

Dec. 30, 1924.

1,521,068

A. M. BENJAMIN

CORSET

Filed Oct. 21, 1921

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

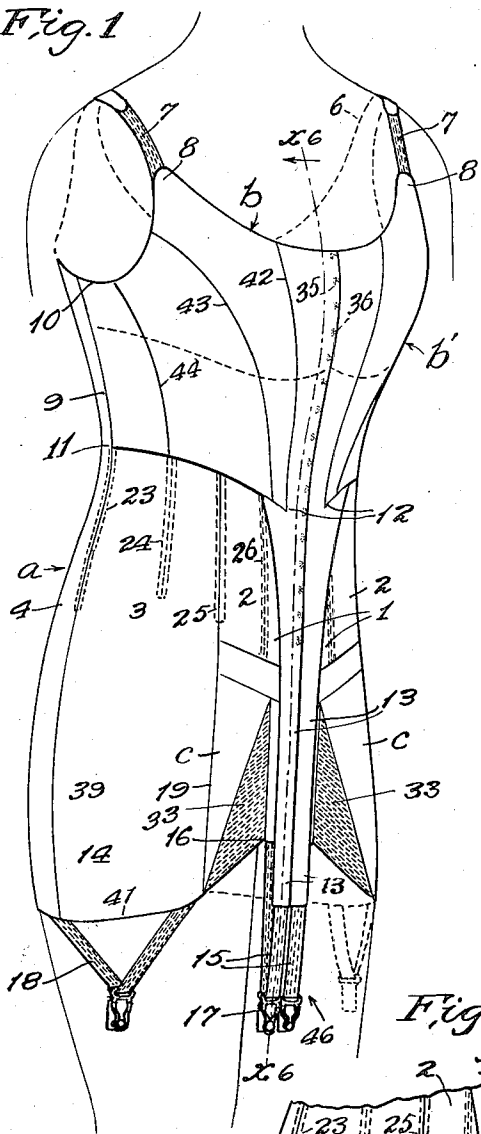


Fig. 2

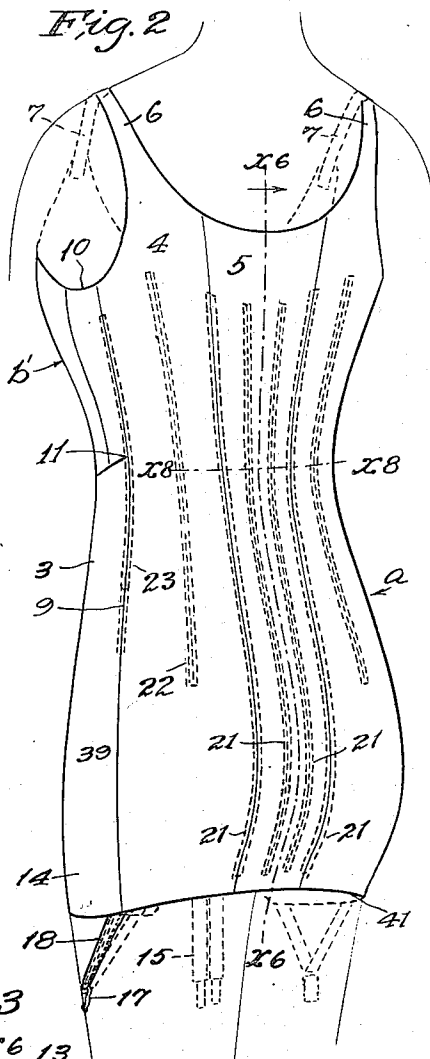


Fig. 3

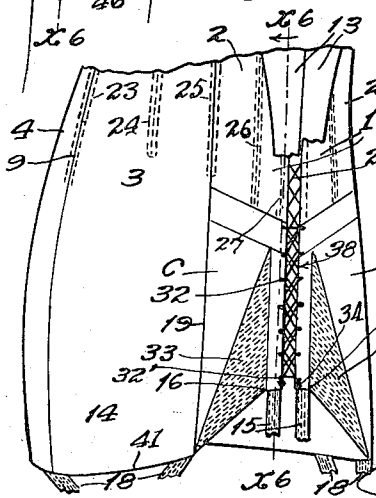
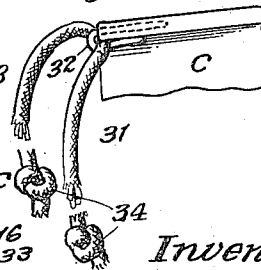


