My invention relates to clothing, and includes among its objects and advantages improved neatness and effectiveness in the construction of a pocket of the general type common in men's trousers. In the accompanying drawings,

Figure 1 is a perspective of the upper portion of a garment according to the invention, as it would appear when worn;

Figure 2 is a side elevation of the pocket portion in flat condition;

Figure 3 is a section on line 3—3 of Figure 2; and

Figure 4 is an enlarged section of the seams in the center of Figure 3.

In the embodiment of the invention selected for illustration, the trousers include a conventional main body portion 10 provided with a conventional fly opening at 12, and straps 14, and tubular sections 16 for receiving a conventional belt 18.

The mounting of the belt loops 14 and 16 is intended to be conventional and, per se, forms no part of my invention. The loops are illustrated as they would appear in elevation in Figures 1 and 2, if the ends of the short loops 14 and the upper and lower edges of the long loops 16 extended around the adjacent upper and lower edges of the belt band 22, then the portion stitched to the inside of the belt band. As illustrated in greater detail in Figures 2 and 3, about midway on each side I slit the body portion at 20 from a point just below the belt band 22 down to a predetermined distance and close the lower end of the slit with a stitched tack 24. The belt band 22 is stitched to or otherwise integrally united with the main body portion 10 except adjacent the slit 20, where it is separated for about two inches on either side of the vertical line of the slit to define triangular portions comprising a rear portion 26 and a front portion 28, which, when their adjacent vertical edges are not fastened together, as by means of zipper claws 30 and a conventional slide 32 for closing and opening the zipper, may be folded back to leave two openings 26 and 28, and immediately adjacent the lower edge of the belt band 22. The position of the front opening 27 is indicated in dotted lines in Figure 1.

These openings 25 and 27 are enclosed by a pocket structure comprising an inside wall made up of a rear portion 34 and a front portion 36, united by a vertical seam at 38 and stitched along its upper edge to the lower edge of the belt band 22. The portion 34 extends rearwardly to the rear edge 39, where it is folded back and extends forward again to define the rear half 40 of the outer wall of the pocket structure. Similarly, the portion 36 is folded back at 52 and continued as a front wall portion 44. The front wall portions 40 and 44 extend back to the vertical line of the zippers 30. The seam along this vertical slit is illustrated in detail in Figure 4. The zipper elements 30 are assembled with a rear fastening tape 46 and a front fastening tape 48. The pocket wall portion 40 extends forward to the seam line and has a turned-back edge at 50. In contact with this turned-back edge is the edge of the flap 26, which is also turned back and wrapped around the pocket wall at 52. The area of the flap 26 that tends to be exposed by turning the flap back is covered by an underfacing 54 which is stitched to the portion 40 at 56 remote from the seam and turned back and stitched into the finished seam at 58. It is convenient to fasten the flap 26 and wall portion 40 by a line of stitching at 60 parallel to the point indicated by the reference character 60 to hold them in place while the turned-back portions 50 and 52 are juxtaposed with the tape strip 45 and fastened by a line of stitching at 62, after which the stitching at 60 is removed and therefore is not illustrated in the drawing of the finished structure. Then the underfacing 54 is attached at 56 and put in position at 58, and the entire seam is completed by two lines of stitching at 64. The front seam, assembled with the tape 46, is identical in construction with the rear seam, including the edge of the front underfacing 66, which extends throughout the flap 28. A convenient contour for the underfacings 54 and 66 is indicated in dotted lines in Figure 2.

At the inner wall of the pocket, the pocket wall portions 34 and 36 are united by a vertical seam at 46. A rear facing 70 and a front facing 72 have their remote edges attached to the wall portions 34 and 36 as indicated at 74 for the rear facing 70. The vertical edges of these facing portions are united by a vertical seam at 75. In assembling this portion of the pocket, one of the seams at 74 is sewed first. Then the seam at 76 is sewed. Then the other seam 74 is sewed, to complete the assembly.
A suitable contour for the facings 70 and 72 extending far enough from the slit to prevent exposure of the pocket wall when the flaps 25 and 28 are turned back, is indicated in dotted lines in Figure 2.

