



## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,613,355

## NURSING BRASSIÈRE

Joseph A. Coleman, New York, N. Y., assignor to  
Maiden Form Brassiere Company, Inc., New  
York, N. Y., a corporation of New York

Application August 25, 1948, Serial No. 46,159

3 Claims. (Cl. 2—42)

1

This invention relates to nursing brassières, by which is meant a brassière having two partially detachable breast pockets which can be individually opened to expose one or the other breast of the wearer without the need of removing the brassière itself.

In nursing brassières as heretofore constructed, when one of the breast pockets is detached, the entire brassière, while it can be said to remain on the body of the wearer, no longer functions as a brassière. That is to say, it loses its binding effect on the body entirely, so that the only merit of nursing brassières (as heretofore understood) is that they need not be removed in order to expose a breast for nursing. An additional defect in prior nursing garments is the difficulty in securing the parts together after nursing; for one thing, the shoulder strap associated with the breast pocket that is opened becomes a "loose end" and disarranged when the pocket is detached, and sometimes becomes difficult to find and reach.

The prime object of this invention is to provide a nursing brassière which will continue to function as a brassière, i. e., in supporting the breasts, even when one of the breast pockets is open; that is, the improved brassière will continue to support the other breast. An allied object is to provide a nursing brassière which will maintain its shape and outline, irrespective of the open-or-closed condition of the detachable breast pockets. That is, the improved brassière will have the same shape and position on the wearer when one (or both) breast pocket is open, as it has when the pockets are in their normal closed condition.

An object allied with the foregoing is to provide an improved nursing brassière which will not become disarranged when one of the breast pockets is opened, and which, when so opened, will not present loose or dangling ends, such as, for example, a loose shoulder strap. Accordingly, an added advantage is that the improved nursing brassière may be easily and quickly converted into normal condition simply by closing the breast pocket that had been opened, without manipulating the remainder of the brassière and without fumbling for loose shoulder straps or the like.

Another object of the invention is to provide a nursing brassière having breast pockets which are coextensive with the brassière framework which encircles the breast.

A further object is to provide a nursing brassière the breast pocket of which is readily opened

2

to expose the breast in nursing and which is readily closed.

For the attainment of the foregoing and such other objects as may appear or be pointed out herein I have shown a preferred embodiment of my invention in the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a front view of the improved nursing brassière of this invention, with the right breast pocket unhooked; and

Fig. 2 is a rear view of the same, with the same pocket unhooked (which now appears on the left in this figure).

The improved nursing brassière has a pair of rear body portions, 10 at the left (as viewed in Fig. 1) and 10<sup>x</sup>, seen at the left in Fig. 2. The pair of body portions 10, 10<sup>x</sup> have at their rear edges, respectively, 11, 11<sup>x</sup> elastic tabs 9, 9<sup>x</sup>, the ends of which are fastened to one another by hook-and-eye or other fastener 8. The pair of body portions 10, 10<sup>x</sup> terminate at their frontal edges in lateral seams 12, 12<sup>x</sup>. These seams constitute a sewed connection between the body portions 10, 10<sup>x</sup> and the breast pockets, which are generally designated 20, 20<sup>x</sup>; reference character 20 designating the left pocket, and 20<sup>x</sup> the right pocket, as viewed in Fig. 1. In addition to the lateral edges of the breast pockets 20, 20<sup>x</sup>, there is also connected to the lateral seams 12, 12<sup>x</sup>, the two ends of a lower band 30, which extends across the front of the brassière and partially around the body of the wearer.

It is understood that when the brassière is placed on the body and the rear tab 9, 9<sup>x</sup> hooked together, there will be formed an encircling loop constituted of the two body portions 10, 10<sup>x</sup>, their tabs 9, 9<sup>x</sup>, and the front lower body band 30. It will also be understood that this loop remains in body-encircling relation when the breast pockets are opened for nursing, and that this is true of the prior brassières as well as the improved brassière. However, when the breast pocket of the brassières as heretofore made is opened, the remainder of the garment including the shoulder straps as well as the pockets, themselves become disarranged or loose. This, and other objections (certain of which were pointed out above), are avoided in the improved brassière by the following innovations. The front body band 30 of the waist encircling loop mentioned above, viz: 10<sup>x</sup>—30—10—9—9<sup>x</sup>, underlies the breasts.

