March 15, 1927. 1,621,392

J. M. ATKINSON

UNION SUIT

Filed June 4, 1924

Fig. 1.

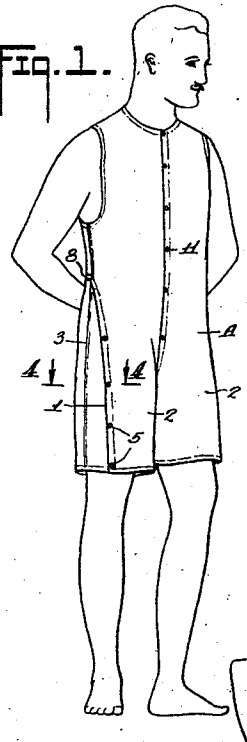


Fig. 3.

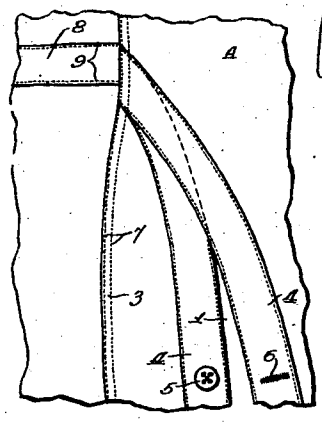


Fig. 2.



Fig. 6.

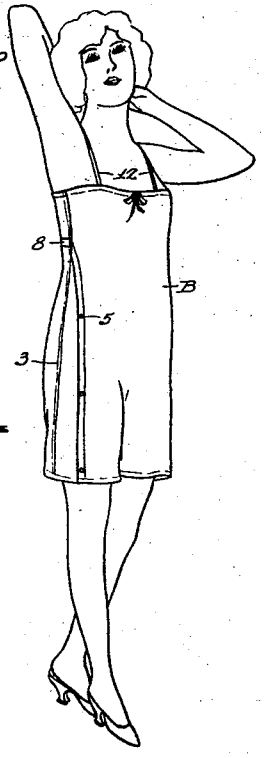


Fig. 7.

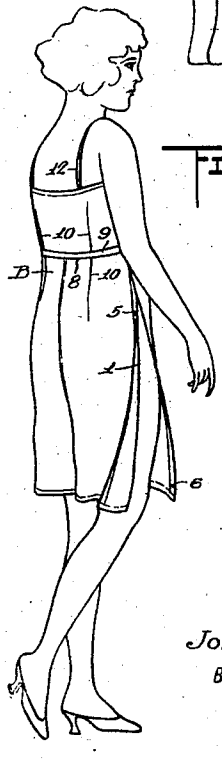


Fig. 5.

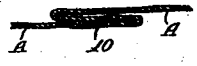
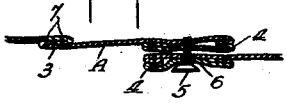


Fig. 4.



WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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UNION SUIT.

Application filed June 4, 1924. Serial No. 717,804.

This invention relates to union suits and more particularly to underwear for both sexes, an object of the invention being to provide a closed seat garment which will be well-fitting and comfortable, and which is open along a line extending obliquely down the front of the leg, making it easy to operate and giving a wider opening, which is more comfortable and desirable.

A further object of the invention is to provide a union suit of the type stated which provides a full opening at the back of the garment, and when closed and buttoned or otherwise secured presents a neat and attractive appearance.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists in certain novel features of construction and combinations and arrangements of parts, which will be more fully hereinafter described and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating my improved garment for use by men and boys;

Figure 2 is a perspective view taken at a different angle to show the back or rear of the garment;

Figure 3 is an enlarged fragmentary view illustrating a detail of construction;

Figure 4 is an exaggerated fragmentary view in section on the line 4—4 of Figure 1;

Figure 5 is an exaggerated fragmentary view in section on the line 5—5 of Figure 2;

Figures 6 and 7 are views similar to Figures 1 and 2 illustrating a woman's garment, Figure 7 showing the garment partially opened.

