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PATENTED SEPT. 24, 1907.

G. E. MARKÉLL.  
GIRDLE.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 25, 1907.

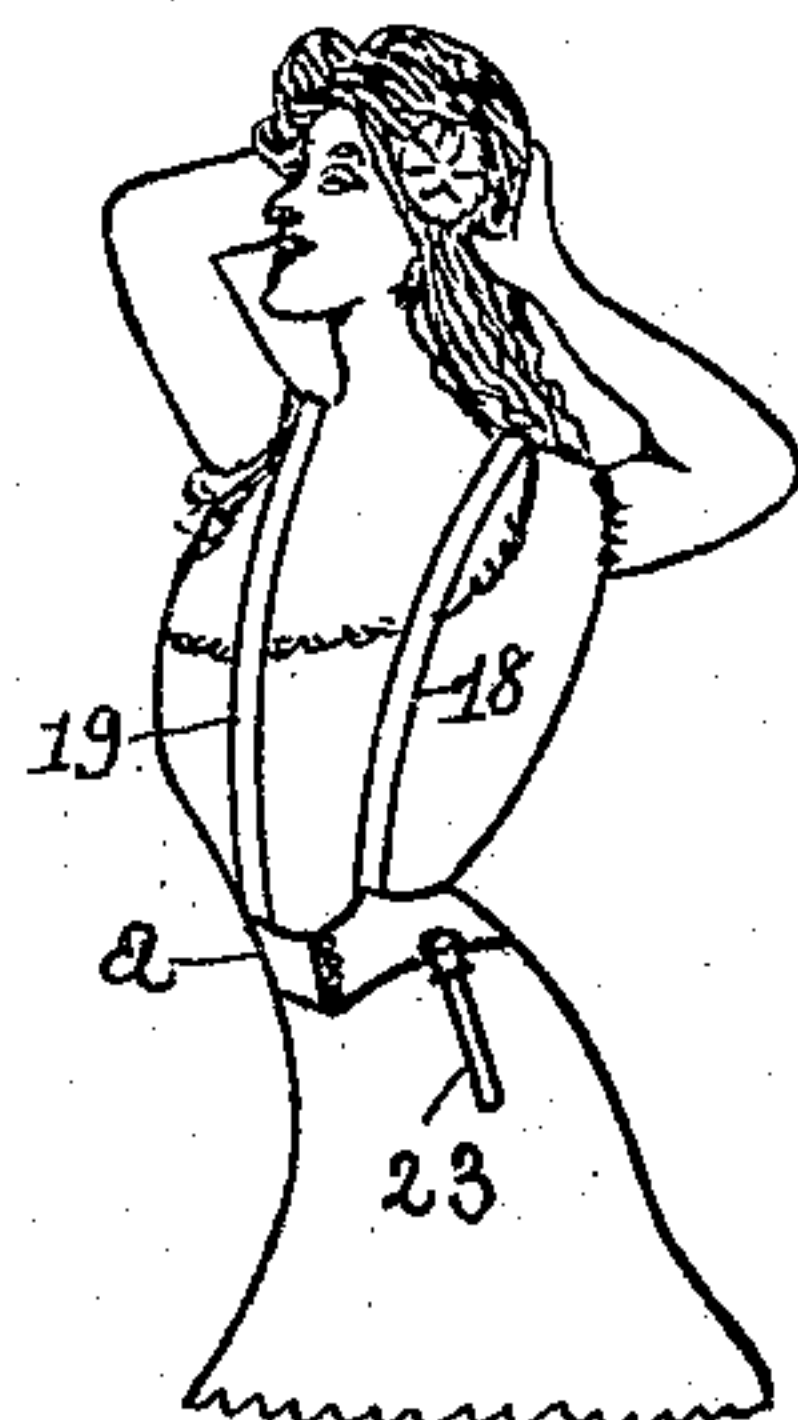


Fig. 1.

