Sept. 12, 1950 I. C. B. JONES 2,522,375

LADY'S UNDERGARMENT

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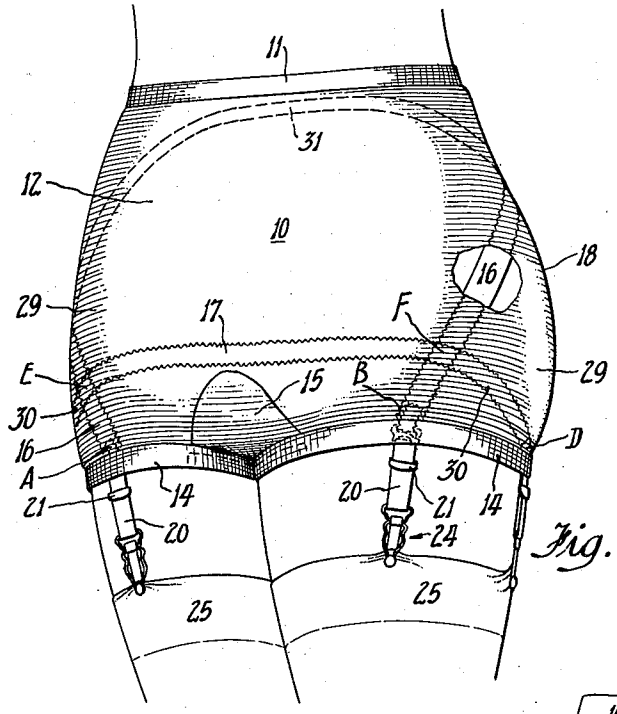


Fig. 1.

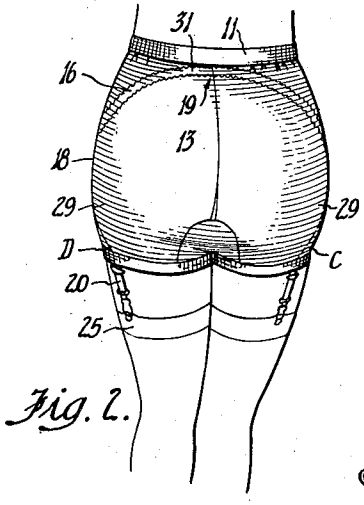


Fig. 2.

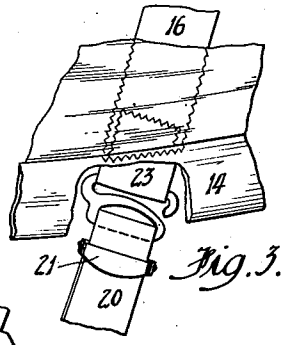


Fig. 3.

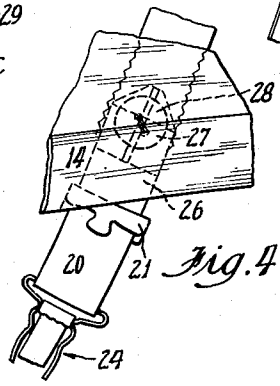


Fig. 4.

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LADY'S UNDERGARMENT

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3 Claims. (Cl. 2—43)

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This invention relates to a lady's undergarment and refers especially to an improved lady's garment which is capable of use as a pair of pantees, knickers or the like and which is also capable of supporting a pair of stockings.

Hitherto garments used for the purpose of supporting stockings have been of two general types, viz: foundation garments such as corsets, corselettes and girdles which perform the function of figure moulding as well as the function of supporting the stockings, and garments such as suspender belts which are used primarily as stocking supports.

Corsets, girdles and similar devices restrict movement of the body of the wearer to a substantial extent, and in some instances cause discomfort to the wearer. It will be appreciated, therefore, that it is frequently desired to wear stockings without the necessity for employing a tight-fitting figure-gripping garment which restricts body movement. The use of suspender belts does not adequately meet this requirement.

A further disadvantage of foundation or figure-moulding garments is that such garments, owing to their construction, are difficult to launder, and in addition they are subject to deterioration on laundering due to the rubber or other elastic material incorporated therein.

