

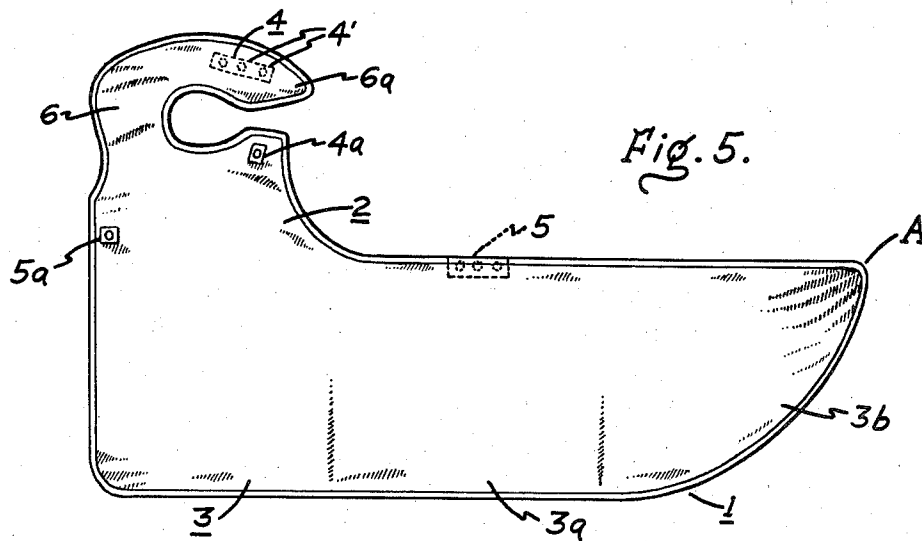
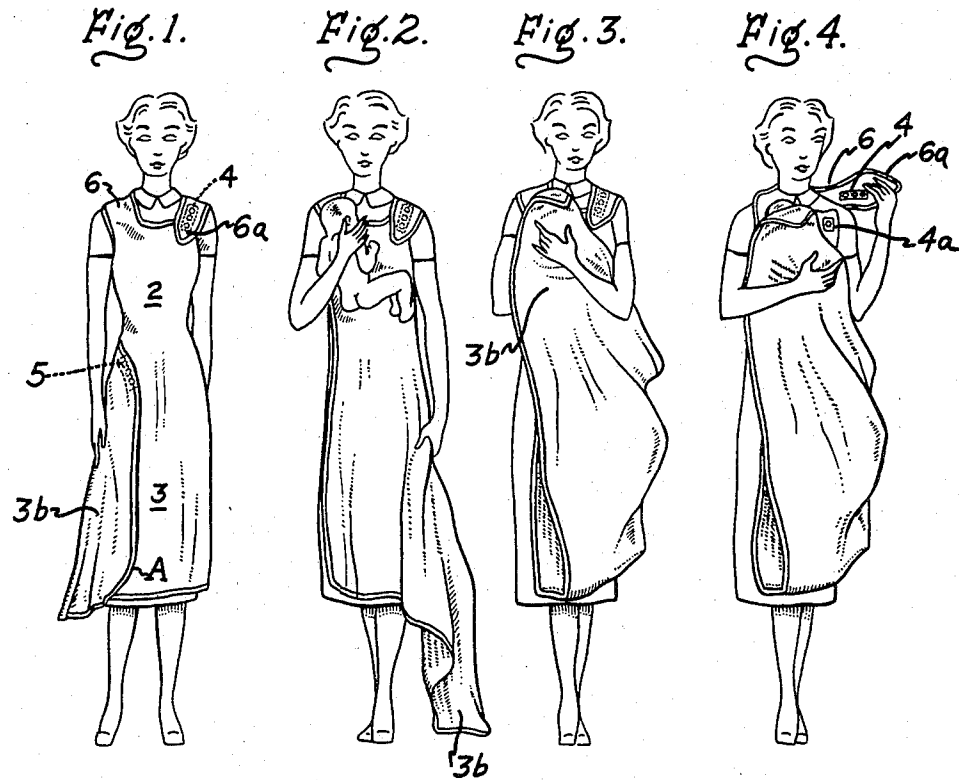
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APRON DEVICE

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APRON DEVICE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 2—48)

The present invention relates to an article of apparel, and more particularly concerns a garment for protecting the clothes of the wearer while bathing a small child and serving as a towel for receiving and drying the child.

In bathing an infant or small child, such as in the usual baby bath, tub or the like, the mother or nurse washing the child is subjected to the splashing of bath water upon herself with consequent wetting and soiling of her clothes. A further problem is presented when the child is about to be removed from the bath. It is then necessary for the mother to obtain a towel, arrange it in some manner upon herself or on a nearby table to receive the child, and then pick up the child and wrap him in the towel. These operations are frequently awkward and inconvenient, yet they must be done quickly in order to avoid chilling the wet and uncovered baby. During this procedure the mother is again subjected to the wetting of her clothes in holding the wet child.

