Aug. 18, 1925. 1,550,644

H. A. CARTER

UNDERGARMENT

Filed Oct. 24, 1924

Fig. 1.

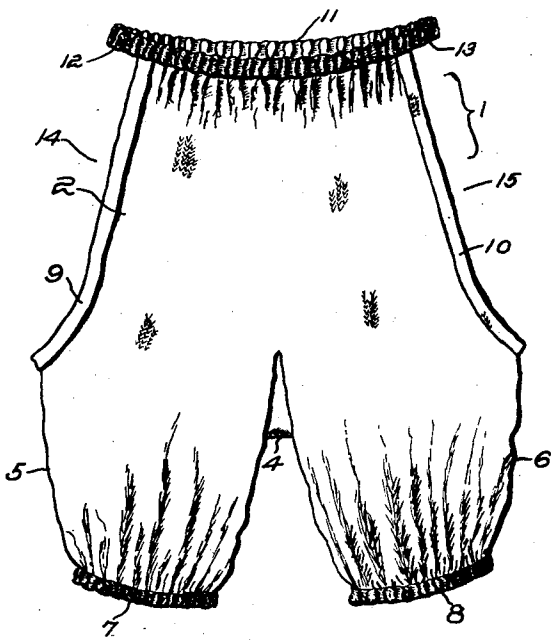


Fig. 2.

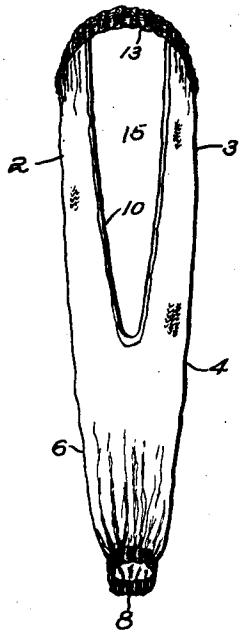


Fig. 3.

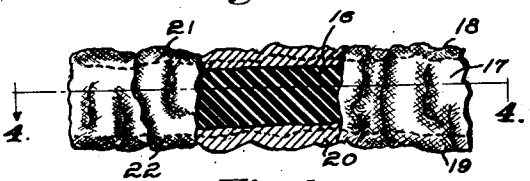


Fig. 4.

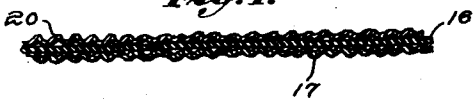
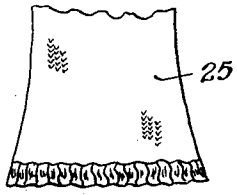


Fig. 5



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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UNDERGARMENT.

Application filed October 24, 1924. Serial No. 745,632.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HORACE ALBERT CARTER, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Needham, in the county of Norfolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Undergarments, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like characters on the drawings representing like parts.

This invention relates to undergarments, more particularly women's undergarments, and aims to provide an improved garment of the class mentioned, including both the bloomer and so-called step-in types of garments as well as the combination or union-suit type.

In the drawings disclosing certain embodiments of my invention, chosen for illustrative purposes:

Figure 1 is an elevation of an undergarment embodying one form of my invention, the garment as shown being extended flatwise as for display;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the garment shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a detail view in elevation, with parts broken away, showing one form of supporting means, such as illustrated in Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a cross section substantially on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a view in elevation of the lower section of a modified form of leg portion which may be employed in connection with the garment illustrated.

Referring now to Figs. 1 to 4, the undergarment there shown is of bloomer type. Any suitable material may be employed in forming the garment, such as woven or knitted fabric, desirably relatively light in weight. As illustrated, the garment is composed of a knitted fabric having the wales extending vertically, and may be formed from threads or yarns of cotton, artificial or natural silk, or other suitable material including mixed materials.

As illustrated, the garment comprises a main or body portion, indicated as a whole at 1, including a front section 2 of roughly rectangular form, and a rear section 3, the latter being provided with a seat portion 4 including a preferably reinforced crotch section formed of a plurality of thicknesses of material.

Extending downwardly from said front and rear sections are the leg coverings or members 5, 6. As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the leg members are gathered at the bottom as by elastic tape or like elements 7, 8 so as to provide a snug fit about the leg of the wearer. The said leg coverings may be of any suitable length so as to terminate either above or below the knee.

