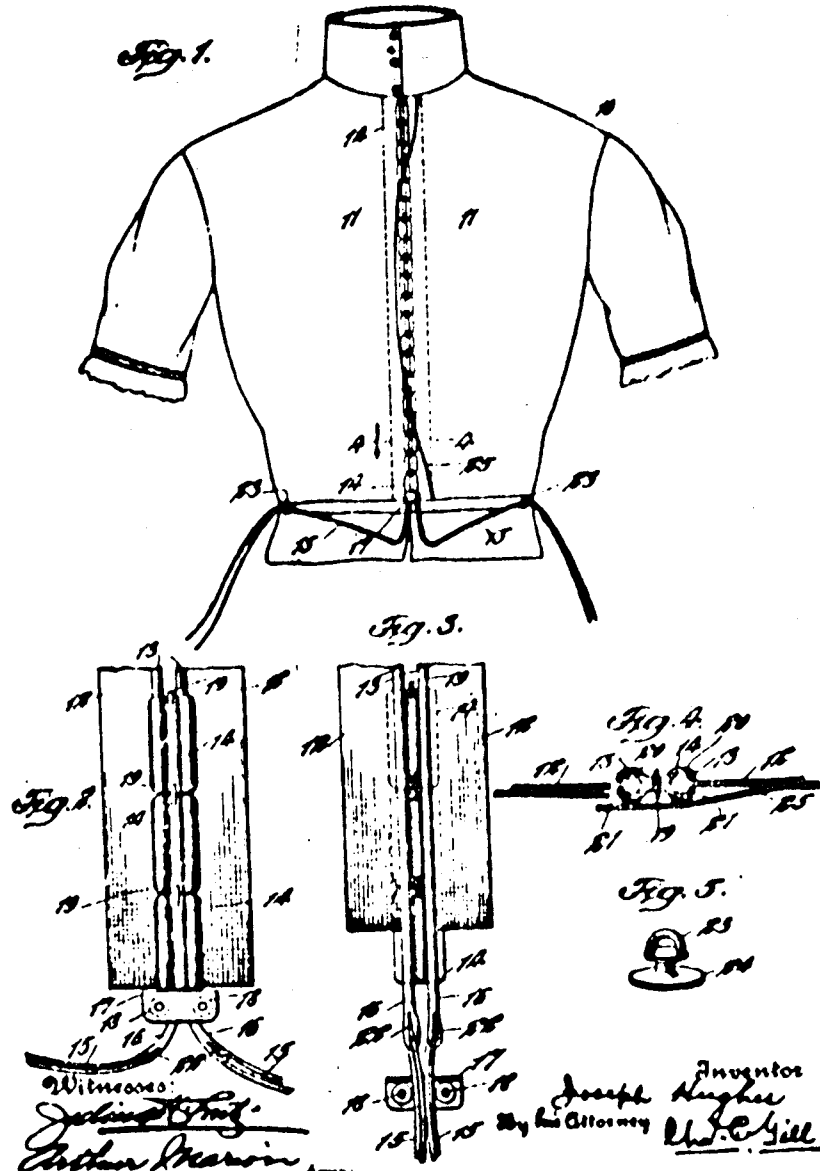


J. HUGHES.
GARMENT CLOSER.
APPLICATION FILED OCT. 6, 1911.

Patented June 18, 1912.
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1,089,980.

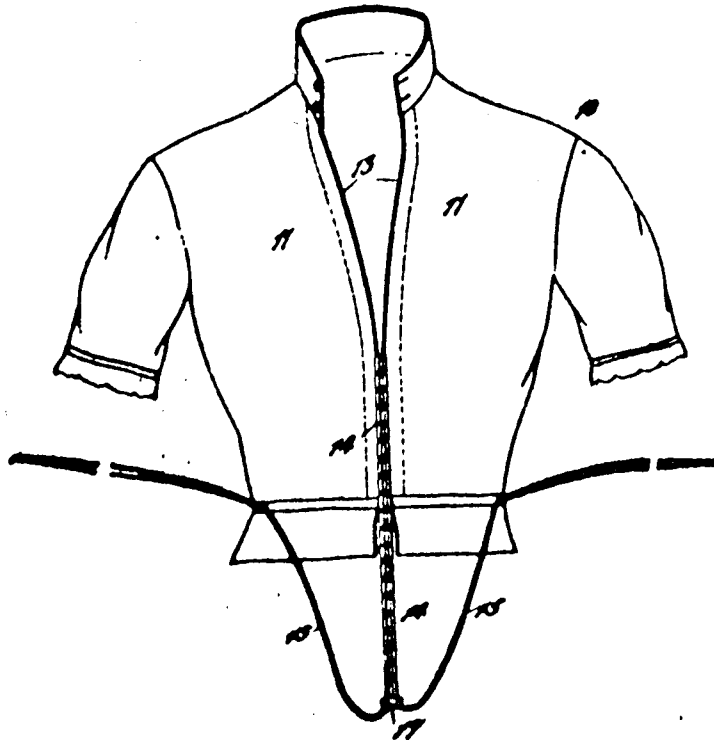


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Fig. 6



WITNESSES:
James H. [Signature]
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INVENTOR
Joseph Hughes
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ATTORNEY

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1,029,930. GARMENT-CLOSER. JOSEPH HUGHES, New York, N. Y. Filed Oct. 6, 1911. Serial No. 653,115.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH HUGHES, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of New York city, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Garment-Closers, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to improvements in garment-closers, and it consists in the novel features and structure hereinafter described, and particularly pointed out in the claims.

