

May 5, 1936.

E. C. McKEEFREY

2,039,821

GARMENT

Filed May 5, 1934

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

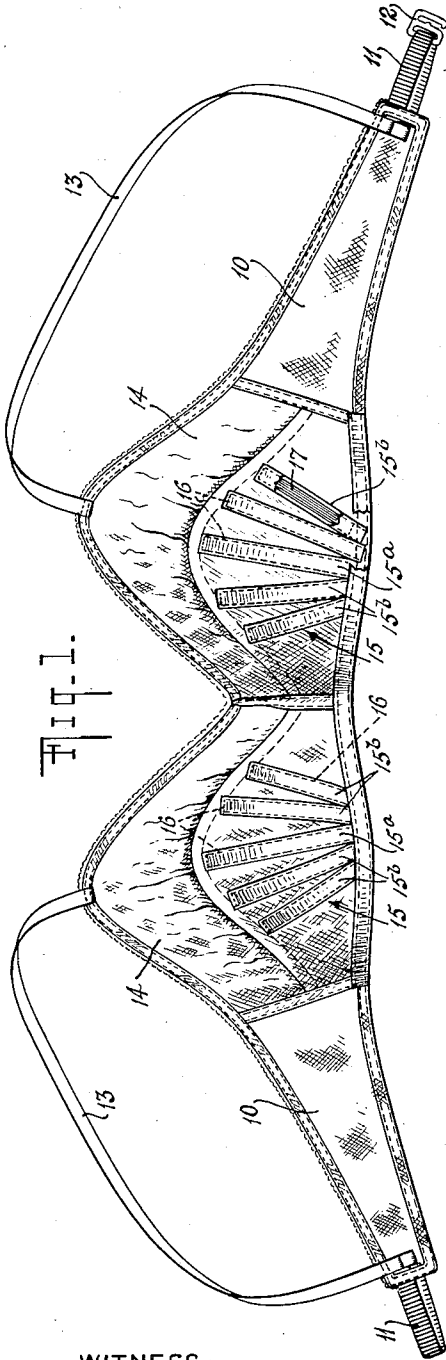


Fig. 1.

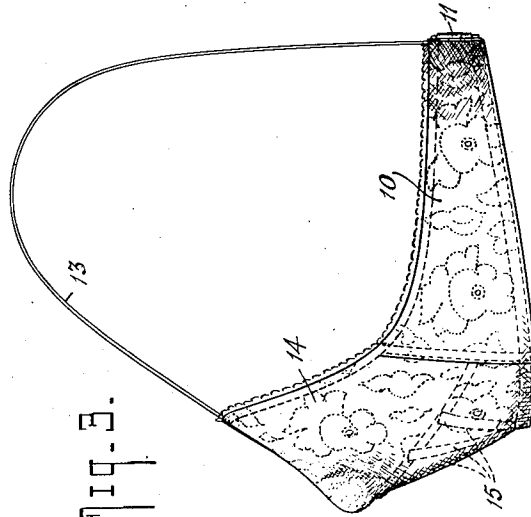


Fig. 3.

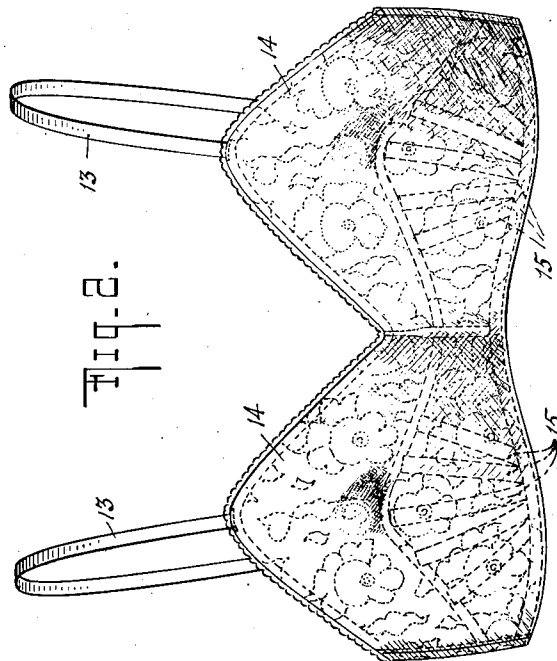


Fig. 2.

