This invention relates to wearing apparel for men and more particularly to men's undergarments of the legless variety.

In playing golf and in other recreational activities in warm weather many men prefer that their undergarments be as scanty as possible and for this reason many wear so-called "athletics" which have no legs but merely cover the torso from the waist down to the groin line. These "athletics" are made according to size so that they snugly fit the body between the legs and give considerable support to the male genital organs during athletic activities. Other men, from preference or necessity, require greater support and wear a form of suspensory which covers only the front of the abdomen and the genital organs, and includes, like the "athletics," a waist band but merely has straps for holding the covering and support in proper position on the wearer. The waist band of the suspensory may be narrow, or wide, in which latter case the waist band gives support to the abdomen of the wearer.

With each of these garments the inner surfaces of the thighs of the wearer are not covered so that with many men, particularly stout men, considerable discomfort is caused by the chafing of these inner surfaces of the thighs when walking or running. Perspiration on these surfaces aggravates the condition which many times actually becomes painful.

To avoid and prevent this chafing of the wearer's thighs, the present invention suspends from the torso engaging portion of the garment a pair of shields, one on each side of the crotch, and extends these shields down the adjacent surfaces of the thighs so that they may not touch each other. These shields are made of panels of soft, flexible, smooth, absorbent material, such as rayon, silk or cotton jersey, and are so positioned that they engage each other while the wearer walks and freely slide over each other but do not slide over the skin of the wearer.

To insure that the panels lie smoothly against the skin, regardless of variations of the thicknesses of thighs of different individuals of the same size for whom the garment is designed, the panels do not completely encircle the leg but are fitted with elastic means encircling legs so that they lie snugly and smoothly against the inside surfaces of the leg. In fact, for coolness and comfort, it is preferable that the panels cover only the portions of the skin which might otherwise rub against each other as the wearer walks.

The elastic means for holding each non-chafing panel in position includes a leg-encircling strap at least part of which is elastic and the ends of which strap are joined to the lower edges of the panel. At least part of the upper edges of the panels are joined to the covering and supporting portion of the garment at the crotch. The elastic means for holding the upper edges of the panels in place vary slightly according to whether the garment is of the athletic short type or the suspensory type. In the former type, the elastic means for each panel includes a strap at least part of which is elastic which is attached to the upper edges of the panel and follows the groin line as does the lower end of the torso covering part of the garment and extends over and encircles the hips being held in that position by an elastic strip depending from the waist band. In this way, the upper edge of the panel is caused to lie at the crease of the flesh between the leg and the abdomen regardless of the slippiness of the garment.

In the suspensory type garment, the elastic means for holding the upper end of each panel in position includes an elastic strap fastened to the upper front edge of the panel and extending along the groin line and over the hip and rearwardly where it is attached to the elastic strap that reaches from the crotch to the waist band passing just under the buttocks of the wearer. When the suspensory garment has a wide waist band, the lower edge of which is located virtually at the groin line, the front upper edge of the panels are attached directly to the lower edge of the waist band while the rear upper edges are attached to the elastic band which extends from the crotch to the waist, passing just under the buttocks.

In either type garment the panels may be formed of one piece of material extending through the crotch from one leg to the other, and this is particularly advantageous in connection with the wide waist band suspensory, for here the smooth material of which the panels are made, forms a comfortable lining for the pouch of the garment.

It is an important feature of this invention that the chafe-preventing panel forms a unitary part of the garment which supports and covers the genital organs of the wearer, for experience has shown that even though a man wear an athletic supporter or suspensory with an additional garment having legs, chafing is not overcome because such additional garments do not snugly
fit and cover the adjacent surfaces of the legs but frequently bunch up, fold over and add to the discomfort by themselves rubbing against the surfaces of the legs.

Other features and advantages will hereinafter appear.

In the accompanying drawings which illustrate several embodiments of the invention:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the garment of the present invention from the front, the garment being of the athletic shorts type;

Fig. 2 is a similar view of another form of garment of the present invention wherein the garment is of the athletic suspender type;

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2 of an athletic suspender type of garment having a wide waist band;

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the garment shown in Fig. 3 with the panels spread out to show the manner in which they are attached to the other parts of the garment; and

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 4 but showing the garment shown in Fig. 3.

As shown in Fig. 1, the present invention is incorporated in a garment which is commonly called athletic shorts. It has a body covering section or portion 11 and including side panels 12 and a central panel 13 which extends from the waist band down over and around to and beyond the crotch where it is fastened to a rear portion 14. The lower edges of the panels 12, 13 and 14 terminate at a hem 15 and the parts are cut and fastened so that the hem line 15 virtually lies at the groin line of the wearer so that no part of the panels 12, 13 or 14 covers or protects the legs.

A fly 16 is provided in the front panel 13.

