Aug. 20, 1929. D. S. WARD 1,725,031

CHILD'S BED OR CRIB GOWN

Filed Dec. 10, 1927

Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

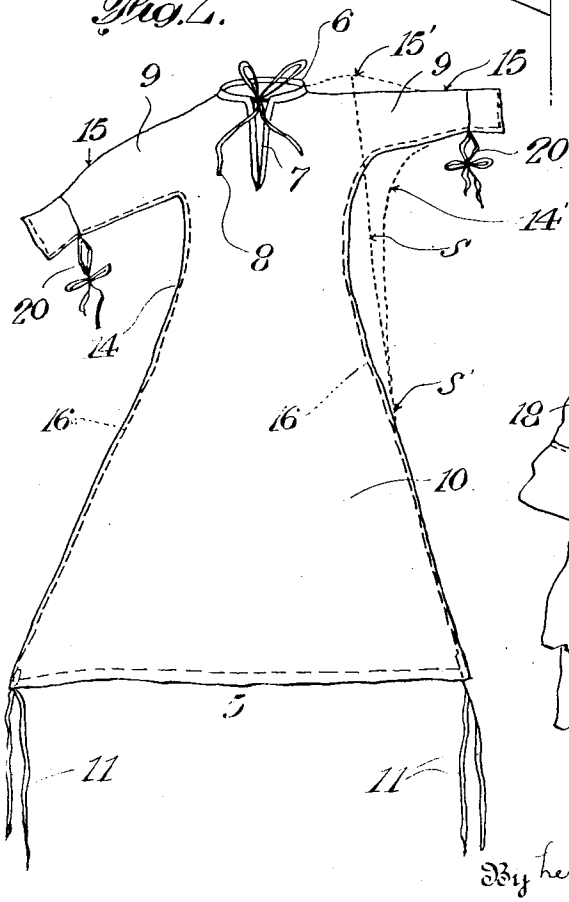


Fig. 3.

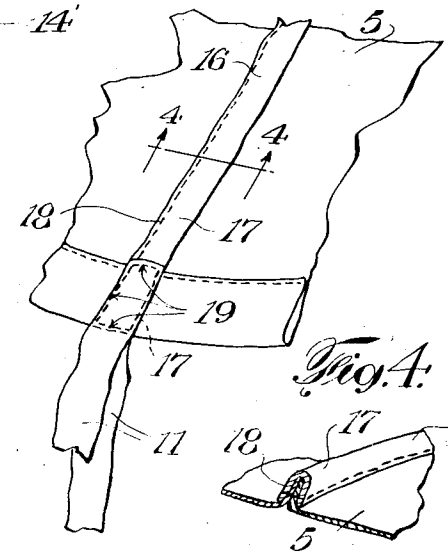


Fig. 4.

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Patented Aug. 20, 1929. 1,725,031

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CHILD'S BED OR CRIB GOWN.

Application filed December 10, 1927. Serial No. 239,042.

This invention relates to night or sleeping garments for children, particularly infants and children somewhat older, say up to two and one-half or three years of age or thereabouts, that is, children of that age whose tossing and other movements while in the bassinet or crib, even after they are tightly and snugly tucked in under blankets or other coverings, result in the throwing off of these coverings or a working up of the child's body toward the head of the bed or otherwise so as to cause the child to suffer unintended and dangerous exposure.

The working up movements of the child's body as just mentioned impose strains on and create stresses in the type of nightdress for such child with which this invention is concerned. This is so, because the nightdress provided by the invention is a sleeping garment somewhat of the long or infant gown type, that is, including a skirt portion of greater than foot-bottom length; this skirt portion having, at or near the bottom of the skirt, tying tapes or the like secured at opposite sides thereof, for being wrapped and tied around fixed side parts of the crib or bed at or near the lower end of such crib or bed. (Such tying tapes per se are known in the art; but have heretofore been proposed for rectangular woolen bags, to anchor such bags to a rigid support.)

These strains and stresses will hereinafter be referred to by describing them as up-pulling ones; since, when the child is clothed in a sleeping garment according to the invention, and such tapes are anchored as above, these strains and stresses are applied as, and result from, pulls along the aforesaid skirt portion of the new sleeping garment, from the bottom portions of the garment (at or near the securement of the tying tapes to the garment) up toward the portions of the garment sleeving the neck and overlying the shoulders of the child.

One of the important objects of the present invention is to provide a tape-equipped gown-like sleeping garment having a shaped in waist portion and a skirt portion rather rapidly downwardly diverging in width, and in which sleeping garment the tying tapes are secured to the garment by a securement to tape-like reinforcements of the garment, in such manner that the tying tapes cannot be torn off by the up-pulling strains aforesaid.