WITNESS

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

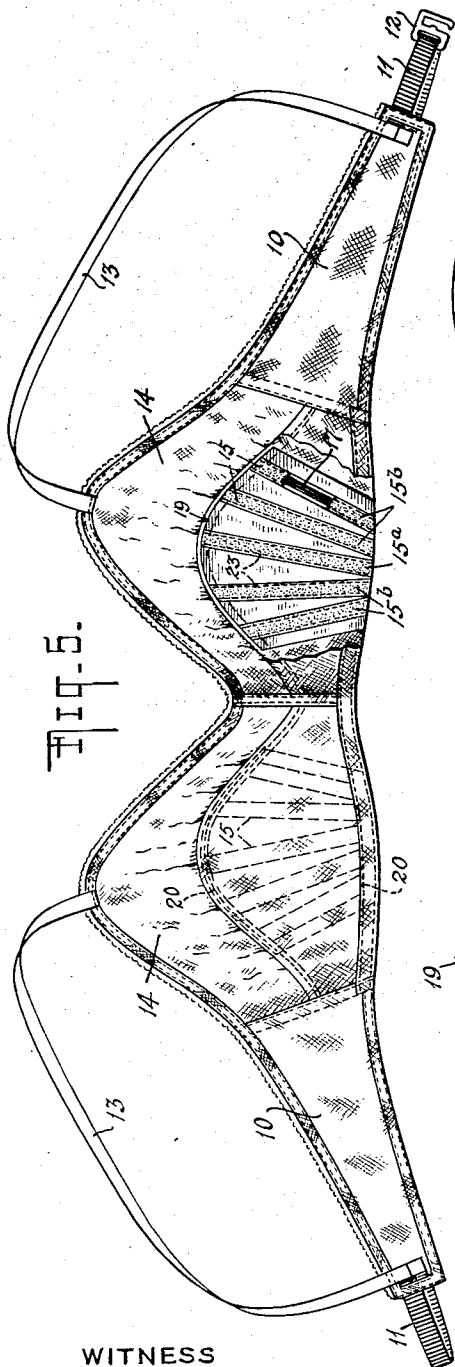


FIG. 5.

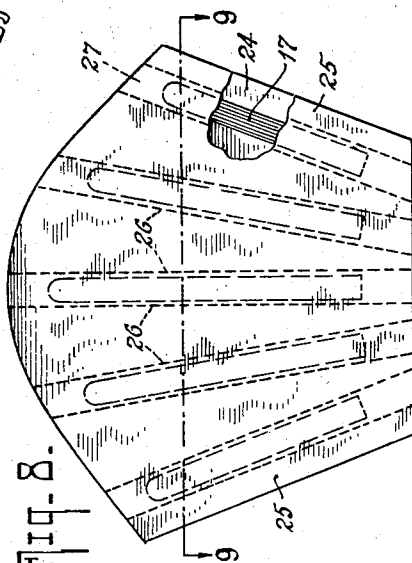


FIG. 8.

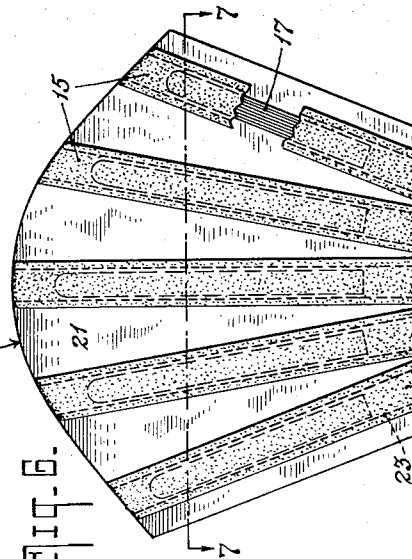


FIG. 6.