This form of garment is preferred by many wearers since it gives complete freedom of movement of the legs and since the panel 13 passing over and through the crotch gives considerable support to the genital organs in walking or running.

According to the present invention, there are: depending from the hem 15 of the garment 10 a pair of panels 17, one for each leg. In the form of the invention shown in Fig. 1, the upper edges of these panels are attached to the main portion of the garment by lines of stitching 18, so that they form upward extensions of the main portion of the garment. These panels are made sufficiently long and sufficiently wide and are positioned between the legs of the wearer so that the adjacent surfaces of the thighs of the wearer, which otherwise might rub against each other in walking or running, are kept from contacting each other. The panels 17 are made of soft, flexible, smooth and absorbent material, such as rayon or cotton jersey and by means referred to below are drawn to snugly cling to the skin of the thighs against movement relative thereto. Thus, when the legs are moved any rubbing which occurs between the surfaces of the panels rather than between the surfaces of the legs. Any perspiration absorbed by the panels only tends to make the panels cling more tenaciously to the legs of the wearer.

To hold the panels firmly in position on the legs, the lower edges of the panels are attached to leg-encircling bands 20, respectively. Each leg-encircling band or strap may be made of elastic material, or at least a part of it should be made of elastic material so as to snugly fit around the thigh of the wearer and draw the panel tautly against the inside surfaces of the thighs.

In the garment shown in Fig. 1, to insure that the panels lie firmly and smoothly against the skin of the wearer, notwithstanding any tightness or looseness of the main portion of the garment, the upper edges 21 of the panels are attached to an elastic band 22 which encircles the legs and which is held substantially at the drawing line by being fastened from the waist band by elastic loops which are secured to the panel at or just to the rear of the crotch and extend around the leg and up to the waist band passing just under the buttocks.

In this form of device, the upper edges 26 of the panels 27 are secured to the waist band 28, forming a pouch for the genital organs and anchoring straps 29 which are secured to the central panel at or just to the rear of the crotch and extend around the leg and up to the waist band passing just under the buttocks.

In the form of device, the upper edges 26 of the panels 27 are secured to the waist band 28, forming a pouch for the genital organs and anchoring straps 29 which are secured to the central panel at or just to the rear of the crotch and extend around the leg and up to the waist band passing just under the buttocks.

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In the form of device, the upper edges 26 of the panels 27 are secured to the waist band 28, forming a pouch for the genital organs and anchoring straps 29 which are secured to the central panel at or just to the rear of the crotch and extend around the leg and up to the waist band passing just under the buttocks.
the crotch to the other leg and need not be separate panels. This arrangement is particularly advantageous in connection with the wide belt type of athletic suspenders shown in Fig. 3 and depicted in Fig. 4 where the panels 34 are joined by an integral mid-section 39 extending over the pouch forming front panel 35 and acting as a soft liner for the same.

As shown in Fig. 4, in order to give fullness to the panels where needed so that the panels will form-fit the leg, the panels may be provided with pleats or tucks 40.

It will be seen by a comparison of the three forms of the invention illustrated and described that in each the upper edges of the panels are fastened to a section of the garment which covers and supports the genital organs, that in each the upper edges of the panels are pulled upwardly and against the body by elastic means, and that in each the lower edges of the panels are held down tightly against the surfaces of the thighs by elastic means encircling the legs, and that when the garment is put on not only is adequate support given where desired but chafing of the adjacent surfaces of the thighs is avoided.

It will be understood that the athletic shorts and suspenders of the present invention are handled when meeting personal needs in the same manner as conventional garments of the same type, the anti-chafing panels in no way interfering with or complicating such operations.

Variations and modifications may be made within the scope of the claims and portions of the improvements may be used without others.

I claim:

1. A man's wearing apparel having a waist encircling band; a front panel joined to and depending from the waist band and extending to at least the crotch to cover the genital organs; chafe-preventing panels joined to opposite side edges of said front panel, depending therefrom, and shaped to form-fit and cover substantially no more than the inside surfaces of the thighs of the wearer which otherwise might rub directly against each other in walking, said chafe-preventing panels being made of soft, flexible, smooth, absorbent material; a leg-encircling elastic band connected to and extending between the lower front and rear edges of each chafe-preventing panel and adapted to encircle the leg of the wearer to resiliently anchor and hold down the lower edge of the panel to the leg and prevent casual movement of the panel on the leg; elastic means for exerting an upward and laterally outward pull on the panels along the groin lines to maintain the upper edges of the panels approximate the crease of the flesh between the leg and the abdomen, including at least one elastic band attached at its ends to the front and rear upper edges of each panel and following the margin of the corresponding leg hole; and elastic means for connecting said waist band with the uppermost portion of each of the other elastic bands to retain said other elastic bands in upwardly directed position.

HARRY ALLISON GOLDBEIN.

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