

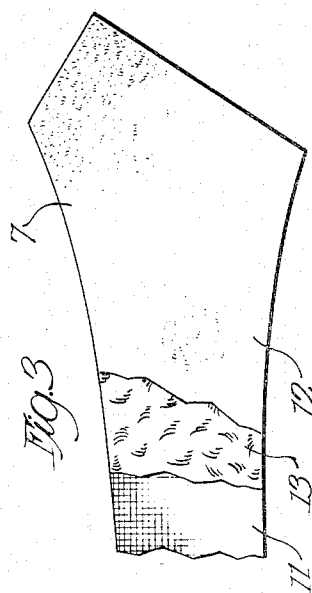
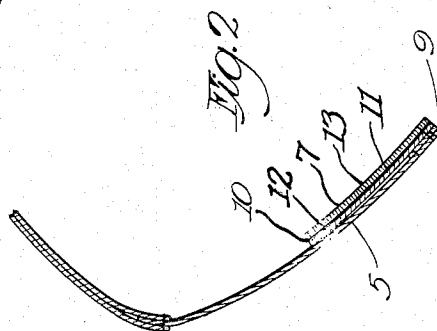
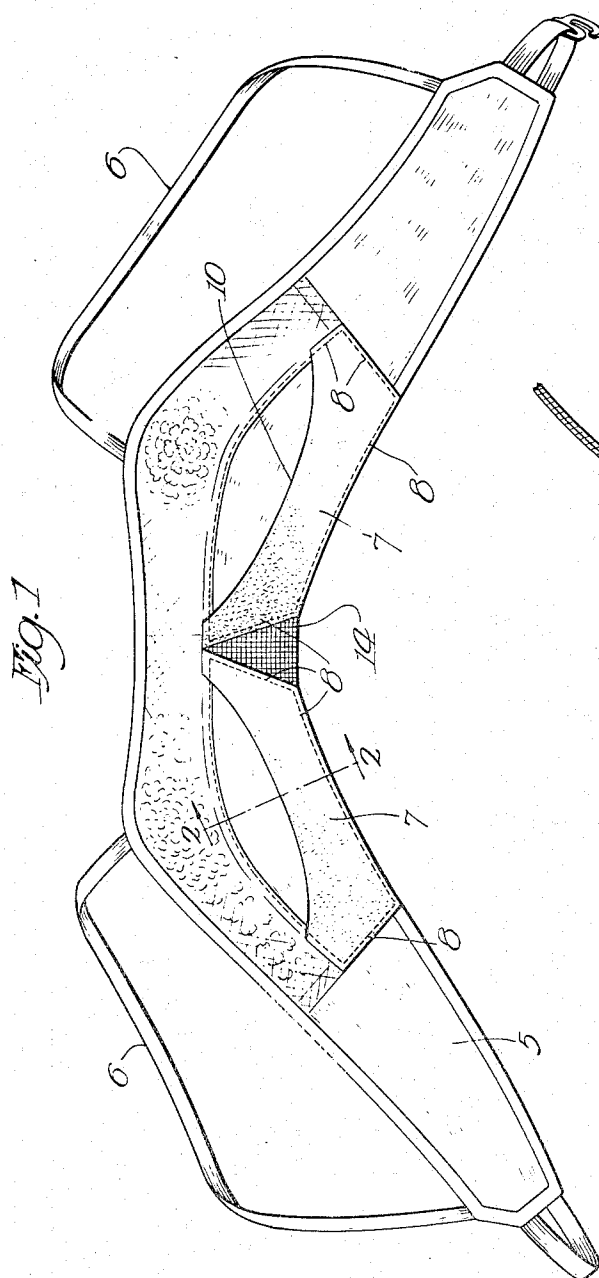
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BRASSIÈRE

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BRASSIÈRE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 2—42)

This invention relates to an improvement in the construction of brassières and it has particular reference to a brassière of the so-called "up-lift" kind.

The main objects of the invention are to provide a brassière of the kind indicated with means which will effectively and comfortably support the breasts; to provide such means which will be substantially permanent in character in that it will withstand the effects of perspiration and laundering; and in general, it is the object of the invention to provide an improved brassière of the character indicated.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be understood by reference to the following specification and accompanying drawing wherein there is disclosed a brassière embodying a selected form of the invention.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is an elevation of the inside of the improved brassière when laid out in theoretical flat form, actual flatness being impossible due to conventional pocket shaping of the breast covering portions of the brassière;

Figure 2 is a section on the line 2—2 of Figure 1; and

Figure 3 is a detail of one element employed in the improved construction.

The brassière construction shown in the drawing is typical of such articles in that it embodies primarily a band or strap 5 of suitable textile material which is adapted to encircle the bust, with ends of the strap or band being suitably joined in back of the wearer and there being provided suitable shoulder straps such as indicated at 6. The band 5 may be formed of any suitable fabrics and may be formed of several sections suitably cut and united to provide the desired pocket shaping in the breast covering portions and it may include ornamental lace or net-like fabrics where desired.