Fig. 4



Witness
C. C. Holly.

Inventor
Amber May Benjamin
James R. Townsend
her atty

Dec. 30, 1924.

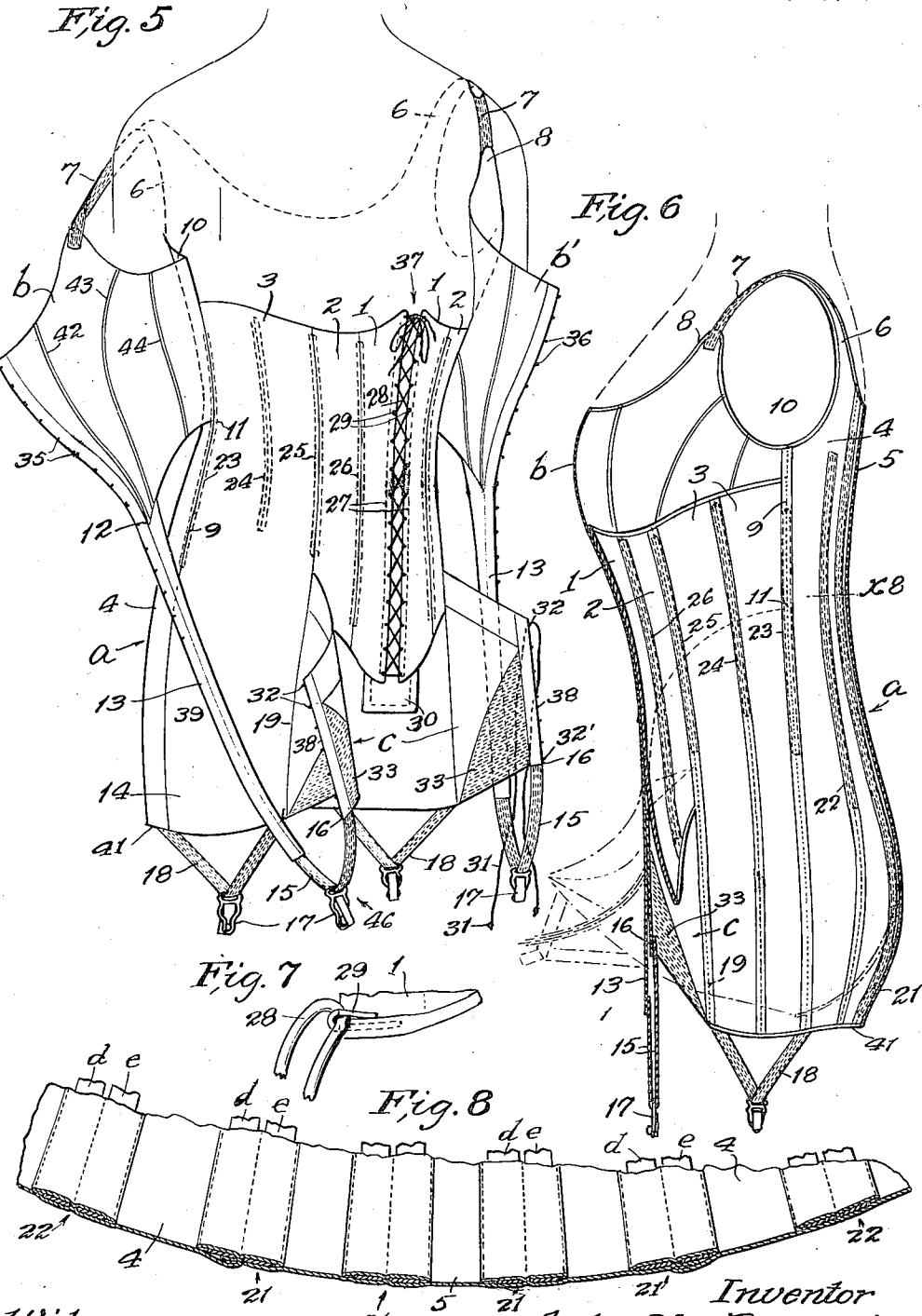
1,521,068

A. M. BENJAMIN

CORSET

Filed Oct. 21, 1921

2 Sheets-Sheet 2



Witness
C. C. Holly

Inventor
Amber May Benjamin

James R. Townsend
her atty

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AMBER MAY BENJAMIN, OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

CORSET.

Application filed October 21, 1921. Serial No. 509,240.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AMBER MAY BENJAMIN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Los Angeles, in the county of Los Angeles and State of California, have invented new and useful Improvements in Corsets, of which the following is a specification.

An object of this invention is to relieve feminine wearers of corsets from backache induced by wearing corsets.

I have discovered that it is possible to so construct a corset that it will at one and the same time serve to confine and reduce the flesh over the shoulder blades and support the pelvic organs without applying pressure to the small of the back and that in order to effect this it is necessary that the corset shall have a practically straight one-piece closed back extending from the shoulder to below the coccyx and provided with stays conformed to and supporting the sacro-iliac region and having the front of the corset provided with easily flexed stays, the lower front stayed portion of the corset being free to conform to the abdomen avoiding downward pressure on the pelvic organs. The side stocking supporters being attached to the lower ends of the sides of the corset and the front stocking supporters being attached to brassière extensions and being free from any attachment that would cause a downward pull upon the abdominal supporting portion of the corset.

This corset is of the princess type in that it is of the practically straight fitted one-piece back extending from the shoulder to below the coccyx.