As far as I am aware, it has not previously been found possible to construct a single garment which will satisfactorily perform the dual functions of a crotched, non-elastic and non-figure-moulding garment such as a pair of pantees, scantees, briefs or the like, on the one hand, and a stocking support, on the other hand. The reason for this will be apparent when it is realised that pantees, scantees and the like are normally constructed of light non-elastic woven or knitted fabric, are capable of moderate longitudinal or lateral stretch under tension, and are constructed so as to grip the figure at the waistband only. Thus any attempt to employ such a garment to support a stocking, which applies a considerable tension to the garment to which it is attached, particularly on bending of the wearer at the waist or knees, would at first sight appear to be impracticable.

According to this invention, however, it has been found possible to construct a garment of the type in question which can be used as a pair of pantees or the like and also, if so desired, as a stocking support. The garment effectively supports the stockings of the wearer when it is required to be used for such purpose, and yet is so formed as to retain the non-contracting and

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non-moulding characteristics of a normal pair of pantees.

An object of this invention, therefore, is to provide a novel garment which serves the combined functions of a pair of pantees or the like and of supporting means for stockings when these are worn. A still further object is to provide a garment which can be used as a pair of pantees or the like without stocking supporting means when stockings are not worn.

A yet further object resides in constructing a nether garment which is capable of supporting stockings in a more comfortable and satisfactory manner than has hitherto been possible with garments previously employed for this purpose.

A still further object is to provide a garment which can be readily laundered, the stocking supporting means being capable of being detached for this purpose, which garment is not subject to deterioration on laundering as are foundation garments and stocking supports at present in use.

In the ensuing description, the term "pantees" is to be understood as including ladies' knickers, briefs, shorts, scantees, bloomers and similar garments.

According to this invention, I provide a lady's undergarment of the kind described which comprises a crotched non-contracting non-figure-moulding nether garment of light non-elastic moderately extensible fabric, said nether garment having a front portion, a back portion, hip portions, leg portions and a crotch portion, an elastic waistband on said nether garment, a first reinforcing strip secured to the fabric of the garment and extending from points at the front of each leg portion around the hip portions and back portion of the garment, a second reinforcing strip secured to the fabric of the garment and extending from points near the rear of each leg portion across the front portion of the garment and secured to the first reinforcing strip, and stocking suspenders removably attached to the ends of the reinforcing strips.

The garment is shaped to fit the body but is non-gripping and non-figure-moulding. The garment is formed of fabric of the type normally used in pantees, scantees and the like, and the said fabric is non-elastic and is preferably extensible in both directions to an appreciable though limited extent. The lower edges of the leg portions are preferably formed to loosely surround the wearer's thigh, but if desired, elastic or the like may be incorporated therein.

The first reinforcing strip is preferably secured

to the internal surface of the garment fabric and preferably extends from a point at the front of the lower edge of one leg portion upwardly around the adjacent hip portion and across the back portion of the garment and downwardly around the other hip portion to a point at the front of the lower edge of the other leg portion. The second reinforcing strip preferably extends from a point between the side and rear of the lower edge of one leg portion and transversely across the front of the garment and downwardly to a point between the side and rear of the lower edge of the other leg portion.

The reinforcing strips or bands are formed of material having substantially greater tensile strength and less extensibility than the fabric of which the main portion of the garment is constructed.

A feature of the invention resides in the fact that owing to the abovementioned arrangement of the reinforcing strips, the garment does not cause discomfort to the wearer when she is seated, as is frequently the case with existing garments, such as corsets having stocking supports.

The accompanying drawings illustrate a preferred embodiment of our invention. In these drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a ladies' undergarment shown in position on the wearer;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the rear of the garment shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary view, partly broken away, showing one method of attachment of the stocking suspenders, and

Figure 4 is a fragmentary view of an alternative method of attaching the suspenders.

Referring to the drawings, and with particular reference to Figures 1 to 3, the garment comprises essentially a pair of pantees 10 formed of light woven or knitted fabric and which are shaped to fit but not to grip or mould the figure. The pantees 10 are provided with an elastic waistband 11, a front portion 12, a back portion 13, leg portions 14, and a gusset or crotch portion 15.

A pair of reinforcing or supporting strips or bands 16, 17 formed of fabric which is relatively inextensible in a longitudinal direction are secured to the inside of the garment by stitching along their edges.

The reinforcing strip or band 16 extends from a point A at the front of one leg portion 14 upwardly around the hip and back of the garment and downwardly to a similar point B at the front of the other leg portion 14. When the garment is in position on the wearer, the strip 16 extends upwardly and rearwardly in a smooth curve at each side of the garment so as to pass over the hips 18 of the wearer and then extends around the rear of the garment at a short distance below the waist band 11 so as to pass around the small of the wearer's back as indicated at 19.

