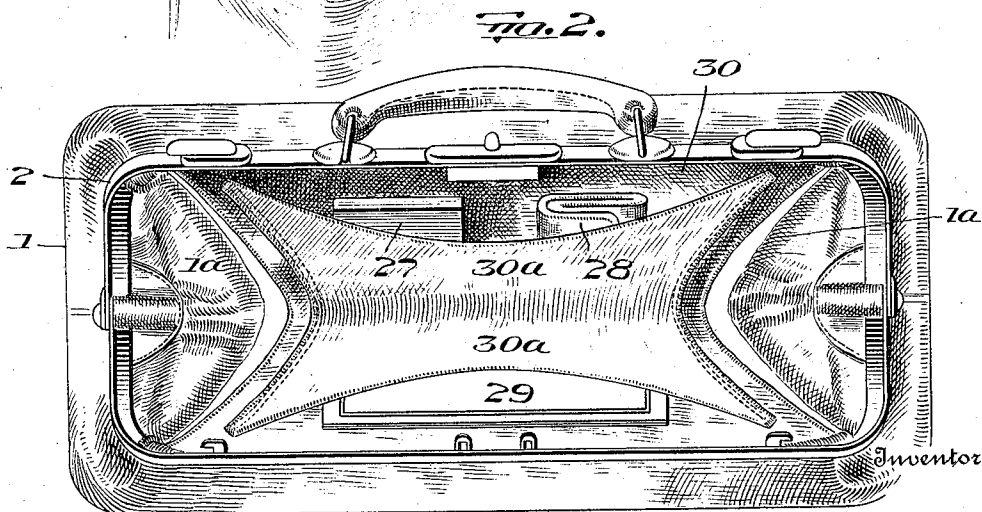
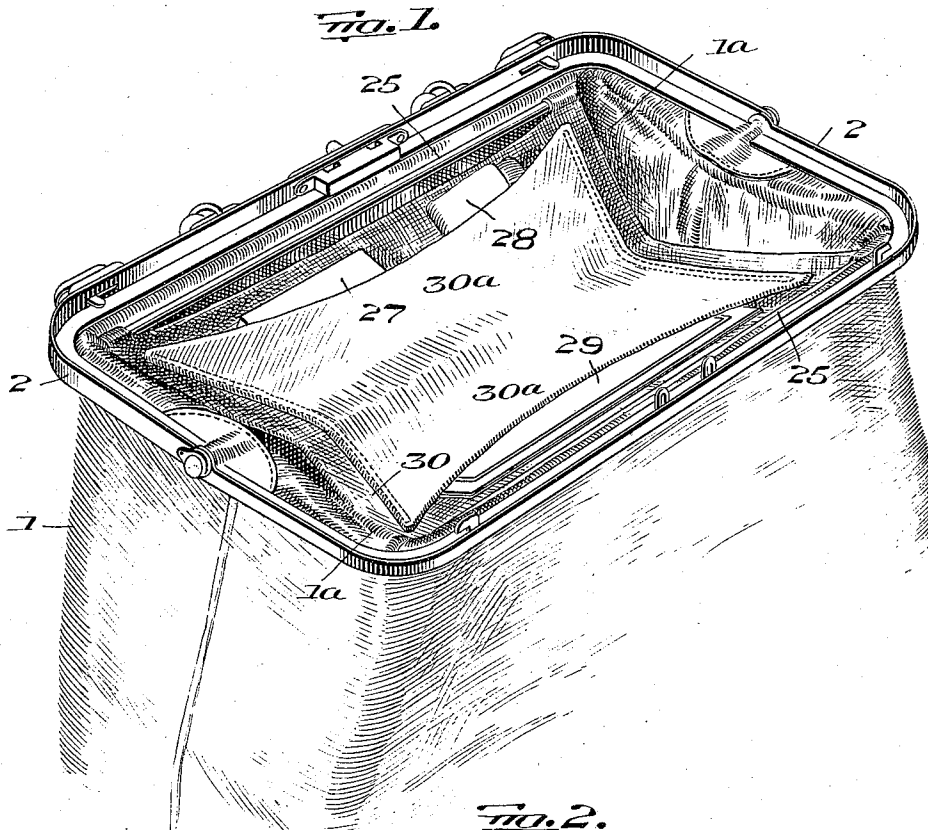


K. C. BRIGGS.
 REMOVABLE TRAY FOR TRAVELING BAGS.
 APPLICATION FILED JAN. 23, 1918.

1,300,921.

