June 28, 1927. 1,633,972

A. T. BERRY

UNION UNDERGARMENT

Filed Jan. 5, 1926

Fig. 1.

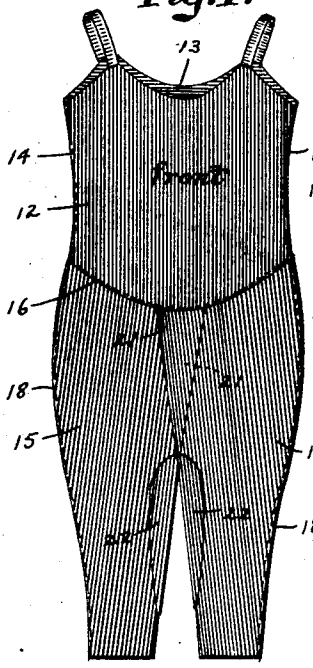


Fig. 2.

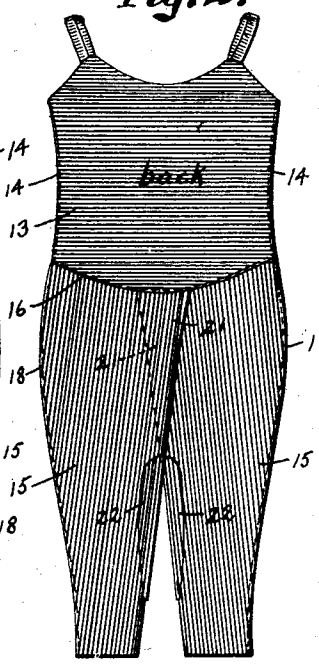


Fig. 5.

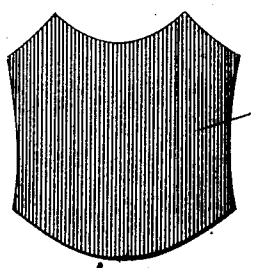


Fig. 6.

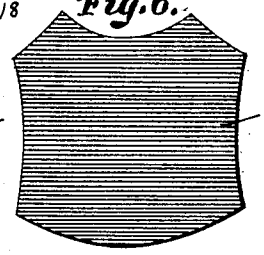


Fig. 4.

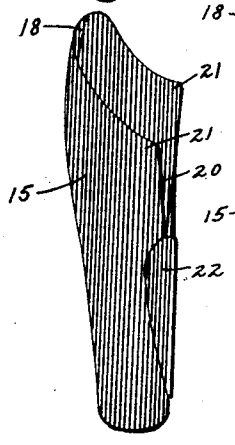


Fig. 3.

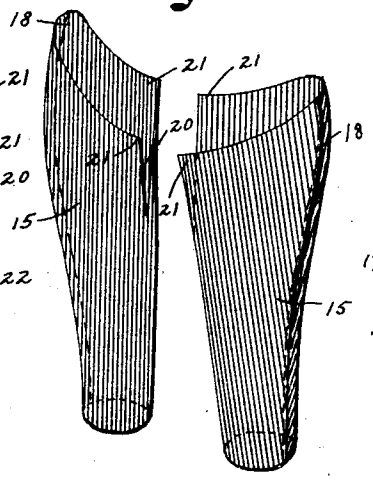
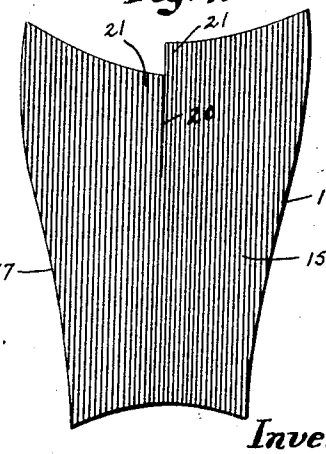


Fig. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALTHEA T. BERRY, OF WOLFEBORO, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

UNION UNDERGARMENT.

Application filed January 5, 1926. Serial No. 79,445.

This invention relates to a union undergarment composed of sections of fabric united by seams to form an upper body or waist portion and combined lower body and leg portions.

One object of the invention is to improve the construction of the leg portions in such manner that their inner sides, which are subjected to the greatest wear, have a maximum resistance to wear and are free from liability to creep lengthwise on the legs of the wearer.

Another object is to improve the construction of the upper body or waist portion in such manner that the back thereof has greater freedom to expand and contract vertically than the front, so that the upper body or waist portion is adapted to conform to bending and other movements of the portion of the wearer's body above the waist, without being displaced thereby, and is at the same time adapted to yieldingly conform to said body portion, without objectionable looseness.

I attain these and other related objects by the improvements hereinafter described and claimed.

Of the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification,—

Figure 1 is a front view of a union undergarment embodying the invention, showing the garment flattened.

Figure 2 is a rear view of the same.

Figure 3 shows in perspective and separately the combined lower body and leg sections shown by the preceding figures, the sections being opened and the reinforcing means omitted.