The second reinforcing strip 17 extends in a smooth curve from a point C at one side and towards the rear of a leg portion 14 upwardly across the front of the garment and then downwardly to a corresponding point D on the other leg portion 14. The second strip 17 crosses the first strip 16 at points E and F above and slightly to the rear of the lower ends of the first strip 16 and the strips 16 and 17 are stitched together where they meet.

Suspender straps 20 which are adjustable in length by means of adjustable fastenings 21 are removably attached to the lower ends of the reinforcing strips 16 and 17 beneath the leg portions 14 of the garment. In the construction shown in Figure 3 this is effected by means of a sliding clip 22 which is attached to each suspender strap 20 and is removably attachable to a looped tab 23 secured to the lower ends of the reinforcing strips 16, 17. In the modified construction shown in Figure 4, the suspender strap 20 is provided at its upper end with a tab 26 having a buttonhole 27 which is removably attachable to a button 28 secured to the inner face of the reinforcing strip 16 (or 17) at its lower end. Suspender fittings 24 are secured to the lower ends of the suspender straps 20 and are adapted to be attached to the welt 25 of a stocking in the usual manner.

In use the garment may be worn with or without the suspender straps 20 and suspenders 24 attached thereto. When these are removed, the garment may be worn in the same way as a normal garment of the type in question. When stockings are worn, the suspender straps 20 are attached to the garment at the appropriate positions in the manner indicated and the suspenders 24 are attached to the stocking in the usual manner.

Owing to the construction of the garment, the tension exerted by the stocking is carried primarily by the reinforcing strip 16 which extends around the hips and back of the wearer. This tension is felt only to a slight extent by the wearer and the freedom of movement obtained with normal pantees are retained. In addition, the construction of the garment is such that it remains in position on the wearer even when substantial tension is exerted thereon by the stockings. These features are of considerable importance and greatly enhance the attractiveness and saleability of the garment.

The tension exerted by the stocking is also supported by the second strip 17 and since the strips 16 and 17 are secured together at points E and F, the strain exerted on the rear suspenders is taken partly by the strip 16 which passes around the rear of the garment and partly by the strip 17. Moreover, the strip 17 performs the function of preventing spreading of the front portion 12 of the garment which might otherwise occur when strain is applied to the strip 16.

In the case of garments of normal construction having stocking supports, substantial discomfort is experienced by the wearer when she is seated owing to the increase in tension on the rear suspenders, and in the straps to which they are attached. A further and important feature of this invention resides in the fact that the tension on the rear suspender straps 20 is not substantially increased when the wearer is seated. According to the present invention, the sections 29 of the garment directly above the rear suspenders are not reinforced and being formed of extensible material are capable of substantial extension when the wearer is seated, while at the same time, the sections 30 of the strips 17 between the rear suspenders and points E and F swing forwardly when the wearer sits so as to assist in avoiding undue tension on the rear suspenders. As a result, the comfort to the wearer is greatly enhanced.

A still further feature resides in the fact that the rear suspenders and suspender straps may be first attached to the stocking and may be secured to the garment after the stocking is in

position, thus obviating the difficulty of attaching the rear suspenders to the stocking which is experienced with garments of the normal type.

The portion 31 of the reinforcing strip 16 at the rear of the garment may be formed of elastic material and may be constructed so as to be free from the garment if so desired. In addition, it will be understood that the suspenders and suspender straps may conveniently be detached from the garment for laundering purposes.

I claim:

1. A lady's undergarment of the kind described which comprises a crotched form-fitting non-contracting non-figure-moulding nether garment of the pull-up type constructed of light non-elastic moderately extensible fabric, said garment having a front portion, a back portion, hip portions, leg portions and a crotch portion, an elastic waistband on said garment, a first reinforcing strip of substantially inextensible material secured interiorly to the fabric of the garment and disposed to extend from a point at the front of the lower edge of one leg portion upwardly and rearwardly around the adjacent hip portion and across the back portion of the garment at a short distance below the waistband and downwardly and forwardly around the other hip portion to a point at the front of the lower edge of the other leg portion, the said first reinforcing strip thereby extending over the hips of the wearer and across the small of the wearer's back when the garment is worn so that said strip and the fabric to which it is attached are supported against downward movement when tension is applied to the lower ends of the strip during wear, a second reinforcing strip of substantially inextensible material secured interiorly to the fabric of the garment and disposed to extend upwardly from a point between the side and rear of the lower edge of one leg portion and transversely across the front portion of the garment and downwardly to a point between the side and rear of the lower edge of the other leg portion, the first reinforcing strip and second reinforcing strip being secured together where they intersect and the second reinforcing strip serving to prevent spreading of the front portion of the garment when tension is applied to the lower ends of the first reinforcing strip during wear, suspender straps removably attached to the lower ends of the reinforcing strips, and stocking suspenders attached to the suspender straps.

