May 12, 1936. M. A. NATHANSON 2,040,398

FOUNDATION GARMENT

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Fig. 1

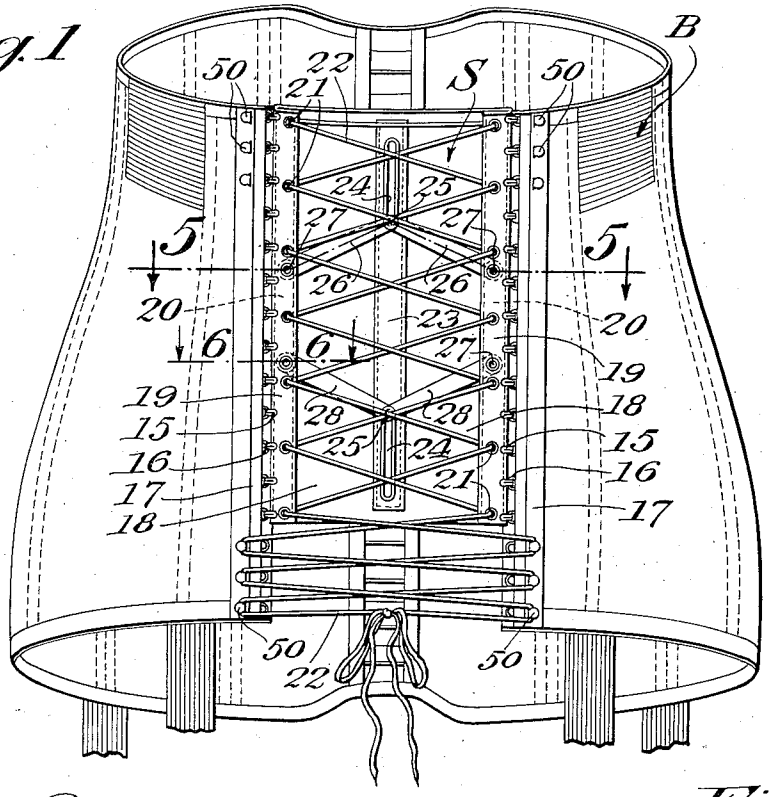


Fig. 2

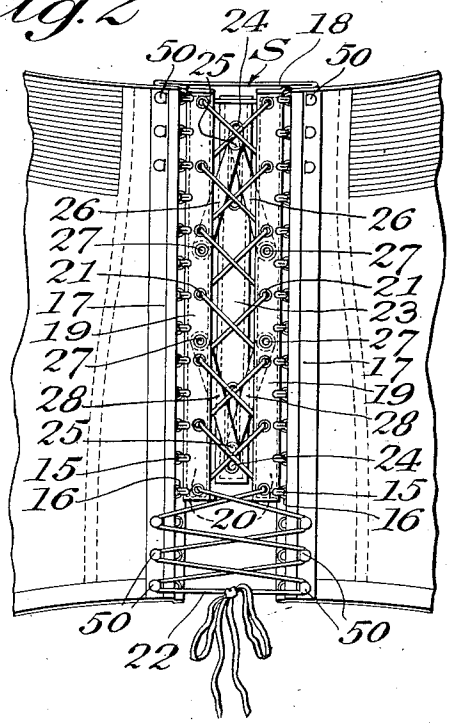
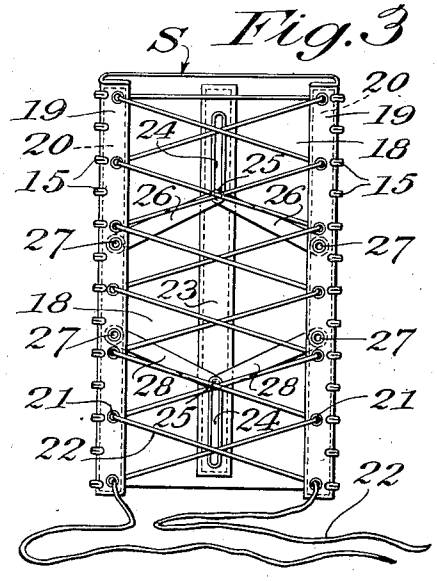


Fig. 3



Inventor:

