

No. 648,789.

Patented May 1, 1900.

E. J. PRINDLE.

GARMENT CLASP.

(Application filed Oct. 11, 1899.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

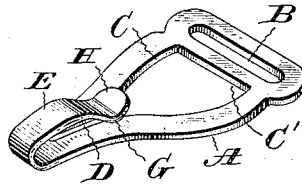


Fig. 2.

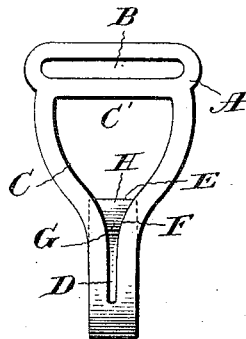


Fig. 3.

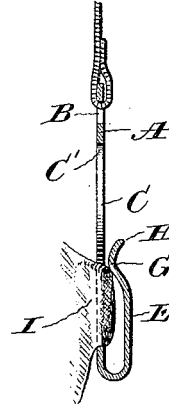
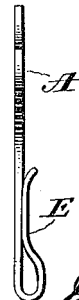


Fig. 4.



Witnesses:
Jas. E. Hutchinson.
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Inventor:
Edwin J. Prindle, by
Prindle and Russell, his Attys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWIN J. PRINDLE, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

GARMENT-CLASP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 648,789, dated May 1, 1900.

Application filed October 11, 1899. Serial No. 733,285. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWIN J. PRINDLE, of Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Garment-Clasps; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the preferred form of my garment-clasp. Fig. 2 is a rear view. Fig. 3 is a central longitudinal sectional view of the clasp shown in Fig. 1; a portion of fabric being shown engaged in the clasp; and Fig. 4 is an edge view of a second form of my garment-clasp.

My invention relates to garment-clasps having a tapering slot or opening in the contracted part of which a portion of the garment is held and which, while particularly adapted for stocking-supporters, are also applicable to other uses; and it consists in the combination, with such a clasp, of means which normally stand in the path of a portion of the garment when passed into the contracted portion of the slot of the clasp, and which thus prevent the escape of the garment therefrom.

As ordinarily constructed clasps of the class to which I refer consist of a body formed of a plate A, which has the usual opening B at its upper end for the reception of the garment-supporter straps and which has below this opening a slot C, having considerable width at the upper end C' and tapering to a long contracted portion D at its lower end. In the use of such clasps, particularly with long stocking-supporter straps, as the straps slacken and tighten during the motion of the limbs or in taking off and putting on the stockings or socks the portion of fabric easily escapes from the contracted portion of the slot, causing much annoyance and inconvenience. To hold the fabric in its proper position in the slot of the clasp until it is forcibly removed, I provide a device which bears upon the portion of the garment which is passed into the contracted portion of the slot. In its preferred form said device is a spring-tongue E on the lower end of the base-plate, which is bent over the contracted portion D of the slot, and near the mouth F of such contracted portion has a bend G, which touches or nearly touches the body of the clasp, beyond which point its

end H is bent slightly upward. This tongue may be a rigid tongue—that is, hinged to the base-plate and pressed by a separate spring against the base-plate—or it may be formed on or attached to any other part of the clasp. So long as it normally stands in the path of a portion of fabric when passed into the contracted portion of the opening I regard it as coming within the scope of my invention, whatever be its particular construction or arrangement. The tongue E may bear upon the fabric at the mouth F of the contracted portion D of the slot C, in which case it would hold the fabric I to the greatest advantage, or it may bear on the fabric I some distance back of the mouth F of the contracted portion of the slot, in which case it would be easiest to insert the fabric I under the tongue E, for the fabric would first be caught by the edges of the contracted entrance F and then guide itself under the tongue E without further attention. The tongue may also, as in the form E', (shown in Fig. 4,) bear along the entire contracted portion of the slot. The clasp-body is preferably formed of sheet metal, although it may readily be formed of wire or may be stamped.

In the operation of my device the fabric I of the stocking is forced up through the larger portion C' of the slot and is grasped by the thumb and finger. The clasp is then drawn up to carry the fold of stocking fabric into the contracted portion D of the slot C, and, if necessary, the fold is held to one side while the fingers travel with it down the side of the spring-tongue E to fully engage the fold with the clasp.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. A garment-clasp comprising a body having a contracted opening and having an obstruction which is movable into and out of the path of a portion of fabric in its passage into the contracted opening, whereby the accidental escape of the fabric from the clasp may be prevented, substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. A garment-clasp comprising a body having an opening which has a contracted portion and having a yielding tongue with a portion that is movable into and out of the path of a portion of fabric in its passage into said

contracted portion of the opening, the point of connection of said tongue with the clasp-body being adjacent the inner end of the contracted portion of the opening, substantially as and for the purpose described.

3. A garment-clasp comprising a plate having an opening with a contracted portion and a spring-tongue that is bent down close to or against the face of the plate near the entrance of said contracted portion, and that has its end bent away from said plate, said spring-tongue standing normally in the path of a portion of fabric when passed into said contracted portion of the opening, substantially as and for the purpose described.

4. A garment-clasp comprising a plate having an opening with a contracted portion, a

spring-tongue formed by bending over a portion of the plate having the opening, said tongue having a bend that stands normally near the entrance of said contracted portion and in the path of a portion of fabric when passed into said contracted portion of the opening, the end of said spring-tongue being bent away from the plate, substantially as and for the purpose described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 11th day of October, 1899.

EDWIN J. PRINDLE.

Witnesses:

JAS. E. HUTCHINSON,
CHAS. J. WILLIAMSON.