The invention relates to a reinforced shirt collar, as described in the present specification and illustrated in the accompanying drawing that forms part of the same.

5 The invention consists essentially in a holder behind the collar face containing a flexible stiffening support of sheet material preferably celluloid and readily removable therefrom, as pointed out in the claim for novelty following a description in detail of the preferred forms with due reference to the accompanying drawing.

The objects of the invention are to consider-ably enhance the appearance of the soft collar without the use of starch and at the same time prevent the neck of the wearer from irritation through hard and sometimes rough surfaces; to lengthen the life of the article of wear and insure its good condition throughout and in both shirt and collar evening up the durability of both, often relieving the manufacturer of the necessity of furnishing a second collar to each shirt, which will more than offset the cost of the stiffener, and generally to provide neatness and stability in neckwear.

15 In the drawing, Figure 1 is a plan view of the collar band with the rear of the face showing the supporter pocket.

Figure 2 is a plan view of the stiffening strip.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the collar and supporter complete.

Figure 4 is a plan view of the pocket assembly in a modified form of collar.

Figure 5 is a perspective view showing a slight modification of the collar face with supporter illustrated in Figure 4.

Figure 6 is a cross sectional view on the line 6—6 in Figure 1.

Figure 7 is a cross sectional view on the line 7—7 in Figure 1.

Figure 8 is a cross sectional view on the line 8—8 in Figure 3, showing the collar folded for wearing and showing the stiffener in place.

Like numerals of reference indicate corresponding parts in the various figures.

45 Referring to the drawing, the collar 15 has the face piece 16 and a backing piece or lining 17. These two pieces are of the same shape and are sewn together along their edges. The collar band 18 is of the usual construction and is secured to the edge 19 of the face pieces 16 and 17 and is provided with the usual stud holes 20 in the center and at the ends for securing the collar to a shirt band.

Pockets 21 are formed at the peaks 22 on the inner or lined face of the collar and consist of triangular shaped pieces 23 sewn to the edges of the peaks 22 and have their inwardly facing edges 24 loose and forming the lip of the pockets. The edges 24 may be doubled over inwardly and sewn to form a reinforced edge.

A flexible stiffening support 25 is cut from sheet material preferably celluloid and is of substantially the same shape and size as the collar face piece 16. The peaks or points 26 of the support 25 are rounded off to avoid piercing of the pockets 21 and the form also has the stud hole 27 centrally placed and corresponding with the central stud hole of the collar band 18.

The upper edge 28 of the stiffening support 25 is in line with the joining seam of the collar face and the band and when the collar is folded the stiffener is held securely in its pockets 21 and holds the collar face smooth and its peaks extended to their cut shape.

In Figures 4 and 5 a modified form of stiffener holder is shown and this has a pocket 29 extending the full length of the collar on the inside of the face piece. The cloth 30 is cut to the shape of the face piece on the outer edges while the inner edge 31 is slightly curved downwardly to clear the seam joining the face piece and the collar band and is finished off with a hem.

The stiffening support 25 is cut to the shape of the collar face piece as above described and fits within the pocket 29 and is securely supported therein throughout its entire length.

With a soft collar made up as above described, the soft material used can be made to give the appearance of a laundered collar and will be held to its shape without wrinkling and will always be smart and fresh in appearance.

When the collar is to be used, the stiffening strip 15 which is of light sheet material such as celluloid is inserted in the peak pockets 21 and is held firmly in each by means of the back stud and the fold over of the collar band and fits snugly in the peaks to hold the collar face stretched and smooth, but without in any way straining the seams of the pockets and when the collar band is folded over it holds the stiffening strip from rising out of the pocket.

The collar is now ready for wear and can readily be fitted to the neck of the wearer. The celluloid strip allows the collar to be fully pliable and will stand any amount of flexing without cracking or breaking.

When the collar is to be washed it is only necessary to withdraw the strip from the pocket and wash the collar in the ordinary way, and when dry to reinsert the strip in the pocket and
collar is ready for wearing without the necessity of starching or laundering.
In the modified form the stiffener is supported within the pocket throughout its entire length and does not necessarily require to be supported by the collar stud.

What I claim is:—

In a reinforced shirt collar, a flexible stiffening blank, terminating in rounded peaks at each end and having a stud hole adapted to limit the distance between peaks on either side and situated centrally below a crescent shaped upper edge, a stud from a shirt inserted in said hole and having a reduced stem allowing leeway in both directions for automatic adjustments and a collar having a band with a central rear stud hole registering with said hole in the blank and a face with triangular peak pockets beginning on the one side in each instance well below the band and face seam and therefore below the ends of the upper edge of the blank.

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