Matthew A. Nathanson

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Fig. 4

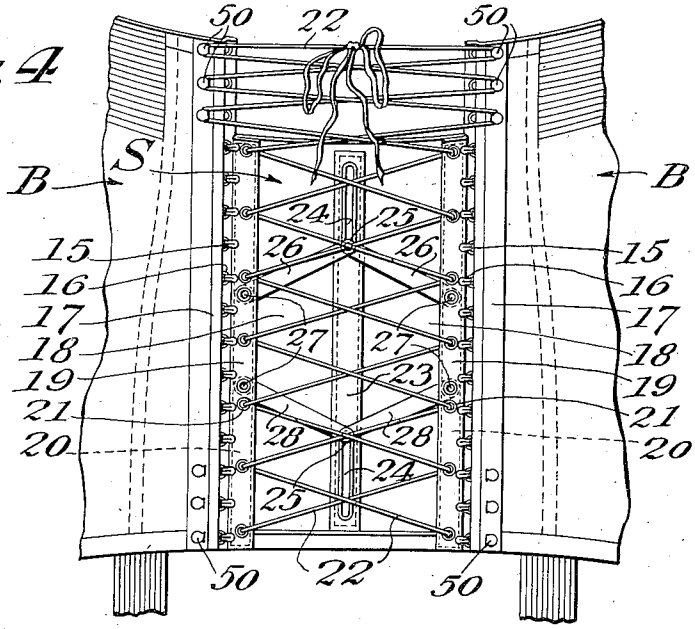


Fig. 5

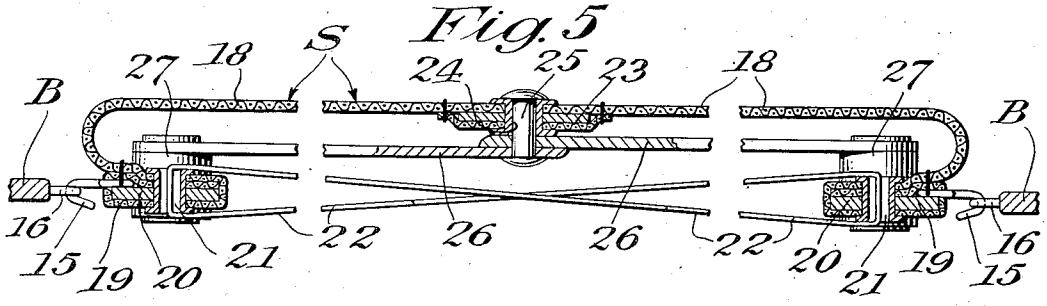


Fig. 7

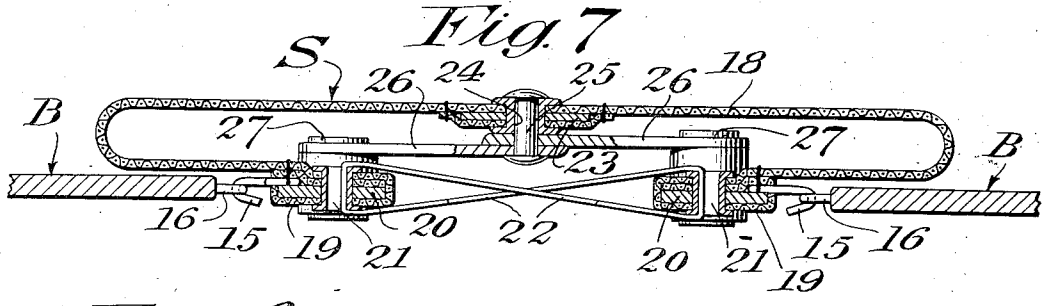
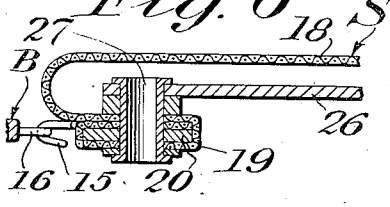


Fig. 6



Inventor:

