M. K. O'LEARY.

STOCKING EXAMINER.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 26, 1921.

1,402,788. Patented Jan. 10, 1922.

Fig. 1.

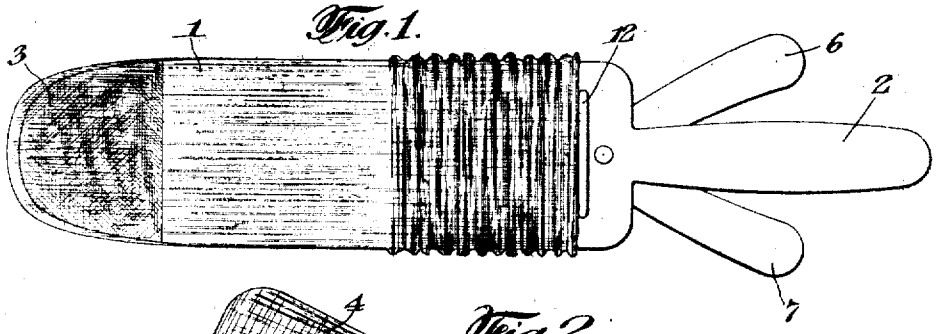


Fig. 2.

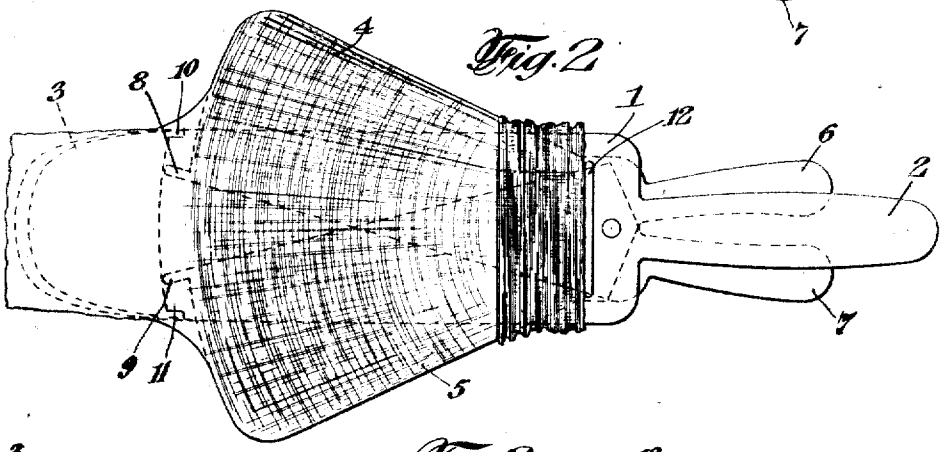


Fig. 3.

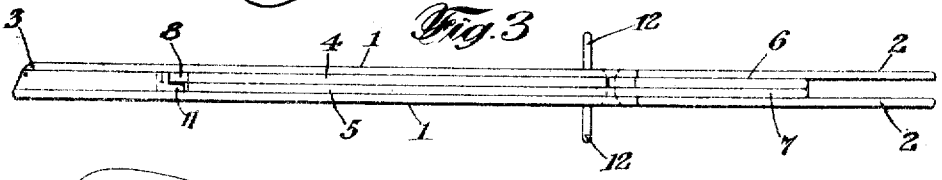
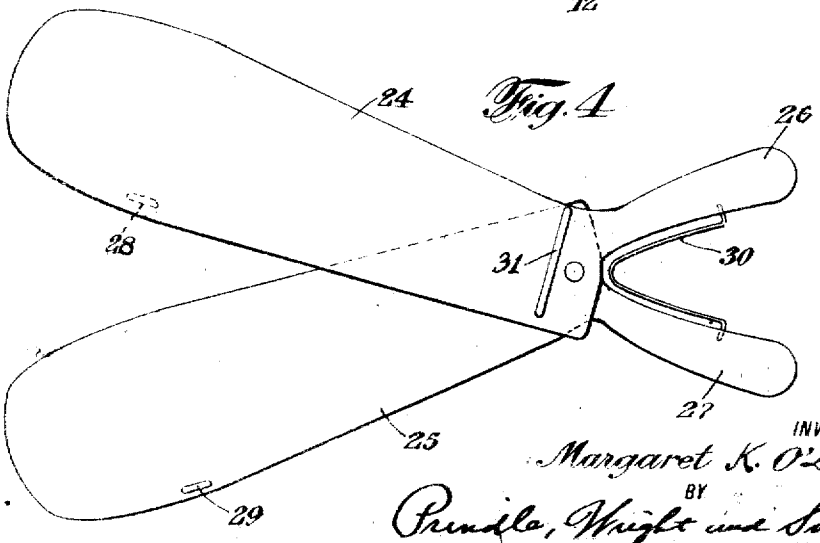


Fig. 4.



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MARGARET K. O'LEARY, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

STOCKING EXAMINER.

1,402,783. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Jan. 10, 1922.

Application filed January 26, 1921. Serial No. 440,243.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARGARET K. O'LEARY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Stocking Examiner, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a stocking examiner and has for its purpose to provide a device which can be inserted in a stocking for the examination thereof without danger of injury to the stocking.

It is well known that in the sale of stockings, particularly of silk stockings, great damage is done in their examination by the purchaser. The practice is to insert the hand in the stocking down to the toe, examine the foot portion, and then gradually draw the stocking from the hand, spreading the fingers as the size increases, in order to examine all portions thereof for imperfections. A ring on the inserted hand or a sharp nail or even a piece of hard flesh often will catch a thread, particularly on fine silk stockings, and break it, thereby ruining the stocking. One of the objects of the invention is to provide an inexpensive, simple, and easily handled device to be inserted in the stocking instead of the hand, and adapted to display all parts of the stocking for examination as fully as though the hand was inserted, but without the same danger of injury to the stocking.