Patented Apr. 15, 1919.
 4 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnesses

Philip E. Barnes

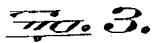
By

Katharine C. Briggs

Engene C. Brown
 Attorney

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4 SHEETS--SHEET 2.



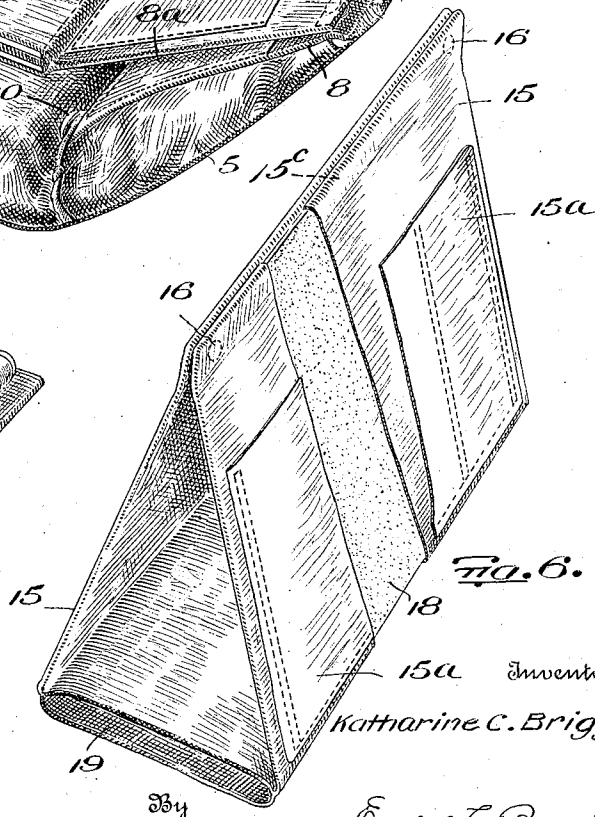
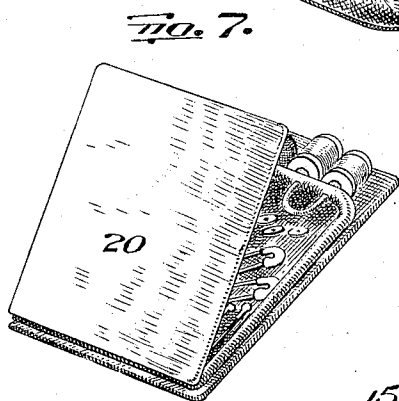
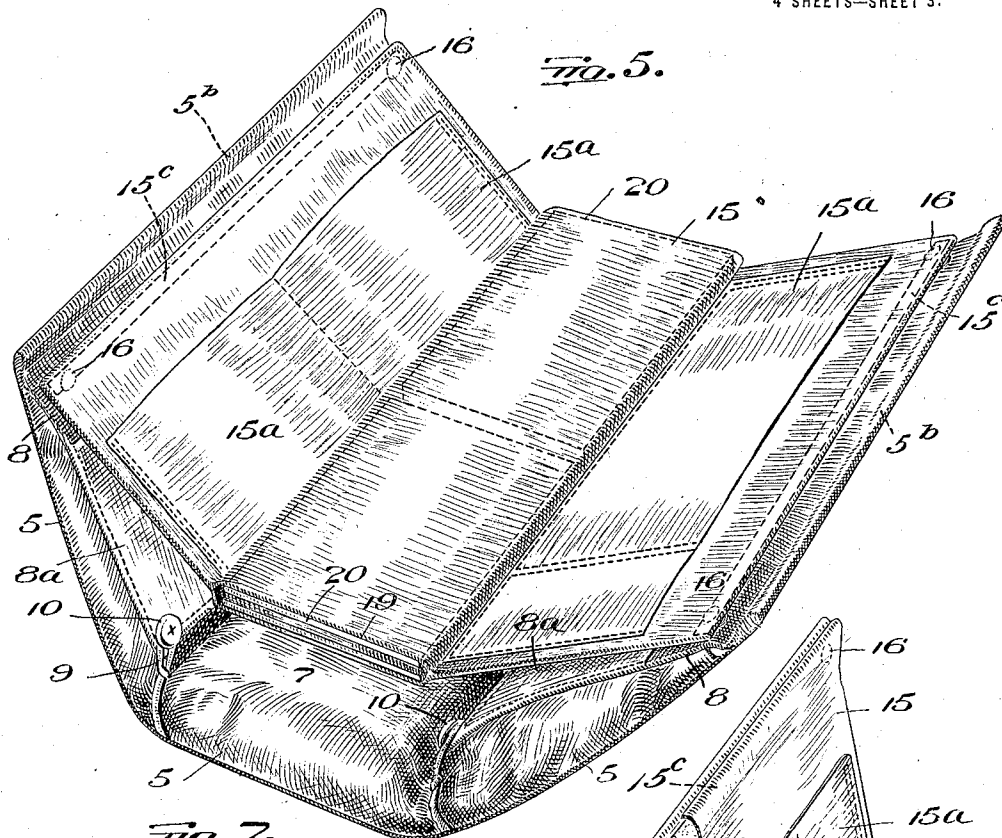
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Philip E. Barnes