Figure 4 shows in perspective one of the combined sections provided with reinforcing means.

Figures 5 and 6 show, respectively, the pieces of which the front and back upper body sections are made.

Figure 7 shows one of the pieces of which the combined lower body and leg sections are made.

The same reference characters indicate the same parts in all of the figures.

The upper body or waist portion of my improved garment is composed of a front section 12, and a back section 13, said sections being united to each other by longitudinal side seams 14.

The combined lower body and leg sections 15, 15 are united at their upper ends to the upper body sections by a circumferential seam 16 at the waist line.

The upper body sections 12 and 13 are preferably made of knitted fabric for reasons hereinafter appearing. It is also preferable, for various reasons, to make the combined lower body and leg sections of the same fabric, although any other suitable fabric may be employed for these sections.

Each combined lower body and leg section is composed of a single piece of fabric, the preferred form of which is shown by Figure 7. Said piece has curved longitudinal edges 17, united to each other by a curved longitudinal seam 18, to form one side of a lower body portion and a leg tube, the seam being only at the outer side of the combined section, so that the lower body portions are closed at opposite sides of the garment and the leg tubes are straight and seamless at their inner sides. The inner side of each leg, therefore, presents a seamless surface having a maximum resistance to wear due to chafing against the other leg portion, there being no seam at the inner side including thread liable to be worn away by such chafing. Moreover, the straight and seamless inner side is free from liability to creep lengthwise on the wearer's leg.

Each section 15 is provided with a vent slit 20, extending downward from its upper end on the longitudinal line of the section, and terminating above the midlength thereof. Said slit forms free edges of two flaps 21, adapted to overlap like flaps on the other section 15, as shown by Figures 1 and 2. The portion of the section 15 may be provided with reinforcing means at the closed end of the slit, said means being preferably embodied in a fabric patch 22, stitched to the seamless side of the leg portion and preferably extending from the slit 20 to the lower end portion of the leg.

As above stated, a knitted fabric is the preferred material of the combined lower body and leg sections, this being the fabric commonly used in the manufacture of this class of underwear. It is well known that knitted fabric is relatively inelastic lengthwise of its wales, which are indicated by parallel lines in the drawing, and has a considerable degree of elasticity or freedom to expand and contract crosswise of the wales. When the sections 15 are made of knitted fabric, the wales extend substantially parallel with the longitudinal median line of each

section, and are non-parallel with the curved edges 17, as indicated by Figure 7. The wales at the inner side of the leg portion, therefore, extend straight up and down, so that the inner side has a desirable smoothness and resistance to wear, and is not liable to creep lengthwise.

The upper body sections 12 and 13, of knitted fabric, are characterized as follows: The wales of the back section 13 extend horizontally, as indicated by Figures 2 and 6, so that this section is adapted to expand and contract vertically. The reason for this is, that when the wearer reaches, bends, or stoops, the back section is adapted to conform freely to these movements, so that the garment will not draw up at the shoulders, at the front, and down at the back of the neck. In other words, I find that this arrangement of the wales in the back section allows all desirable freedom of movement of the wearer's body above the waist, without displacement of the upper body portion of the garment, either at the front or back. The wales of the front section 12 extend vertically, as shown by Figures 1 and 5, so that this section is adapted to expand and contract horizontally and yieldingly conform the sections 12 and 13 to the wearer's body above the waist.

The described improvements may be embodied in a garment for men, or for women, made either high or low necked, sleeved or sleeveless, with legs either of ankle length, or knee length, and in knee length having either a tight or a loose knee.

The drawings show a garment which is sleeveless, and of knee length with a tight knee.

I claim:

1. A union undergarment comprising a waist portion and two combined lower body and leg portions, the waist portion including front and back sections united by longitudinal side seams, and being of knitted fabric which is relatively inelastic lengthwise of its wales, and elastic crosswise thereof, the wales of the back section extending horizontally throughout the area thereof so that said section is adapted to expand and contract vertically and conform to various movements of the portion of the wearer's body above the waist, while the wales throughout the area of the front section extend vertically, so that said section is adapted to expand and contract horizontally, the combined lower body and leg portions being united to the waist portion by a circumferential seam at the waist line of the garment and each combined lower body and leg portion being slitted downward from its upper end along the longitudinal median line thereof to form two vent slits extending from the waist line of the garment to the leg portions thereof.

2. A union undergarment comprising a waist portion, two combined lower body and leg portions united to the upper body portion by a circumferential seam at the waist line of the garment and each being seamless along the inside of the legs of the garment and having a single longitudinally curved seam extending along the outside of each leg, each combined lower body and leg portion being slitted downward from its upper end along the longitudinal median line thereof to form two vent slits extending from the waist line of the garment to the leg portions thereof, and reinforcements extending downward along the inner, seamless, side of each leg portion from the lower ends of said slits.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

ALTHEA T. BERRY.