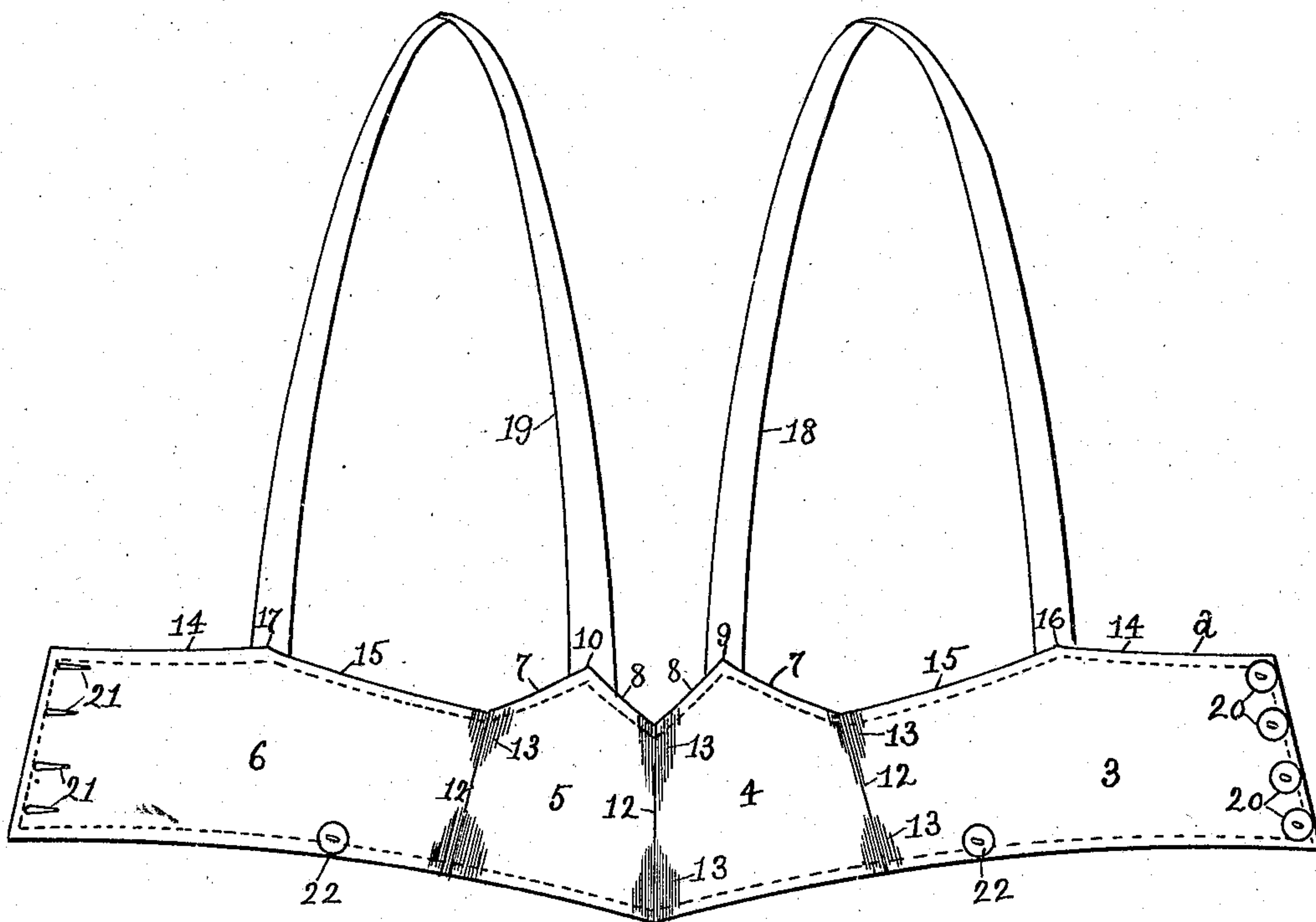


Fig. 2.

Witnesses.  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## GIRDLE.

No. 867,146.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Sept. 24, 1907.

Application filed January 25, 1907. Serial No. 353,969.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, GRACE E. MARKÉLL, a citizen of the United States, residing in Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Girdles, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like letters on the drawings representing like parts.

This invention relates to a flexible girdle especially designed and adapted to be worn by ladies in place of the usual corsets, girdles or corset waists, and has for its object to provide a flexible girdle, which is capable of adapting itself to the form of the wearer without interfering with the free use and exercise of the muscles of the body, and particularly those of the waist, chest and abdomen. Provision is also made for furnishing an adequate foundation at the hips and waist line, for the outer garments, and for the support from the shoulders of the weight of the skirts, hose and undergarments, whereby the girdle may be worn with any kind of costume, in any ordinary occupation, and also in games and exercises, or by invalids or convalescents at home or in hospitals. For this purpose, I employ a girdle of fibrous material, preferably composed of a plurality of sections suitably stitched together and shaped to embrace and fit the waist of the wearer, and which is provided with straps or loops to engage the shoulders and thereby support the girdle and parts attached to it from the shoulders, thus leaving the muscles of the waist, chest and abdomen free to be moved without restraint.

The girdle may be provided with devices for attaching thereto the usual hose supporters.

These and other features of this invention will be pointed out in the claims at the end of this specification.

Figure 1 represents a sufficient portion of the figure of a lady provided with a girdle embodying this invention to enable it to be understood, and Fig. 2, a developed view of the girdle shown in Fig. 1, on an enlarged scale.

Referring to the drawings *a* represents a girdle embodying this invention, which is made of cloth or other flexible material and preferably in sections 3, 4, 5 and 6, which are stitched together. The sections 3, 4, 5 and 6 are provided with curved or inclined upper and lower edges, and with inclined ends or sides and the sections 3, 6 are made at their free ends of a width substantially equal to the width of the girdle at its center.

