

L. H. HAYS.

BLOUSE.

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983,551.

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Fig. 1

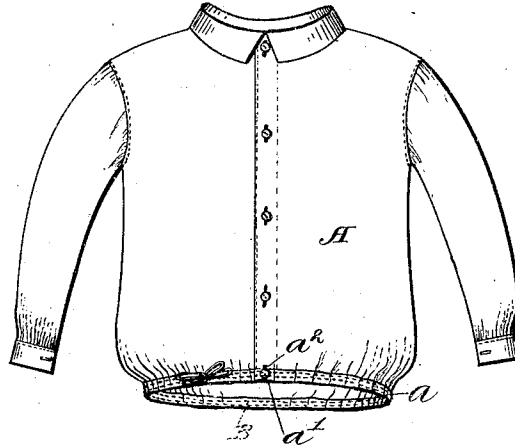
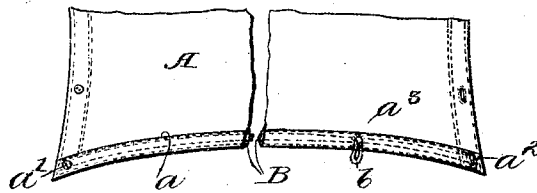


Fig. 2



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LOUIS H. HAYS, OF CLEVELAND, OHIO.

BLOUSE.

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Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LOUIS H. HAYS, citizen of the United States, resident of Cleveland, county of Cuyahoga, and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Blouses, of which the following is a specification, the principle of the invention being herein explained and the best mode in which I have contemplated applying that principle, so as to distinguish it from other inventions.

The present invention, relating as indicated to blouses, has more particular regard to the arrangement of the cord or shirr-string, whereby the diameter of the lower edge of the blouse is adjusted.

The object of the invention is the disposition in a blouse, or similar garment, of the cord in such fashion that there are no ends to become lost in the hem of the garment, while at the same time the adjustment is effected by drawing the cord and tying the same without the use of any buttons, hooks, or the like, which are obviously objectionable in a connection of this sort.

To the accomplishment of these ends, said invention, then, consists of the means hereinafter fully described and particularly pointed out in the claim.

The annexed drawing and the following description set forth in detail certain construction embodying the invention, such disclosed means constituting, however, but one of various mechanical forms in which the principle of the invention may be used.

In said annexed drawing:—Figure 1 is an elevational view of a blouse, more or less diagrammatic in character illustrating the mode of attaching the cord thereto in accordance with the present invention, such cord being shown as drawn up and tied as in use; while Fig. 2 illustrates a portion of the blouse with the string in the extended condition in which it remains when the garment is not in use.

As has already been indicated, it is not intended to limit the field of usefulness of my improved construction and disposition of cord or shirr-string to use with blouses alone, since obviously it is equally adaptable to various garments embodying the adjustable, or take-up, feature of construction; it is found, however, particularly useful in connection with blouses, and the latter is hence chosen for illustrative purposes.

A characteristic feature of the class of

garment in hand, is a hollow hem *a* extending around the edge (in the case of the blouse *A*, the bottom edge) of the garment. In the usual construction of blouses, this hem is left open at the front, so that the respective ends of the cord whereby the garment is taken up, may be permitted to protrude to any desired length. The adjustment of the garment is then effected by simply drawing up these ends and tying them into a suitable bow-knot, so that their separation can be again readily effected when desired. In accordance with the present invention, I do not thus permit the ends of the cord *B* to protrude at all, but sew the same to the blouse, at the same time sewing shut the ends of the hem at the points where the bottom button *a'* and button hole *a''* are respectively provided. At a point, however, removed a suitable distance from either one of the ends of the cord thus seen to be sewed into the garment, I provide a slot or opening *a'''* into the hem, through which a looped portion *b* of the cord will normally project, inasmuch as the total length of the cord included within the hem is slightly greater than that of such hem; and should by any accident the entire cord be drawn into the hem, it may be readily caught where it passes across the slot, and such looped portion thereupon pulled through.

In use, the adjustment of the garment is effected by simply pulling up such looped portion *b* so as to suitably gather in the edge of the garment, as will be readily understood (see Fig. 1). The portion of the cord withdrawn, merely augments the size of the loop, which latter may thereupon be readily tied into a bow-knot, much after the fashion in which the open ends of the old fashioned cord are tied. It is obviously a matter of indifference where the slot *a'''* and loop *b* be located, but ordinarily as shown, it will be most convenient to have them removed only a short distance from the front line of the garment, so that the wearer may himself effect the adjustment if desired.

I am aware that cords have heretofore been provided with their ends sewed to the blouse at the bottom button and button hole at the front of the blouse, but in such arrangement two separate cords have been employed so that, unless the slot through which the free ends of the cord project be located directly opposite the front of the blouse, the adjustment must necessarily be

effected by drawing on one string only. A very long dangling string is hence left on the one side, when it comes to tying the knot. The objectionable character of this arrangement I entirely overcome by my utilization of a loop in a single integral string, since the respective portions of such loop employed in forming the knot may be made equal in length, utilizing the excess length of the one portion to increase that of the other portion of the tie.

Other modes of applying the principle of my invention may be employed instead of the one explained, change being made as regards the mechanism herein disclosed, provided the means stated by the following claim or the equivalent of such stated means be employed.

I therefore particularly point out and distinctly claim as my invention:—

An open-front garment provided with a hollow hem extending around its edge to the front, and formed with a slot at a point removed from the front, in combination with a single adjusting cord arranged within said hem, and having its ends secured to the garment at the bottom portion thereof, a portion of said cord being adapted to project in the form of a loop through said slot, whereby said cord may be drawn outward and tied.

Signed by me this 29th day of March, 1909.
LOUIS H. HAYS.

Attested by—

CHRISTINE E. ARNS,
ANNA L. GILL.