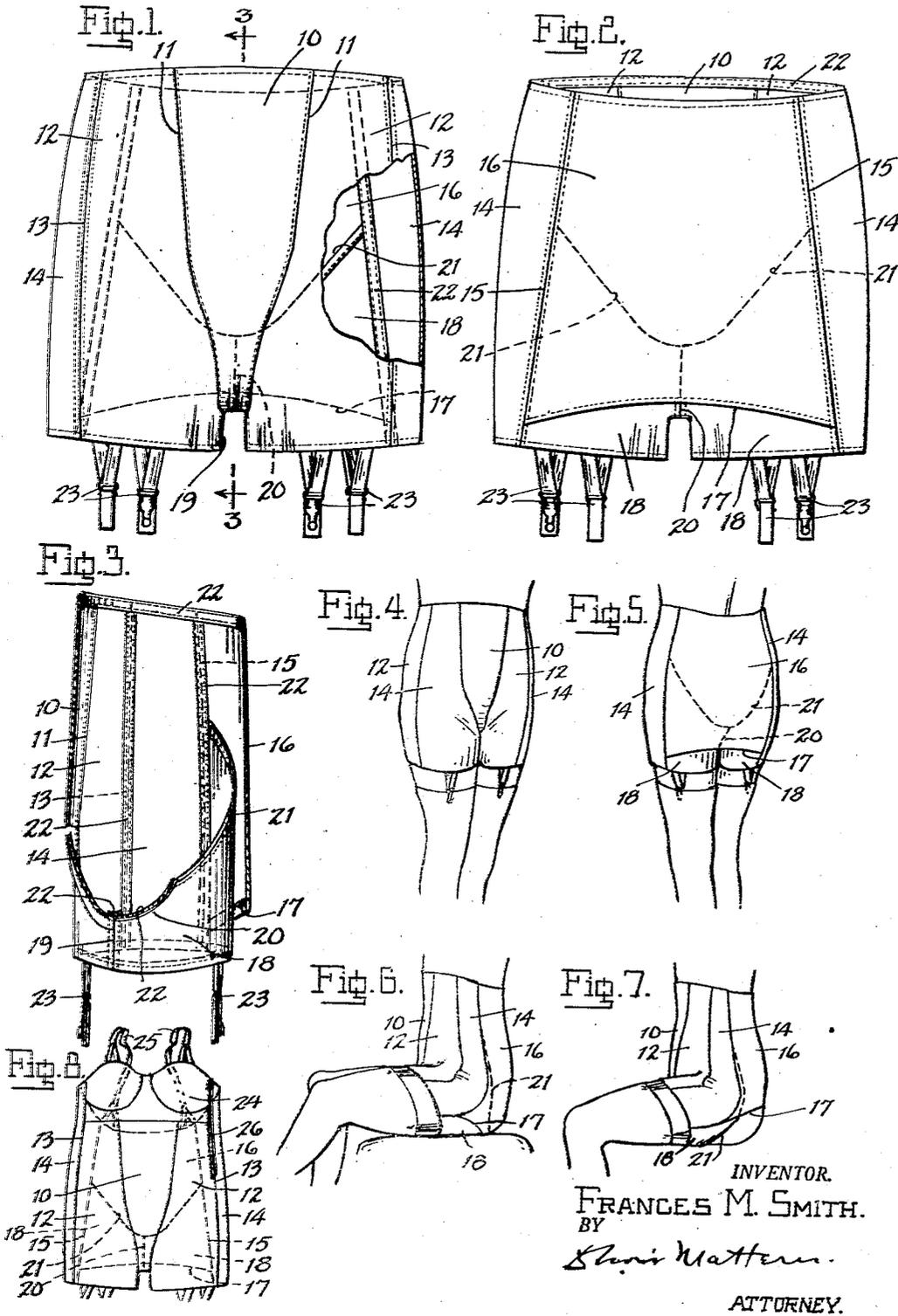


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UNDERGARMENT

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UNDERGARMENT

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The present invention relates to an undergarment, particularly a ladies' body controlling foundation garment of bifurcated type. The invention may be incorporated in either a girdle form of garment having its upper edge approximately at the waistline, or in a corselet type which includes an upper brassiere section. In either case, the lower portion of the garment is of bifurcated or pants form, and the garment includes sections of elastic material through which it is adapted to confine and mould the body. The usual garment of this type has a tendency to bind, draw and twist in the crotch of the pants portion, especially while walking or climbing, or when assuming sitting or forward leaning postures. This is due to the fact that in assuming such postures the body lines lengthen in the region of the thighs and buttocks, and, because of the confining nature of the garment, the crotch is strained, the upper edge of the back section of the garment is pulled downwardly, and the leg sections ride upwardly. Frequent readjustment and pulling into place of the garment becomes necessary.

An object of the invention is to provide a garment of bifurcated type, wherein the leg sections are free to move relatively to the back section, so that in assuming postures causing lengthening of the body lines, the leg sections are allowed to have relatively independent movement with respect to the back section. To this end it is particularly proposed, in the preferred embodiment of the invention, to provide a garment wherein the backs of the leg sections have a freely movable upper edge secured at its ends to the rearward seams of the side sections of the garment, and which is superimposed by the back section of the garment, also secured to the rearward seams of the side sections, the lower edge of the back section being below the upper edge of the back leg sections. Consequently, a telescoping action may take place between the back section of the garment and the leg sections, lengthening of the body lines being thus permitted while the back section and the leg sections remain in substantially fixed positions on their respective parts of the body.

A further object is to provide a garment wherein the back section overlying the back leg sections presents a smooth relatively flat appearance, so that the outer garments will hang in a smooth straight line, without the tendency to cling to the back leg sections and cup in below the buttocks, as is the tendency with the usual type of bifurcated undergarment.

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Another object is to provide a garment having a drop seat at the back leg sections, which may be drawn forwardly, and a back section which may be raised, thus enabling the normally overlapping edges of the drop seat and back sections to be widely separated for sanitary purposes.

With the above and other objects in view, embodiments of the invention are shown in the accompanying drawings, and these embodiments will be hereinafter more fully described with reference thereto, and the invention will be finally pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation, partially broken away, of the undergarment according to one illustrated exemplary embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 2 is a rear elevation.

Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view, taken along the line 3-3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view from the front, showing the garment as worn in a standing posture.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view from the rear, showing the garment as worn in a standing posture.

Fig. 6 is a side view, showing the garment as worn in a sitting posture.

Fig. 7 is a side view, also showing the garment as worn in a sitting posture, and with the back sections open for sanitary purposes.

Fig. 8 is a front elevation, showing the invention as incorporated in a corselet type of garment.

Similar reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout the several figures of the drawings.

Referring to the drawings, the undergarment, according to the illustrated exemplary embodiment of the invention, comprises a front section consisting of a central panel portion 10, preferably formed of non-elastic fabric, and front portions 12-12 secured to the side edges 11-11 of the panel 10, and preferably formed of two-way stretch elastic woven material capable of both vertical and horizontal stretch. The central panel 10 extends from the upper edge of the garment to the crotch seam, its side edges converging downwardly, while the front portions 12-12 have their lower ends extended below the central panel to form the forward sides of the leg portions of the garment. To the outer side edges of the front portions 12-12 there are secured along seam lines 13-13 side panels 14-14, also preferably constructed of two-way stretch elastic woven

material. To the rearward edges of the side panels 14—14 there are secured along the seam lines 15—15 the side edges of the back panel 16, also preferably constructed of two-way stretch elastic woven material, its lower edge 17, which is adapted to extend transversely below the buttocks, being secured at its ends a short distance above the lower ends of the seams 15—15 and being curved upwardly in a relatively low arc.

The back leg sections 18—18 are secured at their forward edges to the inner edges of the front portions 12—12 and to the lower edge of the central panel 10 along an inverted U-shape crotch seam 19, and are secured together at the upper edges of their inner sides along a central seam line 20 extending from the crotch seam 19 rearwardly to the meeting point of the upper edges 21—21 of the rearward sides of the back leg sections. These upper edges 21—21 are inclined downwardly from the outer side edges of the leg sections, so that the upper edge of the two leg sections is in the form of a V, as shown clearly in Fig. 2, wherein the base of the V is concavely curved between its two sides. The outer side edges of the two back leg sections are secured along the seam lines 15—15 beneath the back panel 16, so that the points at which the outer ends of the upper edges 21 are secured are relatively high and approximately at the hip line, while the central portion of the edge 21 is at a relatively low point. Thus the rearward portion of the back leg sections is in the form of a seat, the upper edge of which is adapted to extend diagonally upwardly across each side of the buttocks.