It will be observed that the front and rear sections 2, 3 are formed at their opposite sides with free side edges along substantially their entire vertical extent, and desirably from a point well down upon the thigh and toward the knee of the wearer to a point at or above the waist line. Said front and rear sections may be finished at their said side edges in any suitable manner, as by means of the border or edging pieces 9, 10, of any suitable material, desirably similar to that of the garment proper. As shown, said border pieces 9, 10 are respectively formed of a single strip of material folded upon itself and secured along its free edges to the garment by any suitable stitching, said strip extending continuously from the upper edge of the front section 2 downwardly along one side edge of the latter, and upwardly along the adjacent side edge of the rear section 3 to the upper edge of the latter.

Any suitable means may be employed to support the garment in position upon the wearer. In Figs. 1 to 4 I have shown for this purpose a circumferentially disposed belt-like supporting member 11 having its ends united to form a continuous band at the upper portion of the garment body. Desirably said supporting member 11 has a total length somewhat exceeding the combined width of the front and rear sections 2, 3 at their upper extremities and is secured to the latter in such manner as to provide free sections 12, 13 of the supporting member at opposite sides of the garment respectively. Said supporting member 11 as herein shown constitutes the sole connecting means between the front and rear sections of the garment at their upper portions, the described construction and arrangement being such as to provide a vertically elongated

opening, vent, or open area 14, 15 at each side of the garment substantially in the manner illustrated. Said openings are so arranged as to provide open areas at the hips of the wearer, thus producing a skeleton or hipless undergarment of substantially decreased bulk and which thereby enables the outer garments to hang in straight lines, fitting more closely over the hips of the wearer.

The bloomer form of undergarment, as heretofore known, particularly of the type elastically contracted both around the bottom of the legs as well as about the waist, has been found objectionable because of its undue warmth. In accordance with my invention, however, adequate ventilation is afforded by suitable means, herein constituted in said open areas or vents 14, 15 at the opposite sides of the garment. By the same means the garment is also rendered adjustable or expansible circumferentially to meet the individual requirements of the wearer, assuring a better fitting and more comfortable article of underwear.

Referring again to Figs. 1–4, said supporting member 11 may be of any suitable formation but preferably includes an element, herein the elastic tape 16 (see particularly Figs. 3 and 4) supported between an outer strip 17, which may be of knitted silk or other material similar to the fabric of the garment proper, and having its upper and lower edges folded in toward each other as indicated at 18, 19. At the opposite face of the tape 16 is an inner strip 20 of woven or other tape-like material, also preferably having its upper and lower edges folded inwardly. Said strips 17 and 20 are secured to each other and to the garment body by lines of stitching 21, 22 respectively above and below the elastic tape 16. If desired a similar construction may be employed at the lower edges of the leg portions for the elastic elements 7, 8 previously mentioned.

It will be understood that within the scope of my invention the garment need not be provided with elastically confined lower edges for the leg portions, since in the leg coverings may terminate in unconfined straight or outwardly flaring bottom portions, for example, in the manner illustrated at 25 in Fig. 5.

An undergarment constructed in accordance with my invention is much freer and less apt to pull, bind, or bunch at a given point, since the front and back portions are separated or spaced, thus enabling them to move relatively to each other in conformity with the movement of the wearer. Said front and rear sections are preferably detached from each other from a point adjacent the waist well down toward the knee, desirably over the major portion of their length between the waist and knee, and are united at or near the waist only and preferably elastically or yieldingly, at least in the bloomer type of garment. This feature is of especial advantage when the garment is worn beneath a corset, girdle, or other relatively tight garment, since the open side areas preferably extend for enough down toward the knees as to come below the lower edge of the corset or the like, thus affording lateral freedom at the lower portion of the garment although the waist or upper portion thereof may be confined. In this manner one of the main objections in the completely enclosed bloomer is obviated.

From the foregoing it will be apparent that my invention may be variously embodied and comprehends the provision of open areas such as longitudinal vents herein shown at the opposite sides of the garment which may be of any desired type, either terminating at the waist line, or having combined with the lower portion an upper portion above the waist line and in the nature of a chemise or the like, in any instance the lower portion terminating in either elastically confined or free leg members.

My invention is not limited to the illustrative embodiments thereof shown and described herein.

I claim—

A woman's garment of bloomer type having a body portion including a front section, a rear section, tubular leg portions extending downwardly, said front and rear sections being detached and spaced from each other at the opposite sides of the garment for a substantial distance between the waist and the knee and constructed and arranged to provide a vertically elongated open area of circumferential extent at each side of the garment adjacent the hips of the wearer, and elastic means extending across said open areas and permanently uniting the laterally spaced front and rear garment sections.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification.

HORACE ALBERT CARTER.