The invention is not limited to use with any special garment, but, for illustration, I present the same herein as applied to a lady's waist for closing the back thereof and maintaining the same in closed position.

One object of my invention is to avoid the use of buttons and button-holes or hooks and eyes or like separable fastening devices commonly employed on waists, and especially to obviate the inconveniences which arise with the use of such devices, in securing the waist in closed position and in releasing the same for removal.

In accordance with my invention I provide, either directly or by attached strips, on the vertical matching edges of the back sections of the waist, beadings of braid, cord or the like, and also a series of articulated or somewhat flexibly connected-together slide-clasps which may be moved along both said beadings to connect said back sections and close the waist by pressure applied at the lower end thereof and initiated from cords which may extend around to the front or opposite sides of the waist in convenient position to be operated, the cords when pulled in opposite lateral directions serving to move a follower against the lower end of the series of clasps and cause such clasps to slide upwardly on said beadings and gradually close the edges of the back sections of the waist toward each other and bind them in their closed relation. After the waist has been closed by the upward movement of the series of clasps, the operating cords may be tied around the waist and thus be conveniently disposed of. When it is desired to remove the waist the wearer will free the outer ends of the operating cords and take hold of the lower end of the series of clasps and draw the latter downwardly along the aforesaid beadings, thus releasing the back sections of the waist and permitting the removal of the latter, said clasp sections as they leave the beadings on the waist passing onto and along said operating cords, which, when the waist is entirely open, will carry said clasps.

The operating cords will be connected with lower projecting extremities of the beadings, and hence the clasps when on the cords may be readily guided upwardly thereby to engage the beadings on and close the waist and conveniently slid downwardly from the beadings to open the waist without becoming entirely detached therefrom.

The invention will be fully understood from the detailed description hereinafter presented, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a back view of a waist equipped with closing and fastening devices embodying my invention, the two back sections of the waist being shown as closed and the concealing flap on one of the back sections being illustrated as turned outwardly to some extent to expose said devices; Fig. 2 is an enlarged detached view of a portion of two corresponding strips having beadings at their adjoining edges and to be secured to the back-sections of the waist for receiving my fastening devices; Fig. 3 is a corresponding view, partly in section, of the same, with the outer portions of the clasps cut away and the clasps shown as slid downwardly to some extent on said strips; Fig. 4 is an enlarged horizontal section, through a portion of the waist, on the dotted line 4-4 of Fig. 1; Fig. 5 is a detached perspective view of a style of button which may be conveniently attached to the waist for aiding in the control of the operating cords, and Fig. 6 is a view substantially corresponding with Fig. 1 but illustrating the series of clasps in a partly operated position.

In the drawings 10 designates a garment or waist of any suitable or usual formation intended to be closed and opened at the back, 11 the back sections thereof, 12 corresponding vertical strips of fabric stitched to the adjoining portions of said back-sections and having beadings 13 at their outer facing edges, 14 the series of transverse clasps to slide on said beadings and connect said back-sections together to close the waist or release them to permit the waist to open, 15 the operating cords by which said clasps may be moved upwardly along said beadings to close the garment and, which receive said clasps when they are slid downwardly from said beadings to release the garment, 16 lower projecting portions of said beadings to which said cords are connected so that the cords and beadings may form continuous runways for said clasps, and 17 a follower normally strung on said cords at the lower end of the series of clasps and having rollers 18 against which the laterally extending cords may be drawn to cause the follower to press against the lower end of the series of clasps and compel the latter to

slide upwardly from said cords onto and along said beadings to close the garment.

The beadings 13 may be formed in any suitable manner, as by the well-known method of cording the edge of a fabric or by means of braids or in any of the several known ways, and these beadings may be formed on or applied to the fabric of the garment or on strips of fabric 12 to be secured to the garment, as may be found most convenient, the essential consideration being that the garment along the edges of its sections to be closed and opened be formed or provided with the beadings to be engaged by the clasps 14.