By making the corset closed in the back in combination with the other features I avoid the distortion of the corset which would occur if the laced back type of corset were used. That is to say, with laced back corsets the practically straight form of the back will be eliminated by shifting of the lacing under the pressure, thus causing a forwardly curved form of the back of the corset and a consequent curvature of the spine. The tendency being to drawing the lacing together at the small of the back by reason of the spreading apart of the two pieces of the back over the hips and responsive to forward pressure of any stocking supporters or other attachments that

would apply a forward pull likely to effect such spreading at the hips and drawing together at the small of the back.

This invention consists of a combination of corsets and brassière combining as it does all the advantages of the two garments in one, and is designed more particularly to meet the requirements of "stout" women.

An object is to provide a garment which will maintain symmetrical lines in the figure, at the same time affording the greatest possible ease to the wearer.

An object is to provide a corset which will support instead of compress the organs of the pelvic region and which will naturally tend to throw the chest forward and upward and place the body in the most upright and hygienic position.

An advantage is secured by providing for extra length and by affording an improved conformation to the back of the wearer which allows the garment to cling to the form instead of bulging out at the bottom, as with former corsets, when the wearer is seated, and also eliminating the liability of wearing the dress by contact with the ends of the steels.

An object is to produce a neat appearance at the shoulders and hips by confining any surplus flesh, and preventing protrusion of rolls of flesh above and below the edge of the corset.

Another advantage is the placing of elastic material where it is most needed on the shoulders and on the lower front of the corset, insuring perfect ease of movement.

Another novelty and advantage is provided in a novel construction of the attached hose supporters which obtain their leverage from the shoulders and are constructed to eliminate unequal strain at various positions of the wearer.

An object is to avoid liability of tearing the hose supported by the corset.

