

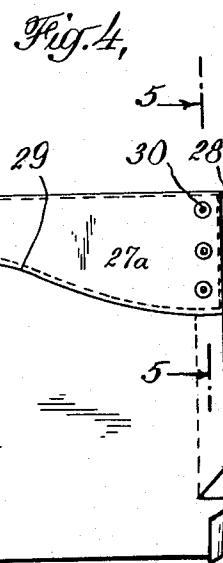
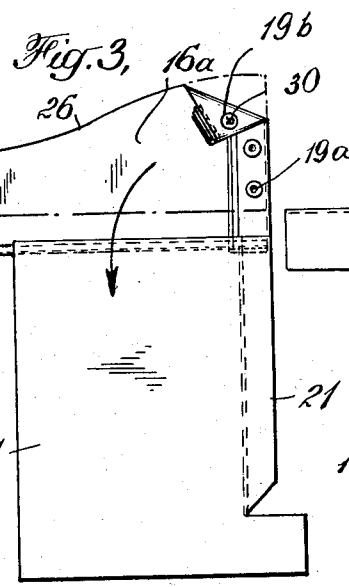
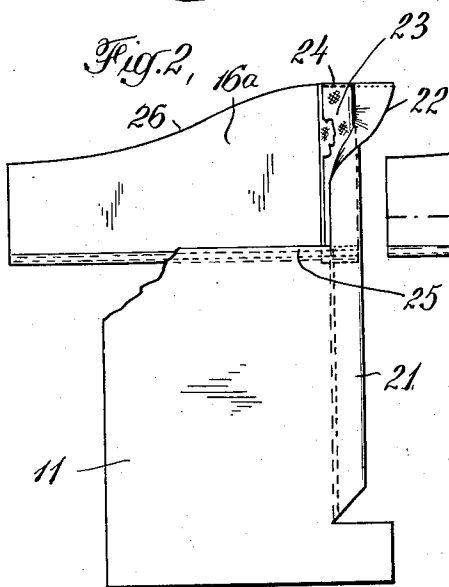
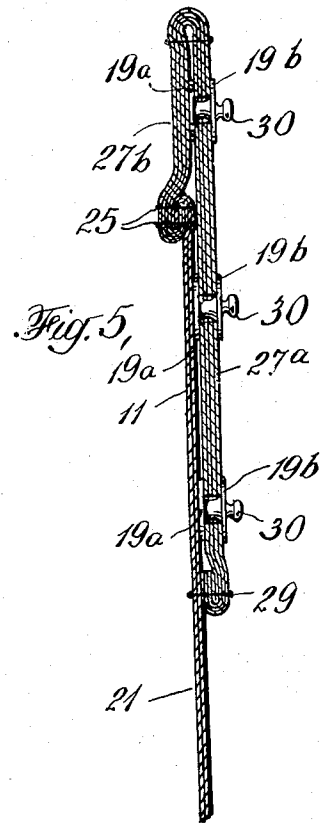
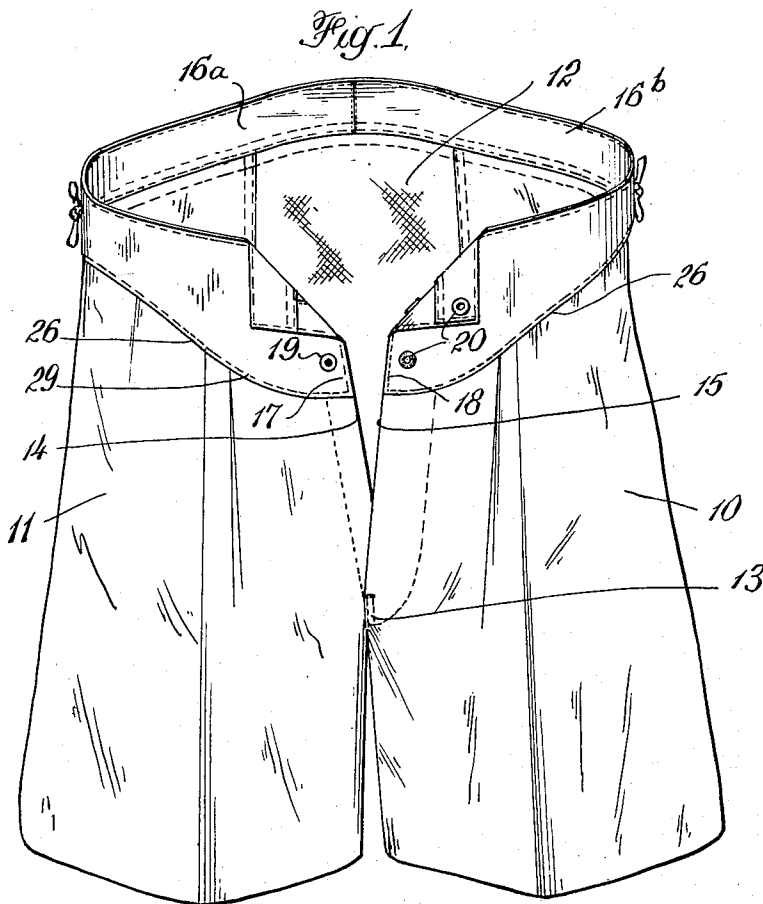
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UNDERGARMENT

