

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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HOSE-SUPPORTER.

No. 813,197.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HELEN W. CAHN, a citizen of the United States, residing at the city of New York, borough of Manhattan, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hose-Supporters, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to hose-supporters designed to be worn by women, and more particularly to that class of supporters which are to be connected or attached to corsets or other garments.

Among the advantages possessed by my invention are the following:

First, the supporter holds the corsets or other garment down firmer than other devices of its class, because the supporter itself is held in place by a band or garter which fits the leg below the knee, so that it cannot slip upwardly out of place.

Second, the leg-band or garter cannot bind around the leg, because it can be worn as loosely as desired, while at the same time the supporter is efficient in holding the stocking in place.

Third, the stocking cannot be torn or lacerated, because the clasp is so constructed that it will not injure the stocking, and said clasp is intended only to hold the upper edge of the stocking. If the wearer desires, this clasp may not be used by actually connecting it to the stocking, and in this case the leg-band or garter is relied upon to hold the stocking in place.

Fourth, by holding the stocking in place through the agency of the band or garter which fits below the knee the comfort of the wearer is increased, particularly in warm weather, inasmuch as the clasp is not used and the upper portion of the stocking can hang loose.

My improved supporter possesses the requisite elasticity for it to yield or give to the motion of the wearer, and it is adjustable both lengthwise and around the knee, whereby it may be changed to suit persons of different sizes. The amount of elastic webbing required in its manufacture is minimized by distributing the elastic portions between the non-elastic webbing, thus reducing the cost of manufacture and promoting the durability

of the article. A clasp with protected jaws is employed in the supporter for engagement with the top edge of a long stocking. Such clasp will not cut, tear, or otherwise injure the stocking, and it takes a firm grip or hold on the stocking, so as to prevent disengagement of the parts.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, wherein like characters of reference are used to indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating the mode of using my supporter. Fig. 2 is an enlarged perspective view of the supporter detached from the person, and Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a form of clasp which I prefer to employ for supporting the upper portion of a long stocking.

A designates the member or hanger adapted to extend from a corset to a stocking. Said member is made preferably of non-elastic webbing and its lower portion is doubled or folded upon itself to produce a bight or loop *a*. The free end of the doubled part of the webbing member is attached to a slidable clasp B, the latter being fitted on the member A for adjustment lengthwise thereof, so as to vary the operative length of said member or hanger.

It is evident that the slidable clasp B may be of the usual or any preferred construction and that it is constructed to engage frictionally with said member for the purpose of holding the folded portion *a* in the required positions of adjustment.

C designates a tab which is preferably made of fabric and is fastened in a suitable way to the upper portion of the member or hanger A. This tab furnishes a convenient means for attaching the supporter to a body-garment, such as a corset, (indicated at D in Fig. 1.) The tab C may be sewed to the corset, as at *d* in Fig. 1; but other modes of attachment may be adopted for fastening the tab C to said corset D, and, in fact, any suitable means of attaching the hanger member A to the corset may be adopted.

The supporter of my invention is not intended to be attached directly to the stocking E, because I employ a band or garter F at the lower part of the hanger A. This band is

also made of non-elastic webbing, and to one end of the band is attached a buckle *f*, adapted for engagement with the free end portion of the band. This construction allows the band to be slipped around the limb of the wearer with ease and dispatch; but in lieu of the buckle *f* I may employ any suitable coupling or any other device for uniting the two ends of the band detachably one to the other.

A connection of elastic webbing is employed between the member A and the band F. As shown by the drawings, this connection is in the form of an elastic strap G, which is doubled through a loop *g*, so as to provide two converging members, which are fastened to the band or garter F in a suitable way—as, for example, by stitching said members to the band, as at *g'*. After the strap has been thrust through the loop *g* the two portions or legs thereof are arranged in the inclined position shown by the drawings, and the strap is held from slipping through said loop *g* by stitching the diverging members thereof, as at *g''*. The loop *g* is fitted over the member A, so as to occupy a position at the end of the bight *a*, and this loop *g* connects the strap G to the member and allows said strap to slide easily through the loop when the clasp B is moved on the member for varying the length thereof.

An important feature of my invention is the elastic strap H and the clasp I, said members being adapted for supporting the upper edge portion of the stocking E, as shown by Fig. 1. The strap H is fastened to the member A at a point between the slide B and the tab C. Said strap is united to the member by a row of stitches, (indicated at *h*,) although other means may be resorted to for uniting the strap to the hanger. As shown, the strap H occupies an inclined position to the hanger or member A, and the free end of this strap is attached to the clasp I. While I may use any form of clasp, I prefer to employ the construction shown by Fig. 3, wherein the parts *i i'* are hinged and under the control of a spring *i''*. A peculiar feature of the clasp I is the use of gripping-blocks *j* in the opposing portions of the parts *i i'*, whereby the clasp is adapted to have the required frictional engagement with the fabric in order to support the stocking, while at the same time the tendency to tear or injure the fabric is wholly avoided. The parts of the clasp at the free ends thereof are widened and provided with lips *k*, which are adapted to fold over and around the blocks of frictional material, and these gripping-faces *j* are adapted to engage with each other when the parts are pressed to their closed positions by the spring *i''*.

In using my supporter the tab C is attached to the corset and the supporter proper hangs

loosely from the garment. It is only necessary to slip the band F around the leg below the knee and to fasten one end of the band by the buckle *f* or its equivalent. This allows the band or garter F to have such engagement with the stocking as will hold it in place without, however, binding the leg, and the garter is prevented from slipping out of position by the hanger which is attached to the corset. In case a long stocking is worn the garter is used to hold the stocking below the knee, and the clasp is also engaged with the top edge of the stocking, as shown by Fig. 1, thus affording a secure means for supporting the extra long stocking; but in warm weather the clasp I can remain detached and the top edge of the stocking allowed to hang loose or free.

From this description it will be seen that the supporter may be worn with comfort and that it may be adjusted to suit persons of different sizes, because the hanger A may be lengthened or shortened and the garter F may be drawn as tightly as required around the limb. The only elastic used in the supporter are the straps G and H, which provide for any undue strain and allow the parts to yield or give to the movement of the wearer.

Changes in the form, size, proportion, and minor details in construction may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention or sacrificing any of the advantages thereof, and I therefore reserve the right to make such alterations and modifications as fairly fall within the scope of my invention.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A hose-supporter comprising a hanger folded upon itself at the lower end and forming a bight, a clasp attached to the free end of the hanger and embracing the same for slidable adjustment thereon, a loop in the bight of the hanger, a leg-band, a strap attached at spaced points to the leg-band and passing through the loop, and another strap attached to the hanger above the slidable clasp thereon, said last-mentioned strap being provided with a stocking-clasp.

2. A hose-supporter comprising a hanger having its lower end folded upon itself and forming a bight, a clasp slidable on the hanger for varying the operative length thereof, means at the upper part of the hanger for attaching the same to a corset, a leg-band, an elastic strap connecting the leg-band with the bight of the hanger, and another strap attached to the hanger between the clasp and the corset-attaching means.

3. A hose-supporter comprising a hanger having one end doubled upon itself and producing a bight, a clasp adjustable on the hanger for varying the operative length there-

of, means for attaching the hanger to a cor-
set, a strap fastened to the hanger between
the clasp and the corset-attaching means, a
leg-band, a loop in the bight of the hanger,
5 and an elastic strap fitted in the loop and
having its ends secured at separated points
to the leg-band.

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

HELEN W. CAHN.

Witnesses:

JAS. H. GRIFFIN,
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