It will be obvious that the depth and width of both pockets may be varied as desired. I have illustrated a relatively deep contour at 73 for the front pocket, which corresponds to the conventional side pocket. The rear pocket will perform the functions usually performed by the conventional hip pocket, and I prefer to employ the contour indicated at 80 in Figure 2, which bottoms at a higher level than the side pocket, to avoid having the contents stick down far enough to get in the way when the wearer sits down.

It will be apparent that the belt structure 22 forms a bridge across the upwardly opening slit that is present when the zipper is closed, and the same bridge carries the normal tension in the garment with the zipper closed or open. With the zipper closed, this slit is about four inches long, and because the contact with the wearer's body maintains material tension along the belt, it will remain rather tightly closed, with any bulge due to the presence of material in the pockets, occurring below that level. Furthermore, when the wearer sits or even lies down, there is substantially no opportunity for the contents of any of the pockets to fall out of the pockets, even if the wearer rolls over and over on the ground. It is notorious that the contents of a conventional side pocket in a man's trousers are quite easily lost in this way. In ordinary standing and sitting positions, the garment, even with a good deal of material inserted in one or both pockets, presents a neat closed external appearance, compared with the bulged open condition of a hip pocket that is filled with some bulky object, and the still more bulged opening of a similarly distended side pocket. In fact, such bulging in the side pocket need only stretch the material a little to have the opening of the side pocket bag open even when there is little or nothing in the pocket.

Others may readily adapt this invention for use under various conditions of service by employing one or more of the novel features disclosed, or equivalents thereof. It will be obvious that the invention is not necessarily limited to nether garments, or to men's garments. For instance, a household apron might have such a pocket structure in the middle of the front. As at present advised with respect to the apparent scope of my invention, I desire to claim the following subject matter:

1. A nether garment comprising, in combination, a main body portion for encircling the body, at least from the waist down; said main body portion having a slit at each side midway between front and back, said slit running downwardly about six inches from a predetermined level just below the waistline; manually operable fastening means for opening and closing said slit, in the nature of a zipper sliding up from the bottom of said slit to close it; a bridging belt portion about four inches long above said slit and adjacent its upper end for carrying the horizontal tension in the garment material above the slit when the slit is open; permanently fastening means for fastening said bridging portion to said main portion at points spaced forwardly and rearwardly from said slit; whereby opening said slit liberates foldable triangular corner areas of said main portion, which may be displaced to admit a hand; an inner pocket wall extending downward from said bridging portion and defining a pocket space extending forwardly and rearwardly beyond said bridging portion; fastening means in the nature of a horizontal line of stitching, permanently fastening the upper edge of said inner pocket wall to said bridging portion and to said body beyond the ends of said bridging portion; fastening means attaching said inner wall to said main portion along a line extending down from the bottom of said slit, to securely close the pocket into a front recess and a rear recess; and closure means other than said main portion, engaging the periphery of said inner pocket wall to close both recesses, except for access through said slit; said closure means being an intermediate wall extending back from the periphery of said inner wall and united to said main portion along lines adjacent said slit; a facing on the inner wall of said recesses, of the same material as said main portion and covering the area exposed when said foldable areas are folded back; and an underfastening on the outer wall of said recesses at least inwardly facing sides of said foldable corner areas; said body portion having a conventional fly opening in the middle of the front.

2. A nether garment comprising, in combination: a main body portion for encircling the body, at least from the waist down; said main body portion having a slit at each side midway between front and back, said slit running downwardly from a predetermined level just below the waistline; manually operable fastening means for opening and closing said slit, in the nature of a zipper sliding up from the bottom of said slit to close it; a bridging belt portion about said slit and adjacent its upper end for carrying the horizontal tension in the garment material above the slit when the slit is open; permanently fastening means for fastening said bridging portion to said main portion at points spaced forwardly and rearwardly from said slit; whereby opening said slit liberates foldable triangular corner areas of said main portion, which may be displaced to admit a hand; an inner pocket wall extending downward from said bridging portion and defining a pocket space extending forwardly and rearwardly beyond said bridging portion; fastening means in the nature of a horizontal line of stitching, permanently fastening the upper edge of said inner pocket wall to said bridging portion and to said body beyond the ends of said bridging portion; fastening means attaching said inner wall to said main portion along a line extending down from the bottom of said slit, to securely close the pocket into a front recess and a rear recess; and closure means other than said main portion, engaging the periphery of said inner pocket wall to close both recesses, except for access through said slit; said closure means being an intermediate wall extending back from the periphery of said inner wall and united to said main portion along lines adjacent said slit; a facing on the inner wall of said recesses, of the same material as said main portion and covering the area exposed when said foldable areas are folded back; and an underfastening on the outer wall of said recesses at least inwardly facing sides of said foldable corner areas; said body portion having a conventional fly opening in the middle of the front.

