

(No Model.)

A. N. HORNER.
STOCKING SUPPORTER.

No. 272,695.

Patented Feb. 20, 1883.

Fig. 1

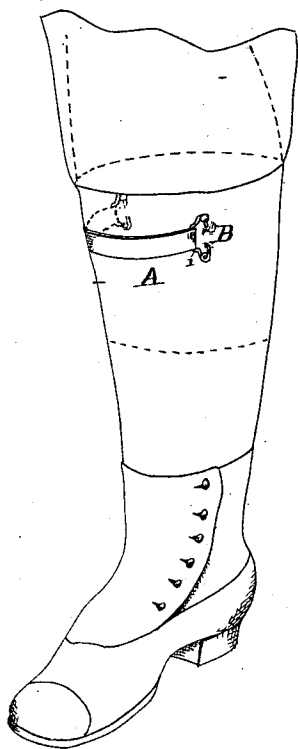
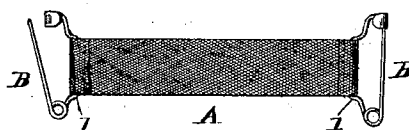


Fig. 2



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBERT N. HORNER, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

STOCKING-SUPPORTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 272,695, dated February 20, 1883.

Application filed March 10, 1881. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT N. HORNER, of Baltimore, in the county of Baltimore and State of Maryland, have invented a new and
5 useful Improvement in Stocking-Supporters; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

My invention relates to an improved form of supporter or garter for stockings; and it
10 consists of an elastic strip or band adapted to partially encircle the leg, and provided at both ends with a fastening device.

Various kinds of garters or supporters have been and are now in use. The most common
15 form is a simple band of elastic material passing around the leg of the wearer and by compression holding the stocking in place. This method is injurious to health, as the tight compression impedes the circulation. An-
20 other device in common use consists of an elastic band passing around the leg below the knee, and provided with cords to which a clasp or snap-hook is attached, by means of which the stocking is held up. The constant
25 tendency of the elastic band to slip down, however, is a source of great annoyance.

By the use of my device compression is avoided, while it is absolutely impossible for the stocking to slip down.

30 The device is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 showing the garter in position, and Fig. 2 giving a separate view.

A represents a band or strip of elastic material of such length that when stretched it
35 will extend nearly or quite half round the leg of the wearer. At each end is attached a fastening device, which may be a pin, hook, or clasp, or any fastening that may pass through two thicknesses of material. I prefer to use
40 pins of the class known as "safety-pins," to the shank of which the elastic strip is attached and securely stitched. I prefer to bend the shank of the pin into an offset, 1, in order to hold the elastic strip in place.

45 The manner of wearing and using my garter is as follows: The stockings are pulled up over the drawers and the pin at one end of the garter passed through both stockings and drawers and fastened. The other end is then

carried around over the front of the leg about 50 half-way and secured in the same manner.

It will thus be seen that substantially all compression is avoided, since the garter only extends partly around, and while it draws the stocking tightly around the leg it does not
55 press injuriously at any particular point.

By this arrangement it will be seen that the portion of the stocking not encircled by the elastic is stretched to some extent and made to serve the purpose of a garter for the back
60 portion of the leg, or that portion not encircled by the elastic. This compression, though too slight to cause any annoyance to the wearer, is still sufficient to retain the stocking in place, should the garter be secured to
65 the stocking only. The advantage, however, of passing the pins through both the stocking and drawers is very apparent, as in this case the drawers prevent the stocking from slipping down, and the stocking prevents the
70 drawers from slipping up, as both are securely held in position by the fastening devices before described.

While the device is particularly intended for men's wear, it may also be used to support
75 ladies' stockings. When thus used the stocking is turned down above the knee, forming a fold, through the two thicknesses of which the pins are passed in the manner before described. The advantages of this arrangement
80 over the complicated and uncomfortable supporting devices ordinarily used by ladies will be apparent.

I am aware that an elastic supporter having two branches adapted to be connected to some
85 part of the clothing above and to each side of the upper part of the stocking is not new, and that a certain special form of safety-pin has been heretofore used in connection with such elastic supporter. I do not, therefore, broadly
90 claim an elastic supporter, whether with a pin or with spring-jaw attachment. My supporter is adapted to sustain the stocking by partially encircling the leg and by pressure of the elastic band thereon, and also by the insertion
95 of the connecting-pins through the stocking and the leg of the drawers, over which the stockings are drawn.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

5 The improved stocking-supporter, consisting of an elastic band adapted to partially encircle the leg, and provided with a shield attaching pin at each end, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ALBERT N. HORNER.

Witnesses:

GEO. MCCAFFRAY,
P. H. C. STITCHER.