2. A lady's undergarment of the kind described which comprises a crotched form-fitting non-contracting non-figure-moulding nether garment of the pull-up type constructed of light non-elastic moderately extensible fabric, said garment having a front portion, a back portion, hip portions, leg portions and a crotch portion, an elastic waistband on said garment, a first reinforcing strip of substantially inextensible material secured interiorly to the fabric of the garment and disposed to extend from a point at the front of the lower edge of one leg portion upwardly and rearwardy around the adjacent hip portion and across the back portion of the garment at a short distance below the waistband and downwardly and forwardly around the other hip portion to a point at the front of the lower edge of the other leg portion, the said first reinforcing strip thereby extending over the hips of the wearer and across the small of the wearer's back when the garment is worn so that said strip and the fabric to which it is attached are supported against downward movement when tension is applied to the lower ends of the strip during wear, a second reinforcing strip of substantially inextensible material secured interiorly to the fabric of the garment and disposed to extend upwardly from a point between the side and rear of the lower edge of one leg portion and transversely across the front portion of the garment and downwardly to a point between the side and rear of the lower edge of the other leg portion, the first and second reinforcing strip being secured together where they intersect and the second reinforcing strip serving to prevent spreading of the front portion of the garment when tension is applied to the lower ends of the first reinforcing strip during wear, suspender straps of adjustable length detachably secured to the lower ends of the first and second reinforcing strips at points substantially level with the lower edges of the leg portions, and stocking suspenders attached to the lower ends of the suspender straps, the sections of the garment above the lower ends of the second reinforcing strip being substantially extensible so that the sections of the second reinforcing strip between the lower ends thereof and the points of intersection with the first reinforcing strip may swing forwardly when the wearer sits in order to prevent undue tension on the rear stocking suspenders when the wearer is seated.

3. A lady's undergarment of the kind described which comprises a crotched form-fitting non-contracting non-figure-moulding nether garment of the pull-up type constructed of light non-elastic moderately extensible fabric, said garment having a front portion, a back portion, hip portions, leg portions and a crotch portion, an elastic waistband on said garment, a first reinforcing strip of substantially inextensible material secured interiorly to the fabric of the garment and disposed to extend from a point at the front of the lower edge of one leg portion upwardly and rearwardly around the adjacent hip portion and across the back portion of the garment at a short distance below the waistband and downwardly and forwardly around the other hip portion to a point at the front of the lower edge of the other leg portion, the said first reinforcing strip thereby extending over the hips of the wearer and across the small of the wearer's back when the garment is worn so that said strip and the fabric to which it is attached are supported against downward movement when tension is applied to the lower ends of the strip during wear, a second reinforcing strip of substantially inextensible material secured interiorly to the fabric of the garment and disposed to extend upwardly from a point between the side and rear of the lower edge of one leg portion and transversely across the front portion of the garment at a substantial distance below the waistband and at a short distance above the crotch portion and downwardly to a point between the side and rear of the lower edge of the other leg portion, the first and second reinforcing strips intersecting at points located above and slightly to the rear of the lower ends of the first reinforcing strip and being secured together at such points, the second reinforcing strip serving to prevent spreading of the front portion of the garment when tension is applied to the lower ends of the first reinforcing strip during wear, front suspender straps attached to the ends of the first reinforcing strip, rear suspender straps attached to the ends of the second reinforcing

strip, means for adjusting the length of the front and rear suspender straps, and stocking suspenders removably attached to said suspender straps, the sections of the garment above the lower ends of the second reinforcing strip being substantially extensible so that the sections of the second reinforcing strip between the lower ends thereof and the points of intersection with the first reinforcing strip may swing forwardly when the wearer sits in order to prevent undue tension on the rear stocking suspenders when the wearer is seated.

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