FIG. 4.

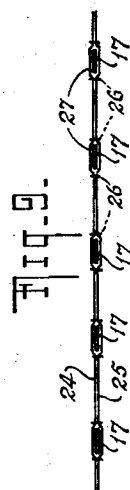


FIG. 9.

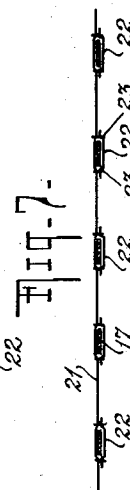


FIG. 7.

WITNESS

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2,039,821

GARMENT

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N. Y., a corporation of New York

Application May 5, 1934, Serial No. 724,028

10 Claims. (Cl. 2—42)

This invention relates to a lady's garment. The object of the invention is to provide a lady's garment which is light, thin, soft and flexible throughout, constructed to conform substantially to bust formation, provided with two bust supporting pockets, the portion below the deepest point of each of such pockets being provided with a plurality of thin, narrow, flexible supporting members covered preferably with a soft material, the bust sections being otherwise without stiffening or boning, the entire structure being capable of being worn directly next to the body, supporting the bust and being retained in proper wearing position.

More particularly the invention relates to brassieres and has for its object to provide the bust supporting members of a garment of this type with a plurality of stays terminating below a horizontal line passing just below the nipple when the garment is in position upon the wearer, and, of which the intermediate stay is the longest, thereby serving to point the bust supporting members of the garment so as to have such members configure as closely as possible to a firm, natural bust formation with the bust nipple directly in line with the intermediate stay of each bust supporting member.

A more particular object of my invention is to provide a garment having bust supporting members shaped to natural bust formation, the bust supporting members being each provided with a plurality of covered stays confined beneath the deepest portion of each member, such stays consisting of an odd number, the upper edge of the intermediate stay of each bust supporting member being at a higher elevation than the upper edges of the adjoining stays so as to shape the busts, when the garment is worn, with the nipples immediately above the upper edges of the intermediate stays of each of the bust supporting members.

A still further object of the invention is to provide the bust supporting members of an uplift type of brassiere with a plurality of odd numbered stays, the intermediate one of such stays being positioned directly beneath the deepest portion of each of the bust supporting members of the brassiere, the stays adjoining the intermediate stay of each bust supporting member having their upper edges farther apart than their lower edges.

A feature of my novel garment is the fact that each of the bust supporting pockets thereof is provided with an uplift element of such construction that the busts of the wearer are en-

closed within the supporting pockets of the garment in such manner as to bring out to the greatest possible extent the desirable natural and most healthful contouration of the busts, i. e. a position in which the central protuberances or nipples of the busts are properly positioned and the busts in their entirety are supported in their proper positions when the garment is worn.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a brassiere adapted for wear by persons whose bust locations are such that it is difficult for them to wear a brassiere which will support such unnaturally located busts, in such positions as to appear of natural contour and disposition. For instance, if the bust widths of the wearer are different, my novel garment will be conducive to present the appearance of a natural bust formation and location by reason of the supporting and positioning functions of the stays provided upon the bust supporting members.