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Inventor
Katharine C. Briggs

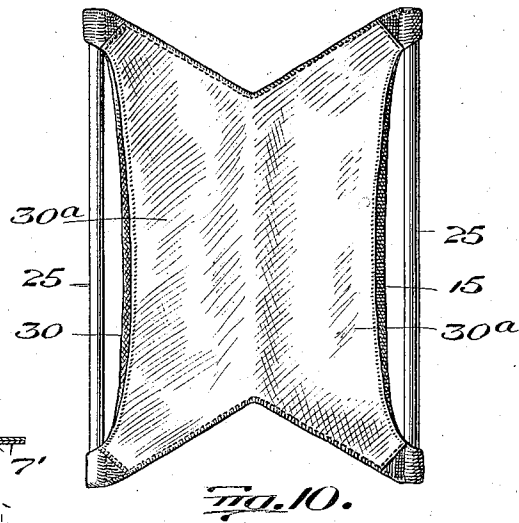
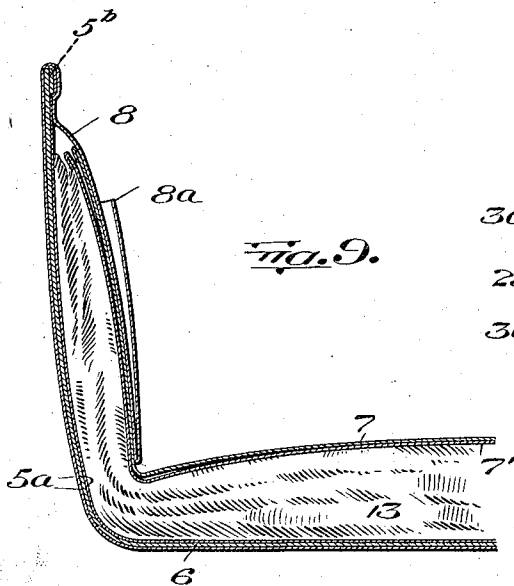
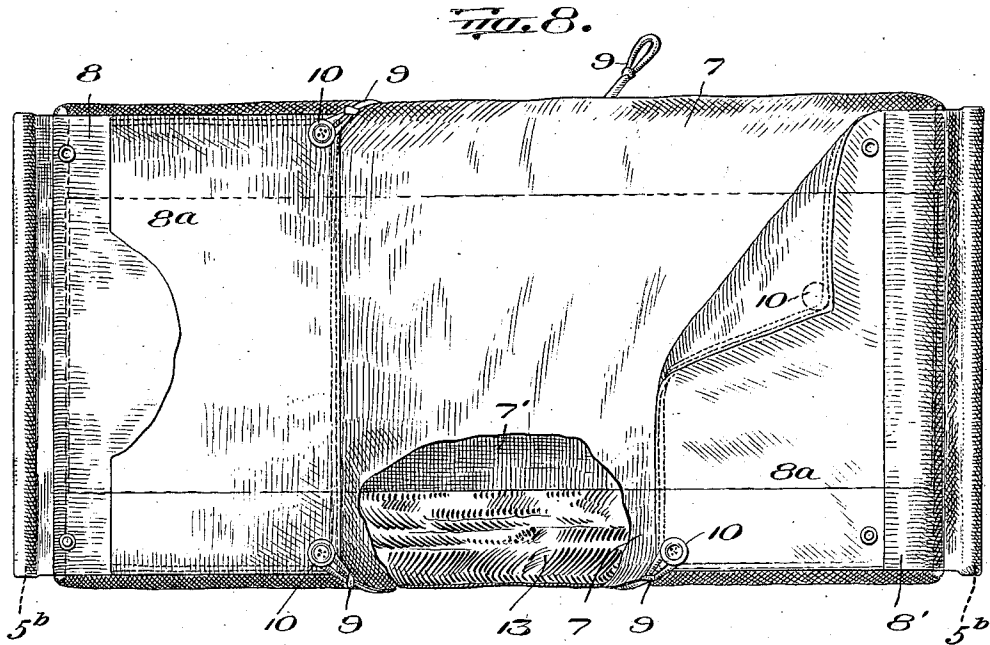
Eugene C. Brown
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Witnesses

