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The invention aims primarily to provide a new and improved menstrual pad appliance, in which the sole body-engaging supporting means is constituted by two thigh encircling garters, thereby overcoming the necessity of using any parts about the waist or hips or at the front and back of the body, with consequent unsightly bulges of apparel and embarrassment to the wearer.

10 A further aim is to provide a unique way of detachably connecting the pad to a support on which it rests.

A still further object is the provision of a construction which is simple and inexpensive, yet will be efficient and desirable from all standpoints.

With the foregoing and minor objects in view, the invention resides in the novel subject matter hereinafter described and claimed, description being accomplished by reference to the accompanying drawings.

Fig. 1 is a front elevation showing one form of the invention applied.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the pad support and the garters shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the pad.

Fig. 4 is a longitudinal sectional view showing the pad mounted upon the support.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view showing a different form of construction.

Fig. 6 is a sectional perspective view of the construction shown in Fig. 5, only partly completed.

Fig. 7 is an enlarged sectional view on line 25 7-7 of Fig. 5.

The forms of construction selected for illustration in the present application will be rather specifically described, with the understanding that within the scope of the invention as claimed, it may be embodied in numerous other forms, and may be made of any desirable material or materials. In some instances, materials of such inexpensive nature that they may well be thrown away after use, may be provided. Then too, portions of the contrivance as the entire contrivance may be so constructed as to be soluble in water with the usual advantages.

In the form of construction shown in Figs. 1 to 4, the numeral 10 denotes a narrow supporting plate of any desired stiff or partly stiff material, the maximum length of said plate being in the neighborhood of four inches while its maximum width approximates an inch and a quarter. The major portion of this plate is cut out as at 11 for sake of lightness. Two laterally spaced openings 12 are formed through the front end of the plate and two similarly spaced openings 12a are formed through the rear end of said plate, and narrow garter entrance and removal slots 13 and 13a extend from said openings 12 and 12a respectively, to the front and rear edges of the plate 10. Two thigh encircling garters 14, preferably formed of narrow elastic, have their inner portions passed through the openings 12—12a. These garters 14 may be adjustable if desired, but ordinarily their elasticity will be relied upon for adapting them to various thigh sizes.

These garters form the sole means for supporting the plate 10 in position to hold a pad 15 effectively at the required location. The length of the plate 10 is such that it can cause no projection of garments at the front or the rear and the narrow garters 14 around the thighs will cause no unsightly bulging of the garments, so that it is impossible for the observer to determine when the device is being worn.

The pad 15 may be of any desired material or materials. It preferably embodies a gauze covering 16 whose end portions are bunched or otherwise restricted to provide strand-like formations 17. These strand-like portions 17 are adapted for passage through front and rear central openings 18—18a formed in the ends of the plate 10, thereby effectively connecting the pad with the plate. Due to the flexible and compressible nature of the portions 17, they will be constricted immediately where received in the openings 18—18a but will be somewhat enlarged below these openings so that there is little if any danger of said portions 17 being accidentally withdrawn from said openings. However, as a safeguard, the portions 17 are preferably knotted as shown at 19 under the plate 10. When the pad is to be removed, either the portions 17 are cut above the knots or the
latter are untied, whereupon one pad may be readily taken off and another substituted. This interchange of pads may be accomplished without taking the entire device from the body, it being simply necessary to downwardly move the plate 10 and possibly the garters 14, during the interchange. If desired, however, the entire plate 10 may be at this time disconnected from the garters 14, due to the provision of the slots 13—13a. Then, with the plate removed from the garters, one pad may be detached and another substituted, after which it is an easy matter to again engage the garters with the openings 12—12a by passing their portions through the slots 13—13a. The device may then be quickly and easily readjusted to hold the fresh pad in the desired position.

In the form of construction shown in Figs. 5, 6 and 7, a flexible support 20 is provided adapted to receive a pad of the same type as the pad 15 above described, or a pad of other form if desired. In fact, either form of support 10—20 may be advantageously used for supporting pads other than the pad 15. Garters 14a are attached to the front and rear portions of the support 20 for passage around the thighs and the ends of said support are shown provided with openings 21 adapted to receive the pad end portions 17.

In forming the support 20, I prefer to use a strip of fabric webbing 22, to whose corners the garters 14a are stitched as at 23. A rubbered fabric covering 24 has been shown for the webbing 22, said covering having its edges turned around the edges of said webbing and stitched at 25 thereto. Over the two parts 22—24, I prefer to suitably secure a thin sheet rubber covering 26.

It will be seen from the foregoing that either form of the invention is rather simple and inexpensive, yet that it will be advantageous from numerous standpoints, particular attention being invited to the fact that in each case, the appliance is supported solely by the two thigh-engaging garters.

When the entire contrivance is to be thrown away, made of soluble material, or so cheap that the cost is nothing, the contrivance will have the pad fixed to the carrier—not by knotting but by the gauze ends of the pad itself being glued to the carrier. The entire contrivance—garters, pad and carrier, will be sold ready to wear as sold and discarded entirely. It is quite easy to slip off the whole thing and put on a fresh "entire" fixture. While, in the forms of construction illustrated, the menstrual-collecting means consists of both the pad and a separate support, the garters being connected with the latter, it will be seen that the scope of the invention is such as to comprehend other forms of menstrual-collecting means connected with the garters.