In the improved nursing brassière of this invention there are further provided a pair of breast-encircling loops. The right-hand loop

(which is on the right in Fig. 1, but on the left in Fig. 2) comprises a pair of suspensory band sections 31<sup>x</sup>, 34<sup>x</sup>, of which 31<sup>x</sup> is the proximal, and 34<sup>x</sup> the distal section. The facing ends of the two right band sections 31<sup>x</sup>, 34<sup>x</sup> are joined end to end on a bias so that the two suspensory band sections present an inverted, spread-out V-formation, joined at the apex. Additionally, the facing ends of the suspensory bands 31<sup>x</sup>, 34<sup>x</sup> are sewed to the front end of the right shoulder strap 40<sup>x</sup>. The rear end 41<sup>x</sup> of the right shoulder strap is sewed to the right body portion 10<sup>x</sup>, near its rear or tab 9<sup>x</sup> edge (seen on the left in Fig. 2).

Similarly, the left loop comprises a proximal suspensory band section 31 and a distal suspensory band 34, best seen on the right in Fig. 2. Similarly, their facing ends are joined together and to the front end of the left shoulder strap 40, the rear end 41 of which is sewed to the left body portion 10.

The distal ends 35<sup>x</sup>, 35 of the distal suspensory bands 34<sup>x</sup>, 34, respectively are sewed to the aforesaid lateral seams, respectively 12<sup>x</sup> and 12 (see Fig. 2). The proximal or facing ends 32<sup>x</sup>, 32 of the proximal suspensory bands 31<sup>x</sup>, 31 are secured to one another. Additionally, these ends 32<sup>x</sup>, 32 of the proximal bands 31<sup>x</sup>, 31 are secured to the upper end of medial stay or pillar 37 which is vertically disposed and has its lower end sewed to a central point of lower band 30. The four sections of which loops are comprised may be cut separately and sewed end to end to give a continuous length, or cut of a continuous length folded under and sewed in position to effect a change in the direction of each section with relation to sections adjacent thereto.

It is thus seen that I have provided in the improved nursing brassiere of this invention, a pair of breast encircling loops; the one on the right (i. e. on the left as seen in Fig. 2) comprising distal suspensory band 34<sup>x</sup>, proximal suspensory band 31<sup>x</sup>, front medial stay 37, lower band 30 (portion of) and right seam 12<sup>x</sup>. The left breast encircling loop comprises proximal suspensory band 31, distal suspensory band 34, left seam 12, lower band 30 (portion of) and front medial stay 37.

The entire area bounded by the pair of encircling loops becomes, as will now be described, a breast pocket in the improved brassiere. That is, the breast pocket is secured directly to (and can be said to be defined by), the aforesaid loops. The distal edge of right pocket 20<sup>x</sup>, which is designated 22<sup>x</sup> in Fig. 2 (where it appears on the left) is sewed to the right "loop" at lateral seam 12<sup>x</sup>. The lower edge 23<sup>x</sup> of the pocket, or rather, most of it except for a short proximal portion, is sewed to the lower band 30. The proximal edge 27<sup>x</sup> of right pocket 20<sup>x</sup> is detachably secured to the front medial stay 37 by means of hook-and-eye or other fasteners 7<sup>x</sup>.

The left pocket 20 is similarly secured to the left breast-encircling loop, its distal edge 22 and lower edge 23 being permanently sewed to the lateral seam 12 and lower body band 30, respectively and its proximal edge 27 being detachably connected to the front medial stay 37 by hook-and-eyes 7.

The upper edges of the breast pockets are not secured, either permanently or detachably, to the respective pair of suspensory bands. Instead, this edge of the pockets is suspended from a predetermined point of the respective shoulder strap 40, 40<sup>x</sup> (the front ends of which, it will be recalled,

are secured to the respective pair of suspensory bands, more particularly, at their apex joints). For example, the left pocket 20, Fig. 1, is suspended from its shoulder strap 40. This suspension is detachable, so that the top edge of the pocket may be dropped (and the proximal edge 27 unhooked, to expose the entire breast). For this purpose, there is sewed to the upper edge of left pocket 20 the two ends of a short piece of tape 21, which is passed through the loop 6 of a fastening element 5, the hook 4 of which is inserted in a selected one of a plurality of channels 44 formed by sewing a piece of fabric 43 to shoulder strap 40 by a plurality of parallel lines of stitches. In this manner the supporting effect of the pocket may be adjusted. The garment itself may be further adjusted to the body of the wearer by means of the length-adjusting element 3 on the shoulder straps.

The left pocket 20<sup>x</sup> has a similar suspending loop 21<sup>x</sup> and hook element 5<sup>x</sup> with the plurality of receiving channels 44<sup>x</sup>.

It will thus be seen that the pair of breast-encircling loops, particularly, the common medial stay 37 and the pair of suspensory bands 31, 34 and 31<sup>x</sup>, 34<sup>x</sup>, together with the body-encircling loop, particularly its lower body band 30, constitute a brace or framework which remains intact on the body of the wearer irrespective of the on-or-off (i. e., open or closed) condition of the breast pockets 20, 20<sup>x</sup>. Hence, if one of the pockets is opened for nursing, the other pocket will continue its breast-supporting function; as a matter of fact, it will do this irrespective of the open-or-closed condition of the other pocket.

