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UNION SUIT

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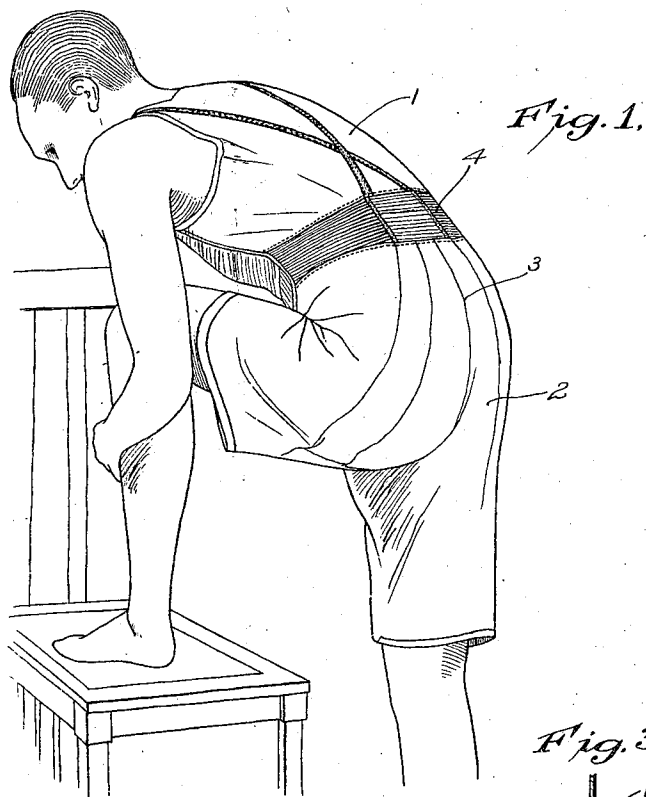
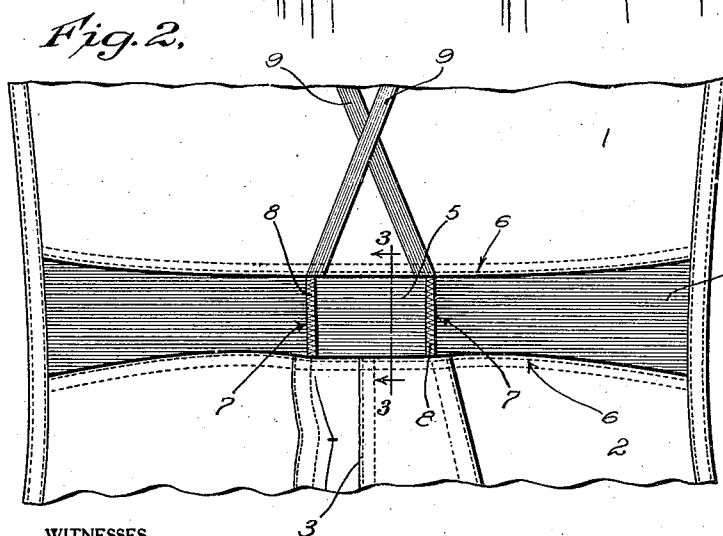
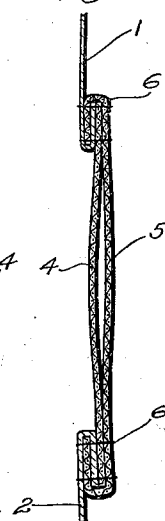


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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UNION SUIT.

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In union-suits made of woven fabric it has been found desirable, in view of the fact that such fabric is substantially non-elastic, to provide them with elastic inserts at the waist portion more particularly at the back, in order that the wearer may freely bend forward without putting an unnecessary strain upon the garment and to make the same more comfortable for the wearer. It has been found in practice that the maximum strain on this elastic insert at the waist is at the central portion at the back, the line of strain being substantially in line with the spinal column or back bone of the wearer, and this extra strain localized at this central portion of the elastic insert has a tendency to distort the insert at this point and to some extent destroy its elasticity.

The object of the present invention is to provide for reinforcing the elastic insert at the central portion thereof, and further to distribute the strains in a diagonal direction crossing each other and extending from shoulder to shoulder to opposite ends of the reinforced portion.

The present invention therefore consists of a union-suit provided with a centrally disposed elastic reinforce with means whereby the longitudinal strains applied thereto shall run from the shoulders, all as will be hereinafter described and claimed.