The present invention has to do particularly with the provision of an element in that section of the brassière which engages the lower or under portion of the breast and provides a lifting or supporting effect therefor. As shown in Figure 1 there is provided in this instance lower breast supporting sections designated 7, 7 such sections being suitably secured to the inside of the brassière band 5, for example, by stitching as indicated at 8.

In the sectional view Figure 2, the breast-engaging member 7 is illustrated as extending upwardly from the bottom edge 9 of the brassière to approximately one-half the width of the lower,

breast pocket forming portion of the band 5, and the length of the section 7 will be approximately as represented in Figure 1, i. e., substantially the full length of the breast pocket portion of the brassière. The upper edge 10 of the member 7 is preferably of the concave form shown although it may be of any other suitable configuration.

The member 7 in this instance constitutes a laminated fabric section comprising an outer textile fabric element 11 and an inner textile fabric element 12 which is preferably of so-called cotton or Shaker flannel which has a soft nap on one side, which in this instance faces inwardly on the inside of the brassière. The textile fabric elements 11 and 12 are laminated through the agency of a suitable moisture-proof, water-insoluble ply of rubber 13 or other material which, due to its ability to withstand the effects of moisture either in the form of perspiration or laundering water, will maintain the fabric members permanently in laminated condition.

The laminated fabric section may embody materials other than flannel and rubber but these specific materials are well suited to the purpose of the construction described.

The laminated material from which the sections 7, 7 are formed may be produced by feeding webs of the two textile fabrics employed into relatively superposed relation. The selected adhesive material may be fed in sheet form between the fabric members or suitably delivered thereto in liquid form or by spraying on the surface of either or both sheets. The superposed plies and interposed adhesive material may then be passed between suitable pressure rolls which will press the fabrics together and expel any surplus of adhesive material, leaving between the two fabric elements the desired thickness of adhesive material which may be of known self-drying or curing character or subjected to any required drying or curing operation. The adhesive laminating agent thus forms a moisture-proof ply between the two fabric plies and serves to prevent moisture absorbed by one ply from reaching the other. Hence when the laminated material is employed in a brassière, the flannel inner fabric member 10 which is a well known non-stretchable material may in some instances absorb perspiration but the intervening rubber or other adhesive layer 13 will prevent such moisture from being transmitted to the outer fabric member 11, thereby preserving the normal appearance of the outside portion of the section and of the adjacent fabric portion of the brassière band 5.

The rubber or other laminating ply imparts to the sections 7 a marked resistance to folding or buckling while at the same time preserving in the sections substantially all of the normal softness and flexibility of the fabric elements so that the sections have a definite property of being soft and flexible enough to be capable of sufficiently conforming to the adjacent breast portion to provide comfortable support therefor. The property of resisting folding and buckling is of considerable importance in that it prevents the lower margins of the breast supporting sections 7, 7 from folding or wrinkling longitudinally under the weight of the supported breast portions.

In the disclosed brassière construction, the adjacent ends of the sections 7, 7 are joined together by means of a gusset of elastic material 14. This gusset may be stretchable longitudinally of the brassière or it may be formed of two-way stretch fabric. In some instances the sections 7, 7 may be so extended at their adjacent ends as to meet and their meeting ends may be stitched together, or, if desired, the sections 7, 7 may be made of seamless one-piece construction. Various arrangements of this nature and other changes may be made in the construction of the brassière without departing from the spirit of the invention, the scope of which should be determined by reference to the following claims, the same being construed as broadly as possible consistent with the state of the art.

I claim:

1. A brassière having breast-supporting sections, each breast-supporting section comprising a lower part of non-stretchable material adapted to engage and support the lower portion of the breast, said material embodying a fabric inner facing ply and a ply of permanently flexible, water-insoluble, normally non-creasable mate-

rial united to said fabric ply in face to face relation over sufficient area to cause said ply to impart to the said section of the brassière when being worn, the property of resisting wrinkling especially along the lower marginal portion thereof, while, at the same time, maintaining in said section, flexibility and softness permitting a substantial degree of conformation of the section to the breast.

2. A brassière having breast-supporting sections, each breast-supporting section comprising a lower part of non-stretchable material adapted to engage and support the lower portion of the breast, said material embodying a fabric inner facing ply and a ply of permanently flexible rubber united to said fabric ply in face to face relation over sufficient area to cause said rubber ply to impart to the said section of the brassière when being worn, the property of resisting wrinkling especially along the lower marginal portion thereof while, at the same time, maintaining in said section, flexibility and softness permitting a substantial degree of conformation of the section to the breast.

3. A brassière having breast-supporting sections, each breast-supporting section comprising a lower part of non-stretchable material adapted to engage and support the lower portion of the breast, said material embodying inner and outer plies of fabric and an intervening ply of rubber, said plies being water-insolubly united in face to face relation over sufficiently coextensive areas to cause said rubber ply to impart to the said section of the brassière, when being worn, the property of resisting wrinkling especially along the lower marginal portion thereof, while, at the same time, maintaining in the section, flexibility and softness permitting a substantial degree of conformation of the section to the breast.

CONRAD BULLINGER.