In the accompanying drawings, which illustrate various embodiments of my invention without, however, defining its limits, Fig. 1 is an elevation illustrating the rear view of one form of my novel garment, in the form of a brassiere; Fig. 2 is a front view of such form of my invention as the garment appears upon the wearer; Fig. 3 is a side view of Fig. 2; Fig. 4 shows one of the covered stays provided upon the bust supporting members of my novel brassiere with a portion of the covering thereof broken away so as to show the stay strip thereon; Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 1 but illustrating a modified form of my brassiere; Fig. 6 shows an insert to which the stays are applied and which is adapted to be retained between the fabric or netting elements constituting the bust supporting members; Fig. 7 is a section on line 7—7 of Fig. 6; Fig. 8 shows a still further modified form of my invention in which the stays are directly sewn within two fabric strips of an insert, and Fig. 9 is the section on the line 9—9 of Fig. 8.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, in which similar reference characters identify similar parts in the several views, in the form illustrated in Figs. 1 to 3, my novel brassiere comprises an outer section 10 of relatively soft fabric or other equally pliable material. The contour of the outer section 10 is substantially like that usually employed for the proper formation of a brassiere. A suitable fastening device, such as an elastic band 11 provided with a locking element 12 permits the garment to be fastened about the body of the wearer, the garment, when constituting a brassiere, being supported

by means of shoulder straps 13—13. It is to be understood, however, that it is not necessary to provide my novel garment with shoulder straps, as such garment, especially when the upper fabric portions of the bust supporting members are eliminated, so as to constitute a "bandeau" type of garment, may be retained in proper wearing position without such external supporting means.

The garment comprises two bust supporting members 14—14, each of such members consisting of an enlargement of the fabric material constituting the outer section 10. In accordance with my invention a plurality of covered stays 15 are arranged beneath the deepest portion of each of the bust supporting members 14, an odd number of such stays being preferably provided.

As will be noted from an examination of the drawings, the intermediate stay 15a of each bust supporting member has its upper edge at a higher elevation than the adjoining stays 15b, the adjoining stays 15b being preferably of such lengths that their upper edges are successively lower than the stays next adjoining the intermediate stay. The upper edges of the stays adjoining the intermediate stay of each bust supporting member are further apart than the lower edges of such adjoining stays. As particularly brought out in Figs. 2 and 3, my novel brassiere, when worn, supports the busts in their most desirable and naturally appearing positions, the nipples of the breasts being positioned immediately above the intermediate stay of each supporting member. In this manner my novel brassiere is conducive to support the busts so as to have the same "pointed" and to give the busts a firm and therefore most desirable configuration.

It will be evident that when my novel brassiere is worn by a person whose bust locations are not precisely natural, the supporting stays of the brassiere will permit the positioning of the busts to their most natural formation and to support the same in such position.

In the preferred embodiment of my invention the stays 15 comprise strips of a fabric material which are secured by stitching 16 to the soft fabric material constituting the bust supporting members, so as to form pockets into which may be inserted a reinforcing element 17 which may take the form of any suitable whalebone, celluloid, or similar strip. The portion of the stays 15, 15a or 15b which is to contact with the body of the wearer, may be made from a plush or velvet material or of silk, so as to reduce the tendency to chafe when in contact with the body of the wearer.

In the embodiment of my invention illustrated in Figs. 5 to 7, a plurality of stays 15 are provided in a separate pad element or insert 19. In such embodiment, the insert 19 is made of the approximate configuration of the portion of the bust supporting members illustrated in Fig. 1 to which the stays are applied, such pad being adapted to be inserted between the two layers of soft fabric material constituting the bust supporting members and to be secured thereto by stitching 20. As shown in the sectional view, Fig. 7, the insert 19 comprises a backing of a fabric 21 to which are secured the plurality of stays 22 by stitching 23 so as to form pockets within which are inserted the stay strips 17.

A slightly modified form of insert is shown in Figs. 8 and 9 in which the insert comprises two strips of fabric material, 24 and 25, joined by stitching 26 so as to form pockets 27 into which are inserted the stay strips 17.

The inserts 19 shown in Figs. 6 and 8 may be made so as to be detachably secured between the two layers of fabric material constituting the bust supporting members 14 so that they may be removed therefrom when the brassiere is laundered. While this is not a dominant feature of my invention, it may constitute a preferred construction in those cases in which the stay elements 17 are made of a material which is not readily washable or which will deteriorate or be subject to fracture upon repeated laundering.