Philip E. Barnes

Inventor
Katharine C. Briggs

By

Eugene C. Brown
 Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

KATHARINE C. BRIGGS, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

REMOVABLE TRAY FOR TRAVELING-BAGS.

1,300,921.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Apr. 15, 1919.

Application filed January 23, 1918. Serial No. 213,377.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, KATHARINE C. BRIGGS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Removable Trays for Traveling-Bags, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to trays for traveling bags or satchels which provide separate compartments for clothing and various toilet articles, stationery, etc., and which may be readily removed and inserted in the satchel.

The most convenient and popular traveling bag is the type which opens at the top and has a centrally hinged frame which opens outwardly into a rectangular shape substantially the size of the interior of the bag, the two sections folding together upon a vertical median line when closed, the sides of the bag moving inwardly with the frame. This type of bag is compact and easily handled, but has the disadvantage of not being the proper shape to receive articles of clothing, such as coats, shirts, waists and skirts without being folded into a very small compass, causing them to be wrinkled and misshapen. Moreover it is difficult to arrange the contents of the bag in an orderly manner and practically impossible to keep them so after one or two attempts to find and remove articles from different parts of the bag.

The purpose of my invention is to overcome the defects above mentioned and to provide a tray in which coats, waists, skirts, etc., may be laid out full length or nearly so and when the tray is placed in position in the bag, other miscellaneous articles may be packed without disturbing or crushing the contents of the tray. I also provide separable portions of the tray which serve to protect the previously packed portion and also provide separate compartments for the reception of toilet articles, stationery, etc.

