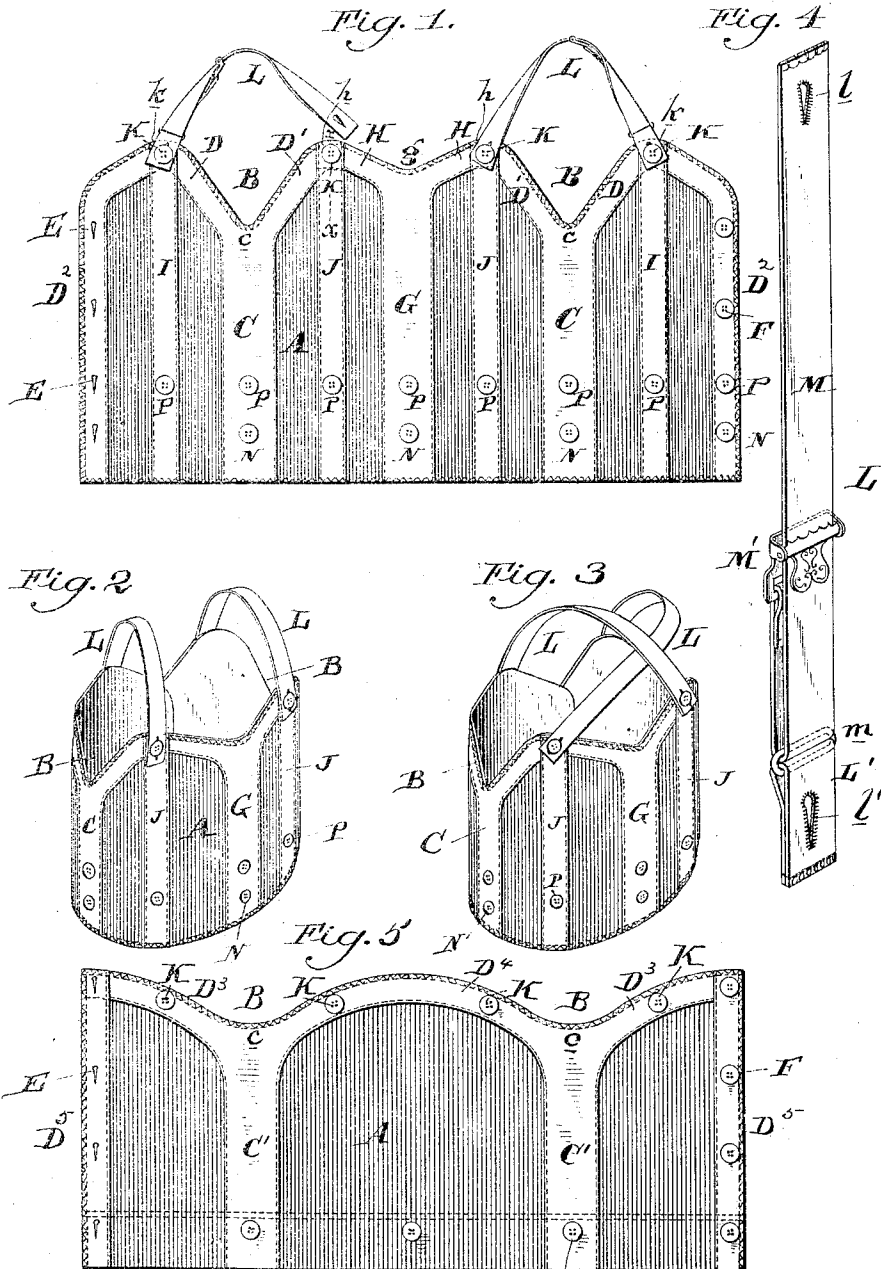


(No Model.)

I. N. FOOKS.
UNDERWAIST.

No. 586,726.

Patented July 20, 1897.



Witnesses.

Henry Damp
R. M. Kelly

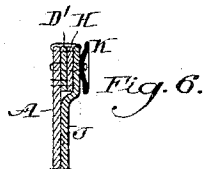


Fig. 6.

