

S. W. LITTLE.
 SANITARY SKIRT SHIELD.
 APPLICATION FILED MAY 28, 1910.

977,203.

Patented Nov. 29, 1910.

Fig. 1

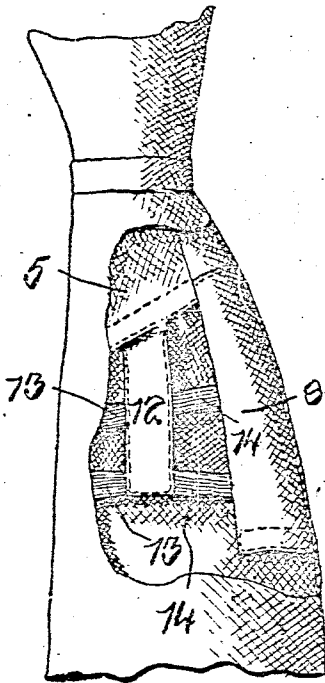


Fig. 2

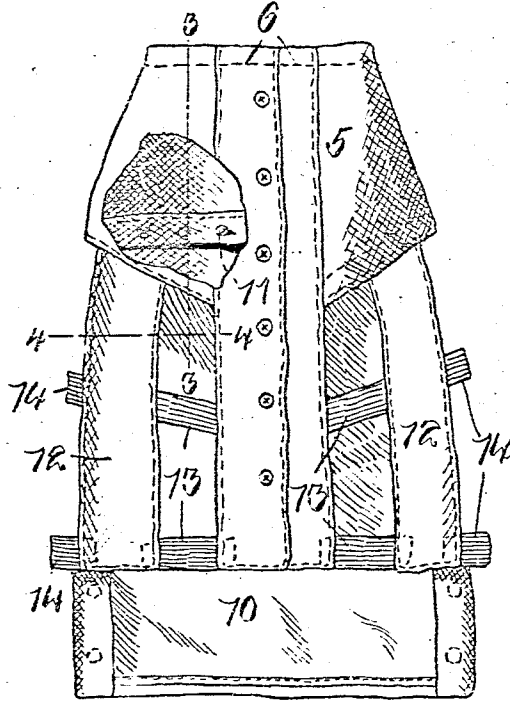
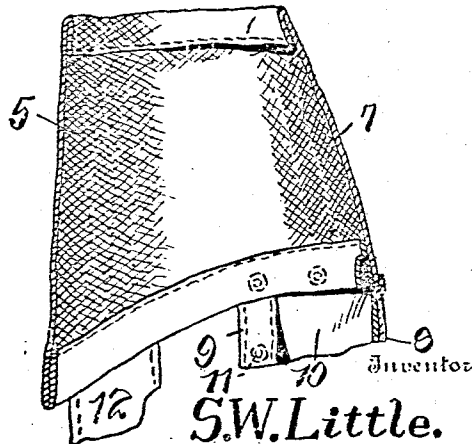
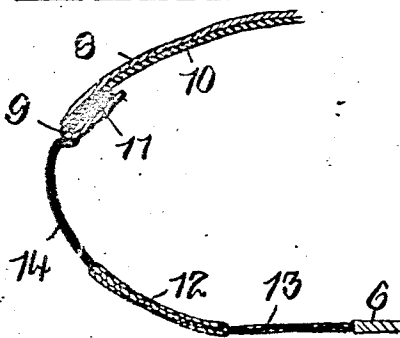


Fig. 3

Fig. 4



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SARA WILLA LITTLE, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

SANITARY SKIRT-SHIELD.

977,202.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Nov. 29, 1910.

Application filed May 28, 1910. Serial No. 563,914.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SARA WILLA LITTLE, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Louis, State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Sanitary Skirt-Shields, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to an improved skirt shield and has for its object to provide a simple and efficient shield for ladies' skirts to protect the same during the monthly sickness or menstrual period.

A further object is to provide a short undershirt having a detachable waterproof shield which hangs from the waist of the wearer and is disposed beneath the thighs when she assumes a sitting position thereby preventing the staining of the outer skirt by the discharge.