My invention will be understood from the following description in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which—Figure 1 is a fragmentary perspective view of a traveling hand bag with the top open and showing a tray embodying my invention arranged in normal position; Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the same; Figs. 3 and 4 are

transverse vertical sectional views of the satchel or bag in open and closed position respectively and showing an end view of the removable tray members; Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the main tray member with the detachable supporting cover member attached thereto; Fig. 6, is a perspective view of the detachable member with its sides secured together to form a rack for stationery and adapted to be placed on a table or other support; Fig. 7 is a perspective view of one of the stiffening members which may be removed from a pocket in the bottom or central section of the detachable member, this stiffening member being constructed in a manner to form a utility case for needles, pins, etc.; Fig. 8 is a top plan view, partly broken away, of the main tray member; Fig. 9, is a fragmentary longitudinal sectional view of the same; and Fig. 10, is a bottom plan view of the upper tray member.

The leather traveling bag or satchel 1, is the well-known type having a top metal frame 2, composed of interfitting sections which are hinged together so that they may be swung outwardly into the open position shown in Fig. 1, or brought together into closed position illustrated in Fig. 4.

The tray comprises a main container or casing 5, adapted to receive the principal articles of clothing and a detachable cover member provided with compartments or pockets to receive various toilet articles, stationery, etc. In addition to the main tray, I provide an auxiliary tray member adapted to extend from side to side across the upper part of the satchel and be supported upon the upper edges of the main tray.

The clothing container portion 5 of the tray preferably has a length substantially equal to the height of the two sides and the width of the bottom of the satchel, and a width equal to the length of the bottom of the satchel, so that it will conform to the inner dimensions of the satchel or bag when inserted. It may be formed of linen or other suitable fabric, the outer or back portion 5^a being made two-ply with an interposed flexible stiffening sheet 6, of buckram or other suitable material, the ends being further stiffened with thin steel strips 5^b. Flaps 7 and 7' of linen or other fabric extend from the opposite side edges and form overlapping covers and over these extend

the end flaps 8, 8' which are secured to the ends along their outer edges and may be provided with pockets 8^a. The end flaps may be retained by cord loops 9 fastened to the back part and passing over buttons 10 sewed to the inner corners of the flaps or in any other desired manner.

The cover portion 15 is detachably secured to the clothing container portion 5, by means of snap fasteners 16, and is shorter than the container 5, so that the ends of the latter must be swung inwardly before the part 15 can be fastened, to thereby provide a space 17 between the parts at their central portions, as indicated in Figs. 3 and 4. At one end the socket parts of the snap fasteners 16 are secured to the tray member 5 and the stud parts are secured to the tray member 15, while at the other end the parts are reversed. With this arrangement, the member 15 must always be secured to the member 5, in the same way.

The detachable tray portion 15 is constructed of two layers of linen or other fabric with an interposed flexible stiffening sheet 18, such as buckram, in the end sections, the intermediate central portion being formed into pockets 19 to receive stiffening devices which may conveniently be constructed to form utility cases, as illustrated in Fig. 7, each side 20 being stiffened with buckram or the like, and hinged at one end, the space between being utilized as a receptacle for pins, buttons, thimbles, spools, etc. The central part of the member 15 is thus reinforced with two layers of stiffening material, rendering it more rigid than the other parts. The ends are further stiffened by means of thin steel strips 15^c inserted between the layers.

Pockets for the reception of writing materials, paper, envelopes, etc. may be placed on the inner sides of the member 15, by sewing strips of fabric 15^a thereto.

It is often convenient to place one's stationery on a table or desk or on the seat in a train or railroad station. For this purpose after the member 15 is detached, the ends may be swung backwardly until they meet and may be secured by means of the snap fasteners in the manner indicated in Fig. 6, thus bringing the pockets containing the stationery upon the outside. In this manner the member 15 may be utilized temporarily as a paper rack, the inner triangular space also forming a convenient receptacle or pigeonhole for papers or other articles.