While I have described my novel garment as being provided with a plurality of stays of an odd number and have illustrated such number of stays as five, it is obvious that any number of stays within reason may be used. Thus, the advantages of my invention may be obtained by using three or seven of such stays so long as such stays are arranged within each bust-supporting member and are confined beneath the deepest portion of such member.

It is to be observed that my novel garment is provided with two pocket members or enlargements, generally conical in form, the deepest portion or apex of each of said enlargements accommodating the bust nipple with which one of the stays of each enlargement is in alignment, upon each side of such stays other stays being disposed supporting the remaining portions of the busts on each side of the nipple.

When the garment is placed upon the body, by reason of the shape and location of the supports constituted by the stays, the above described relationship of the nipple of each bust to the remainder of the bust, is obtained, the lower portions of the garment enlargements presenting a tight glove-fit thereby supporting the busts in a natural and desirable position. Consequently, it is not necessary to provide any external means for retaining my novel garment from creeping upwardly upon the body of the wearer, as in prior art constructions.

While I have described specific embodiments of my invention, it is obvious that various modifications therein, particularly in the arrangement of the parts may be made without departing from my invention.

1. A garment adapted to be worn directly next to the body, comprising bust-supporting members, each member constituted of relatively soft fabric material shaped to bust formation, and a plurality of stays arranged within each member, confined beneath the deepest portion of each member, and extending in a direction substantially nearer to the vertical than to the horizontal.

2. A garment as defined in claim 1 in which the upper ends of the stays terminate below a horizontal line passing just below the nipple.

3. A garment as defined in claim 1 in which the upper ends of the stays are farther apart than their lower ends and terminate below a horizontal line passing just below the nipple.

4. A garment as defined in claim 1 in which one of the stays is in line with, but its upper end terminates below, the nipple.

5. A garment as defined in claim 1 in which the stays are of an odd number and the intermediately located stay is in line with, but its upper end terminates below, the nipple.

6. A garment as defined in claim 1 in which one of the intermediately located stays is in line with, and its upper end terminates below, the nipple, and the remaining stays extend to points lying below a horizontal line passing just below

the nipple, the upper ends of the stays being farther apart than their lower ends.

7. A garment as defined in claim 1 in which one of the intermediately located stays is in line with, and its upper end terminates below, the nipple, the upper ends of the stays being farther apart than their lower ends.

8. A garment adapted to be worn directly next to the body, comprising bust-supporting members, each member consisting of relatively soft fabric material shaped to bust formation, and a plurality of stays arranged within each member and confined beneath the deepest portion of each member, the upper ends of the stays being farther apart than their lower ends.

9. A garment comprising bust supporting members, each member consisting of a fabric section shaped to bust formation, said section comprising two layers of relatively soft and pliable fabric material, and an insert of a fabric material adapted to be positioned between the two layers constituting the bust supporting section, a plurality of stays secured by stitching to said insert, said stays with respect to each insert consisting of an odd number, the upper

edges of the intermediate stays of each insert being at a higher elevation than the adjoining stays, the garment being adapted, when worn, to position the nipples of the busts directly in line with the intermediate stays of the bust supporting members.

10. A garment comprising bust supporting members, each member consisting of a fabric section shaped to bust formation, said section comprising two layers of relatively soft and pliable fabric material, and an insert of a fabric material adapted to be positioned between the two layers constituting the bust supporting section, a plurality of stays secured by stitching to said insert, said stays with respect to each insert consisting of an odd number, the upper edges of the intermediate stays of each insert being at a higher elevation than the adjoining stays, the stays adjoining the intermediate stays having their upper edges further apart than their lower edges, the garment being adapted, when worn, to position the nipples of the busts directly in line with the intermediate stays of the bust-supporting members.

ELVIRA C. McKEEFREY.