Matthew A. Nathanson

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Fig. 8

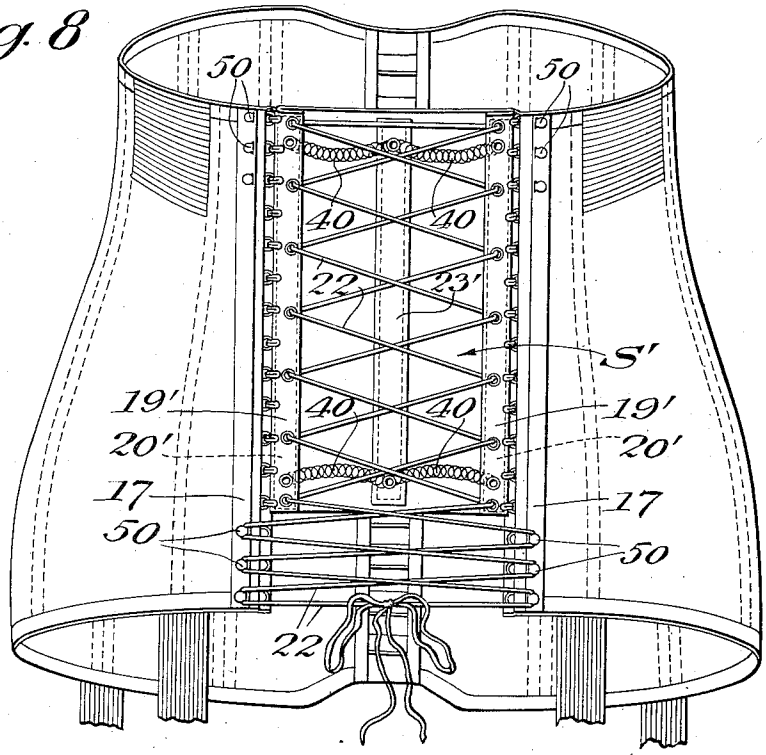


Fig. 9

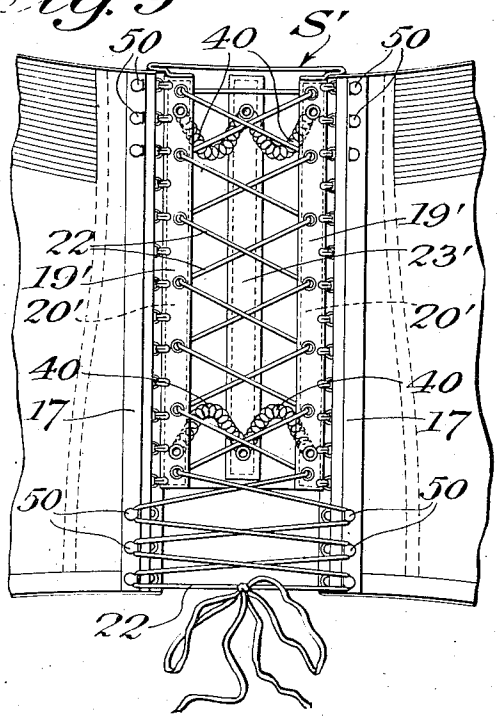
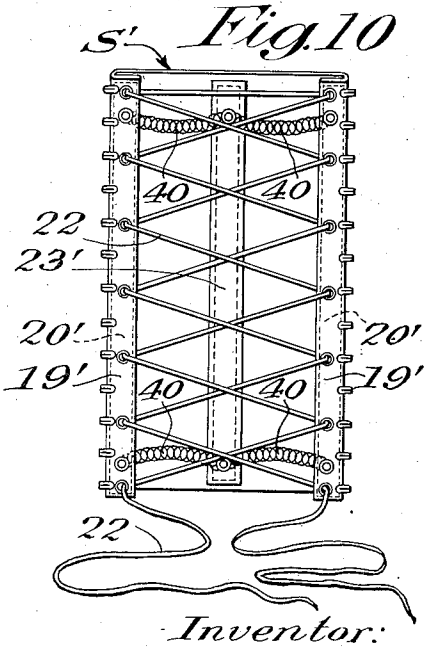


Fig. 10



Inventor:

Matthew A. Nathanson

Patented May 12, 1936 2,040,398

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,040,398

FOUNDATION GARMENT

Matthew A. Nathanson, Brookline, Mass., assignor to Anna M. Nathanson, Brookline, Mass.