After the main tray has been placed in position in the bag, the auxiliary hammock tray member 30 shown in Fig. 10, is suspended across the intervening space and is supported upon the top edges of the main member in the manner illustrated in Figs. 1 to 4. This auxiliary tray member may be

made of linen or other suitable material secured at the corners to rods 25, which are preferably of wood. Pockets 30^a may be provided upon either side to receive toilet or other articles which it is convenient to have readily accessible. The ends of the fabric body are recessed into substantially V-shape in order to permit the ends of the bag to bulge inwardly as it is closed, the ends of the rods 25, fitting into the recesses of the bag between the sides and the inwardly bulging end portions 1^a, being held thereby in proper position and assisting to hold the main tray member against the sides of the bag. However, the tray naturally tends to spring outwardly and to conform to the inner contour of the sides of the bag by reason of the resiliency imparted to it by the flexible reinforcing or stiffening layer 6, which also causes the tray to lie flat when removed from the bag.

The operation and manner of using the tray will be understood from the foregoing description of the parts. To remove it from the satchel or bag, the auxiliary member 30 is first removed by lifting the rods 25 out of the end recesses. The main tray is then removed by grasping one end and pulling it upwardly, the resiliency of the stiffening material therein causing the central bottom portion and the other end to follow around the inner side of the bag so that the tray will be straightened out in the position shown in Fig. 5, when it is entirely removed. When it is laid on a table or other support, the snap fastenings 16 are disconnected and the detachable member 15 is removed, permitting the main tray member to lie flat. The loops 9 are then unfastened from the buttons 10, so that the end flaps 8, 8' and inner flaps 7, 7' may be opened out and thrown back to expose the entire tray. As previously stated, the length of the main tray member is substantially equal to the height of the two sides plus the width of the bottom of the bag. The tray is thus about a third longer than the length of the bag and is sufficiently long to receive a coat, waist or skirt at full length. A suit of clothes indicated at 13, can thus be laid out and packed in the tray with the same facility as in the tray of a trunk. After the clothing has been thus laid in position, the side and end flaps are brought back into closed position shown in Fig. 8, by means of the loops 9. The pockets 8^a may be filled, if desired, after which the detachable member 15 may be secured in position thereon by means of the snap fasteners 16. As previously stated, it is necessary to first bend the end portions of the main tray upwardly somewhat in order to fasten the member 15, this provision being made for the purpose of causing a space 17 between the central part of the detachable member and the cen-

ter of the main tray 1 as indicated in Figs. 3 and 4. After the utility or jewel cases 20 have been inserted in the pockets 19 extending from opposite sides of the central part of the member 15, and the pockets 15^a have been packed with stationery or other desired articles, the tray is inserted in the bag by bringing the ends toward each other until they are substantially perpendicular to the central part, when the tray may be pressed downwardly into the bag, occupying the position illustrated in Fig. 3. If desired, magazines or other articles may first be placed at the bottom of the bag as I have indicated at 22, or they may be slipped between the outer sides of the tray and the bag without interfering with the operation of the tray. It will be observed that the tray conforms to the inner contour of the bag so that a large central space 26 remains to receive other articles of apparel and the luggage which is to be carried. The articles packed in this central space are held by the detachable member 15 which is suspended upon the snap fasteners 16, the weight being supported largely by the reinforcing stiffening material 6 in the walls of the tray, so that no pressure is brought against the clothing packed in the main tray and the contents, therefore, remain uncrushed. After the bag has been packed as described, the auxiliary hammock tray member 30 is suspended across the bag opening, being supported by the rods 25 which rest upon the upper edges of the main tray. The pockets 30^a upon either side of this hammock tray may receive various articles which I have indicated at 27, 28, 29. This suspended tray member serves not only to hold various small articles, but also serves as a screen to shield from view the contents of the bag, thus presenting a neat appearance whenever it is opened.

By reason of the construction and arrangement of parts above described, the tray members conform at all times to the shape of the sides of the bag, the upper portions of the tray members being moved inwardly or outwardly as the bag is closed or opened in the manner indicated in Figs. 3 and 4.

