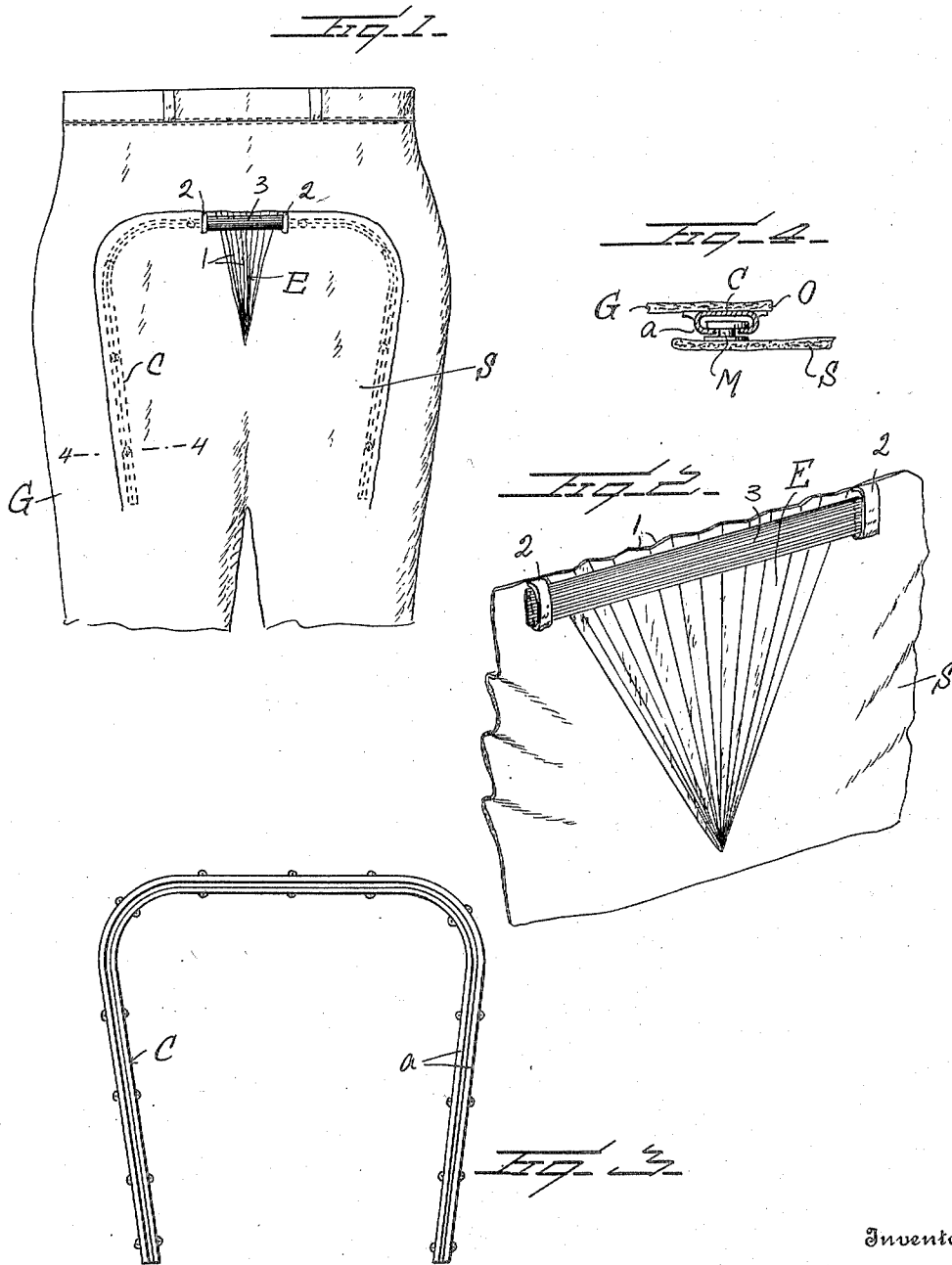


H. E. FLECK.
NETHERGARMENT.
APPLICATION FILED JUNE 7, 1919.

1,316,151.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HERBERT E. FLECK, OF ROBERTSDALE, PENNSYLVANIA.

