No. 643,639. Patented Feb. 20, 1900.

J. W. FAXON.

GARMENT SUPPORTER OR GARTER.

(Application filed Oct. 28, 1898.)

(No Model.)

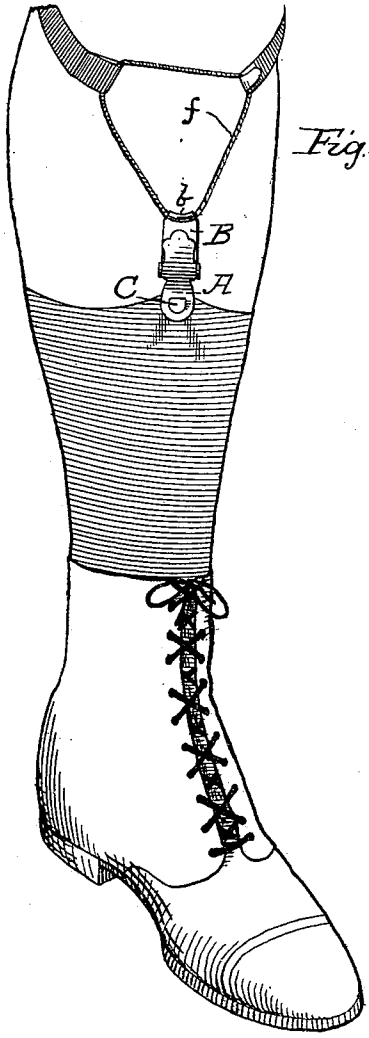


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

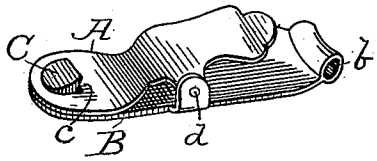


Fig. 3.

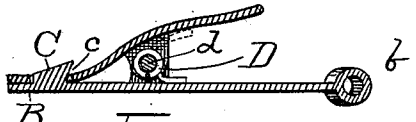
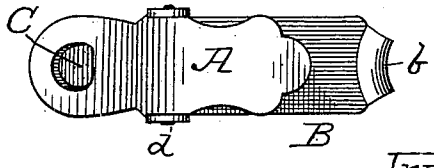


Fig. 4.



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THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES WARREN FAXON, OF OAK PARK, ILLINOIS.

GARMENT-SUPPORTER OR GARTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 643,639, dated February 20, 1900.

Application filed October 28, 1898. Serial No. 694,789. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES WARREN FAXON, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Oak Park, Cook county, Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Garment-Supporters or Garters, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates more particularly to the clasps of garment-supporters and garters; and its object is to provide such improvements thereto that it will securely clasp and retain its hold on the garment without biting into or tearing the same and to provide a simply-constructed clasp which both at the point of attachment to the garment and to the suspending member of the supporter of which it forms a part can have a free articulate movement. This I accomplish by the means hereinafter fully described and as particularly pointed out in the claim.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my invention, showing the practical application of the same. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal central section through said invention. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the same. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the clasp on an enlarged scale.

In the drawings, A and B respectively represent the two jaws of the clasp of a garment-supporter or garter. The jaw B, designed to come in contact with the person, is provided with a short shank, the end edge of which is so shaped and rolled back upon itself as to form a transverse segmentally-elongated eye *b*. Near the opposite end of this jaw it is provided at a point preferably midway between its sides with an outwardly-projecting tooth C, the major axis of which is arranged in a transverse plane and the outer surface of which is beveled or inclined from the said edge thereof nearest the pivot of the two jaws to or toward the adjacent end edge of said jaw B. The side wall or edge *c* of this tooth C nearest the pivot of the jaws is undercut, substantially as shown. At a suitable point along its length this jaw B is provided with pivotal lugs, against the inner surfaces of which the pivotal lugs of the other jaw A lap and to which they are pivotally connected by means of a pintle *d*. Between the lugs of the jaw A pintle *d* is loosely surrounded by a coil-spring D, the ends of which project in the same direction and respectively bear in opposite directions against said jaws, so as to normally keep their engaging ends in contact.

The end of jaw A normally in contact with B is provided with an opening *g*, that corresponds in shape with though slightly greater than the area of the plan of the tooth C, so as to permit said tooth to project slightly through it.

In operation the clasp is given a purchase on the fabric of the garment by simply separating the jaws sufficiently and then pulling the edge or a fold of said fabric between the jaws up past the tooth C and then releasing said jaws, so that they can come together and pinch the fabric between them. As the jaws come together the cloth or fabric is drawn tightly over the tooth and conforms to the shape thereof, and when both the cloth and the clasp are released and the clasp pulls the garment upward the cloth assumes an acute angle over the beak *e* of the tooth and cannot be dislodged therefrom until the jaws are separated again. Now if the outer surface of the tooth was parallel with the surface of the body of the inner jaw B and if the wall *c* thereof nearest the pivot of the clasp was at right angles thereto the cloth or fabric would readily slide over the right-angular surfaces thereof and slip out of the grasp of the clasp; but when an acute angle is formed the cloth in contact with the two sides of said acute angle when drawn in the same direction makes the beak of the tooth a focus, as it were, of the two lines of force and cannot accidentally slip off while the jaws of the clasp are closed together.

My improved clasp is suspended from the garter or garment-supporter by means of a cord *f*, passing through the segmental eye *b* in such manner that the cord can freely move therethrough. At the same time the manner in which the clasp grasps the fabric or cloth of the garment, as hereinbefore described, is such that said clasp is capable of an independent lateral movement struck from the center of the tooth C. As a result the clasp will not tear or wrench the garment when the wearer moves so as to throw the clasp out of its normal relative position to said garment,

but will perfectly adapt itself to the varying lines of force which the different positions of the wearer necessitates.

What I claim as new is—

As an article of manufacture a clasp for garters and garment-supporters consisting of two jaws each having pivotal lugs, a pintle pivotally connecting the same, a coil-spring surrounding said pintle the spread of the ends of which normally closes said jaws; one of said jaws being provided with a suitable tooth the outer end of which is beveled or inclined toward the adjacent end of said jaw and the side wall of which nearest the pivot of said jaws being undercut, and said jaw having a suitable eye formed in its upper end; the other jaw being provided with a companion opening for said tooth in the end normally closed against said first-mentioned jaw as and for the purpose set forth.

JAMES WARREN FAXON.

Witnesses:

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