March 17, 1942. E. CADOUS 2,276,609

UNIFORM

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Fig. 1

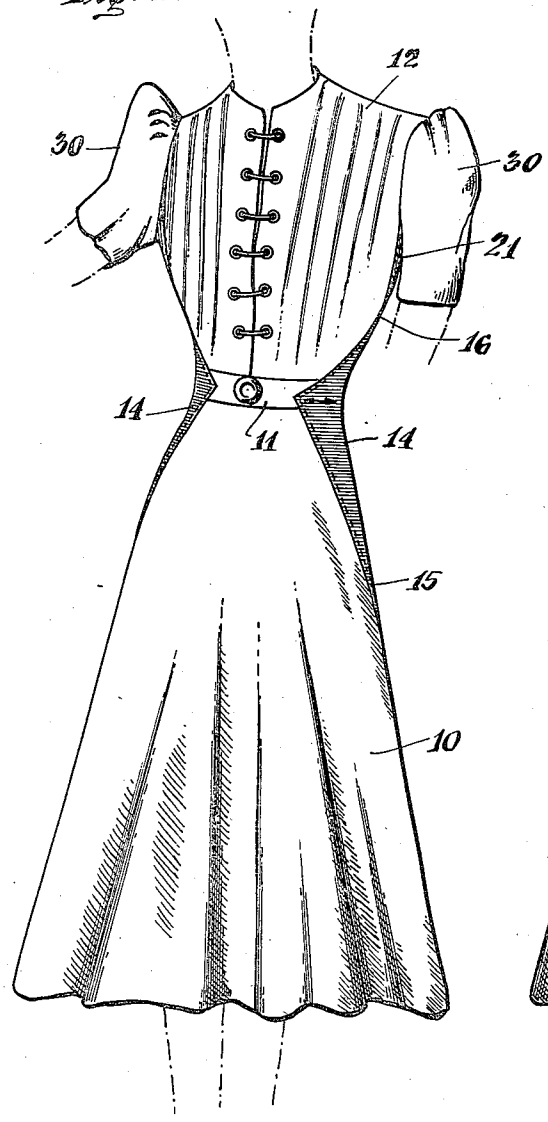
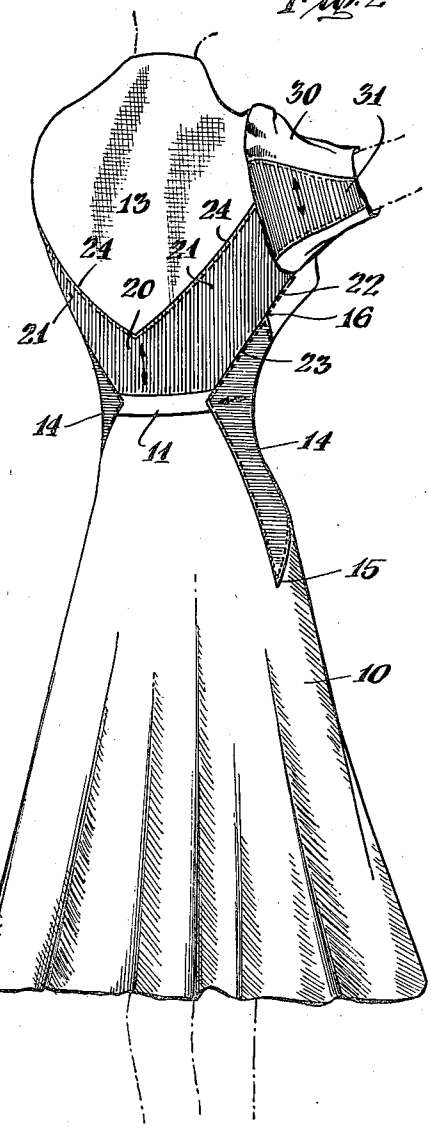


Fig. 2



INVENTOR
Esther Cadous
BY
ATTORNEY

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Esther Cadous, Brooklyn, N. Y.

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3 Claims. (Cl. 2—74)

This invention relates to outer garments for women and more particularly to a form-fitting garment such as a uniform, play suit or the like.

An object of the invention is to provide a garment of the above type which is neat and pleasing in appearance and which provides freedom of movement for the wearer.

