

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM E. ST. JOHN, OF LEONARDSVILLE, NEW YORK.

SHIRT FOR INVALIDS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 676,158, dated June 11, 1901.

Application filed February 1, 1900. Serial No. 3,621. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM E. ST. JOHN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Leonardsville, in the county of Madison and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Shirts for Invalids, of which the following is a specification.

My improved shirt is provided with a new system of openings to be closed by buttons or other suitable fastenings. In addition to the opening from the neck-aperture at the throat down the front of the shirt it has an opening from said neck-aperture adjacent to the throat on each side, across the front of each shoulder, and along the front of each sleeve. By this system of openings the tops of the shoulders and sleeves remain permanently attached to the back of the shirt, and when worn bear firmly and smoothly on the body of the wearer, rendering it more comfortable to the latter than any shirt with openings from the neck-aperture across the top of the shoulders (where all the pull of the shirt is applied to the wearer) and along the top of the sleeves. Moreover, by my improved system the closure of the sleeve and shoulder openings being independent of the fastenings for closing the front opening the four portions of the shirt, consisting of the two shoulder-flaps and the two sides of the front, can be fastened at the ends without any cumbersome arrangement, such as would be necessary in a shirt having the sleeve-openings brought across the shirt-front to a junction with the front opening, since whatever space may be left at the joining of said four portions in my improved shirt simply forms part of the neck-aperture, whereas if the junction of the front and transverse openings be in the front any space left in joining would leave a hole in the front of the shirt.

A further improvement consists in providing one of the sides of the front and the two shoulder-flaps each with a tab, the three tabs being secured by a proper fastening, such as a button. The fastenings are advantageously covered by a smoothly-set strip of fabric outside and also additionally guarded by a loose fold of the fabric on the inside, so that the whole garment is practically smooth and uni-

form. It can be applied and removed with no appreciable fatigue to the patient, a quality which is of great importance in case of any acute disease, like typhoid fever, where the heart is involved and it is desirable that the patient does not raise his head from the pillow.

My improved garment may be opened to allow of complete and easy bathing with a sponge or wet towel or any amount of massage treatment and can be again restored to the condition of an ordinary shirt with very little disturbance of the patient.

The accompanying drawings form a part of this specification and represent what I consider the best means of carrying out the invention.

Figure 1 is a front view of the whole shirt in a partly-opened condition, and Fig. 2 is a corresponding view of the upper front part closed. Fig. 3 is a cross-section of one of the sleeves on a larger scale. It is a section on the line 3 3 in Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a horizontal section of a portion on line 4 4 in Fig. 1.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts in all the figures where they appear.

A indicates the main body of the shirt. I will use supernumerals to indicate specific portions, A' to mark the right-hand side (for the patient) at the front and A² for the left-hand side at the front.

B B, &c., are the front buttons set on the left side engaging in buttonholes formed in the right side.

A³ is a flap left free on the inner face of the garment on the right side A' near the front, and A⁴ is a strip of fabric extending up and down, also on the right part A', in the position to cover the buttons and buttonholes on their outer face. This strip A⁴ is sewed continuously to the main body A', along its right edge A⁵, (see Fig. 4,) and is also stitched to the portion A' of the body at intervals on the left edge A⁶. The points stitched at intervals on the left edge are marked C C. Each point C is about midway between the two adjacent buttonholes. The fabric of each sleeve is marked D. The opening is along the whole length of the front face of each sleeve and is continued across the front side of the corresponding shoulder.

The overlapping edges of the fabric of each sleeve are marked D^1 and D^2 , the inner edge being D^1 and the outer D^2 . (See Fig. 3.) They are secured together by buttons G. The sleeves
 5 are sewed permanently to the body. The opening across the front of each shoulder coincides with and is practically a continuation of the opening of the sleeve. This opening across the shoulder is similarly overlapped
 10 and is secured by three buttons H.

D^3 is a loose flap of fabric extending along on the inner face of each sleeve-junction and continued along the shoulder-junction, and D^4 is a corresponding strip extending along
 15 on the outer face of each sleeve-junction and also continued along the shoulder-junction. These inner and outer flaps D^3 and D^4 for the sleeve and shoulder junctions may be sewed along one edge only.

20 Two ends of a collar are shown as coming together at the throat and secured by a single stud. On the body the outer front strip A^4 and the two ends of the collar above come together at the front of the neck and are secured by a single stud B^4 . (See Fig. 2.)
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Each wrist is equipped with a short strap E, secured and released by a button.

30 Modifications may be made without departing from the principle or sacrificing the advantages of the invention. Parts of the invention may be used without the whole. I can use other fastenings than the flat buttons. Therefore in specifying buttons or buttonholes in the claims following it will be

understood that the use of equivalent fastenings is not intended to be excluded. 35

I claim as my invention—

1. A shirt having a front opening extending down the front from the neck-aperture, and two shoulder and sleeve openings extending across the front of the shoulders and along the front of the sleeves from the neck-aperture at points adjacent to the throat on opposite sides of said front opening, the shoulder-flaps being fastened by buttons or
 45 temporary fastenings to the corresponding sides of the front, and said flaps and one of said front sides being provided with tabs which overlie when the garment is worn so as to be secured together by a single button
 50 or fastening, substantially as described.

2. A shirt or garment having the margin of an opening on one side provided with three layers of fabric, the middle layer carrying the buttonholes, the outer layer stitched to said
 55 middle layer at intervals between said buttonholes, and the inner layer having its edge unconfined so as to receive the margin and buttons on the other side of the opening between said middle and said inner layer, substantially as described. 60

In testimony that I claim the invention above set forth I affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM E. ST. JOHN.

Witnesses:

G. W. DAVIS,

WILLIAM A. BABCOCK.