Application February 8, 1934, Serial No. 710,271

8 Claims. (Cl. 2—39)

The invention relates to foundation garments such as corsets, girdles and the like, and more particularly to corsets of the front laced type. A corset of this type usually employs a panel of flexible material, such as woven or knitted fabric, set in at the front and connecting the adjacent edges of the body portion of the corset. This panel is provided with a stay commonly termed the "central stay" of the corset. This stay is normally intended to engage the body along approximately the front median line thereof for the purpose of providing support between the adjacent edges of the body portion of the corset.

When a corset of the above description has been laced to fit the wearer, it has almost invariably been found that the central stay has become displaced either in a lateral direction or in a manner to assume angular relation with respect to the front median line of the body. Displacement of the central stay from its normal position deprives the body of proper support particularly at a place where support of a substantial nature is required.

One object of the present invention is to provide means for preventing displacement of the central stay.

Another object of the invention is to include the central stay, together with means for preventing its displacement, in a detachable structure capable of adjustment to different elevations in the corset.

Still another object of the invention is to manufacture such a structure as a unit which may be merchandized independently to be let in to a foundation garment of standard construction and of a type adapted to receive the same.

The foregoing and other objects of the invention, together with means whereby the latter may be carried into effect, will best be understood from the following description of a preferred embodiment illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of a corset having incorporated therewith a structure embodying the invention;

Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the positions assumed by the parts after the corset has been adjusted to a certain extent;

Fig. 3 is a front view of the structure embodying the invention shown detached;

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary view showing the structure of the invention adjusted to a different elevation in the corset;

Fig. 5 is a section taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 1, said section being enlarged and greatly exaggerated;

Fig. 6 is a section taken on the line 6—6 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 7 is a sectional view similar to that of Fig. 5 but showing the parts in a different position.

Fig. 8 shows a corset having a modified structure incorporated therewith;

Fig. 9 is a fragmentary view showing the positions assumed by the parts after the corset of Fig. 8 has been adjusted to a certain extent; and

Fig. 10 is a front view of the structure of Fig. 8 shown detached.

The invention is herein illustrated as embodied in a corset of the front laced type. Referring to Figs. 1 to 7 inclusive of the drawings, the corset comprises a body portion B adapted to partially encircle the body of the wearer, and a structure S provided along its side edges with fasteners such as hooks 15 which engage eyes 16 secured to the adjacent edges 17 of the said body portion B.

The structure S is preferably of a length somewhat less than that of the adjacent edges 17 of the body portion B and comprises a substantially rectangular panel 18 of freely flexible material such as woven fabric which is provided at its side edges with inturned portions 19 overlapping the main portion of said panel on the front side thereof as shown in Fig. 5. Reenforcing strips 20 are secured to the inturned portions 19 in any suitable manner, said strips extending substantially throughout the entire length of said panel. The strips 20 not only serve to reenforce the panel at the side edges thereof, but also act in the capacity of stays when the structure S is incorporated with the corset. The hooks 15 previously referred to, are preferably secured to the structure S at the outer edge of each of the reenforcing strips. Each of the reenforcing strips is also provided with a series of eyelets 21 for the reception of a lacing 22 which engages said eyelets in a manner to span the main portion of the panel 18 at the front side thereof. It will be obvious from the foregoing description that the portion B and the structure S together with the means for attaching the latter to said portion B constitute in effect a garment body which is adapted to encircle the body of the wearer. Also that the parts designated 17 in Figs. 1 and 2 constitute laterally spaced portions of such a garment body, said portions being engaged by the lacing 22 for the purpose of adjusting the garment body to fit the body of the wearer.

A stay 23 is secured to the outer side of the

panel 18 in the center of the latter and extending substantially throughout the entire length thereof. This stay constitutes what is commonly termed the "central stay" of the corset and it is incorporated with the structure S in a position to come in contact, indirectly at least, with the body along the front median line thereof.

In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention shown in Figs. 1 to 7 inclusive, the central stay 23 is provided with slots 24, said slots extending lengthwise of said stay and being arranged in succession in the center of the latter and closely adjacent the ends thereof. Pins 25 are slidably mounted in the slots 24. A pair of rigid links 26, 26 of equal length, each pivotally connected to the upper pin 25 at the front side of the central stay 23 (see particularly Fig. 5) connects the latter with the reenforcing strips 20 at the inner sides thereof. The links 26 are pivotally connected to the reenforcing strips as indicated at 27, one of said connections being clearly shown in Fig. 6. In a similar manner a second pair of rigid links 28, 28 also connects the central stay 23 with the reenforcing strips 20, said links being pivotally connected at their inner ends to the lower pin 25 and at their outer ends to the reenforcing strips 20 as indicated at 27. Thus the stay 23 forms a yielding connection between both pairs of links.

