Dec. 8, 1953 G. R. GILBERTSON 2,661,477

MATERNITY SKIRT

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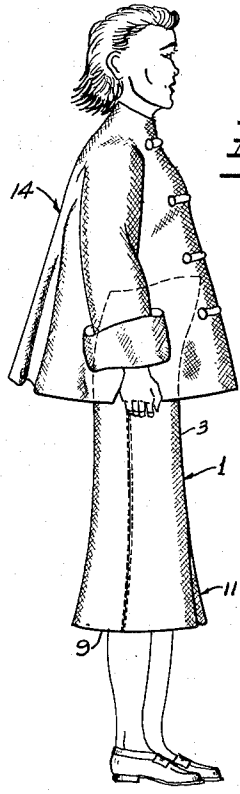


Fig. 1

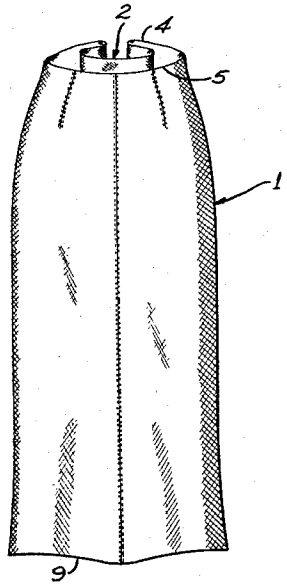


Fig 3

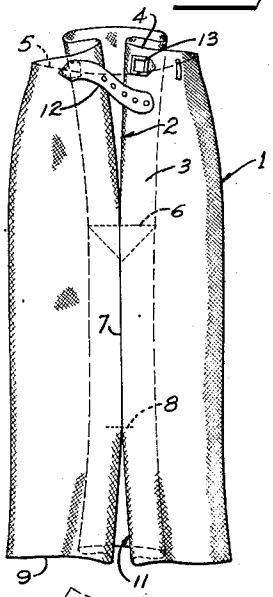


Fig. 2

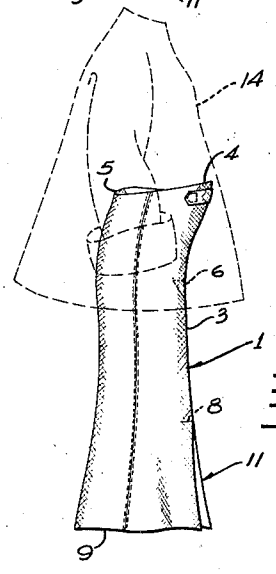


Fig. 4

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MATERNITY SKIRT

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2 Claims. (Cl. 2—221)

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The present invention relates to a lady's garment and more particularly to a novel maternity skirt so designed and constructed as to be readily adjusted to conform to the changes in contour of the body of the wearer during pregnancy.

Among the objects of the present invention is the provision of a novel maternity skirt and a novel means and manner of forming this skirt so that it is originally fitted for normal body contour but is readily adapted and adjusted to allow for each stage of body growth during pregnancy.

Another important object of the present invention is the provision of a novel skirt so formed and designed that it may be worn before, during and after pregnancy, and during all such periods the present novel embodiment, although conforming to the body contour, allows for normal skirt appearance below the abdomen. By reason of such conversion from normal body contour to growth during pregnancy and back to normal body contour, this novel skirt effects maximum economy to the wearer.

Maternity skirts or garments now available are primarily designed for use only during the period of pregnancy. With this thought in mind, the purchaser is not too concerned with the quality of material of which the garment is made, anticipating the time when she will completely discard this garment for another. Furthermore, women during the period of pregnancy and especially when in public, are desirous of wearing a garment which will make their condition less conspicuous and provide a minimum of detraction from their normal appearance.

The present invention comprehends the provision of a skirt or garment that may be and preferably is made of a material of finer quality than prior types of maternity garments as it may be worn as a skirt of normal proportions formed on classic lines and readily converted to a maternity skirt, and when the period of pregnancy has passed, again converted to a garment of normal lines. Furthermore, by reason of the novel skirt design and construction and unlike other maternity skirts or garments, it is without the usual maternity appearance.

Another important feature of the present skirt is its adaptability to commercial manufacture as well as to home production from a pattern, thus resulting in economy of manufacture.

Further objects are to provide a maternity skirt or garment of maximum simplicity and efficiency, and such further objects, advantages and capabilities as will later more fully appear and are inherently possessed thereby.

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In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a view in side elevation of a pregnant woman wearing the novel maternity skirt or garment and a loose fitting jacket thereover during pregnancy, the upper portion of the skirt being shown in dotted outline.

Fig. 2 is a view in front elevation of the novel skirt.

Fig. 3 is a view in rear elevation thereof.

Fig. 4 is a view in side elevation similar to Fig. 1 but showing the maternity skirt or garment in full outline and the jacket in dotted outline.

