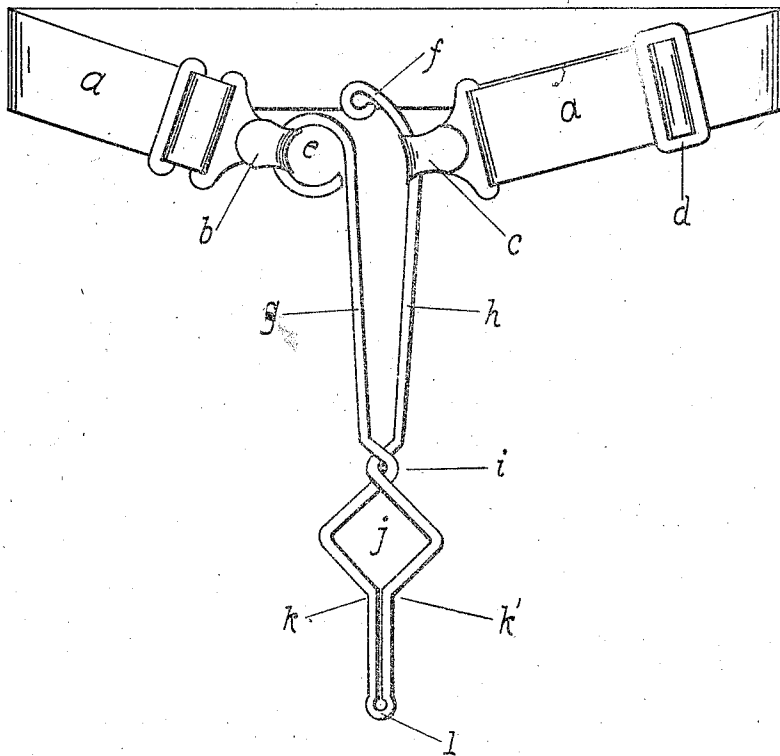


No. 845,943.

PATENTED MAR. 5, 1907.

H. E. GIFFORD.
GARMENT SUPPORTER.
APPLICATION FILED AUG. 24, 1905.



WITNESSES:

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GARMENT-SUPPORTER.

No. 845,943.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 5, 1907.

Application filed August 24, 1905. Serial No. 275,546.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HARRY E. GIFFORD, a citizen of the United States, residing at New Bedford, in the county of Bristol and State of Massachusetts, have invented new and useful Improvements in Garment-Supporters, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawing.

My present invention has relation to garters and is shown as supporting men's short stocking.

It is well known that nearly all garters are dependent upon elastic in the band and cord for retaining their position upon the leg. It is also known that elastic rapidly loses its resiliency through natural decay, which process is hastened by the warmth and perspiration of the leg. The stretching of the elastic and decrease of its resiliency allows the band in the ordinary garter to drop or sag upon the leg, and therefore does not keep the stocking up as intended. It is also a fact that the complete banding of the leg by the band, the band and cord, or the band and metal parts, as the case may be, the metal parts crossing at a point too near the band, interferes with the flow of blood in the veins and arteries of the leg.

It is the purpose of my invention to provide a garter in which all of these objections have been overcome and in which elastic does not form a part thereof, which has no short-lived materials in its make-up, which, having an improved form of pendant, does not completely encircle the leg in or near the line of the band by crossing of band, cord, or metal parts, thereby allowing perfectly free circulation of blood in veins and arteries of the leg.

It is a further purpose of my invention to provide a non-elastic garter with a metal pendant in which the stocking-grip and the resilient arms for engaging the ends of the band are made of one piece of spring-wire of improved form, simple in construction, and devoid of objectionable features present in other garters of like type, such as the possibility of twisting or reversing of the pendant, the crossing of the wires forming the stocking-grip, the crossing of the wires too near the ends of the band, causing too much pressure upon the leg between the band ends, and eliminating spring-coils and frictional band-holders.

In the accompanying drawing the various parts of the garter are clearly shown, in which—

a represents a band of non-elastic material; *b* and *c*, metal hooks to receive the ends 60 of band *a*, hook *b* being closed to prevent its being readily unhooked, yet easily movable on the eye *e*, while hook *c* is open sufficient to be easily unhooked from spring-arm *h*.

d is the ordinary buckle for adjusting the 65 size of garter-band.

g and *h* are spring-arms having a resilient action, the free end of arm *g* terminating in an eye *e* and the free end of arm *h* forming a circular sweep around eye *e* and terminating 70 in a small eye *f*.

At *i* the engaged ends of spring-arms *g* and *h* are twisted one around the other by a single turn, the wire below the turn forming a stocking-grip, of which *j* is the loop portion, 75 below which the wires are parallel and in contact between the return-bend *l* and the shoulders *k* and *k'*.

In the practice of my invention I take a piece of spring-wire and form it into the de- 80 sired shape by bending it at the center into a sharp return-bend *l*, which brings the two ends of the wire parallel and in contact. At *k* and *k'* I bend the two ends outwardly, then inwardly in opposite directions, and form an 85 angular or circular loop *j*, above which the wires are crossed and twisted one around the other by a single turn, as shown at *i*, and from which point the wires are extended in the form of a contracted-V shape, forming 90 two resilient spring-arms *g* and *h*, the former terminating in a large eye *e*, while the latter terminates in a circular sweep around the eye *e* with the small eye *f* at its end.

The stocking being passed through the 95 loop *j* is pulled into the grip between *k* and *k'*, thereby slightly separating the wires at that point. The wires being in contact at *i*, the free ends of arms *g* and *h* are forced toward each other when the grip is opened by the 100 stocking, and in opposition to this movement the spreading of the arms *g* and *h* will increase the grip upon the stocking. Therefore, the harder the stocking pulls upon the garter the stronger the grip. The garter 105 having a non-elastic band, makes it difficult to release the same if the hook is held by the eye in the pendant, should both arms terminate as does arm *g*, for which reason I have formed the free end of arm *h* in a circular 110

sweep, making it easy to unhook the arm by placing the finger at the small eye *f* and springing the arm outwardly. This improved shape also allows a more free action of the pendant perpendicularly upon the leg on account of the longer sweep of the hook upon the arm *h* than were it confined as is hook *b* in eye *e*.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

In a hose-supporter made of a single piece of spring-wire, the combination with a reactionary loop formed by bending said wire, a

depending grip at one angle of said loop having parallel walls, two arms formed in the opposite angle of said loop by twisting said arms whereby the grip in the pendant may be increased or diminished by spreading or closing said arms, and a non-elastic band, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

HARRY E. GIFFORD.

Witnesses:

A. J. FRANCIS,
L. D. FRANCIS.