In a modified construction shown in Figs. 8, 9 and 10 the central stay 23' of the structure S' therein is connected by a plurality of pairs of flexible links 40 to the reenforcing strips 20' which are atached to the inturned edges 19' of said structure. The links of each pair are of equal length and flexibility, and are preferably pivotally connected with said stay and said reenforcing strips.

When a corset similar to that described with reference to Figs. 1 to 7 is applied to the wearer with the central stay 23 engaging the body along approximately the front median line thereof, the parts associated with the structure S will assume positions substantially as shown in Figs. 1 and 5 with the links of each pair preferably slightly inclined to the horizontal (see Fig. 1) and with the pins 25 preferably located at the inner ends of the slots 24 or closely adjacent said ends. Thereafter when the lacing 22 is tightened to draw the adjacent edges 17 of the body portion towards each other to adjust the corset according to requirements, the parts will assume positions similar, for instance, to those shown in Figs. 2 and 7, the lacing operation causing the links of each pair to take a position of greater inclination (see Fig. 2) thus forcing the pins 25 to move lengthwise of the slots 24. Due to the equal lengths of the links of each pair and their manner of connection with the central stay 23 and the reenforcing strips 20 as above described, no movement will be imparted to the central stay, said stay remaining in alinement with the median line of the body. Thus the mechanism associated with the structure S as previously described constitutes means for maintaining the stay 23 in a predetermined position between and with relation to the adjacent edges 17 of the body portion B.

When a corset such as that shown in Figs. 8, 9 and 10 is similarly applied to the wearer, the parts associated with the structure S' will assume positions substantially as shown in Fig. 8 with the links preferably slightly flexed. Thereafter when the lacing 22 is tightened, the parts will assume positions similar, for instance to those shown in Fig. 9 with the links flexed to a greater degree. Due to the equal effective lengths of the links of each pair and their equal quality of flexibility, no movement will be imparted to the central stay 23'.

It will thus be evident that displacement of the central stay, at least in a lateral direction or angularly with respect to the front median line of the body, will be prevented regardless of the extent to which the corset is adjusted to fit the wearer. Furthermore the central stay will be held stationary in the corset after the latter has been adjusted and while it is being worn.

In accordance with another feature of the invention the structure S or S' may be adjusted to different elevations in the corset according to the requirements of the wearer. Such an adjustment may be effected, in respect to the structure S, by removing said structure from the position it occupies in Fig. 1 and reassembling it with the corset for instance as shown in Fig. 4. For this purpose the hooks 15 and eyes 16, previously referred to for attaching either structure to the body portion of the corset, are equally spaced lengthwise of said structure and said body portion respectively.

To provide for complete lacing of the corset at all times regardless of the elevation to which either of the structures S or S' may be adjusted in the corset, the adjacent edges 17 of the body portion thereof are each provided with lacing hooks 50 adjacent their upper and lower ends. In respect to the structure S the lacing 22 engages the lower hooks 50 in addition to the eyelets 21 of said structure when it is adjusted to the position of Fig. 1, and the upper hooks 50 when said structure is adjusted to the position shown in Fig. 4. When the structure is adjusted to an intermediate position a sufficient number of both upper and lower hooks 50 may be used to complete the lacing.

The structures S and S' shown detached in Figs. 3 and 10 respectively, may each be manufactured as a separate article and so distributed to the trade to be incorporated with a corset or the like of standard construction and of a type adapted to receive the same.

A corset constructed in accordance with the herein described invention eliminates the necessity of providing a vest to temporarily hold the body portion in position preparatory to lacing because the structure above described performs this function. Such a corset is relatively simple to manufacture, requiring at least, only the additional expense incurred for the provision of the mechanism for preventing displacement of the central stay.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A corset having a body portion adapted to partially encircle the body of the wearer and a structure attached to the adjacent edges of said body portion, said structure including, in combination, a panel of fabric, reenforcing strips secured to the side edges of said panel, a lacing whereby said reenforcing strips may be drawn towards each other for adjusting said corset to fit the wearer, a stay secured to said panel lengthwise of the latter and intermediate the side edges thereof, and a plurality of pairs of links connecting said stay with said reenforcing strips, the inner ends of the links of each of said pairs being pivotally connected to each other and slidably connected with said stay, the outer ends of the links of each of said pairs being pivotally connected to said reenforcing strips.