3. A nether garment comprising, in combination: a main body portion for encircling the body, at least from the waist down; said main body portion having a slit at each side midway be-
5 tween front and back, said slit running downwardly from a predetermined level just below the waistline; manually operable fastening means for opening and closing said slit, in the nature of a zipper sliding up from the bottom of said slit to close it; a bridging portion above said slit, in the nature of a zipper sliding up from the bottom of said slit to close it; a bridging portion extending down from said bridging portion to define a recess between itself and said main portion; and closure means other than said main portion, engaging the periphery of said inner pocket wall to close said recess, except for access through said slit; said closure means being an intermediate wall extending back from the periphery of said inner wall and united to said main portion along lines adjacent said slit; a facing on the inner wall of said recess, covering the area exposed when said corner areas are folded back; and an underfacing on the outer wall of said recess covering at least the inwardly facing sides of said foldable corner areas.

6. A garment comprising, in combination: a main body portion for encircling the body; said main body portion having a slit at each midway between front and back, said slit running downwardly from a predetermined level just below the waistline; manually operable fastening means for opening and closing said slit, in the nature of a zipper sliding up from the bottom of said slit to close it; a bridging portion extending down from said bridging portion to define a recess between itself and said main portion; and closure means other than said main portion, engaging the periphery of said inner pocket wall to close said recess, except for access through said slit; said closure means being an intermediate wall extending back from the periphery of said inner wall and united to said main portion along lines adjacent said slit.

7. A garment comprising, in combination: a main body portion; said main body portion having a vertical slit running downwardly from a predetermined point; manually operable fastening means for opening and closing said slit, in the nature of a zipper sliding up from the bottom of said slit to close it; a bridging portion extending down from said bridging portion and forming with the main body portion a recess at both sides of the slit; and closure means other than said main portion, engaging the periphery of said inner pocket wall to close both recesses, except for access through said slit; said closure means being an intermediate wall extending back from the periphery of said inner wall and united to said main portion along lines adjacent said slit.

8. A garment comprising, in combination: a main body portion; said main body portion having a vertical slit running downwardly from a predetermined point; manually operable fastening means for opening and closing said slit, in the nature of a zipper sliding up from the bottom of said slit to close it; a bridging portion extending down from said bridging portion and forming with the main body portion a recess at both sides of the slit; and closure means other than said main portion, engaging the periphery of said inner pocket wall to close both recesses, except for access through said slit; said closure means being an intermediate wall extending back from the periphery of said inner wall and united to said main portion along lines adjacent said slit.
said slit and adjacent its upper end for holding
the garment shape when the slit is open; perma-
nent fastening means fastening said bridging
portion to said main portion at points spaced
horizontally in both directions from said slit;
whereby opening said slit liberates foldable cor-
ner areas of said main portion, which may be dis-
placed to admit a hand; an inner pocket wall
extending down from said bridging portion; and
means engaging the periphery of said inner
pocket wall to complete the pocket enclosure, ex-
cept for access through said slit.

9. A nether garment comprising, in combina-
tion: a main body portion; said main body por-
tion having a vertical slit running downward
from a predetermined point; manually operable
fastening means for opening and closing said
slit, in the nature of a zipper sliding up from the
bottom of said slit to close it; a bridging portion
above said slit and adjacent its upper end; per-
manent fastening means fastening said bridging
portion to said main portion at points spaced
horizontally in both directions from said slit;
whereby opening said slit liberates foldable cor-
ner areas of said main portion, which may be
displaced to admit a hand; and a pocket struc-
ture communicating with the opening thus made
available; said pocket structure including two re-
cesses located on opposite sides of said slit and
extending down below the level of the lower end
of said slit.

HERMAN BUELOW.

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