Another object is to provide a garment of the above type which is adapted to conform to movements of the body, as required in a play suit, nurse's uniform or the like.

Various other objects and advantages will be apparent as the nature of the invention is more fully disclosed.

Although the novel features which are believed to be characteristic of this invention are pointed out more particularly in the claims appended hereto, the invention itself may be better understood by referring to the following description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which a specific embodiment thereof has been set forth for purposes of illustration.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of a garment embodying the present invention; and

Fig. 2 is a rear elevation thereof.

In the following description and in the claims certain specific terms are used for convenience in referring to various details of the invention. These terms, however, are to be given as broad an interpretation as the state of the art will permit.

In accordance with the present invention the garment is provided with a pair of side elastic panels made of one-way stretch material arranged to stretch horizontally and extending in tapered width from the waist downwardly to the hipline and upwardly toward the armholes of the garment. The arrangement of this elastic panel is such as to allow the garment to stretch sufficiently to be pulled on over the hips without the use of fastening means. The panel is designed, however, so that the amount of stretch provided at each portion thereof corresponds approximately to the stretch required for that purpose. For example, the elastic panel is widest at the waist, where the greatest amount of stretch is required and tapers upwardly and downwardly where the garment is larger and, accordingly, requires less stretch when pulled on over the hips.

In addition to the above mentioned side elastic panels, I also provide elastic panels at the back and in the sleeves, which are also made of one-way stretch material, but are arranged to stretch vertically so as to accommodate the usual bending movement of the body and to permit the arms to be raised without unduly straining the material. The back elastic panel extends from the waist upwardly towards the armholes and is provided with a V-shaped top edge, which is, in general, parallel to the lower edge of the panel so that the panel is of approximately uniform width throughout. At the armholes the back panel is joined to the sleeve panels in the manner to be described.

Referring to the drawing more in detail, the invention is shown as embodied in a nurse's uniform comprising a skirt 10, a belt 11, a front waist panel 12 and a back waist panel 13, all of which are of the usual form and shape for a garment of this type. The skirt 10 may be split to form legs as in a play suit, beach pajamas or the like and the term "skirt" is to be interpreted accordingly.

In accordance with the present invention, a pair of elastic side panels 14 are provided at each side of the garment. The panels 14 from the belt upwardly and downwardly, being widest at the belt and tapering downwardly to a point 15 at about the hipline and upwardly to a point 16 between the belt and the armholes. The width of the panels 14 corresponds in general to the amount of stretch required at the various portions of the garment. The elastic panels 14 may be made of any light, elastic fabric having a high ratio of stretch and strength to weight and are preferably made of a fabric similar in appearance to the remainder of the garment.

A back elastic panel 20 extends from the belt 11 at the back to the back waist panel 13. The panel 20 may be made of material similar to the panels 14, but is arranged to stretch vertically. The panel 20 is provided with a pair of wings 21 which extend upwardly at the two sides and terminate at the armholes. The lower edge 22 of the panel 20 is attached to the edge 23 of the panel 14. The upper edge 24 of the panel 20 is V-shaped and, in general, parallel to the lower edge 22 so that the wings 21 are of substantially uniform width. In this way a substantially uniform amount of stretch is provided across the entire back, thus equalizing the strain on the garment and allowing the same to accommodate itself to various body movements.

A pair of sleeves 30 are provided which are of the usual form and are attached to the panels 12 and 13 at the armholes in the usual manner. An elastic panel 31 is incorporated at the rear underportion of each sleeve 30 so that it is substantially at the back of the sleeve when the arm is

in raised position, as shown in Fig. 2, but is beneath the sleeve when the arm is lowered, as shown in Fig. 1. The panels **31** are made of elastic material similar to the panels **14** and are arranged to stretch vertically when the arm is raised, as shown in Fig. 2. The panels **31** may be attached to the edges of the wings **21** of the panel **20** at the armhole and may extend along the entire length of the short sleeve **30**, tapering toward the end of the sleeve so as to provide the greatest amount of stretch at the shoulder where the pull is the greatest.