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UNDERGARMENT

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4 Claims. (Cl. 2-236)

This invention relates to nether garments having a front opening defined by edges held in overlapping relation when the garment is worn, and is concerned more particularly with a garment of the type referred to in which novel means are provided for securing together the edges of the opening. A garment embodying the invention may take various forms, such as men's shorts, underdrawers, etc., but for purposes of explanation, an adaptation of the invention in the form of shorts will be illustrated and described in detail.

Men's shorts, as now commonly constructed, include leg members and a waist band which is usually wider in the front than at the back. In one form of garment, the leg members are separated at the rear by an inserted panel, while in another type, the leg members are connected together along a rear seam. In these garments, the leg members are shaped to provide overlapping edges at the front, and the ends of the waist band are aligned with the edges of the respective leg members, and with them define the edges of the front opening. In order to close the front opening, it has been customary heretofore to provide buttons and buttonholes on the edges of the opening, but this expedient has not been wholly satisfactory because of the buttons coming off, being broken in laundering, etc.

More recently, the means used for closing the front opening of such garments have been co-operating snap fastener elements, each of these elements consisting of a pair of parts lying against opposite faces of the member on which they are mounted and connected together through the member. Such fastener elements are much more convenient and desirable than buttons but since they are of metal, objections have been raised to the mounting of the members on the garment in such a way that the rear parts of the elements are likely to come in contact with the skin.

The present invention is, accordingly, directed to the provision of a front opening nether garment in which snap fastener elements are employed for closing the opening, these elements being mounted in place, however, in such fashion that no part thereof lies in exposed position on the inside of the garment. In the new garment, the fastener elements which are to be mounted on the underlying edge of the front opening, are attached to the waist band along the end thereof before the band is secured in its final position, and the rear portions of the elements are then concealed by a portion of the band or a portion

of the edge of the leg member. In this way, those portions of the elements which would ordinarily lie exposed on the inner surface of the garment are covered by fabric and kept from contacting with the body of the wearer.

For a better understanding of the invention, reference may be had to the accompanying drawing, in which

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of one type of shorts provided with the new closure means;

Figures 2, 3 and 4 are fragmentary plan views illustrating different stages in the operation of attaching the fastener elements on one edge of the front opening; and

Figure 5 is an enlarged sectional view on the line 5-5 of Figure 4.

Referring to the drawing, the shorts illustrated in Figure 1 comprise leg members 10 and 11 and a seat panel 12, these parts being of conventional construction and secured together in the usual way. At the front of the shorts, the front edges of the leg members are secured together along an inseam and up to the point 13, above which, the members are provided with vertical edges 14, 15 adapted to lie in overlapping relation. At the top of the leg members is a waist band, here illustrated as made up of two sections 16a, 16b, secured together at the back, and the waist band has end edges 17, 18 which lie in alignment with the edges 14 and 15, respectively. The front opening of the garment, defined by the edges 14, 17 and 15, 18, may be closed by a plurality of co-operating snap fastener elements 19, 20, secured to the garment along the edges referred to.

In the manufacture of the new garment, the several parts thereof are cut from a suitable fabric and then stitched together in a series of operations, in accordance with standard practice. In the completed garment, the waist band is connected to the top edge of the leg members, extends upwardly therefrom to a line of folding and then downward to overlie the front surface of the leg members. Accordingly, before attachment of the waist band, the vertical edges of the leg sections at the opening are first hemmed as indicated at 21, and the end edge 22 of a waist band section, such as 16a, is folded back upon itself. A reinforcing strip 23, which may be a double layer of suitable fabric, is then inserted within the fold at the end of the waist band section, and the reinforcement and infolded portion of the waist band section are held in place by stitching 24. The section is then secured to the upper edge of the leg member by stitching 25, the section having its reverse side outermost while thus being

stitched in place. After these operations have been completed, the snap fastener elements are mounted on the hemmed vertical edge of the section 16a. The elements 19, which are mounted on the underlying edge of the front opening, are of the stud type, and each such element includes a rear part 19a which is placed against the front surface of the hemmed edge of section 16a, as shown in Figure 3, and a front part 19b placed against the bottom surface of the hemmed edge. One of the parts 19a, 19b is provided with means which may penetrate the fabric between the parts and be interlocked with the other part, and the parts are attached to opposite faces of the edge of section 16a by the usual operations.