Referring more particularly to Figures 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the drawings, A represents my improved union suit which is made preferably of inelastic material, but it is, of course, to be understood that the invention is not limited to any particular material as I may employ any material which is suitable for the purpose. However, union suits of this type are ordinarily made of cotton and of light material so that they are cool in the summer, but they may, of course, be made of heavier material to suit the trade.

My improved union suit has two new and distinct improvements, which co-operate to give comfort to the wearer and shapeliness and utility to the garment. One of these features is the provision of an opening or slit 1 which extends longitudinally along the front of one leg 2 of the garment. This opening or slit is preferably somewhat at an angle to the vertical dimensions of the garment, thus providing an easy accessible opening in front, at the same time, giving a very large opening which gives more comfort in a closed seat garment.

The edges of the material of the slit or opening 1 may be strengthened or reinforced in various ways, as, for example, by providing seams or facings 4 which are coupled by buttons 5 and buttonholes or other suitable fastening means. These reinforced edges of the opening or slit 1 are joined by the stitches 7 of the seam so that the garment is made as strong as possible at this point of juncture where considerable strain is put upon the garment when it is opened.

Another feature of my invention is the provision of a waistband or strip 8 which extends across the back of the garment, is stitched to the garment as shown at 9, and the ends of this waistband 8 are joined to the seam 3 and preferably at a point where the reinforced edges 4 of the opening 1 are joined so that a number of thicknesses of material with suitable stitching is provided to give a strong and durable juncture of these portions of the garment.

Before or while the waistband 8 is being sewed to the back of the garment, the material of the garment at the back and at both sides of the center thereof is provided with pleats 10, so that when the waistband is fixed, pleats are provided above and below the waistband to give ample room to the seat and the body portion and at the same time to give somewhat of a fit to the garment and make it more comfortable to the wearer.

I lay particular emphasis on this formation of the waistband and pleats at the back because of the fact that garments of this nature heretofore made with side openings have straight lines so that they hang like a bag and not attractive in appearance, and are not comfortable to the wearer when the outer garments are placed thereover as they fold and crease and pile up at different parts of the body.

By providing an opening or slit at the front of one leg, I dispense with the location

of buttons and fastening means along a side seam or back, which permit the garment to open or spread between the fastening devices when walking or when in a sitting posture, and, furthermore, I provide a much larger flap or opening when the garment is unfastened along the slit or opening and folded backwardly and to one side.

In Figures 6 and 7, I illustrate my invention as applied to a garment B for women and girls, and in this garment the same features of invention are embodied and are given corresponding reference characters.

In the male garment the union suit is preferably open and buttoned down the front, as shown at 11, and the woman's garment B has shoulder straps 12, although it is, of course, to be understood that my invention is not limited to these features as a wide variation may be had in the manner of supporting, closing, or shaping the upper portion of the garment. In other words, I desire to cover broadly the manner of opening the garment along the front of one leg together with the manner of forming the back of the garment, and cover this idea broadly in connection with any other structural features of a garment of this type for use by either sex.

Various slight changes and alterations might be made in the general form of the parts described without departing from my invention, and hence I do not limit myself to the precise details set forth but consider myself at liberty to make such slight changes and alterations as fairly fall within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. As a new article of manufacture, a union suit having a side opening beginning at a point adjacent the side seam at the waist line and extending obliquely to the bottom and front portion of one leg of the garment, and fastening devices for closing the edges of said opening.

2. As a new article of manufacture, a union suit including a waist, and leg members, and having side seams, a waistband sewed to the back of the garment and extending from one side seam to the other, said garment having a slit extending obliquely from the waistband at the side seam along the front portion of one leg member, reinforcements secured to the edges of said slit and secured in the side seam at the point where the end of the waistband is fixed, and coupling devices carried by the front leg portions at opposite sides of the said slit.

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