Another object is to provide a shield of the above character which may be made at a low cost and which may be easily cleaned thus rendering the same sanitary.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists of the novel features of construction, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter fully described and claimed, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a view illustrating the use of my invention, a portion of the outer skirt being broken away; Fig. 2 is a front view of the shield; Fig. 3 is a section taken on the line 3-3 of Fig. 2; and Fig. 4 is a detail section taken on the line 4-4 of Fig. 2.

Referring more particularly to the drawing 5 indicates the front or abdominal portion of the shield to which are secured the straps 6 which are made of a double thickness of material and are provided with buttons and button holes by means of which they are secured together as clearly shown in Fig. 2. These straps are of greater length than the width of the material forming the abdominal portion 5 and hang or depend therefrom in the use of the shield.

The back of the shield comprises the yoke 7 and the skirt 8 which are sewed together. The ends of the yoke are also sewed to the ends of the portion 5. The skirt 8 extends below the ends of the front straps 6 and the side edges of the same are turned over as shown at 9, said edge portions being reinforced by sewing strips of material thereon. Upon the inner surface of the skirt 8 a sheet

of rubber or other suitable waterproof material 10 is removably secured. The upper and side edges of the protecting sheet have secured thereto one of the members of a plurality of clasps 11. The other members of these clasps are arranged on the underside of the turned over edges 9 of the skirt and the lower edge of the yoke 7 which extends below the upper edge of the skirt. Thus the water proof sheet 10 may be easily and quickly detached from or secured to the body of the shield so that it may be washed and kept in a thoroughly sanitary condition.

In order to retain the protecting sheet in its proper position upon the thighs of the wearer, resilient connections are provided between the skirt and the front straps 6. Intermediate side straps 12 are secured to and depend from the lower edge of the abdominal portion 5. These straps and the front straps 6 are connected by means of the elastic bands 13. Similar bands 14 also connect the side straps 12 to the edges of the skirt 8. Any desired number of these connecting bands may be employed but I preferably connect the side straps to the front straps and the skirt at their lower ends and at a point intermediate of their ends and the abdominal portion 5. I have found in practice that by so arranging the connecting bands sufficient elasticity is secured to hold the protecting sheet 10 closely upon the limbs of the wearer while at the same time the shield may be worn without the slightest discomfort.

In the use of my improved shield the same is designed to be worn under the outer skirt, as shown in Fig. 1 and is fastened in front around the waist of the wearer, the rubber protecting sheet hanging almost to the knees. The body of the shield may be made of cotton, silk or any other desired material and it will be obvious that when the wearer assumes a sitting or reclining position, the mucous discharge which occurs during menstruation will be prevented from contacting with the outer garment. The catamenial napkin is used in the usual manner but after becoming saturated it will leave a stain upon the skirt and does not entirely stop the escape of the fluid. Heretofore during the menstrual period it has been necessary to wear additional skirts of dark material to prevent the stains upon the outer skirt being conspicuous and causing embarrassment to the wearer. By means of my improved

shield this disagreeable necessity is eliminated and an absolutely sanitary protection for the skirt is afforded. The shield may also be made at a very small cost and may be easily and quickly arranged in proper position by the wearer.

While I have shown and described a particular construction of the shield it will be understood that various changes in the form and proportions of the same may be resorted to without departing from the essential feature or sacrificing any of the advantages of my invention.

The skirt of the shield may be formed of rubber sheeting which may be readily cleansed so as to render the device odorless and completely waterproof whereby the danger of the outer skirt being soiled is entirely eliminated.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:—

1. A shield for the purpose specified comprising an underskirt consisting of an abdominal portion and a skirt portion secured together, front straps secured to said abdominal portion adapted to overlap and be se-

cured together, elastic connections between said front straps and the skirt to yieldingly hold said skirt closely upon the rear of the wearer's thighs, and a sheet of waterproof material detachably secured to said skirt.

2. A shield for the purpose specified comprising an underskirt consisting of an abdominal portion, a yoke and a skirt portion sewed together in the manner set forth, front straps secured to the abdominal portion and depending below the same, means for fastening the meeting edges of said front straps together, said straps secured to and depending from said abdominal portion, a plurality of elastic bands connecting the side and front straps, a plurality of elastic bands connecting the side straps and the skirt portion, and a sheet of waterproof material detachably secured to said skirt portion.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

SARA WILLA LITTLE.

Witnesses:

ALICE McNAMARA,
Mrs. H. BEMAN.