Inventor.
N Isaac N. Fooks

By 
Attorney.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ISAAC N. FOOKS, OF GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE.

UNDERWAIST.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 586,726, dated July 20, 1897.

Application filed January 14, 1897. Serial No. 619,181. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ISAAC N. FOOKS, of Georgetown, Sussex county, Delaware, have invented an Improvement in Children's Undervests, of which the following is a specification.

My invention has reference to children's undervests; and it consists of certain improvements which are fully set forth in the following specification and shown in the accompanying drawings, which form a part thereof.

The object of my invention is to provide a construction of knitted garment which shall have considerable elasticity around the body and be practically non-extendible in a vertical direction.

Furthermore, my object is to provide the garment with detachable shoulder-straps, which may be removed or adjusted either to vary the vertical height of the garment on the child or for adjusting the shoulder-straps so as to cause them to cross at the back.

My object is further to so construct the garment that it has great strength combined with suitable elasticity or flexibility, whereby it is not easily destroyed in the rough usage which it is liable to have in use or during washing.

In carrying out my invention I provide the body of the garment, which is preferably formed of knitted fabric, with a series of vertical bars having integral upper portions which spread laterally and are united along the upper edge of the body of the garment, so that the upper edge thereof is reinforced throughout its entire length, while the lower portion remains flexible. Two of these vertical bars are arranged immediately below the arms and on those portions of the garment which would constitute the sides, so that when the garment is spread out the said reinforcing-pieces, together with the lateral spreading upper portions, constitute in effect a Y-shaped reinforcing structure. About the upper or reinforced edges and upon each side of the Y-shaped portions for receiving the arms I arrange buttons or other suitable fastenings, to which are detachably secured adjustable shoulder-straps of flexible material, the said shoulder-straps being detachable, so as to be preferably completely removed when it is desired to wash the garment. In the case of the garment when made for boys

the body portion is still further reinforced by a central back strip having lateral extensions at the top which reinforce the upper edge of the garment, and in addition thereto there may be vertical reinforcing-bars extending downward upon the garment below each one of the buttons or fastenings for the shoulder-straps. As these bars form in effect continuations of the shoulder-straps, it will be understood that by placing buttons thereon, to which the trousers may be attached, the latter will be directly sustained by the shoulder-straps, and hence by adjusting the shoulder-straps the height to which the trousers are adjusted may be readily secured. From this it will be observed that the trousers can be adjusted with all the facility that would result from employing a complete set of suspenders directly attached to the trousers and which are undesirable in small children. In the case of a boy's garment there are two sets of buttons about the waist, one set for the trousers and the other set for the under-drawers, or in the case where it is a very small child the lower set may be used for the drawers and the upper set for kilts.

In the case of the garment when intended for girls, who are far less rough, the extra reinforcing-straps upon the back and from each one of the fastenings for the shoulder-straps may be dispensed with, if so desired; and, furthermore, it is not necessary to provide the waist portion with more than one set of buttons, except where kilts or dresses are to be attached to the garment.

My improvements will be better understood by reference to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is an elevation of my improved garment laid out flat. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the garment in condition for use. Fig. 3 is a similar view of same with the shoulder-straps crossed. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of one of the shoulder-straps removed. Fig. 5 is a plan view of a modified form of the garment corresponding to Fig. 1, but specially made for girls' use; and Fig. 6 is a section of Fig. 1 on line *x x*.

A is the body of the garment, and may be made of any suitable material, but preferably of knitted fabric. The lower part of this garment is made straight, while the upper por-

tion thereof is made irregular and formed with the two notches or V-shaped openings B B, which fit up under the arms of the wearer.

C are two vertical reinforcing-strips arranged immediately below the arm-notches B and are formed integral with narrow reinforcing lateral extensions D D', which are spread apart at c, so as to constitute in effect a Y-shaped reinforcing structure. The reinforcing-strips D are continued around the upper edge of the body portion and then downward, as at D², to constitute the binding of the free edge of the garment. One of these reinforcing portions D² is provided with buttons or suitable fastenings F and with buttonholes E or other equivalent means.