It is an object of the present invention to provide means for overcoming the above and similar difficulties attendant on bathing or caring for infants and the like.

It is another object of the invention to provide an article of manufacture which is adapted to protect the clothes of the wearer during and after the bathing procedure, and to receive and dry the bathed child.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a combined apron and towel device adapted to be worn by a person bathing an infant or the like, which is easily put on for use, effectively protects the clothing of the wearer, is readily adapted while being worn for receiving and wrapping the wet child, and is easily removable from the body of the wearer with the child wrapped therein.

It is still another object of the invention to provide an article of apparel of the above type which is neat and pleasing in appearance when worn as a garment and is easy and economical to manufacture.

Other objects and advantages will become apparent from the following description and the appended claims.

With the above objects in view, the present invention concerns a combined apron and towel device formed of a sheet of material which is preferably absorbent, such as terry cloth or the like, the sheet of material having a lower portion adapted to be wrapped around the lower part of the wearer's body and upper portion for covering the upper part of the wearer's body, and comprising readily detachable fastening means for holding the lower and upper sheet portions in wearing position on the wearer's body, the lower sheet portion including an extended wrap-around portion which is adapted, when the lower portion is detached from wearing position, to be folded over the front of the wearer for covering a child held by the wearer.

The invention will be better understood by referring to the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a view of the wearer with the present apron device fastened in wearing position;

Fig. 2 is a view of the wearer holding a child prepara-

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tory to wrapping it with the loose wrap-around portion of the apron device;

Fig. 3 is a view showing the child covered with the folded-over loose wrap-around portion of the apron;

Fig. 4 shows the wearer holding the wrapped child and detaching the upper portion preparatory to removing the garment; and

Fig. 5 is a plan view of the apron device as it appears when spread out.

Referring now to the drawing, and particularly to Fig. 5, there is shown in spread out form the present apron device comprising a sheet 1 which can be of any suitable material, but is preferably of soft absorbent textile material such as toweling or terry cloth. Sheet 1 is formed of a front body covering panel comprising an upper front portion 2 which is adapted to cover the upper front part of the wearer's body, including the chest and shoulders, and a lower skirt covering portion 3 which is elongated laterally for wrapping around the lower portion of the wearer's body.

Upper sheet portion 2 includes a neckpiece 6 shaped to encircle the neck and substantially cover the shoulders of the wearer. The free end 6a of the neckpiece 6 is provided, preferably on the underside thereof as shown, with fastening means 4 adapted to engage complementary fastening means 4a on the adjacent part of upper portion 2 to secure neckpiece 6 around the neck in wearing position. Preferably, a plurality of fastener elements 4' such as snap buttons or the like are provided for selective attachment to complementary fastener 4a such as a snap-button socket to enable proper adjustment and fitting of the neckpiece 6 on the wearer. The fastening means 4, 4a in accordance with the invention are readily detachable from one another, and for this purpose snap-type or gripper fasteners of conventional construction are particularly suitable. However, other types of readily detachable fastening means may be used if desired, such as hook and eye fasteners and the like.

In the preferred arrangement, the free end 6a of neckpiece 6 overlaps the front of the adjacent part of the upper portion 2 to which it is attached, in the manner shown, in order to facilitate its detachment by the wearer as described below and shown in Fig. 4.

Lower sheet portion 3 (see Fig. 5) includes a wrap-around, rear skirt covering portion 3a having an extended end portion 3b tapering from the lower edge of portion 3a to the upper edge at the corner A. As will be seen from Fig. 5, the skirt covering extension comprising portions 3a, 3b, as measured along its upper edge, is approximately twice the width of portion 3 of the front panel. A set of fastening means 5 is secured on the underside and along the upper edge of wrap-around portion 3a about mid-way thereof and having a plurality of elements selectively engageable with a complementary fastener 5a secured on the front side of the apron 1. Preferably, fastener 5a is arranged on portion 3 at about the level of fastener 5, i.e., about waist-high, and near the end edge of portion 3 opposite the tapered edge, as illustrated. Fastener means 5, 5a are readily separable similarly to fastener means 4, 4a and may be of the types described above, and a plurality of elements are also preferably provided for fastener 5 to permit proper fitting and adjustment of the wrap-around portion 3a on the wearer.

Fig. 1 illustrates the apron sheet 1 arranged in wearing position on a person prior to bathing a child. In this position, fastener means 4, 4a have been secured together, so that the upper portion 2 and neckpiece 6 are held in place covering the upper part and shoulders of the wearer, and with the portion 3 fully wrapped around the wearer, fastener means 5, 5a are connected, so that

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the extended portion 3b hangs therefrom in a drape along the side of the wearer.