An object is to provide means whereby reduction of adipose tissue may be effected by applying a gentle and not uncomfortable pressure upon the parts where such tissue has accumulated and is likely to accumulate. I have discovered that a cause of accumulation of adipose tissues on the sides, hips, and thighs is from impeded circulation at certain places and through undue pressure on the circulatory organs.

An object of this invention is to construct a corset which will avoid compression at such vital parts.

An object is to provide a corset that will
5 relieve back-ache and avoid its recurrence; and a feature of the invention is the special length and form of construction whereby the corset is made to hold the sacro-iliac and thus to so support the spine as to relieve
10 strain on the ligaments of the sacro-iliac.

Heretofore corsets have been so constructed that the support of the pelvic organs comes upon the small of the back and this corset differs with respect to this in
15 that the support of the pelvic organs is borne by that portion of the corset which rests upon the sacro-iliac and not upon the lumbar region. To this end the back stays are curved to conform to the lines of the body
20 and extend below and forwardly underneath the coccyx.

A further object of this construction is to hold the fleshy part of the thigh with a gentle compression which will reduce the
25 fatty tissue without discomfort.

A further advantage of this construction is that the support of the back while the wearer is sitting, is made more positive by bending the lower part of the stays forward
30 under the coccyx whereby a yielding force is exercised to prevent lopping forward while sitting, and at the same time, the body resting upon the skirt of the corset thus extending underneath, holds the corset down and
35 prevents hiking or riding of the corset upon the body, and supports the body against any tendency to lean back out of poise.

An object is to make provision whereby the advantages of a low corset may be secured without subjecting the mammæ to
40 pressure of the ends of the stays; also to support and protect the bust without impeding the circulation.

An object is to avoid the use of heavy and
45 stiff clasps which are likely to press too severely upon the navel and to thereby injuriously affect the internal organs; and with this object in view I provide light flexible stays at the front edges of the corset and
50 connect the same by a lace drawn over hooks; said lace being fixed at its middle to the bottom of one of said light stays and adapted to be laced back and forth from stay to stay, from bottom to top, thus gently lifting
55 the pelvic organs as the lacing is effected, and causing the corset to conform to the body.

An object is to cause the wearer to adjust the corset to the form each time the corset is
60 put on. By this means the wearer is enabled to improve the lines of her figure.

Other objects, advantages and features of invention may appear from the accompanying drawings, the subjoined detail description and the appended claims.

The accompanying drawings illustrate the invention.

Figure 1 is a front view of a corset constructed in accordance with this invention and applied to a human form, some of the
70 lines of which are shown.

Fig. 2 is a back view of said corset as applied in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a fragmental front view showing the auxiliary flies. 75

Fig. 4 is a fragmental perspective, showing the fixed fly lace and fastening.

Fig. 5 is a front view showing the brassière unhooked and thrown back and the flies unlaced and opened out. 80

Fig. 6 is a section on line x^x — x^x Figs. 1, 2 and 3, showing parts in sitting posture, by broken lines.

Fig. 7 is a perspective detail of the fixed
85 corset lace.

Fig. 8 is an enlarged fragmental perspective view in section on line x^x , Fig. 2 to show the arrangement of the back stays.

