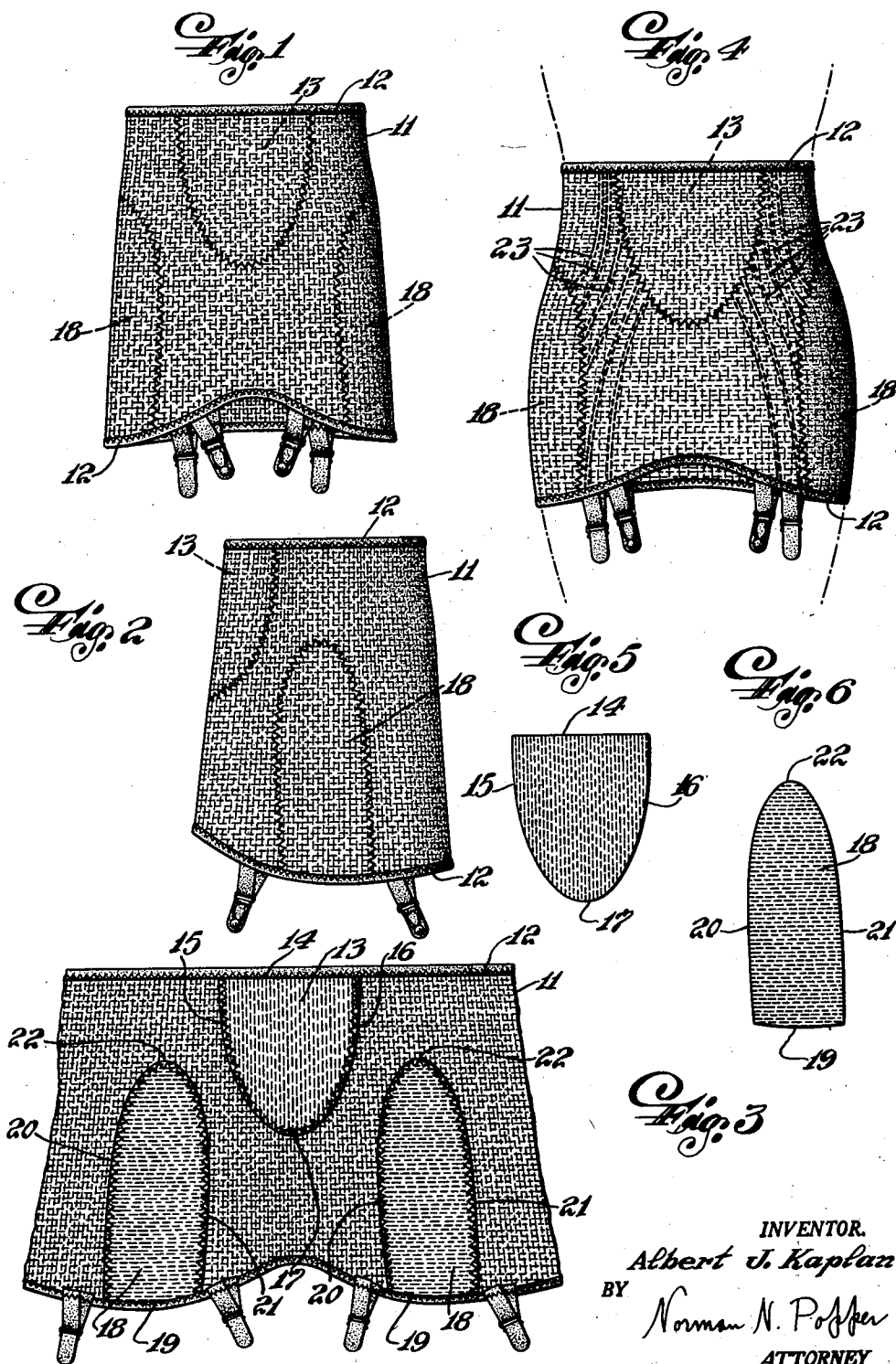


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FOUNDATION GARMENT
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FOUNDATION GARMENT

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2 Claims. (Cl. 2—37)

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My invention relates generally to foundation garments and specifically to foundation garments characterized by the ability to stretch in two directions in most areas, but in only one direction in certain restricted areas.

It among the objects of my invention to provide a foundation garment which can stretch horizontally to accommodate the girth of the wearer, but it is restricted in its ability to stretch vertically in the abdominal area, thereby tending to provide an uplift for the abdomen.

It is a further object of my invention to provide a foundation garment which is restricted in its stretching capacity in the area of the hip of the wearer, but is nevertheless capable of vertical stretch in the area to accommodate the motion of the thighs when the wearer is walking.

It is among the further objects of my invention to control the abdomen, to mold the hips and to stretch to accommodate leg action.