Another object is to provide a garment as just described, wherein the various garment parts are so proportioned and related that the up-pulling strains aforesaid, unrelieved by a tearing loose of the tying tapes because of the very attainment of the advantage last referred to in the last preceding paragraph, will not create stresses at seam-points, and so will not injure the garment by causing rips at seams or tears of the material at points removed from the seams.

Another object is to provide a garment as above described, wherein the various garment parts are also so proportioned and related that the up-pulling strains aforesaid, unrelieved by the tearing loose of the tying tapes or the giving way of some other part or parts of the garment, cannot possibly result in causing the child's neck to be cut or injured by neck-band pressure.

Various other objects and advantages of the invention than those hereinabove mentioned will be specifically pointed out or will be apparent hereinafter in the course of the below detailed description of the form of the invention shown, in the accompanying drawing, as a preferred one of the various possible embodiments of the invention; it being understood, naturally, that such form is merely illustrative of one of the many possible combinations and arrangements of parts well calculated to attain the objects of the invention, and hence said detailed description of such form is not to be taken as at all defining or limiting the invention itself. That is to say, the scope of protection contemplated is of course to be taken from the appended claims, interpreted as broadly as is consistent with the prior art.

In accompanying drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing a child clothed in one form of the new garment and laid in a crib, but with the child not yet covered over with the usual blanket;

Fig. 2 shows said form of garment in front elevation, said functional attributes being indicated in dotted lines;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged perspective view, showing the inside surfaces of a fragment of the garment at the bottom and alongside one of the two side-seams; and

Fig. 4 is likewise a perspective view, but partially in section taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Similar reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the several views of the drawing.

The form of garment illustrated as an at present preferred embodiment of the new garment, is indicated at 5.

This garment includes a neck-band 6; a neck placquet 7; and tie strings 8 for bringing the front ends of the neck band together in front of the child's throat and for drawing closed the placquet 7 over the child's chest; sleeves 9; a skirt portion 10; and tying-tapes 11 at opposite sides of the bottom of the skirt portion. This skirt portion is desirably so long that the child's feet will be a considerable distance above the bottom thereof.

When, as shown in Fig. 1, the child is clothed in this garment, and is laid in the crib 12, and the tying tapes 11 are wrapped and tied around the foot-posts 13, it will be seen that the child can move up or down in the crib, that is, toward the head or foot of the crib, freely for some distance (but only for that distance), and can turn and twist from side to side, and can even sit up in the early morning, all without kicking loose or creeping out of the sleeping garment. Similarly, it will be seen that a blanket or blankets (not shown) placed in the usual way over the child as arranged in Fig. 1 at good-night time, and then tucked in around and under the mattress in the usual way, cannot, as the result of any tossing or restlessness of the child, be kicked off or loose or disarranged in such a way as to leave the child's body unprotected by the blanket covering.

To facilitate the turnings and twists from side to side just referred to, the garment is fairly loose at the waist, as indicated (particularly in Fig. 1); yet, to attain other advantages as will be explained in a moment, the garment is shaped or cut in at the waist, as indicated at 14 in Fig. 2, in sharp contradistinction to the rather unusually great width of the skirt portion bottom. As will be seen in Figure 1 of the drawing the lower end of the skirt portion of the garment is preferably made as wide as a child's crib. This permits the tying tapes 11 to be secured at any position along the sides of the crib if desired, rather than at the bottom.

To attain all the objects of the invention hereinabove specifically referred to, the garment is not only thus cut and shaped, but is also constructed as follows: With the arms 9 preferably not seamed along the lines 15, that is, with the garment material merely folded along said lines, so that the front and back portions of each sleeve are parts of a unitary piece of material, and also with the garment so cut that the whole garment is a single unitary piece of material, the sleeves 9 are kimono sleeves; and there are but two seams, one at each of the opposite sides of the garment, to wit, the two seams marked 16; in addition to such free-edge finishing seams as may be desired, such as those around the neck band 6 and along the edges of the placquet 7, around the outer ends of the sleeves 9, and around the skirt bottom.

The garment is so cut that there is a distinct rounding of these two side seams 16 where the sleeves 9 join the waist portion of the garment. Note that these two seams 16 not only are unintersected by any other seam or seams, but are continuous and uninterrupted from the outer end of a sleeve to the bottom of the skirt portion.

Note, from Figs. 3 and 4 particularly, the manner in which these continuous and uninterrupted seams 16 are constructed. Said seams are along their entire lengths reinforced by a single length of tape, preferably if not essentially bias-cut tape 17. This tape 17 is folded on itself as clearly shown in Fig. 4, to enclose parallel-laid edge portions of the cut parts of the garment material to be joined to make the seams 16; a structure I have found to be ultimately so strong that a single line of stitching, as illustrated at 18 in Figs. 3 and 4, through all the four plies of material at the seam, is ample to attain the objects of the invention.