I have described in detail the particular construction illustrated in the accompanying drawings for the purpose of clearly disclosing an embodiment of my invention, but it will be understood that various changes and modifications may be made within the scope of my claims and without in any manner departing from my invention. The advantages of my tray construction will now be appreciated. It is essentially a removable clothing container or tray which must be taken from the traveling bag and must lie flat before it can be packed or unpacked. Its flexibility enables it to readily conform to the inner contour of the bag, while its stiffening lining or reinforcement

provides a resiliency which tends to maintain it in a flat position when it is removed and to cause it to spring outwardly against the sides of the bag when it is inserted therein so that it will naturally conform to the movements of the bag and the sides with its pockets will remain spaced apart, thus leaving the entire central space in the bag unobstructed so that it may be packed and unpacked as usual. One of the greatest advantages possessed by my removable tray resides in the fact that the various articles of clothing, such as coats, waists, skirts, etc., may be laid out substantially at full length when they are packed and they will be prevented from being crushed or wrinkled because they are maintained in position within the flaps of the tray.

I claim:—

1. A removable tray for satchels or traveling bags, comprising a flexible clothing container having a length substantially equal to the width of the bag and the combined height of the sides thereof, and a width substantially equal to the length of the bag, said container having flaps extending from its edges and adapted to overlap thereacross to thereby envelop articles of clothing; a cover member having a central rigid portion serving as a bottom therefor and provided with end fastening devices, adapted to engage cooperating devices on said container adjacent its ends and spaced apart a greater distance than the length of said cover, whereby the central part of the cover will be supported above and spaced from the container when the tray is inserted in the bag.

2. A removable tray for satchels or traveling bags, comprising a flexible clothing container or tray adapted to be inserted in a satchel or bag transversely thereof with its outer surface conforming to the inner contour of the sides and bottom thereof, its ends extending upwardly along the sides of the bag and movable therewith, and a cover member shorter than said container having a central rigid portion serving as a bottom therefor, and coacting fastening devices on the ends of the cover and of the container, the latter being spaced apart a greater distance than the length of said cover, so that the ends of the container must be moved toward each other when the fastening devices are engaged.

3. A removable tray for satchels or traveling bags, comprising a flexible clothing container or tray adapted to be inserted in a satchel or bag transversely thereof with its outer surface conforming to the inner contour of the sides and bottom thereof, its ends extending upwardly along the sides of the bag and movable therewith and a cover member shorter than said container and having flexible sides and a rigid central portion,

and means for suspending the cover from said tray ends.

4. A removable tray for satchels or traveling bags, comprising a flexible clothing container or tray adapted to be inserted in a satchel or bag transversely thereof with its outer surface conforming to the inner contour of the sides and bottom thereof, its ends extending upwardly along the sides of the bag and movable therewith, the backing or outer wall of said tray being flexible and resilient to thereby cause it to spread outwardly against the sides of the bag while yielding freely to the movements of the bag as it is opened or closed.

5. A removable tray for satchels or traveling bags, comprising a flexible clothing container or tray adapted to be inserted in a satchel or bag transversely thereof with its outer surface conforming to the inner contour of the sides and bottom thereof, its ends extending upwardly along the sides of the bag and movable therewith, and provided with pockets opening upwardly, the backing or outer wall of said tray being flexible and resilient to thereby cause it to spread outwardly against the sides of the bag and thus

separate said pocketed ends when the bag is open.

6. A removable tray for satchels or traveling bags, comprising a flexible clothing container or tray adapted to be inserted in a satchel or bag transversely thereof with its outer surface conforming to the inner contour of the sides and bottom thereof, its ends extending upwardly along the sides of the bag and movable therewith, and a detachable cover member for said tray adapted to follow the inner contour thereof when in normal position in the bag but spaced therefrom throughout its central portion, said central portion being provided with a stiffening reinforcement, in combination with a hammock device comprising rigid side frame members adapted to extend along the upper ends of the tray and an intermediate flexible portion extending between said frame members, across the intervening space to serve as a support for articles placed therein and as a shield or screen for the interior of the bag.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

KATHARINE C. BRIGGS.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C."