G is a central or back reinforcing vertical strip and has two lateral reinforcing parts II II at the top which are integral with the strip G and extend in opposite directions from the point g. The said reinforcing-strips II are secured to the upper edge of the garment and overlap and unite with the ends of the reinforcing-strips D' at the rear of the arm-notches B.

Extending downward from over the juncture of the strips D' and II and intermediate of the reinforcing vertical parts C and G, I arrange vertical strips J, secured to the edge of the garment, and at the juncture of the parts D', II, and J, I arrange a button or fastener K. (See Fig. 6.) Intermediate of the reinforcing parts C and D² on the front portions of the garment I arrange vertical reinforcing-strips I, which overlap the upper reinforcing-strips D upon the front portion or termination of the notches B, and at this juncture I also secure buttons or fasteners K.

L L are two shoulder-straps, which are made in any suitable manner and are detachable from the buttons or fasteners K. The details of construction of my preferred form of shoulder-straps are shown in Fig. 4, and consist of a strip L', lapped about a link m and having a buttonhole l, combined with a second strip M, having a buttonhole l' at its free end and also lapped about the link m, and its other or free end adjustably connected with the body of the structure by an adjustable clamp M'. By means of the clamp M' and the link m the end of the strap L may be adjusted to suit the desire of the wearer. These straps may be connected directly about each of the arm-notches, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, or may be crossed at the back, as indicated in Fig. 3, either of which adjustments may be readily secured, since the shoulder-straps are detachable. Any other suitable form of adjustable shoulder-strap may be employed in lieu of that shown.

About the waist portion I provide a series of buttons P, the same being secured to the reinforcing portions, as shown in Fig. 1, which buttons are designed to receive the trousers or kilts or outside dresses. In addition to these buttons P, I also provide a second set of buttons N, slightly lower and also prefer-

ably secured to the reinforcing-strips, to which buttons N the drawers are attached. It is to be understood that in place of buttons any other suitable fastening devices may be used, and, further, that the upper set of buttons or fasteners P may be dispensed with if so desired, especially in the garments when used for girls.

In practice the reinforcing-strips C, G, J, I, and D², as well as the upper strips, are secured to the body of the garment by stitching, and the upper edge or the bounding-line of the body of the garment may be secured to the reinforcing portions by overseaming-stitches. It is preferable in practice that the vertical reinforcing-strips, as well as the shoulder-straps, shall have little or no elasticity in the direction of their length, so that the proper adjustment at the waist may be positively secured to the garment attached to the buttons or fasteners P N and held in position.

In the modification shown in Fig. 5 the body portion A is provided with reinforcing-strips C' under the arm-notches, corresponding substantially to the strips C of Fig. 1. The upper portion of these reinforcing-strips C' are carried laterally, as at D³ and D⁴, along the upper edge of the garment and receive the buttons K, as above. The vertical free edges of the body portion A are bound by reinforcing-strips D⁵, corresponding to the parts D² of Fig. 1. The outline shape of the garment is somewhat varied, but this is practically immaterial, especially as this particular shape is designed for use as a girl's garment and is not subjected to the same strain in use as a boy's garment.

While I prefer the construction shown, the minor details thereof may be modified without departing from my invention.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a child's low-necked undergarment, the combination of the body portion extending only to a point below the shoulder and having arm-notches open at the top and further having vertical reinforcing-strips secured to the body of the garment immediately below the arm-notches and continuing laterally along each side of the said arm-notches for reinforcing the upper edges, the rear portions thereof of both arm-notches uniting across the upper edge of the garment at the back.

2. In a child's undergarment, the combination of the body portion having arm-notches at the top, with vertical reinforcing-strips secured to the body of the garment immediately below the arm-notches and continuing upon each side of the arm-notches and uniting across the upper edge for reinforcing the edges of the garment, and detachable shoulder-straps detachably connected to the upper reinforced edges of the garment upon each side of the arm-notches.