The garment is composed of the corset body *a*, the brassière *b*, *b'* and the flies *c*, *c'*. 90
The body of the corset is composed of front sections 1, 2, lateral sections 3, 4, and back central section 5, there being two of each of said sections excepting the back section. 95
The back section 5 is adapted to extend from above the shoulder blade level 6 to below the coccyx of the wearer as at 21 and its length below the coccyx may be greater or less depending upon the wishes of the wearer; but in all instances the back section extends to 100
below the coccyx, and the corset body *a* is of the type having a front opening and comprising a smooth fitting practically one piece closed back; and the rear lateral sections 4 are provided with shoulder strap extensions 105
6 which extend over the shoulders and are provided at the front with elastic straps or sections 7 whereby the shoulder tips 8 of the brassière are yieldingly connected to the shoulder strap, extensions 6 of the corset 110
back, thereby permitting freedom when standing and affording means to take up the fullness in the shoulder straps when sitting. The brassière attachments *b* are attached to 115
the corsets on under arm seam 9 between sections 3 and 4 at a point directly under the arm-scy 10 and extend from the arm-scy to the waist-line 11; the brassière fronts *b*, *b'* are shaped to conform to the bust of the 120
wearer and are connected at the lower front corners 12 to the flexible brassière straps 13 which extend to the level of the bottom of the corset skirt 14 and are connected to the front 125
elastic stocking supporter loops 15, the inner ends of which are connected to the lower front corners 16 of the flies *c*, *c'*. The stocking supporter grips 17 run freely on the 130
elastic loops 18 are connected to the corset skirt.

Preferably the side elastic loops 18 are connected to the skirt of the corset at the seams 19 and 9; that is to say, at the seams between the sections 2 and 3, and 3 and 4 on the opposite sides of the corset.

The corset back is provided with back poise stays 21 symmetrically arranged on opposite sides of the back poise line which is practically coincident with line x^6 , in Fig. 2.

The back poise stays 21 terminate at the lower ends below the coccyx, and at the upper ends over and above the fatty tissue of the shoulders; and in practice the lower ends of the stays are conformed to the curvature of the body below the coccyx by shaping them over the fingers at the time of fitting until the desired form of stays is established. Said stays are the usual steel stays excepting that they are of length heretofore not known in the corset art, being distinctive from former stays in that they extend under the coccyx, which enables the wearer to sit on the lower ends of the back stays. This avoids hiking or riding up of the corset and showing the forms of the stays; and also avoids wearing the clothes by the ends of the stays.

The back poise stays 21 are shown as formed in a group of four stays; there being two of said stays on each side of said back poise line. Back shoulder stays 22 are placed at either side of the back poise stays 21 on corset sections 4 approximately mid-way between the stays 21 and the arm-scy side seams 9.

Stays 22 extend somewhat above the level of the top line of the stays 21 and terminate at the swell of the hips considerably above the level of the lower ends of the back poise stays. The arm-scy stays 23 are shorter than the back shoulder stays 22, terminating just below the arm-scy 10 and practically at the swell of the hips, so that there will be no bowing or bending out of said stays 22 when the wearer is sitting; and the corset will be convenient and comfortable during all positions.

The front stays 24, 25, 26 extend below the waist-line and terminate at, or just above the abdominal flexure; that is, at a point which will allow the body to bend forward without tending to force the corset up. These stays and the front edge stays 27 are similar in length to those found in ordinary corsets. The stays 27 are at the front opening of the corset. All of the stays from 21 to 27 inclusive, are preferably arranged in pairs as at d , e , in Fig. 8 and are light and flexible; thus assuring ease to the wearer.

The front closure to the corset is preferably effected by means of a cord 28 laced back and forth over small hooks 29 placed at the front edges of the corset sections 1 and 2; said cord 28 being permanently secured at its middle by one of the lowermost

hooks 29 bent to tightly clasp the same, as shown in Fig. 7.

A small pad 30 is placed where it will protect the wearer from contact with the lower ends of front stays 27.

The front sections 1, 2, of the corset are cut to extend over and below the pubic bone so as to hold the internal organs up without binding the bladder or gouging the person while sitting. They extend only as low as the crotch, and the flexible auxiliary flap sections c are secured at seams 19 to the front edges of the skirt 14 at the hip portions of the corset body; and when closed, serve to cover the lower edges of front sections 1, 2 and to hold the skirt 14 snugly about the hips of the wearer.

