroughly protected from sudden changes of temperature without necessitating the wearing of burdensome extra clothing and without the necessity of forming the other parts of the garment in as heavy a manner as the reinforcing parts.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. An undergarment adapted to cover the back and having an inner reinforcement covering the entire back thereof, said reinforcement being of relatively soft material, and

means for separating the reinforcement from the main part of the back to provide an air-space.

- 5 2. An undergarment adapted to cover the back and having a reinforcement composed of an outer layer of woolen material covering the entire back portion, an inner layer of relatively soft material, and an intermediate layer of loose-meshed fabric, the last two

layers also covering the entire back portion of the garment.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

SAMUEL F. SWANTEES.

Witnesses:

B. E. POUST,
WM. BARUTH.