In connection with what has just been said as to the lines 15 representing fold and not seam lines, it should be explained that the sleeve 9 to the left in Fig. 2 is shown, not as actually laid out during cutting of the garment and the making of the seams 16, but as slightly drooped from its own weight.

By reason of this construction for the seams 16, I have found that the two tying tapes 11 for each side of the garment may be at their upper ends stitched in place, and with the desired security against tearing loose, merely by such stitching as that indicated at 19 in Fig. 3, when the upper portions of the tying tapes for a side of the garment, for about an inch of their length, are laid flat over the seam 16 on that side of the garment, and the stitching 19 is applied so as to go through the two tying tapes as well as all the four plies of the seam.

By reason of this construction, I have also found that no stress transmitted by an up-pulling strain on the tying tapes when made fast to the bed or crib, may cause a seam-rip anywhere or a tearing anywhere of the material at points removed from seams.

The garment being cut in at the waist and otherwise shaped and seamed as illustrated and already described, a child therein, lying in a crib to which the garment has been secured as in Fig. 1, cannot throw either shoulder to a point far enough to the right or to the left (even though the child may freely turn to throw one cheek or the other

on the pillow and may freely change from either of these positions to a supine one), in such manner as to cause a cutting of the child's neck by the neck band. This is a thing even the chance of which no mother or nurse would tolerate in a sleeping garment of any kind. It will be understood that such a chance would be dangerous to the health of the child, as being not only a possible cause of pain, but also of infection or choking. Yet in all previous sleeping garments intended to be anchored at or near the bottom to a bed-part near the foot of the latter, such hazards have been inevitable, because of such very anchoring of the garment to the bed, an end in itself so highly important to protect the child against exposure. I have found by repeated tests that it is utterly impossible for the child, clothed in a garment according to the present invention and tied into bed as shown in Fig. 1, ever to have even the slightest indication of undue pressure at or near the neck or anywhere else on the body, even after a very restless night.

In explanation of this last, examine Fig. 2, and particularly the dotted lines. Assume the child in this garment, and the latter secured at its bottom by the tying tapes 11 as shown in Fig. 1. Assume the up-pulling strain is from the shoulder of the child's body alongside the arm in the sleeve to the right in Fig. 2. These things then occur: The cut-in waist portion shifts from 14 to the dotted line location 14'. The material stretches upwardly until the shoulder-overlying part of the line 15 at the right shifts to the dotted line position 15'. Simultaneously, the up-pulling stress is along the dotted line S, and, according as this stress is of greater or less intensity, a more or less marked line-bunching or rippling of the garment material occurs along side line S. All the up-pulling strain from the child's body is received by the garment at the line 15, in that part of it now located at 15'. The neck band 6 becomes even looser on the neck. There is of course absolutely no pressure from the neck band 6, either on the side of the garment where the line S is set up or on the other side of the garment, or on the front or back thereof. The up-pulling strain is absorbed along substantially a straight line, running through the tying tapes 11, the taped-seam 16 up to the point S' where the line S commences, through said straight line S, and to the upper end of the latter—a substantially straight line passing by several inches beyond the neck band location.

In the new garment, as shown in the form illustrated in the drawing, it is also preferred to have the sleeves 9 of such length that the outer ends thereof just about extend to the finger tips of the child, as indicated in Fig. 1. Thus, the fingers are not bagged, yet ordinarily, and while the child is asleep, even the fingers of the hand are given some covering. It is also preferred to provide the illustrated garment with tie-strings as indicated at 20, so that these may be tied around the hands or wrists, to prevent drafts from blowing up the sleeves 9.

Inasmuch as many changes could be made in the above construction, and many apparently widely different embodiments of the invention could be made without departing from the scope thereof, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawing shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

It is also to be understood that the language contained in the following claim is intended to cover all the generic and specific features of the invention herein described, and all statements of the scope of the invention which, as a matter of language, might be said to fall therebetween.

I claim:

A sleeping garment of the character described having an upper body portion with sleeves and an integral lower skirt portion, said skirt portion extending downwardly for a considerable distance to form an under-and-over blanket covering without folding of the skirt portion when the wearer is in a reclining position, the lower end of said skirt portion being substantially as wide as a bed, the upper body portion and its integral skirt portion being formed from a section of fabric folded to form a pair of like sections, said sections being joined by two continuous and uninterrupted side seams running from the outer ends of the sleeves and along the bottoms of the sleeves and along the waist and skirt portions of the garment down to the skirt bottom at opposite sides, said seams being provided with tape reinforcements, and tapes for securing the lower end of the skirt portion to a bed, said tapes being secured to the lower ends of the seam-reinforcing tapes and projecting freely therefrom.

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