Other and further objects of my invention will be apparent from the following description and from the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan of one embodiment of the invention with a stocking thereover while the toe and a portion of the foot is being examined;

Figure 2 a plan similar to Figure 1 with the device extended to permit examination of the larger portion of the stocking;

Figure 3 an edge view of this embodiment; and

Figure 4 another embodiment.

Similar reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the drawings.

In the embodiment of Figures 1, 2, and 3 a smooth frame 1 is illustrated having handles 2, and an end portion 3 preferably formed to fit the toe or heel of a stocking.

Within frame 1 are pivoted or otherwise mounted wings or leaves 4 and 5 adapted to be extended to the extent of the larger portions of the stocking in any desired manner as by handles 6 and 7 respectively.

The forward end of wings or leaves 4 and 5 or the handles or frame may be provided with any desired device to limit the degree of extension of the wings from frame 1, such for example as lug 8 on wing 4 and lug 9 on wing 5 adapted to engage with the inner portions 10 and 11 respectively of end 3 or any suitable extension therefrom when the wings are in maximum open position. In order to prevent the top of the stocking from extending beyond the examiner and on to the hand of the user, projections or shields of any desired kind may be provided near the back of the examiner, such, for example, as guards or shields 12.

The examiner may be made of any desired material having the necessary smoothness and freedom from projections, among which may be mentioned compositions such as are sold under the names of pyralin, celluloid, condensite, bakelite, and so forth.

When it is desired to examine a stocking, the examiner is inserted therein until end 3 of the examiner, which preferably is rounded to fit the toe, is in the toe of the stocking. As the examiner preferably is shorter than the stocking in order to facilitate ease of handling, the stocking will lie in loose folds on the examiner, shield 12 preventing the upper portion of the stocking from reaching the hand of the person holding the examiner. After the toe of the stocking is examined, the foot is pulled gradually over the examiner to bring the sole and instep in view for inspection. The heel then engages the end portion 3 of the examiner over which it is adapted to fit so that the heel can be inspected. The leg portion of the stocking then is pulled gradually over the examiner and handles 6 and 7 pressed to force out wings or leaves 4 and 5 to the full width of the stocking. Both sides of the stocking can be examined by turning the examiner in the same manner that the hand is turned when covered by a stocking. It thus is possible to examine all parts of the stocking for any imperfections without the danger of injuring the stocking or breaking its threads, and in a manner similar to the present method of examination by the insertion of the hand.

In the embodiment of Figure 4, the supporting frame is omitted and wings or leaves 24 and 25 with handles 26 and 27 respec-

tively are shown. Between handle 26 of leaf 24 and handle 27 of leaf 25 preferably is provided a spring 30 which normally tends to keep the handles spread and leaves 24 and 25 in closed position. To prevent spring 30 from forcing the leaves past closed position, wing 25 may be provided with an abutment 28 adapted to coact with an abutment 29 on leaf 25, or any simple stop device may be provided on the wings or on the handles to prevent one leaf from passing the other. Similar abutments may be provided on the embodiment of Figures 1, 2, and 3 and placed likewise to prevent a too great extension of the wings, the showing being intended as illustrative of means to limit the movement of the wings in any direction desired or necessary. The embodiment also may be provided with a guard or shield 31 similar in function to guard or shield 12 in the embodiment of Figures 1, 2, and 3. The ends of leaves 24 and 25 preferably are shaped and rounded similar to end 3 of the frame 1 in the embodiment of Figures 1, 2, and 3 in order to fit the heel and toe of the stocking. In using this embodiment the stocking will be drawn over the examiner, which will be in closed position for the examination of the toe and heel, and then handles 26 and 27 pressed together against the action of spring 30 to force them apart as the larger portions of the stocking are inspected. It is obvious that the spring also may be used with the embodiment of Figures 1, 2, and 3 or that the embodiment of Figure 4 may be used without a spring, the use of the spring in this embodiment being intended as illustrative of a spring action in any embodiment, either for maintaining the leaves together normally or maintaining them apart normally.

Many modifications of my invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art without departing therefrom or from the scope of the claims, my invention not being limited to the particular embodiments chosen for purposes of illustration but consisting of a device adapted to be inserted in a stocking for the examination of all portions thereof.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. As an article of manufacture, a device adapted to be inserted in a stocking for the examination thereof comprising a pair of pivoted wings, means to maintain said wings in substantial superposed alignment, and means to force said wings apart in separate parallel planes.

2. As an article of manufacture, a device adapted to be inserted in a stocking for the examination thereof comprising a pair of wings adapted to be extended in separate parallel planes to fit only a portion of the leg of a stocking, and means on said wings to limit the movement of said wings.

3. As an article of manufacture, a device adapted to be inserted in a stocking for the examination thereof comprising a pair of pivoted wings having handles thereon, a spring between said handles tending normally to maintain said wings one over the other, and means to extend said wings in separate parallel planes by pressing said handles together.

4. As an article of manufacture, a device adapted to be inserted in a stocking for the examination thereof and comprising a frame having the end thereof shaped to fit the toe and heel of a stocking, wings pivotally mounted therein, and means to force said wings apart.

5. As an article of manufacture, a device adapted to be inserted in a stocking for the examination thereof and comprising a frame having the end thereof shaped to fit the toe and heel of a stocking, wings pivotally mounted therein, and means to limit the extension of said wings.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing, I have hereunto set my hand this 25th day of January, 1921.

MARGARET K. O'LEARY.