Dec. 30, 1930. G. E. RUTLEDGE 1,786,869

BATHING SUIT

Filed Nov. 6, 1928

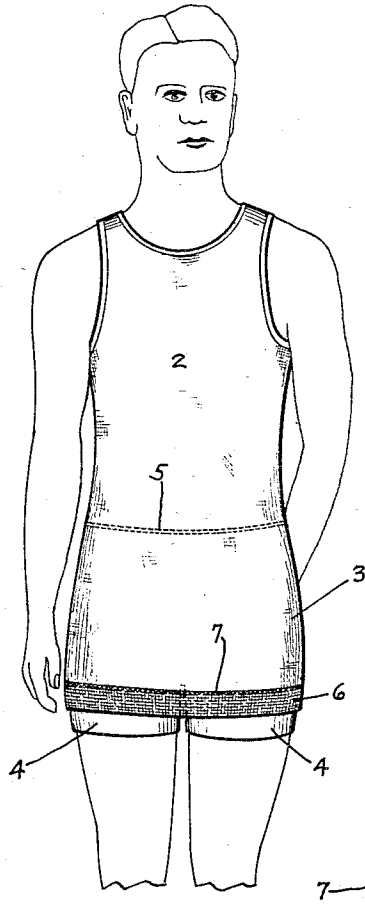


FIG. 1

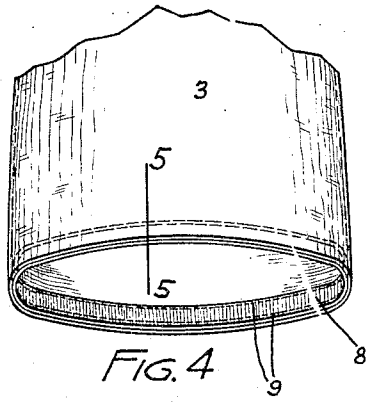


FIG. 4

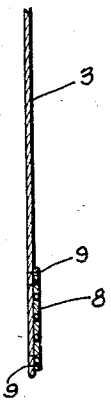


FIG. 5

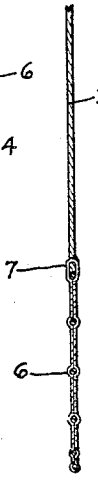


FIG. 3

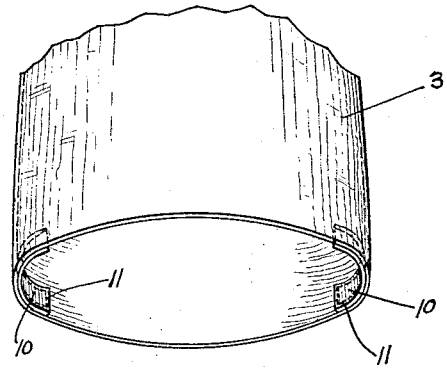


FIG. 6

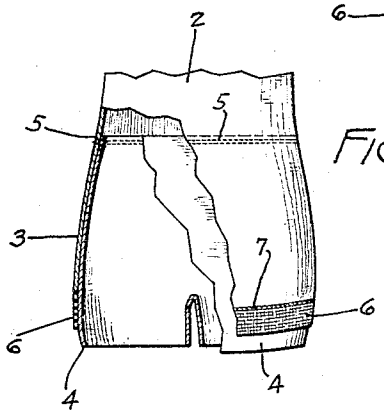


FIG. 2

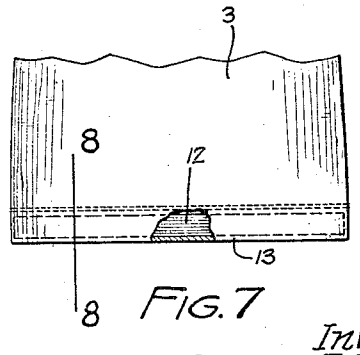


FIG. 7

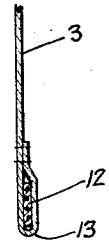


FIG. 8

Inventor
GEORGE E. RUTLEDGE

By Parker Parker & Moore

ATTORNEYS

Patented Dec. 30, 1930 1,786,869

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

GEORGE E. RUTLEDGE, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO THE MUNSINGWEAR CORPORATION, OF MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, A CORPORATION OF MINNESOTA

BATHING SUIT

Application filed November 6, 1929. Serial No. 405,125.

