

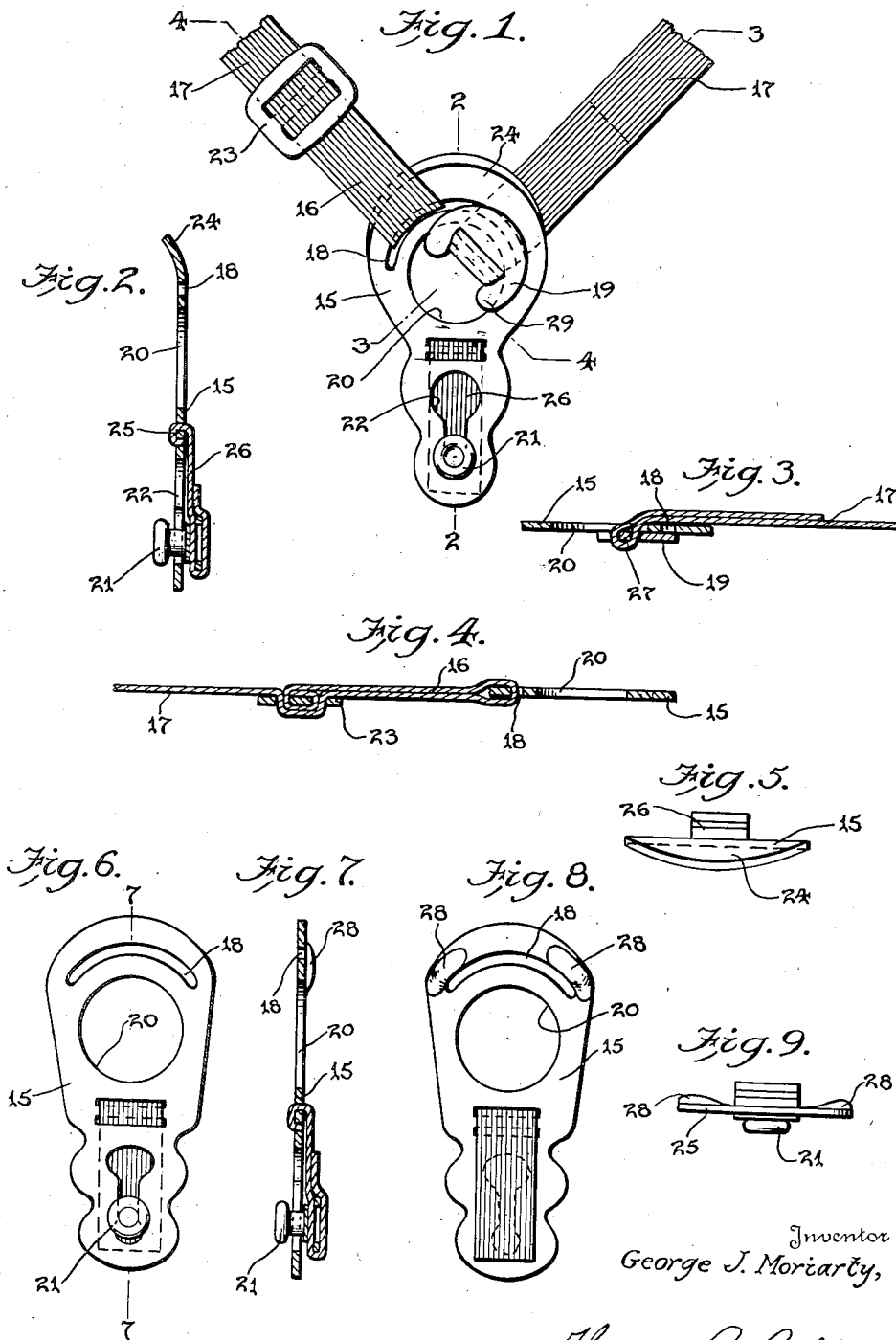
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G. J. MORIARTY

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GARMENT SUPPORT

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Inventor
George J. Moriarty,

Thomas A. Babington

Attorney

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GARMENT SUPPORT

George J. Moriarty, Chicago, Ill.

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6 Claims. (Cl. 241—6)

This invention relates to garment supports and more specifically to garters for supporting hosiery.

Known articles of this class require a clasp-
 5 clasp for grasping the apparel. Such multiplication of clasps becomes costly and introduces additional points of wear upon the fabric of which such garters are usually constructed.

Prior devices do not properly provide for move-
 10 ments of the garter parts to compensate for flexing of the leg muscles and are therefore apt to bind or abrade the skin of the wearer to his great discomfort.

Another shortcoming is the necessity of dis-
 15 criminating the right garter from the left in such early structures, as in most cases they are each best adapted to one or the other leg and not interchangeable.

The present invention seeks to solve these prob-
 20 lems and to overcome the faults and limitations inherent in prior devices by providing a clasp- ing element common to both leg encircling band and hose engaging button, and by providing means for unrestricted play of the ends of the leg encircling
 25 band in response to the expansion and contraction of the leg muscles of the wearer.

These and other objects will become apparent from the following description, reference being
 30 had to the accompanying drawing.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a preferred embodiment.

Fig. 2 is a sectional elevation along 2—2 of
 Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a section along 3—3 of Fig. 1.

35 Fig. 4 is a section along 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is an end view of the clasp- ing element.

Fig. 6 is a modification in plan.

Fig. 7 is a sectional elevation along 7—7 of
 Fig. 6.