NETHERGARMENT.

1,316,151.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 16, 1919.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HERBERT E. FLECK, a citizen of the United States, residing at Robertsdale, in the county of Huntingdon and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Nethergarments, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

10 This invention relates to certain improvements in nether garments and has relation more particularly to a garment of this general character of a bifurcated type, and it is an object of the invention to provide a novel and improved garment of this general character including a drop seat, together with means whereby said drop seat may be raised or lowered with convenience and facility and without the necessity of affecting the adjustment of the garment as worn.

20 The invention consists in the details of construction and in the combination and arrangement of the several parts of my improved nether garment whereby certain important advantages are attained and the garment rendered simpler, less expensive and otherwise more convenient and advantageous for use, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

30 The novel features of my invention will hereinafter be definitely claimed.

In order that my invention may be the better understood, I will now proceed to describe the same with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

35 Figure 1 is a fragmentary view in elevation illustrating a nether garment constructed in accordance with an embodiment of my invention.

40 Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary view in perspective illustrating in detail the gusset arranged within the drop seat, together with the retractile member coacting therewith.

45 Fig. 3 is a view in elevation of the channel member comprised in my invention as herein embodied, and

Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view taken substantially on the line 4-4 of Fig. 1.

50 As disclosed in the accompanying drawings, G denotes a bifurcated garment of any conventional style and which is provided with a drop seat S coacting with a suitable opening O in the garment. The seat S is of a size in excess of the opening O so that

when the seat S is in raised position, a complete closing of the opening O is assured.

The opening O is defined by a continuous strip C possessing a pronounced degree of inherent resiliency and preferably spring steel. This member C is sewed or otherwise secured to the garment G.

60 The member C is of channel formation with the outer marginal portions of the side walls a thereof inwardly directed so that the headed members M have sliding movement therein. The members M are suitably secured at spaced points to the marginal portions of the seat S whereby said seat S is effectively maintained in closed position yet may be readily dropped.

70 The outer or upper end portion of the seat S has inserted therein substantially midway thereof an expansible gusset E preferably comprising material provided with folds or plaits 1 opening and closing in the fashion of a fan.

75 The seat S at opposite sides of the gusset E and at the outer portions thereof is provided with the ears 2 to which are secured the extremities of a retractile member 3 preferably an elastic band, and which member 3 constantly urges the portions of the seat S at opposite sides of the gusset E one toward the other. The band or retractile member 3 affords means whereby the seat S is maintained in closed position yet at the same time this band or member 3 permits the requisite expansion of the gusset E to permit dropping of the seat S.

80 It is also to be understood that, when the seat S is in raised or closed position, the marginal portions thereof overlie the member C so that said member is concealed.

85 It is also to be understood that the resiliency or flexibility of the member C is such as to offer no hindrance or obstruction to the movements of the lower limbs or to create any inconvenience when the wearer is in a seated posture.

100 From the foregoing description, it is thought to be obvious that a nether garment constructed in accordance with my invention is particularly well adapted for use by reason of the convenience and facility with which it may be assembled and operated, and it will also be obvious that my invention is susceptible of some change and modification without departing from the principles and spirit thereof and for this reason 110

I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself to the precise arrangement and formation of the several parts herein shown in carrying out my invention in practice except as hereinafter claimed.

I claim:

1. In combination with a garment provided with an opening and a drop flap co-acting therewith, a channel member carried by the garment and extending around the opening, and spaced members carried by the marginal portions of the flap and slidably engaged within the first named member.
2. In combination with a garment provided with an opening and a drop flap co-acting therewith, a channel member carried by the garment and extending around the opening, spaced members carried by the marginal portions of the flap and slidably engaged within the first named member, a

portion of the flap being expansible, and means for maintaining said expansible portion normally contracted.

3. In combination with a garment provided with an opening and a drop flap co-acting therewith, a channel member carried by the garment and extending around the opening, spaced members carried by the marginal portions of the flap and slidably engaged within the first named member, a portion of the flap being expansible, and a retractile member secured to the flap and bridging the expansible portion of the flap.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

HERBERT E. FLECK.

Witnesses:

Mrs. DANIEL MILLER,
DANIEL H. MILLER.