It will be understood that although the particular apron arrangement described and shown is adapted to be wrapped toward the left of the wearer, the sheet, if desired, could obviously be formed with the elongated portion extending in the opposite direction for wrapping around to the right of the wearer. It is generally preferable, however, for the respective sets of fastening means 4, 4a and 5, 5a to be on opposite sides of the wearer's body, for reasons apparent hereinafter.

Having bathed the infant while wearing the apron as shown in Fig. 1, the wearer, preparatory to picking up the child for drying, preferably first detaches fastening means 5, 5a, which results in the wrap-around portion 3a with extended drape portion 3b falling loosely around to the left of the wearer. The wearer then picks up the child from the bath, lays him on her right shoulder, and grasps the drape portion 3b with her left hand preparatory to covering the child with it, as clearly illustrated in Fig. 2.

Fig. 3 shows the child covered with the extended drape portion 3b folded over the front of the wearer who after grasping it has merely swung the portion 3b over the child in one simple movement. Then with the thus enwrapped child held securely on the shoulder by the right hand, the wearer can readily detach the neckpiece 6 by grasping the end 6a with the left hand, as shown in Fig. 4. She then lays the wrapped baby on a table or other supporting surface, and in so doing automatically removes the apron-towel device from herself.

As a result, the wearer's clothes under the apron-towel remain dry and unsoiled, the baby has been rapidly and fully covered and has been dried immediately after his bath, and the operation is made extremely simple and effective by virtue of the use of the combined apron and towel device as described.

While the present invention has been described with reference to particular embodiments thereof, it will be understood that numerous modifications may be made by those skilled in the art without actually departing from the scope of the invention. Therefore, the appended claims are intended to cover all such equivalent variations as come within the true spirit and scope of the invention.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. An apron comprising a sheet of material having a front body covering panel formed of an upper chest and shoulder covering portion and a lower skirt covering portion, said skirt covering portion being formed with an elongated extension forming the rear skirt covering portion of the apron, said chest and shoulder covering portion having a downwardly extending free side edge and said rear skirt covering portion having a longitudinally extending free upper edge meeting with said free side edge of said chest and shoulder covering portion, means on said upper chest and shoulder covering portion for holding the latter in wearing position on the wearer, and co-operating readily detachable fastening means on said front body covering panel and said rear skirt covering portion for holding said rear skirt covering portion in wearing position on the wearer, said rear skirt covering portion being adapted when detached from wearing position to be folded over the front of the wearer to cover an infant held by the wearer.

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2. An apron comprising a sheet of material having a front body covering panel formed of an upper chest and shoulder covering portion and a lower skirt covering portion, said upper chest and shoulder covering portion having a neckpiece with a free end for extending around the wearer's neck, said skirt covering portion being formed with an elongated extension forming the rear skirt covering portion of the apron, said chest and shoulder covering portion having a downwardly extending free side edge and said rear skirt covering portion having a longitudinally extending free upper edge meeting with said free side edge of said chest and shoulder covering portion, first co-operating readily detachable fastening means at the free end of said neckpiece and on said upper chest and shoulder covering portion for holding the latter in wearing position on the wearer, and second co-operating readily detachable fastening means on said front body covering panel and said rear skirt covering portion for holding said rear skirt covering portion in wearing position on the wearer, said rear skirt covering portion being adapted when detached from wearing position to be folded over the front of the wearer to cover an infant held by the wearer.

3. An apron comprising a sheet of material having a front body covering panel formed of an upper chest and shoulder covering portion and a lower skirt covering portion, said upper chest and shoulder covering portion having a neckpiece with a free end for extending around the wearer's neck and attachable to said chest and shoulder covering portion on one side of the wearer, said skirt covering portion being formed with an elongated extension substantially twice the width of the front skirt covering portion and forming the rear skirt covering portion of the apron and including an extended end section forming a prolongation of the rear skirt covering portion, said chest and shoulder covering portion having a downwardly extending free side edge at said one side and said rear skirt covering portion having a longitudinally extending free upper edge meeting with said free side edge of said chest and shoulder covering portion, first co-operating readily detachable fastening means at the free end of said neckpiece and on said chest and shoulder covering portion at said one side for holding the latter portion in wearing position on the wearer, and second co-operating readily detachable fastening means about waist-high on the other side of said front body covering panel and at the free upper edge of said rear skirt covering portion for holding the latter portion in wearing position on the wearer, whereby said extended end section is adapted to hang from said second fastening means in wearing position in a drape along said other side of the wearer, said elongated extension when detached from wearing position being adapted to be folded over the front of the wearer to cover an infant held by the wearer.

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