The edge 17 of the back panel 16 extends substantially below the edge 21 in the normal standing posture of the wearer so that the overlap between the back leg sections and the back panel 16 is sufficiently great to enable substantial relative movement of the leg sections with respect to the back panel, as for instance in sitting, so that the overlapped relation of the central points of the edges 17 and 21 is maintained.

Inner edge and seam bindings 22 cover the upper edge of the garment, the lower edges of the legs, and the seams 13, 15, 19 and 20. The edges 17 and 21 are hemmed, and preferably do not have inner facings. All of the edge and seam facings 22 are of elastic woven material, and the stitching along the edges and seams is of zig-zag or other suitable stretchable type, so that all of the edges and seams are capable of stretching. The curved lower line 17 of the back panel 16 is such that it permits of considerable stretch of the lower portion of the back panel, and the V-shaped upper line 21 of the seat portion of the back leg sections is of such length that it also permits of considerable stretch of the seat portion of the back leg sections.

Suitably positioned hose supporters 23 are secured to the lower edges of the leg portions of the garment.

In Fig. 8 the invention is illustrated as incorporated in a corselet type of garment including an upper brassiere section 24 provided with shoulder straps 25—25 extending from its upper edge to the upper edge of the back panel 16. A zipper type fastener 26 is provided along the upper portion of the seam line 13 at one side, for convenience in putting on and removing the garment. If desired, the girdle type of garment illustrated in Figs. 1 to 7 may be provided with a similar zipper fastener along the upper portion of one of the seam lines 13.

In operation, the back leg sections 18 have relatively independent movement with respect to the back panel 16, so that in walking or stepping up, which causes lengthening of the body lines, the back leg sections will remain substantially fixed upon the legs without tendency to ride up, and the back panel 16 will remain substantially fixed with respect to the waist and hips, the elastic upper line 21 of the seat portion of the back leg sections moving beneath the overlying back panel section 16 with the movement of the legs. Consequently, there is no strain upon the crotch portion of the garment and no tendency to bind, draw, or twist. Upon resuming a standing posture, the parts of the garment automatically return to their positions upon the body without riding or drawing displacement action.

In assuming a sitting posture as shown in Fig. 6, the upper edge of the seat portion of the back leg sections slides downwardly beneath the overlapping back panel section 16, the high degrees of stretchability of the curved edge 17 and the V-shaped edge 21 being sufficient to permit this action without exerting a binding strain upon the garment and without displacing strains upon other portions of the garment. As illustrated in Fig. 7, the seat portion of the back leg sections may be grasped centrally between the legs and drawn forwardly, and the back panel raised, to provide a wide separation of the elastic edges 21 and 17 for sanitary purposes. Upon resuming a standing posture the parts will return automatically to their normal positions.

I have illustrated and described preferred and satisfactory embodiments of the invention, but it will be understood that changes may be made therein, within the spirit and scope thereof, as defined in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A bifurcated close-fitting body-moulding garment, comprising a body encircling portion including a back panel section having a transverse lower edge secured at its ends being entirely free of attachment between said secured ends and adapted to extend across the body below the hips, and leg portions joined at the crotch and including back leg sections having their upper rearward edges secured at their outer ends at points approximately at the hip line and being entirely free of attachment between said secured ends, said upper rearward edges being movably disposed in lapped upwardly spaced relation to the lower edge of said back panel section.

2. A bifurcated close-fitting body-moulding garment, comprising a body encircling portion including a back panel section having a transverse lower edge secured at its ends and being entirely free of attachment between said secured ends and adapted to extend across the body below the hips, and leg portions joined at the crotch and including back leg sections having their upper rearward edges secured at their outer ends at points approximately at the hip line and being entirely free of attachment between said secured ends, said upper rearward edges being movably disposed beneath the lower portion of said back panel section in upwardly spaced relation to the lower edge of said back panel section.