A one-piece bathing suit of common type now of commerce consists of a body portion, a trunk portion, and a short skirt portion, all customarily of relatively flimsy, slightly stretchable, textile material. Usually the short skirt portion is an integral part of the body portion, and the trunk portion is stitched to the inner face of the garment at the location where the body portion and the skirt portion meet each other, the lower part of the trunk portion extending slightly below the lower extremity of the skirt portion. Ordinarily, when such a bathing suit is worn, especially while wet, both the skirt portion and the legs of the trunk portion of the garment have tendency toward curling or wrinkling up to render the bathing suit unsightly and uncomfortable.

The object of the present invention is to provide a one-piece bathing suit consisting of a body portion, a trunk portion, and a short skirt portion terminating at elevation above the lower edges of the legs of the trunk portion and equipped with an elastic element at or adjacent to the lower extremity of said skirt portion adapted to the purpose of causing the skirt portion to cling snugly to the body of a wearer below the hips and about the legs of the trunk portion to thus insure that the skirt portion and the legs of the trunk portion of the garment will at all times be situated in smooth and proper relation to the wearer's body—in the same condition in which arranged when the bathing suit is originally put on.

With the above object in view, the invention will now be fully described and will hereinafter be specifically claimed, it being understood that the disclosures herein are merely illustrative and intended in no way in a limiting sense, changes in detail of construction and arrangement of parts being permissible so long as within the scope of the claims which follow.

In the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification,

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view of the novel bathing suit as when in use;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary view in front elevation, partially sectioned and partially broken away, of the bathing suit as when out of use;

Fig. 3 is a detail sectional view of the lower part of the skirt portion and the elastic element;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a fragment of the skirt portion disclosing an elastic element of modified construction;

Fig. 5 is an enlarged sectional view on line 5—5 in Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of a fragment of the skirt portion including spaced apart elastic elements;

Fig. 7 is an elevational view of a fragment of the skirt portion having a still further modified form of elastic element; and

Fig. 8 is an enlarged sectional view on line 8—8 in Fig. 7.

Referring more particularly to Figs. 1 to 3 of the drawing, 2 indicates the body portion, 3 the skirt portion and 4 the legs of the trunk portion of the bathing suit of the invention. As disclosed, the body portion 2 and the skirt portion 3 consists of a single piece of relatively flimsy, slightly stretchable, textile material. The trunk portion also consists of relatively flimsy, slightly stretchable, textile material having its upper portion suitably stitched to the inner face of the garment at the location where the body portion 2 and the skirt portion 3 meet each other, as indicated at 5. The legs 4 of the trunk portion terminate slightly below the lower extremity of the skirt portion 3.

The skirt portion 3 is equipped with an elastic element 6, at its lower margin as shown, encircling the skirt portion for its full circumference and being stitched thereto, as by stitching 7 desirably of elastic type; that is to say, so arranged as not to unduly

interfere with stretching of the elastic element. As shown more clearly in Fig. 2, the elastic element 6 when unexpanded is of slightly less circumference than the lower part of the skirt portion 3, so that when the garment is applied to use the elastic element 6 will be slightly expanded by that portion of the body of a wearer below the hips, to thus be placed under sufficient tension to cause the skirt portion and the elastic element to cling snugly to the wearer's body and about the legs of the trunk portion, to insure that the skirt portion and the legs of the trunk will at all times be situated in smooth, proper and intended relation to the body of the wearer, in precisely the condition in which arranged when the bathing suit is put on. The elastic element 6 may be of any material suitable to its purpose. As shown, it has elasticity considerably in excess of that possessed by the skirt portion 3. Naturally, the elastic element 6 will have sufficient elasticity to very snugly cling to the body of the wearer without enough pressure to be uncomfortable.

