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FOUNDATION GARMENT

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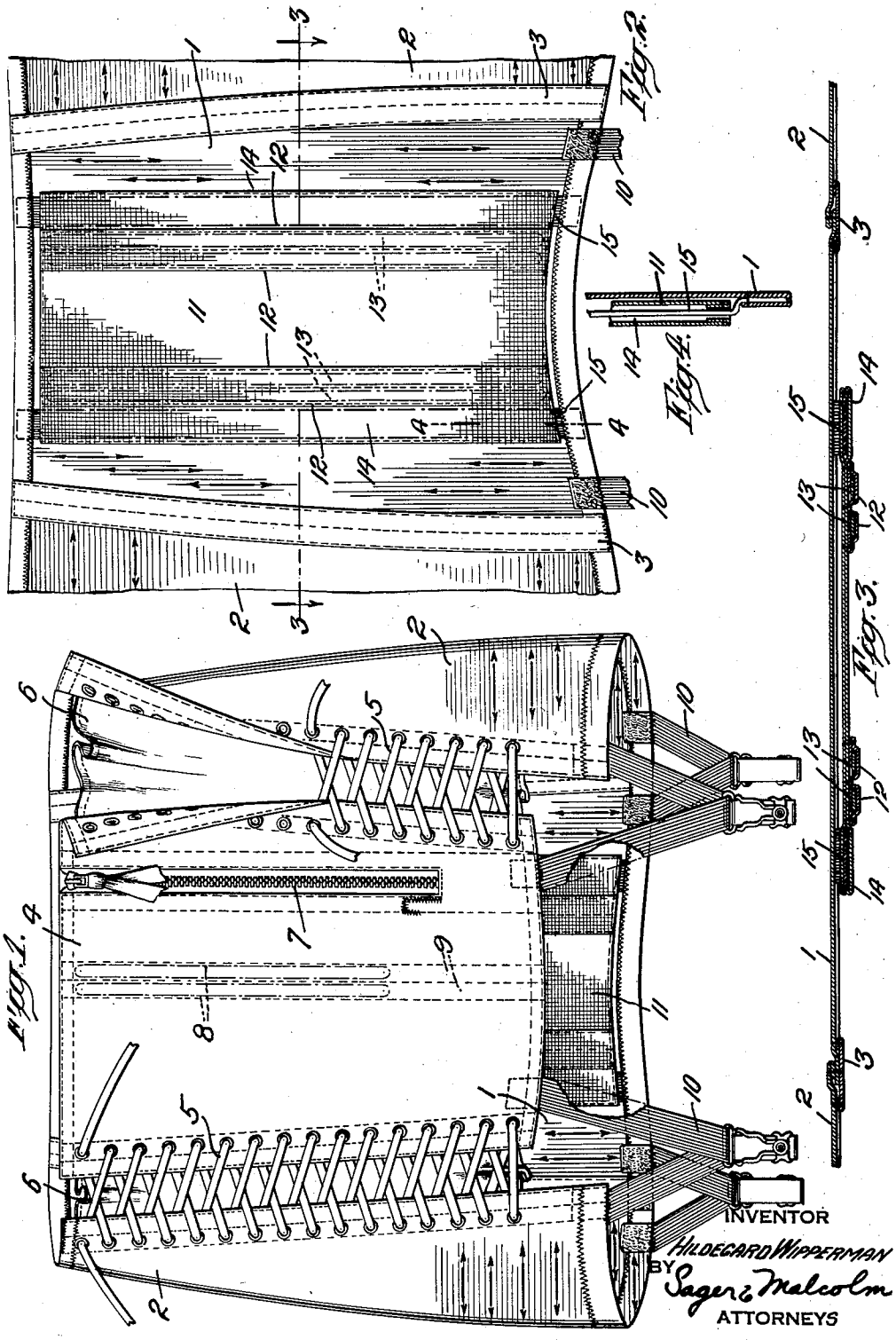


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

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FOUNDATION GARMENT

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3 Claims. (Cl. 2—37)

This invention relates to foundation garments for women and particularly to garments of the type employing stiffening means or bones to control and support the figure.

The principal object of the invention is to provide a foundation garment of the above type which combines stiffness and support with flexibility and freedom of movement to the wearer.