3. A bifurcated close-fitting body-moulding garment, comprising a body encircling portion including a back panel section having a transverse lower edge secured at its ends and being entirely free of attachment between said secured ends and adapted to extend across the body below the hips, and leg portions joined at the crotch and includ-

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ing back leg sections having a common seat part having its upper edge secured at its outer ends at points approximately at the hip line and being entirely free of attachment between said secured ends, said upper edge being movably disposed in lapped upwardly spaced relation to the lower edge of said back panel section.

4. A bifurcated close-fitting body-moulding garment, comprising a body encircling portion including a back panel section having a transverse lower edge secured at its ends and being entirely free of attachment between said secured ends and adapted to extend across the body below the hips, and leg portions joined at the crotch and including back leg sections having a common upper edge secured at its outer ends at points approximately at the hip line and being entirely free of attachment between said secured ends, said common upper edge being movably disposed in lapped upwardly spaced relation to the lower edge of said back panel section, said back panel section and said back leg sections being formed of elastic material whereby the lower edge of said back panel section and said common upper edge of said back leg sections are stretchable.

5. A bifurcated close-fitting body-moulding garment, comprising a body encircling portion including a back panel section having a transverse lower edge adapted to extend across the body below the hips, and leg portions joined at the crotch and including back leg sections having a common upper edge free of attachment and movably disposed in lapped upwardly spaced relation to the lower edge of said back panel section, said upper edge being in the form of a V having its ends secured at points spaced substantially above the ends of the lower edge of said back panel section.

6. A bifurcated close-fitting body-moulding garment, comprising a body encircling portion including a back panel section having an upwardly curved transverse lower edge adapted to extend across the body below the hips, and leg portions joined at the crotch and including back leg sections having a common upper edge free of attachment and movably disposed in lapped upwardly spaced relation to the lower edge of said back panel section, said upper edge being in the form of a V having its ends secured at points spaced substantially above the ends of the lower edge of said back panel section.

7. A bifurcated close-fitting body-moulding garment, comprising a body encircling portion including a back panel section having a transverse lower edge adapted to extend across the body below the hips, and leg portions including front leg sections and back leg sections joined along an inverted U-shaped crotch seam, said back leg sections being joined together along a central seam extending rearwardly from said crotch seam to form a seat portion, said seat portion having an upper edge free of attachment and movably disposed in lapped upwardly spaced relation to the lower edge of said back panel section.

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8. A bifurcated close-fitting body-moulding garment, comprising a body encircling portion including front and side sections and a back panel section, said back panel section having its side edges secured to the rearward edges of said side sections and having a transverse lower edge adapted to extend across the body below the hips, and leg portions joined at the crotch and including back leg sections having a common upper edge free of attachment and movably disposed in lapped upwardly spaced relation to the lower edge of said back panel section, said upper edge being secured at its ends to said rearward edges of said side sections at points substantially above the ends of the lower edge of said back panel section.

9. A bifurcated close-fitting body-moulding garment, comprising a body encircling portion including front and side sections and a back panel section, said back panel section having its side edges secured to the rearward edges of said side sections and having a transverse lower edge adapted to extend across the body below the hips, its ends being secured to the rearward edges of said side sections at points in upwardly spaced relation to the lower ends of said rearward edges, and leg portions joined at the crotch and including back leg sections having a common upper edge free of attachment and movably disposed in lapped upwardly spaced relation to the lower edge of said back panel section, said upper edge being secured at its ends to said rearward edges of said side sections at points substantially above the ends of the lower edge of said back panel section.

10. A bifurcated close-fitting body-moulding garment, comprising an upper brassiere portion, a body encircling portion including a back panel section having a transverse lower edge secured at its ends and being entirely free of attachment between said secured ends and adapted to extend across the body below the hips, and leg portions joined at the crotch and including back leg sections having upper edges secured at their outer ends at points approximately at the hip line and being entirely free of attachment between said secured ends, said upper rearward edges being movably disposed in lapped upwardly spaced relation to the lower edge of said back panel section.

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