The present invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing in which

Fig. 1 shows a human figure with the union-suit thereon and illustrating the operation of the invention.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary portion of the back of the garment.

Fig. 3 is a cross sectional view taken on the line 3—3 in Fig. 2 looking in the direction of the arrows in that figure.

Similar reference characters will be employed throughout the specification to designate corresponding parts.

The union-suit comprises an upper body portion 1 and a lower bifurcated nether portion 2 provided with any usual form of crotch opening 3. In the suit of the drawing the upper body portion 1 and the nether portion 2 are formed of non-elastic woven textile material, such as nainsook or other woven fabric suitable for the purpose, and are permanently united as usual in the manufacture of such garments. The desired

elasticity at the back waist portion is provided by a horizontally disposed insert 4 of knitted elastic fabric, which in the form illustrated extends across the back from side to side, but which of course may extend if desired entirely around the garment.

This insert 4 is not only formed of knitted elastic fabric but the material is so cut that it is elastic on vertical lines extending across the insert. The insert 3 about the waist of the garment at the back produces the necessary elasticity between the upper body portion and the nether portion so that the wearer may lean forward as illustrated in Fig. 1 without discomfort and without producing rending strains on the garment.

As heretofore explained, these strains follow substantially a central vertical line coinciding with the spinal column, so that the central or medial section of the elastic insert 4 is called upon to resist considerable distorting strains. At this point therefore there is inserted a reinforcing elastic insert 5 which is secured in position by the stitches 6 which unite the elastic insert 4 to the upper body portion 1 and the nether portion 2.

Preferably the edges 7 of the reinforcing insert 5 are free, being finished in any suitable manner by means of a binding or overcast stitches 8.

In order to transfer the strains from the longitudinal medial central line of the garment to the shoulders the upper body portion 1 is provided with narrow stays or straps 9 formed of nonelastic woven fabric and stitched to the upper body portion and extending from the shoulders to a point adjacent the ends of the reinforcing insert 5. These straps are stitched to the upper portion 1 and preferably across each other as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 at a point near their lower ends, so that the strains are not only diverted from the longitudinal central vertical line of the upper body portion 1, but extend in a diagonal direction, as clearly indicated. By this arrangement the strain is not only placed upon the shoulders of the wearer but prevents a distorting pull at the central portion of the neck of the garment. Preferably the reinforcing straps will be of the same woven fabric as the upper portion 1 of the garment and will be cut on lines parallel with the weft so that they will be substantially non-elastic.

It is thought that the operation of the

garment is sufficiently clear from the foregoing description and that a further description thereof is unnecessary.

It is of course understood that excepting as herein set forth the garment will be of any desired or usual construction whereby to assist in its being donned and doffed and to fit properly.

Having described my invention, I claim:

- 10 1. A union-suit comprising an upper body portion and a nether portion formed of woven substantially non-elastic fabric, an elastic waist band formed of knitted fabric extending across the back at the waist line
15 with the upper body portion and nether portion permanently connected thereto along the upper and lower edges respectively so that the stretch of the elastic waist band will be transversely of its length and longitudi-
20 nally of the garment, a centrally disposed reinforcing elastic insert of knitted fabric located at the back and superimposed upon the elastic waist band and secured at its upper and lower edges to the upper and
25 nether portions of the garment respectively, but free and unattached between its upper and lower edges, and non-elastic stays connected to and extending from the opposite upper corners of the reinforcing insert to-

wards the shoulders of the upper body portion of the garment and permanently secured thereto.

2. A union-suit comprising an upper body portion and a nether portion formed of woven substantially non-elastic fabric, an
35 elastic waist band formed of knitted fabric extending across the back at the waist line with the upper body portion and nether portion permanently connected thereto along the upper and lower edges respectively so
40 that the stretch of the elastic waist band will be transversely of its length and longitudinally of the garment, a centrally disposed reinforcing elastic insert of knitted fabric located at the back and superimposed upon
45 the elastic waist band and secured at its upper and lower edges to the upper and nether portions of the garment respectively, but free and unattached between its upper and lower edges, and non-elastic stays con-
50 nected to and extending diagonally from the opposite upper corners of the reinforcing insert towards the shoulders of the upper body portion of the garment and crossing
55 each other and permanently secured to the upper body portion.

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