3. In a child's low-necked undergarment, the combination of the body portion having

arm-notches open at the top, with vertical reinforcing-strips secured to the body of the garment immediately below the arm-notches and continuing integrally upon each side of the arm-notches for reinforcing the edges of the garment, and shoulder-straps detachably connected to the upper reinforcing edges of the garment upon each side of the arm-notches and provided with means for adjusting their length.

4. In a child's undergarment, the combination of the body portion having arm-notches at the top, with vertical reinforcing-strips secured to the body of the garment immediately below the arm-notches and continuing upon each side of the arm-notches for reinforcing the edges of the garment, additional vertical reinforcing-strips secured to the body portion and terminating upon the upper reinforcing-strips at the top to one side of the strips below the arm-notches, and shoulder-straps detachably connected with the upper ends of the last-mentioned or additional reinforcing-strips.

5. In a child's undergarment, the combination of the body portion having arm-notches at the top, with vertical reinforcing-strips secured to the body of the garment immediately below the arm-notches and continuing upon each side of the arm-notches for reinforcing the edges of the garment, an additional vertical reinforcing-strip secured to the body portion in the back and having lateral extensions terminating upon the upper reinforcing-strips at the top to one side of the arm-notches, shoulder-straps detachably connected with the upper portions of the reinforcing-strips upon each side of the arm-notches and provided with means for adjusting the length of the shoulder-straps, and means upon the waist portion of the last-mentioned or additional reinforcing-strips for sustaining a lower garment.

6. In a child's undergarment, the combination of the body portion having arm-notches at the top, with vertical reinforcing-strips secured to the body of the garment immediately below the arm-notches and continuing upon each side of the arm-notches for reinforcing the edges of the garment, additional vertical reinforcing-strips secured to the body portion and terminating upon the upper reinforcing-strips at the top to one side of the strips below the arm-notches, shoulder-straps detachably connected with the upper ends of the last-mentioned or additional reinforcing-strips, and a central vertical reinforcing-strip at the back of the garment having its upper

end formed with lateral extensions secured to the upper edge of the body portion and extending to the juncture of the shoulder-straps and additional vertical reinforcing-strips.

7. In an undergarment, the combination of the body portion A having the arm-notches B, with reinforcing-strips C arranged below the arm-notches and extended laterally at the top to bound the upper edge of the body portion forming the arm-notches and in which one of said portions is extended as at D² to bound the upper and vertical free edges of the body portion, and a middle back reinforcing-strip G having lateral bounding-strips H H at the top which meet the other lateral bounding-strips of the parts C C.

8. In an undergarment, the combination of the body portion A having the arm-notches B, with vertical reinforcing-strips C arranged below the arm-notches and extended laterally at the top to bound the upper edge of the body portion forming the arm-notches and in which one of said portions is extended as at D² to bound the upper and vertical free edges of the body portion, a middle back reinforcing-strip G having lateral bounding-strips H H at the top which meet the other lateral bounding-strips of the parts C C, and shoulder-straps detachably connected with the reinforcing bounding-strips upon each side of the arm-notches.

9. In an undergarment, the combination of the body portion A having the arm-notches B, with reinforcing-strips C arranged below the arm-notches and extended laterally at the top to bound the upper edge of the body portion forming the arm-notches and in which one of said portions is extended as at D² to bound the upper and vertical free edges of the body portion, a middle back reinforcing-strip G having lateral bounding-strips H H at the top which meet the other lateral bounding-strips of the parts C C, shoulder-straps detachably connected with the reinforcing bounding-strips upon each side of the arm-notches, and vertical reinforcing-strips I J secured to the body of the garment in alinement with the shoulder-straps and furnished at the waist with means for attachment to a lower garment.

In testimony of which invention I have hereunto set my hand.

ISAAC N. FOOKS.

Witnesses:

GEO. W. JONES,
JAMES H. MCGLOTHEN.