Referring more particularly to the disclosure in the drawing and to the novel illustrative embodiment therein shown, the novel maternity garment or skirt 1 may be formed or made of any suitable fabric and by reason of its novel design and construction whereby the skirt may be readily converted after the period of pregnancy from a maternity garment to a skirt for normal wear, it may be made of a finer fabric than the usual maternity garment now available. The novel skirt is originally fitted for normal body contour and is readily adapted and adjusted to fit the expanding body contour during pregnancy.

To permit ample room for each stage of growth, the skirt 1 is provided with a large inverted box pleat 2 extending along the entire front 3 thereof and with the front half or portion of the skirt at 4 cut several inches above the normal waist line 5. Directly below the portion of the skirt covering the abdomen the box pleat is stitched horizontally or transversely thereof at 6 from one edge to the other which holds the lower portion of the skirt firmly in place with an even hemline during the entire period of pregnancy, and above this stitching there is ease, comfort and complete freedom as the inverted box pleat opens gradually for additional growth. Below this stitching at 6 the box pleat is formed and held by understitching at 7 extending to the horizontal or transverse stitching at 8 which is within approximately twelve inches of the hemline 9 or at approximately knee height, where it is released as an open kick-pleat 11 to permit ease and freedom in walking.

Above the horizontal stitching at 6, the inverted box pleat 2 remains loose and is held in position for normal body contour by means of a belt comprising a belt tab 12 and a buckle 13 suitably stitched or otherwise attached to the skirt at the opposite sides of the pleat opening. As the body contour expands, the belt and the inverted box-pleat open to give ample room for

each stage of growth, allowing the upper edge of the front panel of the skirt to remain at the normal waist line. To assure retention of this upper edge at the normal waist line during the entire period of pregnancy, the front panel at 4 is cut approximately two to three inches higher than in the back.

As the skirt or garment is originally fitted for normal body contour, it can be worn before, during and after the period of pregnancy. The horizontal or transverse stitching 6 just below the abdomen holds the lower portion of the skirt firmly in place and the hemline remains even for the entire period. Above this horizontal or transverse stitching the wearer is afforded ease, comfort and complete freedom as the inverted box pleat opens gradually for additional growth, with the upper part of the skirt where it widens held firmly in place by the belt and buckle.

Before and after completion of the period of pregnancy, the upper part of the inverted box pleat above the horizontal or transverse stitching 6 may be stitched down and the skirt thus assumes normal proportions on classic lines. By reason of this fact that a skirt cut or formed in accordance with this design and arrangement can be worn before and after the period of pregnancy, it will be apparent that it provides the maximum in economy for the wearer. Thus finer and better grade materials may be employed and the skirt formed as part of a suit of fine cloth texture that has none of the identifying appearance of a maternity garment.

The present skirt at all times allows for normal skirt appearance below the abdomen with the skirt thereat held firmly in place by the cross or transverse stitching while the opening or loosening of the box pleat above the stitching 6 and over the abdomen is preferably and may be completely covered by a loose box-type jacket or the like 14.

Having thus disclosed the invention, I claim:

1. A maternity garment fitted for wear prior, during and after pregnancy and readily adjustable to conform to the changes in contour of the abdomen and body of the wearer during pregnancy, comprising a skirt having a front panel the upper edge of which extends above the normal waist line of the garment prior to enlargement of the abdomen, an inverted box pleat of substantial width at the front and centrally of the front panel of the skirt extending for the full length thereof, horizontal stitching extending completely across the box pleat directly below

the abdominal covering portion and vertical stitching extending through the opposed folds of said pleat from said horizontal stitching to a point spaced a substantial distance above the hemline whereby the box pleat is open above the horizontal stitching for lateral adjustment to conform to body lines thereat and open below the end of the vertical stitching to provide an open kick-pleat to permit ease in walking, and adjustable means at the front of the skirt for spanning the upper portion of the open box pleat to conform the skirt to the changing contour of and allow for each stage of body growth during pregnancy.

2. A maternity garment fitted for wear prior, during and after pregnancy and readily adjustable to conform to the changes in contour of the abdomen and body of the wearer during pregnancy, comprising a skirt having a front panel the upper edge of which extends above the waist line of the garment prior to enlargement of the abdomen, an inverted box pleat at the front and centrally of the front panel of the skirt extending for the full length thereof and of such width as to compensate for growth of the abdomen during pregnancy, transverse stitching extending across and through the box pleat directly below the abdominal covering portion and longitudinal stitching extending through the opposed folds of said pleat downwardly from the transverse stitching to a point spaced a substantial distance above the hemline whereby the box pleat is open above the transverse stitching for lateral adjustment to conform to the body lines thereat and open below the end of the longitudinal stitching to provide an open kick pleat to permit ease in walking, and a belt and buckle adjacent the upper end of and exterior of the pleat for spanning the opening of the pleat at the waist line to allow for adjustment thereat.

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