It will be noted that in the above described garment the panel **31** in the sleeve forms a continuation of the wing **21** of the panel **20** when the arm is in raised position. Consequently, any pull on the shoulder of the garment is transmitted to a continuous elastic section extending from the shoulders to the waist. This permits the garment to stretch a substantial amount so as to accommodate the same to the various body movements of the wearer. It also reduces the strain on the garment and materially increases the life thereof.

The panel **21**, being joined to the panel **14**, provides a continuous stretchable section from the back around to the front at the hipline and permits the garment at this point to stretch in both directions so as to accommodate itself to the wearer and at the same time to take up any strain which may be imposed thereon due to body movement.

By reason of the above construction, the garment is made form-fitting without being uncomfortable to wear and without restricting the usual body movement. The garment is accordingly adapted to use where strenuous body movement is encountered, such as in play suits, or in nurse's uniforms or the like. It will be noted that the amount of elastic fabric is reduced to a minimum due to the efficient utilization thereof. This reduces the cost of the garment inasmuch as elastic fabric is usually considerably more expensive than the cloth fabric of which the remainder of the garment is made. The elastic fabric is only utilized at the point of greatest strain and is proportioned in accordance with the amount of stretch which may be required at the various parts.

While a specific embodiment of the invention has been shown for purposes of illustration, it is to be understood that various changes and modifications may be made therein as will readily appear to a person skilled in the art. The invention is only to be limited in accordance with the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An outer garment for women comprising a connected skirt portion and front and back waist portions extending over the shoulders, an elastic panel disposed at each side of said garment and extending from the waist line downwardly to the hipline of the garment and upwardly toward the armhole of the garment, said elastic panels being made of light, one-way stretch elastic fabric and being arranged to stretch horizontally, said panels being tapered from the belt upwardly and downwardly in accordance with the amount of stretch required at the various portions of the garment in order to permit the same to be pulled on over the hips, a back panel of one-way stretch elastic fabric arranged to stretch vertically, said back panel extending from the belt entirely across the back and having wings extending upwardly to the armholes to the garment, the lower edge of said wings being attached to said side panels to provide a continuous stretchable portion from the hips to the armholes suited to afford freedom of movement of the shoulders while retaining the garment in form-fitting condition.

2. An outer garment for women comprising a connected skirt portion and front and back waist portions extending over the shoulders, an elastic panel disposed at each side of said garment and extending from the waist line downwardly to the hipline of the garment and upwardly toward the armhole of the garment, said elastic panels being made of light, one-way stretch elastic fabric and being arranged to stretch horizontally, said panels being tapered from the belt upwardly and downwardly in accordance with the amount of stretch required at the various portions of the garment in order to permit the same to be pulled on over the hips, a back panel of one-way stretch elastic fabric arranged to stretch vertically, said back panel extending from the belt entirely across the back and having wings extending upwardly to the armholes of the garment, the lower edge of said back panel being attached to said side panels and the upper edge being substantially V-shaped whereby the back panel is of substantially the same width throughout, sleeves secured to the front and back waist portions at said armholes, and an elastic panel in each of said sleeves, said last elastic panels being made of one-way stretch material arranged to stretch vertically when the arm is extended outwardly and being positioned at the lower rear portion of the sleeve when the arm is thus extended, said last panels being attached to the back elastic panel at said armholes whereby a continuous vertical stretch is provided between the shoulder and the belt to permit the garment to accommodate itself to various body positions and whereby both vertical and horizontal stretch are provided at the side of the belt section adapted to eliminate strain as the body is flexed and to produce a form-fitting garment.

3. A garment comprising connected front and back waist portions extending over the shoulders and body conforming restraining portions at the waist line, a back panel of one-way stretch elastic fabric arranged to stretch vertically, said back panel extending from the belt entirely across the back and having wings extending upwardly to the armholes of the garment, the upper edge of said back panel being substantially V-shaped whereby the back panel is of substantially the same width throughout, sleeves secured to the front and back waist portions at said armholes, and an elastic panel in each of said sleeves, said last elastic panels being made of one-way stretch material arranged to stretch vertically when the arm is extended outwardly and being positioned at the lower rear portion of the sleeve when the arm is thus extended, said last panels being attached to the back elastic panel at said armholes whereby a continuous vertical stretch is provided between the shoulders and the belt to permit the garment to accommodate itself to various body positions.

ESTHER CADOUS.