In the preferred form of my invention the stiffening means or bones are applied to a portion of a garment which is adapted to stretch vertically, or both vertically and horizontally, in accordance with bending movements of the body. The stiffening members are preferably held in a floating panel which is securd to the upper and lower edges of the garment by elastic tapes, these tapes passing loosely through the panel and thereby permitting it to slide on the tapes. When the elastic body portion of the garment is stretched, the elastic tapes running through the stiffened panel also stretch, but the panel itself will remain in a fixed position without constraining the rest of the garment.

These and other features and advantages of the invention will be described in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of a girdle embodying the invention;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary view of the inner back portion of the garment, showing a control panel constructed according to the invention;

Fig. 3 is a horizontal section through the control panel, taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 2; and

Fig. 4 is a detail section of the boning taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 2.

In the following description and in the claims certain specific terms are used for convenience in referring to various details of the invention. It is to be understood, however, that these terms are to be given as broad an interpretation as the state of the art will permit.

The drawing shows the invention as applied to a maternity corset or girdle having a rear section 1 of material capable of stretching vertically and inelastic in a horizontal direction. Side sections 2 are joined to the rear section as by seams 3, these side sections being made of material capable of stretching horizontally so as to fit the garment to the wearer and mold and support the figure.

In the form illustrated the garment has a front section 4, preferably inelastic, secured to the side sections 2 by lacings 5 so as to permit necessary adjustments to be made. Shields 6 are positioned between the side sections 2 and the front section 4 to prevent the lacings 5 from coming in contact with the body of the wearer. Suitable fastening means, such as a slide fastener 7, may be provided in the front section 4 for use in putting the garment on and off. Stiffening bones or busks 8 may be secured in pockets 9 formed in the front section 4 for providing rigidity and support. Garters 10 may be attached to the lower edge of the garment in the usual manner.

Support for the back of the body is provided, according to my invention, by a floating inner panel 11 made of inelastic material and containing vertical pockets 12 in which bones or busks 13 are secured. Panel 11 may be composed of a plurality of layers of material having vertical strips sewed thereto to form the pockets 12 and having vertical loops or passages 14 formed adjacent the two side edges through which elastic tapes 15 pass. The tapes 15 are secured as by stitching to the top and bottom edges of the rear section 1 of the garment and the control panel 11 is freely slidable on these tapes.

In the construction illustrated the floating panel 11 remains in the desired adjusted position at the back of the wearer while the rear section 1 of the garment is free to stretch vertically in accordance with bodily movements. The elastic tapes 15 stretch with the rear section 1 and permit the panel 11 to remain in place without constraining the movement of the rest of the garment. The panel 11 thus floats with respect to the remainder of the garment while at the same time providing the required support.

The floating control panel 11 has been shown as embodied in a particular type of garment for purposes of illustration only. The panel may also be incorporated in various other types of garments and may be located at the front when desired. Furthermore, the construction of the floating panel and of the support for the bones or busks may be varied while retaining the essential characteristics thereof. The construction shown, however, is preferred because it provides a stiff supporting surface which does not move or shift over the body of the wearer while the garment itself is free to move or stretch as may be required.

The invention is only to be limited in accordance with the following claims when interpreted in view of the prior art.

The invention claimed is:

1. A foundation garment for women comprising a girdle having an elastic section adapted to stretch in accordance with bending movements of the body, elastic tapes secured to said elastic section at the interior of the garment and

adapted to stretch with said elastic section, and a control panel slidably carried by said tapes and adapted thereby to remain in fixed relationship to the body independently of said bending movements.

2. A foundation garment for women comprising a girdle having an elastic section adapted to stretch in a vertical direction in accordance with bending movements of the body, elastic tapes secured to the interior of the garment adjacent the upper and lower edges thereof, and a stiffened control panel slidably carried by said tapes and adapted thereby to remain in fixed relationship to the body independently of said bending movements.

3. A foundation garment for women comprising a girdle having an elastic section adapted to stretch in accordance with bending movements of the body, an inner stiffening panel having loops adjacent the edges thereof, and elastic tapes secured to said elastic section and passing loosely through said loops to hold said panel in floating relationship to said elastic section.

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