The intermediate sections 4, 5, have their upper edge composed of two curves or inclines 7, 8, which extend from the points 9, 10, in opposite directions, and the sides or ends 12 of the said sections are inclined downward away from the upper edge and diverge so as to leave or form a fullness, which is represented by

the shade lines 13, and which enables the girdle to conform to and fit the body of the wearer. The upper edges of the end sections 3, 6 are also provided with oppositely extending curves 14, 15, which meet in the points 16, 17, and extend in opposite directions therefrom.

The girdle is provided with shoulder straps 18, 19, the ends of the strap 18 being attached to the sections 3, 4, at the high points 16, 19 of the same, and the ends of the strap 19 being attached to the sections 5, 6, at the high points 10, 17 of the same. The girdle is provided with means for fastening its ends together, and in the present instance, one end of the girdle is provided with a series of buttons 20, which are adapted to engage corresponding buttonholes 21 in the other end. The girdle may also be provided on its lower edge with buttons 22 or other devices for attaching to the girdle supporters 23 for the hose. The supporters 23 may be of any desired or suitable construction, such as now commonly used by ladies and girls.

It will be observed that the lower edge of the girdle is made in two curves, which extend in opposite directions from near the center of the girdle toward its opposite ends, which enables the girdle to conform to and fit over the hips of the wearer, while its upper edge is provided with a plurality of curves to conform to the shape of the body of the wearer and especially to the bust portion thereof, and further that the back sections being cut on the bias imparts to the girdle at the back a fullness, which is indicated by the shade lines 13 in Fig. 2, and which enables the girdle to conform to and fit the back of the wearer.

It will also be observed, that the girdle is made substantially narrow to embrace the waist of the wearer below the bust, and thereby leave the muscles of the body of the wearer free to move without restraint, while at the same time, the weight of the garments attached to the girdle is supported from the shoulders, (see Fig. 1), and the body of the wearer is relieved from the weight of said garments, which especially recommends the girdle for use by ladies and girls in physical culture exercises and games, such as golf, tennis, etc., and further to invalids and convalescents at home or in hospitals.

It will also be observed that the girdle is made of flexible material, such as cotton cloth, and is free to respond to all movements of the body, as it is not restrained by stays and like pieces.

The girdle furthermore is especially applicable for use by ladies in swimming, inasmuch as it affords a support for the hose from the shoulders, while permitting perfect freedom and stretch of the muscles.

It will be observed that each shoulder strap is secured at its ends to adjacent sections on the same side of the center of the girdle, that the inclines or curves 15 are materially longer than the inclines or curves 7,



and that the ends of the shoulder straps are fastened to the high points of said curves or inclines, with the result that when the girdle is applied to the waist and the straps to the shoulders, the point of attachment of the shoulder straps to the end sections comes to the front of the wearer as clearly represented in Fig. 1, thereby obtaining the proper and desired support from the shoulders.

#### Claims.

- 10 1. As an improved article of manufacture, a substantially narrow girdle of flexible material capable of embracing the waist of the wearer and having its free ends of substantially the same width as the girdle at the center of the back portion, the upper edge of said girdle on opposite sides of the center having substantially short inclines or curves near the center of the girdle and longer inclines or curves near the free ends of said girdle, and shoulder straps located on opposite sides of the center of the girdle and having their ends secured at or near the high parts of the inclines or curves on the same side of the center of said girdle, substantially as described.
- 15 2. As an improved article of manufacture, a girdle of flexible material composed of substantially narrow center sections to engage the back portion of the waist of the wearer and having inclined upper edges and diverging side edges, end sections of a width at their free ends substantially equal to the back sections at the center of the girdle and having upper edges inclined in opposite directions, means to secure together the free ends of said end sections, and shoulder straps, each having one end secured to a back section and its other end to the end section on
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- 25
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the same side of the center line of the back portion of the girdle and substantially near the high parts of the upper edges of said sections, substantially as described.

3. As an improved article of manufacture, a girdle of flexible material composed of end sections provided with means for fastening them together, and having their upper edges inclined in opposite directions from a point intermediate the ends of said sections, intermediate sections having diverging side edges, which are stitched to corresponding edges of the end sections, and have their upper edges inclined in opposite directions from a point intermediate their ends, shoulder straps having one end fastened to the high point of said end sections and their other end fastened to the high point of the intermediate sections adjacent to them, substantially as described.

4. As an improved article of manufacture, a substantially narrow girdle of flexible material capable of embracing the waist of the wearer and having its free ends of substantially the same width as the girdle at its center, said girdle having its lower edge curved from at or near its center toward its free ends, and having its upper edge provided near its center with substantially short inclines or curves extended in opposite directions and having longer curves or inclines near its free ends, and shoulder straps, each secured at its ends on the same side of the center of the girdle and at or near the high parts of the inclines or curves, substantially as described.

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

GRACE E. MARKÉLL.

Witnesses:

JAS. H. CHURCHILL,  
J. MURPHY.