After the fastener elements have thus been secured to section 16a, the latter is folded upon itself, as indicated at the arrow (Fig. 3), so that the curved edge 26 thereof overlies the front of the leg member. With the parts in this condition, the downward fold 27a of the section 16a is secured to the upward fold 27b and to the hem 21 of the leg member 11 by a line of stitching 28, and the curved edge of the section 16a is secured to the leg member by stitching 29. When these operations have been completed, the parts 19b of the fastener elements, which are provided with studs 30, lie exposed on the front surface of the waist band section, but the parts 19a are concealed by the fold 27b of the waist band section and by the hem 21 of the leg member. The parts 19a are thus kept from contact with the skin of the wearer. In attaching the section 16b of the waist band to the leg member 10, similar operations are carried on, except that the fastener elements 20 mounted on section 16b are of the socket type and both parts of these elements may be exposed. Accordingly, the elements 20 are not mounted on the waist band until the latter has been folded and secured in final position on the leg member 10.

With the arrangement described, the snap fastener elements are securely held in place and are not likely to tear loose, since the front and rear portions thereof are connected through a plurality of layers of fabric. In garments made of most fabrics, it is desirable to provide reinforcements for those parts of the garment to which the fastener elements are attached, and this can easily be done by the insertion of the reinforcing strips in the folds at the ends of the waist band sections before the sections are attached to the leg members. In some cases, however, the fabric of which the garment is made may be sufficiently strong and of close enough weave to avoid the necessity of using the reinforcing means. In all instances, the rear parts of the fastener elements attached to the underlying edge of the front opening are concealed and kept from contact with the body of the wearer, and because of the attachment of the elements by the method described, the desired result is obtained at no additional cost except for the reinforcing strips, when they are used. Since such strips are wholly concealed, they may be made of waste material and their cost is, therefore, negligible.

I claim:

1. A nether garment having a front opening which comprises leg members having vertical edges partly defining said opening and adapted to overlap, a waist band secured to the top of the leg members and folded to overlie the faces of the members at the front of the garment and secured

thereto below the top, the end edges of the waist band being aligned with the vertical edges of the respective leg members and partly defining said front opening, and cooperating fastener elements mounted on the ends of the waist band to close said front opening, each element on the underlying end consisting of parts lying, respectively, against the inner and outer faces of the overlying portion of the waist band and connected through said band, the parts lying against the inner face of the band being concealed by the portion of the garment upon which the waist band is folded.

2. A nether garment having a front opening which comprises leg members having vertical edges partly defining said opening and adapted to overlap, a waist band secured to the top of the leg members and folded to overlie the faces of the members at the front of the garment and secured to said members below the top thereof, the band having end edges with hems aligned with the vertical edges of the respective leg members and partly defining the front opening, and cooperating fastener elements on said waist band hems for securing said hems together in overlapping relation, each element on the underlying hem consisting of a pair of parts lying respectively against the inner and outer faces of said hem and connected together through the hem, the parts lying against the inner face of the hem being concealed by the portion of the garment upon which the waist band is folded.

3. A nether garment having a front opening which comprises leg members having vertical edges partly defining said opening and adapted to overlap, a waist band secured to the top of the leg members and folded to overlie the faces of the members at the front of the garment and secured to the leg members below the top thereof, the band having end edges with hems aligned with the vertical edges of the respective leg members and partly defining the front opening, a reinforcement within the hem of the underlying end of the waist band, and cooperating fastener elements on the hems for securing said hems together in overlapping relation, each element on the underlying hem consisting of a pair of parts lying, respectively, against the inner and outer faces of said hem and connected together therethrough, the parts lying against the inner face of the hem being concealed by a portion of the garment upon which the waist band is folded.

4. A nether garment having a front opening which comprises leg members having vertical edges partly defining said opening and adapted to overlap, a waist band secured to the top of the leg members and folded to overlie the members at the front of the garment and secured to the members below the top thereof, the band having end edges with hems aligned with the vertical edges of the leg members, a reinforcement within the hem of the underlying end of the waist band, and cooperating snap fastener elements on the hems for securing said hems together in overlapping relation, the elements on the underlying hem each consisting of a pair of parts lying against opposite faces of the hem and connected through the hem and its reinforcement, the parts lying against the rear face of the hem being concealed by the portion of the garment upon which the waist band is folded, each element on the overlying hem consisting of a pair of parts lying against opposite faces of said hem and connected therethrough.

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