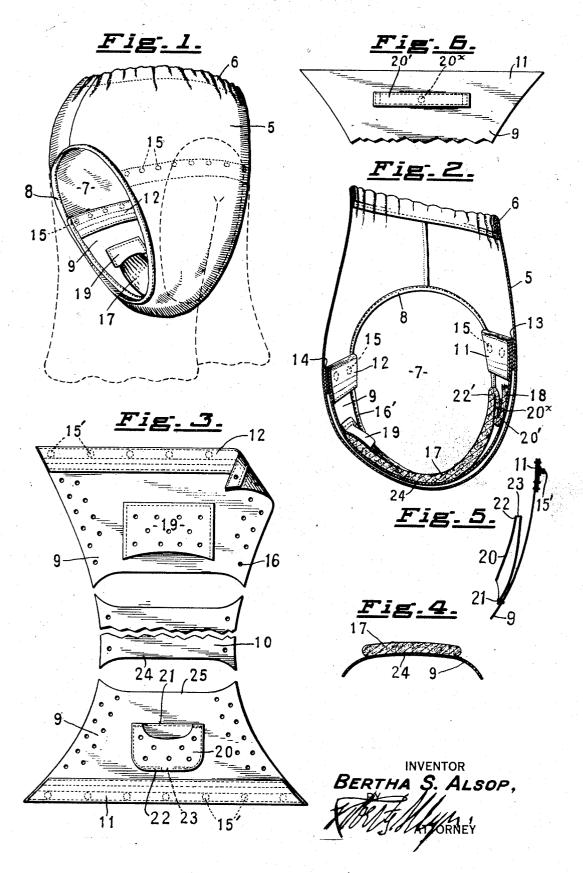
NETHER GARMENT

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## NETHER GARMENT

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4 Claims. (Cl. 128-288)

My invention relates especially to sanitary or hygienic protective means.

One object is to provide a garment which is neat, comfortable and effective.

Another object is to provide a garment which has a considerable range of accommodation as to size.

Another object is to provide a structure which can be readily cleaned.

Another object is to provide a garment that can be worn either with or without a corset.

Another object is to provide a garment which can be worn without protective means.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a garment with 15 the protective means.

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view.

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Fig. 3 is a detail view of the parts of the shield.

Fig. 4 is a transverse sectional view of the 20 shield and pad.

Fig. 5 is a vertical sectional view of one end of one form of shield and pocket.

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary view of one end of another modification of shield.

The body 5 is preferably of soft and elastic material such as knitted silk or rayon which will stretch and accommodate itself to various sizes and shapes.

This body may be snug form-fitting or pro-30 yided with loose draperies, etc.

The waist band 6 is preferably elastic and sufficiently strong to hold the garment up.

The edges of the leg openings 7 may be reinforced and provided with elastic binding 8 if 35 desired.

The shield 9 is of soft rubber or elastic waterproof silk with a narrow central portion 10 and
fan-like broad front and back ends 11 and 12
which are attached to the body of the garment
preferably detachably. The body is preferably
reinforced by tapes 13 and 14 which extend transversely and are provided with snap fastener elements 15 to receive the companion fastener elements 15' of the shield so that the shield can be
readily applied or removed.

The front tape 13 is arranged across the portion which fits over the abdomen so that slight pressure is applied across the entire front to hold the shield smooth and under tension near the upper edges of the leg openings. The rear end 12 is similarly held but lower down so that it will be below the most protuberant rear portion of the body.

The edges of the shield may be provided with

ventilation openings 16 if desired and in some cases reinforcing binding 16' may be used.

The absorbent pad 17 may be of conventional form and have a gauze wrapper or sheath with loose ends 18.

The shield is provided with means for conveniently holding the ends of such a pad, as for instance pockets 19 and 20 located at the most desirable points at the rear and front respectively. The pocket 20 is secured at its lower rear edge 21 to so as to leave the upper end 22 free to be tucked underneath the edge of a corset. An opening 23 may also be provided through which the end of the gauze may be pulled for greater security if desired.

The center 24 of the shield is preferably convex on its upper surface so as to hold the pad 17 more securely in position and allow the edges to droop down as shown in Fig. 4 to prevent chafing, etc.

The shield is preferably so formed that it is longer at the edges than along the center. This may be accomplished by forming the shield of a number of pieces with cut-outs 25 so as to provide greater fullness when the cut-out edges are 25 united.

In place  $\epsilon$  the pocket 20 I may provide a loop or strap 20' and a snap fastener 20 $\times$  to engage and hold the gauze end 18 of the pad. This fastener may be located so as to hold the portion 30 22' in position to be tucked under the corset.

The body of the garment may be of any suitable design either snug fitting with an elastic waist band or in the form of shorts or bloomers with side openings.

The shield being removable the garment may be readily cleaned.

The broad ends of the shield distribute the pressure and hold the garment smooth without chaffing. The edges of the shield tend to roll over so as to fit snugly but without chafing or binding. The pocket 20 holds the pad in place smoothly beneath the corset and protects the corset. The front end of the shield also holds  $_{45}$  the lower edge of the corset in place.

The feature of the shield with a pad-receiving pocket to tuck under the front of a corset may be used with a mere skeleton garment or belt to be worn outside of a corset.

I claim:

1. A garment comprising a body, a shield secured thereto, means for securing the rear end of a pad to the shield and a pocket having its lower edge secured to the upper end of the shield 55

and with its upper edge free to be tucked beneath the lower edge of a corset.

A garment comprising a body, a shield secured thereto, means secured at its lower edge to said shield for holding the end of a pad, said means having an upper edge free to be tucked beneath the lower edge of a corset.

3. A garment comprising a body, a shield carried thereby, means for detachably fastening the rear end of a pad to said shield, a pocket carried by said shield for holding the front end of a pad, said pocket having its lower edge secured to the upper end of the shield and its upper edge free to be tucked beneath the lower edge

of a corset, said pocket also having a passage for the end of a gauze sheath of a pad.

4. A garment comprising a body, a shield secured thereto, a pocket adapted to receive a pad, said pocket having its lower edge secured to the upper end of the shield with its upper edge free, said upper edge of said pocket having an opening therein through which the end of a pad inserted in said pocket may be passed, whereby both the free upper edge of the pocket and the end of 1 the pad may be tucked beneath the lower edge of a corset.

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