The closure of the flaps is similar to that of the corset sections with the exception that the cord 31 of the flaps is of elastic, and is secured to one of the top hooks 32 which are placed on either side of the front edge of the flaps c , c' . Added resiliency is afforded the flaps c by the insertion of inverted V-shaped pieces of elastic material 33, insuring free movement of the wearer; and at the same time keeping the skirt 14 of the corset well in place.

The elastic cord 31 requires no tying, the ends thereof being simply provided with knots 34, or the like, which contact with the lower hooks 32'.

The brassière fronts are also provided with small hooks and eyes 35, 36 which are placed to be invisible when the garment is fastened together. It is thus seen by reference to Fig. 1 that all fastenings are concealed when the garment is adjusted on the wearer, and a smooth exterior is presented to contact with the added garment.

The front corset portions 1 and 2, from the opening 37 to the seam 19, extend down only as far as the crotch while the remaining portions 3, 4 and 5 extend well down over the hips and flies c , c' are secured to the seams 19 and are laced together at 38 with an elastic cord similar to the fastening at 28, thus serving to snugly secure the hip portions 39. These flaps c , c' are provided with elastic portions 33 thus to give free movement to the wearer; at the same time keeping taut the lower edge 41 of the garment.

The brassière fronts b , b' are secured to the garment at the under-arm seams 9, and in conjunction with the back 4 serve the purpose of the complete and separate brassière so often worn as a separate garment over a corset. I thus secure the advantage of but one back for both brassière and corset body. The brassière sections are adapted by means of seams 42, 43 and 44 to perfectly fit the form, and properly support the bust, and they extend above the corset sections far enough to retain the bust in good form and to conform to the height

of the back, and likewise to confine into an appearance of symmetry any rolls of flesh which might be inclined to obtrude above the tops of the corsets; the shoulder straps
 5 6 provided with elastic tape 7, give freedom to the movement of the arms, without raising the corset and take up the extra fullness of the garment when sitting.

Downward extensions 13 of the front
 10 pieces of the brassière sections come to practically the bottom of the garment, serving to cover the lacings of the corset body and present a smooth exterior and likewise to form a support for hose supporters 46.
 15 Said extensions 13 are widened at the top so as to extend a trifle beyond the seams 42, 43, thus to more completely hold the brassière in smooth lines and form a better leverage for the hose supporters, bringing
 20 the strain mainly on the shoulders.

A novel feature of said hose supporters 46 is the attachment to the garment of the elastic tapes 15 on which an ordinary grip 17 is mounted; being secured at either end
 25 to the extensions 13 and to the lower edges of the flaps 16, respectively as shown in Figs. 1, 5 and 6. The grip 17 being left free to slide on the tape 15, will automatically adjust itself to the movements of the
 30 wearer, in a similar manner are formed hose supporters 18 at the sides, the elastic tapes 18 being secured at their ends to the lower edge of the garment at the seams 9, 19, respectively. The grips 17 slide toward the
 35 front ends of the tapes 18 when the wearer is seated; thus avoiding extra strain on the hose and at the sides. The closure for the brassière is effected preferably by small hooks and eyes 35, 36 on the edges of the
 40 pieces, extending well down onto the extensions 13.

The corset is shaped below the bust as at 23, 24, 25, 26, and the brassière coming over the shaped portion gives greater comfort
 45 and more freedom to the wearer than in previous constructions, and the extensions from the brassière coming down and fastening to the stockings help to flatten the bust giving a straighter, flatter line in front and
 50 reducing the figure to a flatter effect.

Heretofore with corsets that come up high it is found that when one sits down the corset tends to push the bust up and in my new construction the brassière coming
 55 over the shaped portion of the corset and being without stays in it, supports and confines the bust, but gives a more natural line and much more comfort. It is the brassière that confines the bust and not the
 60 corset. I get my improved result in this respect from shaping the brassière and not from staying it. It is the shape of the brassière that gives the result in more comfortable and better bust lines.