The individual transverse clasps 14 correspond with one another and they are articulated or connected together in one elongated suitably flexible chain or series by links 19, which may be of wire or thread or any suitable material, and said clasps 14 are in reasonably close relation to one another in series and preferably in end-to-end relation so that their adjoining ends may abut against one another during the closing of the garment. Each transverse clasp 14 may be in one integral piece of metal, hard rubber, porcelain, celluloid, glass or other suitable material, and has at its opposite vertical edges undercut grooves 20, as shown in Fig. 4, to engage the beadings 13, said grooves being open at their outer vertical edges, in the form of narrow slots 21, to admit the fabric back of the beadings 13 of the garment or strips 12. The clasps 14 constitute an elongated flexible clasp to engage the beadings 13 and slide thereon for closing or opening the garment 10, and I preferably arrange the clasps 14 in end to end relation so that pressure applied at the lower end of the series of clasps may act through all the clasps, said clasps pressing against one another in series. When the clasps 14 are held reasonably close together by means of the links 19 the line of clasps may have some degree of flexibility, but will nevertheless efficiently move along the beadings 13 without buckling to any material extent. The fact that the clasps are permitted to have a slight hinged movement on the links 19 enables the line of clasps to conform to the shape of the figure wearing the garment.

The follower 17 may be formed from sheet metal with a top and vertical sides, the latter forming bearings for the ends of the rollers 18. The top of the follower is flat to engage the lower end of the lower clasp 14 and has an opening therein, as shown in Fig. 3, through which the operating cords 15 extend and which also permits the follower to move upwardly on or downwardly from the extensions 16 of the beadings 13. The invention is not confined in every instance to the employment of the follower 17 since the clasps would be operative

without it, but the operation of the device as a whole is improved when the follower 17 is made use of.

The operating cords 15 are preferably strung through eyes 22 formed in the lower ends of the beading-extensions 16 and doubled, as shown, and said cords extend between the rollers 18 of the follower 17 and are thence carried laterally in opposite directions and inserted through guiding eyes 23 formed on the outer ends of detachable buttons 24 applied to the opposite sides of the garment 10.

As may be readily understood on reference to Figs. 1 and 6, the clasps 14 are wholly on the beadings 13 when they are in position holding the garment closed and are slid downwardly onto the operating cords 15 when drawn downwardly to release the garment. When the garment is open and

it is desired to close the same the cords 15 will be drawn laterally in opposite directions so as to create a pull against the rollers 18 and cause the follower 17 to press upwardly against the lower clasp 14. The continued pull on the cords 15 will cause the follower 17 to travel upwardly on the cords and force the line of clasps 14 upwardly onto and along the beadings 13 to thereby close the garment, and after the garment has been sufficiently closed the wearer may draw the cords 15 around to the front and tie them about the waist. When it is desired to release the garment the cords 15, if tied at the front, will be loosened so that they may be free to slide rearwardly through the eyes 23, and thereupon the wearer will take hold of the lower clasp 14 between the thumb and finger and pull the line of clasps downwardly from off the beadings 13 and onto the cords 15. Fig. 6 may be regarded as showing the clasps 14 as pulled downwardly to a partial extent from the beadings 13 or as illustrating the clasps in a partly operated position or one in which the clasps have been moved upwardly by a lateral pull in opposite directions on the cords 15.

My invention dispenses with the use of buttons and button-holes or hooks and eyes or like separable fastening devices commonly employed on garments and removes the inconveniences which arise with the use of such devices in securing a waist in closed position and in releasing the same for removal. A garment may, if desired, be formed with a flap 25 to conceal the elongated flexible clasp, although such flap constitutes no portion of my present invention.

The beadings 13 may be formed directly on the fabric of the garment, but preferably I shall provide them on the strips 12 to be attached to garments.

I do not limit my invention to the use of any special material in the manufacture of

the parts thereof. The strips 12 may be formed of silk or any other suitable material and the beadings thereon may be formed in any of many well-known ways. The operating cords 15 may be of cotton, silk or other suitable material and they constitute flexible means for operating the elongated clasp-slide, the word "cords" being used in a generic sense and as matter of convenience without defining any special material.

What I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

1. Closing means for garments and the like comprising beadings for the adjacent sections thereof and an elongated flexible clasp having grooves at its lateral ends to engage and slide on said beadings and being open at their outer edges to admit the thickness of the fabric carrying said beadings, and operating cords connected with said beadings to receive said clasp in its inoperative position and slide the same onto said beadings to its operative position.

2. Closing means for garments and the like comprising beadings for the adjacent sections thereof and an elongated flexible clasp having grooves at its lateral ends to engage and slide on said beadings and being open at their outer edges to admit the thickness of the fabric carrying said beadings, operating cords connected with said beadings to receive said clasp in its inoperative position and slide the same onto said beadings to its operative position, and a follower strung on said cords at the lower end of said clasp to force the clasp to its operative position on the lateral pull of said cords in opposite directions.

Signed at New York city, in the county of New York and State of New York, this 4th day of October, A. D. 1911.

JOSEPH HUGHES.

Witnesses:

ARTHUR MARION,
CHAS. C. GILL.