ABSTRACT: An article of personal hygiene comprises a hugging belt having juxtaposed panels for disposition fore and aft in the pelvic region adapted to embrace and secure the ends of a crotch shield of absorbent sheet material.
ARTICLE OF PERSONAL HYGIENE

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The primary object of this invention is to provide an article of personal hygiene for female wear to prevent spotting or staining at the crotch of undergarments which article is simple and easy to apply, comfortable to wear, adjustable and includes a readily replaceable shield normally disposed through the wearer's crotch. Another object of the invention is the provision of novel, easily operable attaching means between the ends of a crotch shield and a hip-hugging band. Other objects will be apparent during the course of the following detailed description.

THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the article of personal hygiene;
FIG. 2 is an enlarged perspective view of the crotch shield as attached to a hip-hugging band, portions of the latter being omitted for convenience of illustration;
FIG. 3 shows in perspective the manner of construction of tabs forming a part of the band;
FIG. 4 illustrates the mode of securing a crotch shield end to the band tab structure; and
FIG. 5 is a plan view of a crotch shield.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Referring to FIG. 1 a hip-hugging belt 9 comprises an opposed pair of T-shaped connectors 10 and 18 which are linearly joined by elastomeric strands 17 and 19 used in pairs. Connectors 10 and 18 are normally disposed before and behind the human body in the pelvic region so that the head of the T-shaped connectors comprise connector bands between the ends of the two pairs of hip strands 17 and 19 which, as shown in FIGS. 2 and 4, are anchored thereto by suitable stitching.

T-shaped tablike connectors 10 and 18 are formed as shown in FIG. 3 of fabric cut in a double T-shape and folded and stitched. Tab part 14 is folded over the stem of part 13 to form a panel. Likewise, a tab part 15 is folded over the stem of part 16 to form a second panel. Then the crossheads of parts 13 and 16 are medially folded as indicated by the dotted line axis to overlie each other as in FIG. 4. Note that the crossheads of parts 13 and 16 extend outward beyond the ends of the double-layer panels and, when the ends of strands 17 and 19 are placed therebetween, they are stitched together. The perimeters of the panels 13, 14 and 15, 16 are likewise stitched but the portions of the two tabs or panels are not stitched together except as they are joined to waist-embracing elastic strands 17 and 19.

Each of the T-shaped connectors 10 and 18 has a pair of juxtaposed depending tab panels. The crossheads of the connectors are linearly joined to the pair of elastic strands 17 and 19. Thus, it is provided a belt to encircle the waist having paired crotch shield receiving tab means front and back. The vertical disposition of the paired strands permits them to be separated or spread as they pass over the hips to insure comfort, to more securely hold the connector bands 10 and 18 in place and to reduce the likelihood that the belt will be detected when worn under a skirt or dress.

The paired and juxtaposed depending tabs or panels of the connectors 10 and 18 have interfitting male and female fastener parts 11 and 12 secured in register therein as best seen in FIG. 4. These fasteners are generally referred to as snap fasteners in which a protruberance of part 11 is inserted into a gripping cavity in part 12 and there secured.

A thin sheet 20 of absorbent material in the elongated form shown in FIG. 5 is provided as the crotch shield. Such may be cut from a soft fabric, either woven or nonwoven, or it may be a piece of wet-strengthened tissue or paper. Desirably, shield 20 is thin, nonabrasive and suitably strong to withstand stresses and strains that may be encountered. Preferably it is disposable.

The shield 20 has two series of paired perforations. Holes 21, 22 and 26, adjacent end 28 and holes 23, 24 and 25, adjacent end 27 cooperate with the fastener parts 11 and 12 when the shield 20 is joined to the belt 9. The lateral spacing of the pairs of holes is the same as the spacing of the paired fasteners. The wearer attaches the ends of the crotch shield to the juxtaposed tab panels by selecting those holes that insure the shield is closely disposed in the crotch against the body.

It will be apparent from the foregoing description that the article herein is light in weight, not cumbersome and may be worn with comfort. Its inconspicuousness is patent and its utility obvious. The wearer may readily dispose of the crotch element 20 and replace it at negligible expense. The cost of the same is intended to be insignificant and this end is reached by the use of disposable tissue type of papers which are usually wet-strengthened by the use of resin compounds incorporated during manufacture.

1. An article of personal hygiene, comprising: a hip-hugging belt consisting of an opposed pair of T-shaped connectors to be disposed before and behind the body in the pelvic region, the heads thereof being linearly joined by pairs of vertically separated elastomeric strands to pass over the hips at each side; said T-shaped connectors providing depending tab means comprising juxtaposed panels; an elongate, thin crotch shield of absorbent sheet material having its ends disposed between the panels of said tab means; and said tab means each having laterally spaced pairs of fasteners to secure an end of said shield between the panels thereof.

2. An article according to claim 1 in which the fasteners comprise interfitting male-female parts secured in mating relating relation in said panels and gripping a shield end disposed between said panels.

3. An article according to claim 2 in which each shield end has perforations to receive and be engaged by the interfitted parts of said fasteners.