65 With my improved corset I obtain greater

comfort and more freedom to the wearer because the brassière is attached to the corset body at the sides from the arm scye to the waist line, and overlaps the corset from the waist line to the top thereof and thereby
 70 provides a sufficient overlapping so that when the wearer stands up the bottom of the brassière will not slip over the top edge of the corset. The elastic straps connecting the upper portions of the brassière section to the shoulder straps of the back section permits the shoulder straps to be stretched to accommodate the shoulders of
 75 the wearer when in standing position, and prevents looseness of the straps when the wearer is seated. By reason of the brassière being attached to the back portion, which terminates below the level of the coccyx region it will be maintained in place when the wearer is in upright or seated positions,
 80 and the straps connected to the brassière fronts, which straps are connected to the stockings by means of stocking supporters, will also maintain the brassière in correct position. The flaps attached to the skirt
 85 portion cover the cutaway portion of the corset and permit expansion of the corset at this point when the wearer is seated, and thereby affords greater comfort and more freedom to the wearer than in previous constructions.

By attaching the brassières to the under arm seam and extending the same from the bust down to the waist line and there connecting the stocking supporters, pressure
 100 is applied to reduce the fleshy portions under the arm and also to reduce the bust, and the corset is made more comfortable than in previous constructions. By my construction the corset stays do not go as high
 105 as the busts and are not likely to gouge the wearer; and greater comfort is thereby secured, and all danger of injury to the breast of the wearer by pressure of the upper end of high corset bones or stays in corsets heretofore used is eliminated.

I claim:

1. A corset having a form-fitting, one piece closed back and extending from the shoulder to below the coccyx and provided
 115 with stays conformed to and supporting the sacro-iliac region.

2. A corset having a form-fitting, one piece closed back and provided with back stays adapted to extend from above the
 120 shoulder blade level to below the coccyx of the wearer; said stays being conformed to support the sacro-iliac region, and of such length that the body will rest upon the lower ends thereof when the wearer of the
 125 corset is seated.

3. A corset body having a form-fitting closed back and a front opening; the sides and back of said corset body extending
 130 slightly below the swell of the hips and

drawing in at the lower edge of the back to conform to the contour of the wearer; said body being provided with back stays curved under so as to be under the wearer when sitting; the front of the corset being provided with stays extending downward to support the pelvic organs; and means in front of said stays to support stockings, said stocking supporting means being suspended from the garment above the region of the pelvic organs.

4. A corset body having a closed back, and a front opening; the sides and back of said corset body extending slightly below the swell of the hips and drawing in with the back poise stays, set forth at the lower edge of the back to conform to the contour of the wearer; the front lower portion of said corset being cut away at the crotch; flexible auxiliary flap sections secured to the front edges of the hip portions of said corset body and provided with elastic portions, and means for joining said flap sections to cover the cut away portion and the lower end of the front corset closure, and to hold the hip portions snugly about the wearer.

5. A corset having a closed back, and opening at the front; brassière fronts attached to the underarm seams of the corset body; a lower front cut away portion; flexible auxiliary flap sections attached to

the sides of the cut away portion and adapted to be joined to cover said cut away portion; lower extensions of the brassière fronts joined together to cover the front closure of the corset; and flexible means attached to the lower ends of said extensions; and to said auxiliary flaps respectively, for carrying hose supporting fasteners.

6. A corset having a closed back and adapted to open at the front, the back and sides of said corset extending slightly below the swell of the hips of the wearer and having the lower portion of the front cut away; the remaining portion of said front being provided with stiffening means adapted to support the abdomen of the wearer, flexible auxiliary flaps secured to the side edges of the cut away portion; elastic gussets inserted in the lower front edges of said flaps, said flaps adapted to be joined together to cover the lower end of the front closure of the corset and said cut away portion, and also to yieldingly hold the lower back and side portions of the corset snugly about the hips of the wearer.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand at Los Angeles, California, this 14th day of October, 1921.

AMBER MAY BENJAMIN.

Witness:

JAMES R. TOWNSEND.