Yet a further object of my invention is to provide a garment which supplies a gentle massage action with the movement of the wearer, thereby providing a slenderizing effect.

Still another object of my invention is to provide a relatively impervious covering for certain restricted areas of the body covered by my foundation garment, so that perspiration will be encouraged and a slenderizing effect will be produced thereby.

A still further object of my invention is to provide a foundation garment with a frontal abdominal insert that is horizontally stretchable, but not vertically stretchable.

A yet further object of my invention is to provide a foundation garment with side inserts that are relatively stretchless horizontally, but vertically stretchable.

These objects and advantages, as well as many other objects and advantages, are attained by the foundation garment illustrated in the drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a front view;

Figure 2 is a side view;

Figure 3 is an inside view with the body cut apart and stretched open;

Figure 4 is a front view of the garment as it is disposed upon the body of the wearer;

Figure 5 is a view of the abdominal panel; and

Figure 6 is a view of the side panel.

Referring now to the drawings in detail, my foundation garment has a tubular fabric body 11 whose weft and warp are both elasticized. Thus the garment is of the character colloquially referred to as a "two-way stretch." This term is applied to garments whose fabric is capable of

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elastic extension both in length and in width.

A suitable binding 12 is applied to the top edge and the bottom edge of the body 11. In the front of the tubular body 11, there is applied to its

5 inner side, an abdominal insert or front panel 13. This insert 13 has a straight top edge 14 which is attached to the body 11 to coincide with its top front edge. The side edges 15, 16 descend and then curve together to form an arcuate bottom edge 17. The preferred manner of attachment of the panel 13 is by zig-zag stitching with a thread of great tensile strength. The panel 13 is formed of a fabric which is stretchable in one direction only and is attached to the body 11: 15 the panel 13 therefore is stretchable in the direction of a line running across the body 11. Thus this panel 13 tends to reinforce the elasticity of the garment insofar as it is able to stretch horizontally with the abdomen of the wearer and 20 allow for accommodation or stretch outwardly. Since this panel is non-elastic in a vertical direction, it tends to resist the downward or falling tendency of the abdomen of the wearer, thereby greatly limiting the capacity of the body 11 to stretch downwardly. The net effect of this panel is to permit the garment body 11 to expand and adapt itself in girth to the abdominal area of the wearer, and yet to restrict the downward bulge of the abdomen and to provide an uplift for it.

At opposite sides of the body 11, there are applied to its inner side, identical hip inserts or side panels 18, 18. These side panels 18, 18 have a straight bottom edge 19 which coincides with the bottom edge of the body 11. The side edges 20, 21 rise upwardly and then curve together to form an arcuate top edge 22. These panels are likewise attached to the inner side of the body 11 by stitching with thread of great tensile strength. These panels are formed of material which is stretchable only in one direction and relatively resistant to stretching in its other dimension. The material for these panels 18, 18 may have the same characteristics as the material used in the panel 13, but it is rotated 90° and applied to the body 45 with its axis of stretch disposed vertically. The result of this is that the garment's stretchability in a horizontal plane is restricted. The restriction is at the side of the hip area, so that the hips are held in. But since this garment covers the side of the hip area, the movement of the legs of the wearer must be allowed for. Consequently, the garment is stretchable in a vertical direction, to allow for the movement of the thighs up and down when the legs are moved, as in walking. The stress lines 23 are not a structural fea-

ture of the garment, but are merely shown in the drawing to indicate the manner in which the garment stretches when it is worn.

The wearer of this garment is provided with a gentle uplift of the abdomen, yet enough elasticity to be confining without permitting sagging. The hips of the wearer are moulded without restricting the leg action. The flexing of the garment with the movement of the wearer provides a gentle massage-like action that tends to minimize the formation of fatty tissue. If the panels are of a relatively impervious material, such as rubber, perspiration may be encouraged, whereby a reducing effect is achieved.

The foregoing specification is intended merely to be illustrative of one embodiment of my invention, for many changes may be made in the construction, selection and arrangement of the various parts, and the materials of which they are formed, all of which will be within the scope of the appended claims, without departing from the spirit of the invention.

I claim:

1. A foundation garment comprising a stretchable tubular body member, a panel substantially coextensive with the central abdominal area stretchable only in its width and attached at its edges to the inside of the front of the body member at the top of said body member and extending toward the bottom of the garment, and panels substantially coextensive with the side of the hip area stretchable only in their length,

and each attached at its edges to the inside of the sides of the body member at the bottom of said body member and extending toward the top of the garment.

2. A foundation garment comprising a stretchable tubular body member, a panel substantially coextensive with the central abdominal area stretchable only in its width and attached at its edges to the front of the body member at the top of said body member, and extending toward the bottom of the garment, panels substantially coextensive with the side of the hip area stretchable only in their length each attached at its edges to the sides of the body member at the bottom of said body member and extending toward the top of the garment.

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