In opening or closing a pocket all that is required to be done is to unhook the suspension 5 (or 5<sup>x</sup>) and to unhook the proximal edge 27 (or 27<sup>x</sup>). The remainder of the improved brassiere, namely, the afore-described loops and the shoulder straps, remain intact. It should be pointed out that there is obviated the objection to nursing brassieres as heretofore made in that, when a pocket is detached, the corresponding shoulder strap presents a free and disconnected end. This cannot occur in the improved brassiere because the front ends of the shoulder straps are securely joined to the pair of suspensory bands (more particularly, at the apex joints thereof, as already described).

I claim:

1. In a nursing brassiere, in combination, a pair of rear body bands, the front edges of which terminate in lateral seams, a front body band joined at its ends to the said lateral seams, means secured to the rear facing edges of the rear body bands for detachably connecting the two to form a body encircling loop which is in underlying relation to the breasts: a left and right suspensory band, each band formed as a wide-spread inverted-V, the inner ends of each band being mutually united to each other at the front medial point of the brassiere, a front medial stay or pillar joined at its lower end to said front body band and at its upper end to the said pair of suspensory bands, the outer ends of the said pair of suspensory bands being joined to the said pair of rear body bands at their said lateral seams, thereby forming a pair of breast encircling loops; a pair of shoulder straps, the rear ends of which are joined to the said rear body bands near their facing rear edges and the front ends thereof are joined at the said apex points of said pair of suspensory bands, whereby a framework is provided which is intact on the body irrespective of the

5

breast pockets; a pair of breast-pockets each co-extensive in area with the said pair of breast-encircling loops, the distal edges of said breast-pockets being sewed to the pair of body portions at their said lateral seams and the bottom edges thereof being sewed to the lower body band, the facing proximal edges of the pockets being detachably secured to the said front medial stay, and the upper edge of the pockets being detachably suspended from a predetermined point on said shoulder straps, whereby the top edge of a breast pocket may be dropped and its proximal edge unfastened to expose the full breast.

2. In a nursing brassière, in combination, a pair of rear body portions, a front body band joined at its ends to the front edges of said pair of rear body portions and elastic tabs secured to the rear facing edges of the body portions for detachably connecting the two to form a body encircling loop which is in underlying relation to the breasts; a left and right suspensory strap each joined to the front medial pillar point of the brassière, a front medial stay joined at its front end to said lower body band and at its upper end to the suspensory straps; a pair of shoulder straps, the rear ends of which are joined to the said rear body portions and the front ends thereof are joined at central points of said pair of suspensory straps, whereby a framework is provided which is intact on the body irrespective of the breast pockets; a pair of breast-pockets each co-extensive in area with the said pair of breast-encircling loops, the distal edges of said breast-pockets being sewed to the pair of rear body portions and the bottom edges thereof being sewed to the front body band, the facing proximal edges of the pockets being detachably secured to the said front medial stay, and the upper edge of the pockets being detachably suspended from a predetermined point on said shoulder straps, whereby the top edge of a breast pocket may be dropped and its proximal edge unfastened to expose the full breast.

6

3. In a nursing brassière, in combination, a pair of rear body portions, a body front band, an upper suspensory band, a front medial pillar stay joined at its lower end to said lower front band and at its upper end to the medial point of the said upper suspensory band, the ends of the said suspensory band being joined to the said pair of breast encircling loops; a pair of shoulder straps, the rear ends of which are joined to the said rear body portions and the front ends thereof are joined to the said upper suspensory band, whereby a framework is provided which is intact on the body irrespective of the breast pockets; a pair of breast-pockets, each co-extensive in area with the said pair of breast-encircling loops, the distal edges of said breast-pockets being sewed to the pair of rear body portions and the bottom edges thereof being sewed to the body front band, the facing proximal edges of the pockets being detachably secured to the said front medial stay, and the upper edge of the pockets being detachably suspended from a pre-determined point on said shoulder straps, whereby the top edge of a breast pocket may be dropped and its proximal edge unfastened to expose the full breast.

JOSEPH A. COLEMAN.

## REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

## UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
1,502,000	Herrick	July 22, 1924
2,149,819	Rubinstein	Mar. 7, 1939
2,315,614	Glasser	Apr. 6, 1943
2,407,220	Blocker	Sept. 10, 1946
2,454,153	Glick	Nov. 16, 1948
2,470,847	Gluckin	May 24, 1949

## FOREIGN PATENTS

Number	Country	Date
393,186	Great Britain	June 1, 1933
816,115	France	Apr. 26, 1937