40 Fig. 8 is a rear view of the device of Fig. 6.

Fig. 9 is an end view of the modification.

Referring to Fig. 1, 15 denotes a clasp- ing element which receives the looped end 16 of a body
 45 encircling band 17 in the arcuate slot 18 extend- ing approximately through 180°. The other end of the band 17 is fastened to a hooking element 19 which is received in the aperture 20 of the clasp- ing element. Also carried by the clasp- ing element
 50 is an apparel or garment engaging element or but- ton 21 which is received in the keyhole slot 22 of the clasp- ing element in cooperation with which a portion of the garment to be supported is firmly gripped. Carried by the looped end of the band 17
 55 there is an adjusting device 23 for conforming

the effective length of the band to the size of the leg upon which the device is to be used.

At the upper end of the clasp- ing element a curved portion or flare 24 is provided as best shown in Fig. 2. Due to this curvature, the up-
 60 per portion of the clasp- ing element 15 is held out of contact with the leg of the wearer as much as possible, to permit a great freedom of motion of the band in the slot 18. The garment engag- ing element 21 which may be of the ordinary
 65 rubber covered type, is suspended on a suitable length of fabric 26, which may be of the elastic ribbed type, from a bar 25 formed integrally with the clasp- ing element 15, and about which the fab-
 70 ric 26 is threaded and fastened in a suitable man- ner as by an adhesive or stitching.

The engagement of the hooking element 19 carried by one end of the band 17, with the clasp- ing element 15 is best shown in Fig. 3. The
 75 hooking element is substantially D-shaped and is preferably larger in its major direction than is the diameter of the aperture 20. This neces- sitates passing the element 19 through the aper- ture by tilting it with respect to the plane of
 80 the clasp- ing element and inserting one of its smaller termini 29. After insertion, member 19 has a substantial and flat bearing upon the top surface of member 15 so held by tension of band
 85 17 which engages the lower surface of the clasp- ing element. The bar 27 integral with member 19 receives the end of band 17 which is threaded
 90 thereabout and preferably somewhat stiffened over a substantial length by adhesive or stitching so that the insertion and removal of the hooking element will be facilitated and the hooking ele-
 95 ment will be prevented from twisting out of position.

Fig. 4 shows the manner in which the looped end of the band is received in the slot 18, and the manner in which it is adjusted by the de-
 95 vice 23.

A modification shown in Figs. 6, 7, 8 and 9 dis- tinguishes primarily by the provision of spaced
 100 projections or shoulders 28 at the upper end of the clasp- ing element 15, integral or attached, in lieu of the curved portion 24. These projec- tions 28 provided at the rear of the clasp- ing ele-
 105 ment maintain this portion out of contact with the skin of the wearer and consequently relieve pressure of the band ends against the leg to per- mit such freedom of movement of the band that
 110 it will not abrade the skin of the wearer, nor will it cause a binding effect during the flexing of the wearer's muscles.

As shown in Fig. 1, the looped end 16 of the

band 17 engages the left side of the clasping element 15 while the hook carrying end engages the right side. The relative positions of these two ends may be conveniently interchanged however by sliding the looped end to the right side of slot 18 and inserting the hooking element 19 from below the clasping element at the left side. This reversibility enables the wearer to position the supports upon either leg, yet have the hooking element enter the clasping element from either inside or outside of the leg.

The clasping element 15 in both forms is preferably made of celluloid or similar material, or may be of metal, capable of being formed by a single stamping operation, or may be celluloid reinforced internally or externally with metal or the like. The band 17 is preferably an elastic fabric of the webbed type customarily employed for garters.

The clasping element or hooking element or both may be provided with a fabric backing to contact the flesh of the wearer, such fabric being of silk, satin, or any desired material.

The large angular extent of slot 18 will permit wide regulation of the band 17, inasmuch as either a tight or loose relation of the band upon the leg of the wearer will provide a normal relation of the looped end of the band to the arc of the slot, which position will be maintained for any relative adjustment of the band in the slot.

This invention is not to be limited to any specific shapes or materials, except as provided in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A garment supporter comprising a body encircling band, a clasping element engageable with the ends of said band for relative rotation therewith, said element having means effective to space the upper edge of the element outwardly when in use, and a garment engaging element.

2. A garment supporter comprising a body encircling band, a clasping element engageable with the ends of said band for relative rotation therewith, said element having its upper edge portion curved outwardly and effective to space the upper edge of the element outwardly when in use, and a garment engaging element.

3. A garment supporter comprising a body encircling band, a clasping element engageable with the ends of said band for relative rotation therewith, said element having an abutment on its inner face effective to space the upper edge of the element outwardly when in use, and a garment engaging element.

4. A garment supporter comprising a body encircling band, a clasping element having openings extending substantially from side to side thereof and effective to provide relative rotational engagement with the ends of said band at radially spaced portions of said clasping element, and having an apparel engaging portion.

5. A garment supporter comprising a body encircling band, a clasping element having an arcuate slot extending substantially from side to side thereof and effective to provide relative rotational engagement with an end of said band, means to provide a clasping engagement between said element and the other end of said band, said element having an apparel engaging portion.

6. A garment supporter comprising a body encircling band, a clasping element having a substantially circular opening and an arcuate slot concentric therewith, said opening and slot extending substantially from side to side of the element and being effective to provide relative rotational engagement with the ends of said band at radially spaced portions of said clasping element, said element having an apparel engaging portion.

GEO. J. MORIARTY.

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