In Figs. 4 and 5 the elastic element is disclosed as a continuous band 8 attached to the full circumference of the inner face of the skirt portion 3 adjacent its lower margin, as by two rows of elastic stitching 9 each passing through the opposite side edges of the elastic element. In the present form of the invention, the elastic element 8 can have about the same, or more or less, elasticity as the elastic element 6. In cases where the skirt portion 3 is designed to have quite a snug fit about the wearer's body, the elastic element 8 can be of about the same circumference as the inner face of the lower part of the skirt portion. In cases where it is desired that the lower margin of the skirt portion more snugly engage the body of a wearer than does the remainder of said skirt portion, the elastic band 8 can be attached to the inner face of the skirt portion 3 while said elastic band is held slightly stretched or expanded, in any manner well known in the art.

As shown in Fig. 6, the elastic element consists of oppositely disposed elastic strips 10 stitched to the inner face of the skirt portion, as by elastic stitching 11. The elastic strips 10 can be attached to the skirt portion while under no tension, or said elastic strips can be slightly stretched and stitched while under tension. In the latter case, the parts of the skirt portion at the locations of the elastic strips will be slightly gathered when the garment is out of use, and will be tensioned when upon a wearer to supply the desired clinging of the lower part of the skirt portion to the wearer's body. The elastic strips 10 can consist of material similar to that constituting the elastic element 6 or the elastic element 8.

As shown in Figs. 7 and 8, the skirt portion 3 includes a fold or circumferential pocket 13 at its lower margin in which a continuous elastic band 12 is situated. The elastic band 12 can be of circumference approximately equal to that of the lower part of the skirt portion of the garment or can be of any desired smaller circumference designed to increase the yieldable cling of the skirt portion of the garment to the body of the wearer and about the legs of the trunk portion. The elastic band 12 can consist of material similar to that constituting the elastic elements 6, 8 or 10.

While I have shown the body portion 2 and the skirt portion 3 as integral with each other and the trunk portion stitched to the garment at the location where the body portion and the skirt portion meet, it is to be understood that the body portion and the trunk portion can be integral and the skirt portion can be a separately attached piece of material, or the skirt portion and the trunk portion can be integral and the body portion separately attached.

I claim as my invention:

1. A bathing suit consisting of a body and skirt portion made of a single piece of relatively flimsy, slightly stretchable, textile material extending slightly below the upper hip portion, a trunk portion made separate from the one piece combined body and skirt portion, said trunk portion also made of flimsy, slightly stretchable, textile material and having leg portions extending slightly below the skirt portion, the trunk portion being stitched to the inner face of the one piece body and skirt portion, the skirt portion having at its lower edge an elastic element stitched thereto by elastic stitching, said elastic element when unexpanded being of slightly less length than the adjacent lower part of the skirt portion, whereby when the garment is applied to use the elastic element will be slightly expanded by that portion of the body of the wearer below the hips and thus placed under sufficient tension to cause the skirt portion and the elastic element to cling snugly to the lower part of the leg portions to insure that the skirt portion and the legs of the trunk portion when wet be situated in smooth relation with the body of the wearer.

2. A bathing suit consisting of a body portion, a skirt portion and a trunk portion, all formed from relatively flimsy, slightly stretchable textile material, the skirt portion extending slightly below the upper hip portion and the trunk portion arranged within and having leg portions extending slightly below the skirt portion, the skirt portion having at its edge an elastic element stitched thereto by elastic stitching, said elastic element when unexpanded being of slightly less length than the adjacent lower part of the skirt portion, whereby when the garment is

applied to use the elastic element will be slightly expanded by that portion of the body of the wearer below the hips and thus placed under sufficient tension to cause the skirt portion and the elastic element to cling snugly to the lower part of the leg portions to insure that the skirt portion and the legs of the trunk portion when wet be situated in smooth relation with the body of the wearer.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 28th day of October 1929.

GEORGE E. RUTLEDGE.