2. A corset having a body portion adapted to partially encircle the body of the wearer and a structure attached to the adjacent edges of said body portion, said structure including, in com-

bination, a panel of fabric, reenforcing strips secured to the side edges of said panel, a lacing whereby said reenforcing strips may be drawn towards each other for adjusting said corset to fit the wearer, a stay secured to said panel lengthwise of the latter and intermediate the side edges thereof, a plurality of slots in said stay extending lengthwise thereof, a pin slidably mounted in each of said slots, a pair of links connecting each of said pins with said reenforcing strips, at least one of the inner ends of the links of each pair being pivotally connected with its corresponding pin, the outer ends of the links of each pair being pivotally connected to said reenforcing strips.

3. As an article of manufacture to be let in to a foundation garment, a structure including, in combination, a substantially rectangular panel of freely flexible material, reenforcing strips secured to the side edges of said panel, a stay secured to said panel lengthwise of the latter and intermediate the side edges thereof, a plurality of pairs of links connecting said stay with said reenforcing strips, the inner ends of the links of each of said pairs being pivotally connected to each other and slidably connected with said stay, the outer ends of the links of each of said pairs being pivotally connected to said reenforcing strips, a lacing engaging said strips in a manner to span said stay, and means whereby said structure may be fastened in such a garment.

4. As an article of manufacture to be let in to a foundation garment, a structure including, in combination, a substantially rectangular panel of freely flexible material, reenforcing strips secured to the side edges of said panel, a stay secured to said panel lengthwise of the latter and intermediate the side edges thereof, a plurality of slots in said stay extending lengthwise thereof, a pin slidably mounted in each of said slots, a pair of links connecting each of said pins with said reenforcing strips, at least one of the inner ends of the links of each pair being pivotally connected with its corresponding pin, the outer ends of the links of each pair being pivotally connected to said reenforcing strips, a lacing engaging said strips in a manner to span said stay, and means whereby said structure may be fastened in such a garment.

5. A foundation garment having, in combination, a garment body adapted to encircle the body of the wearer, a lacing engaging laterally spaced portions of said garment body for adjusting the garment to fit the wearer, a stay secured to said garment body between said laterally spaced portions, and means for maintaining said stay in a predetermined position between and with relation to said laterally spaced portions, said means including a plurality of pairs of links connecting said stay with said laterally spaced portions, the inner ends of the links of each of said pairs being pivotally connected to each other and slidably connected with said stay, the outer ends of the links of each of said pairs being pivotally connected to said laterally spaced portions.

6. A foundation garment having, in combination, a garment body adapted to encircle the body of the wearer, a lacing engaging laterally spaced portions of said garment body for adjusting the garment to fit the wearer, a stay secured to said garment body between said laterally spaced portions, and means for maintaining said stay in a predetermined position between and with relation to said laterally spaced portions, said means including a plurality of links connecting said stay with said laterally spaced portions, said stay forming a yielding connection between at least two of said links.

7. A foundation garment having, in combination, a garment body adapted to encircle the body of the wearer, a lacing engaging laterally spaced portions of said garment body for adjusting the garment to fit the wearer, a stay secured to said garment body between said laterally spaced portions, and means for maintaining said stay in a predetermined position between and with relation to said laterally spaced portions, said means including a plurality of links connecting said stay with said laterally spaced portions, said links being mounted for relative movement.

8. A foundation garment having, in combination, a garment body adapted to encircle the body of the wearer, a lacing engaging laterally spaced portions of said garment body for adjusting the garment to fit the wearer, a stay secured to said garment body between said laterally spaced portions, and means for maintaining said stay in a predetermined position between and with relation to said laterally spaced portions, said means including two pairs of links, a set of rivets carried by said stay and connecting both pairs of links therewith, and a second set of rivets carried by said laterally spaced portions and connecting both pairs of links with said portions, each of the rivets of one of said sets being slidably mounted in the part by which it is carried.

MATTHEW A. NATHANSON.