

April 5, 1932.

G. F. EARNSHAW

1,852,993

PLAY SUIT

Filed Jan. 16, 1928

Fig. 1

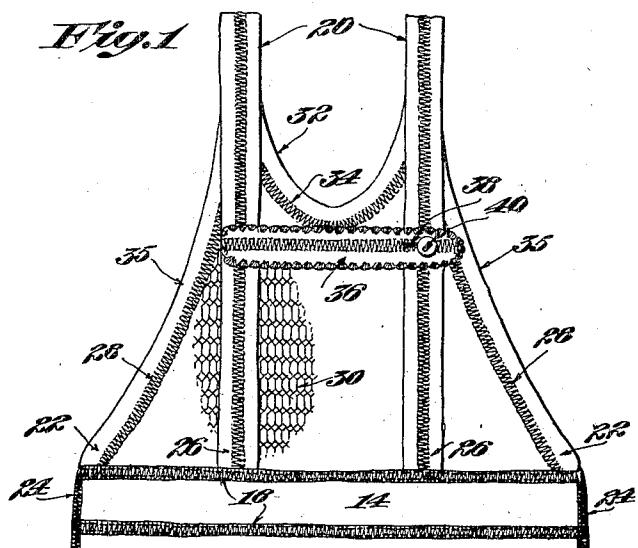


Fig. 2

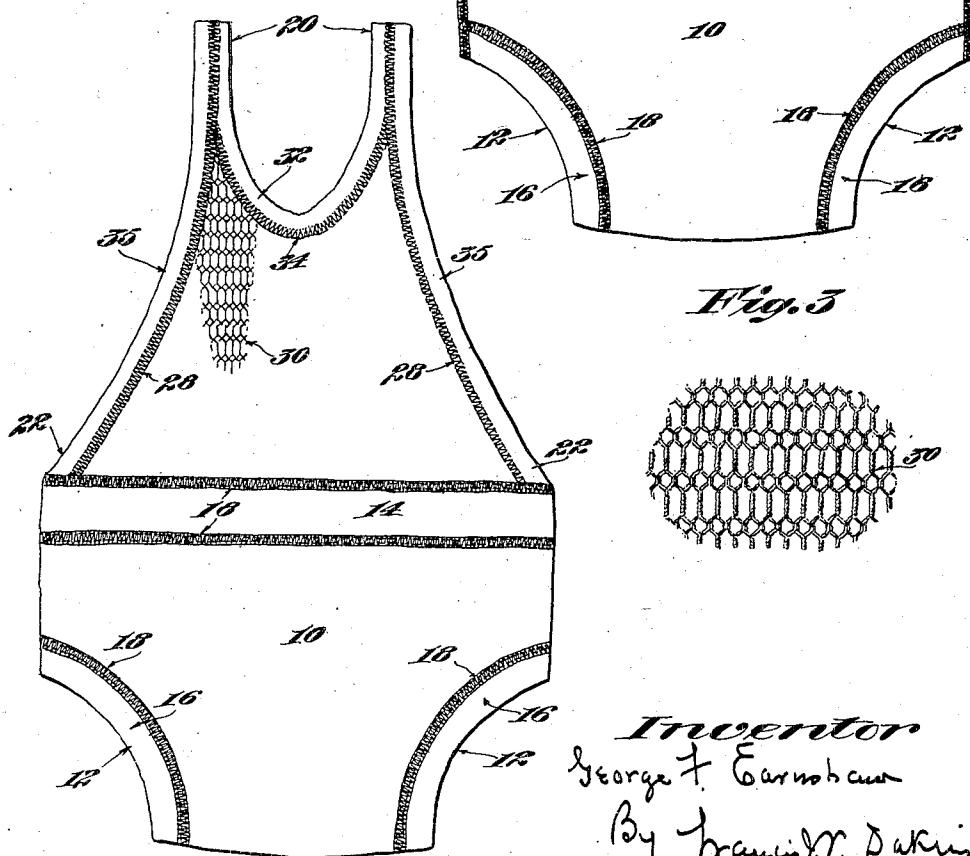
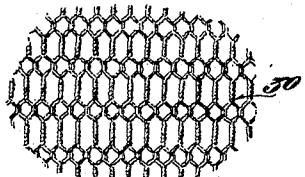


Fig. 3



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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## PLAY-SUIT

Application filed January 16, 1928. Serial No. 247,054.

This invention relates to a play-suit which, although designed with special reference to infants and children, is capable of general use.

The main object of the invention is the production of a garment capable of general use as a play, romping or bathing suit which exposes the body to air and sun and leaves it free and unrestricted and yet conforms to the dictates of modesty.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a garment which may be put on and removed with a minimum of effort and without requiring the manipulation of buttons or other fastening means.

A further object is the provision of a suit of simple and economical construction, capable of being made at a low cost and yet attractive in appearance.

Other objects of the invention will be more specifically described hereinafter.

The invention contemplates a garment comprising a trunk portion having supporting shoulder straps permanently secured to the trunk portion with a shield or panel of netted or meshed material for concealing the front of the body of the wearer. The trunk portion is of the abbreviated type and preferably legless in order to expose as much of the body to the sun and air as possible and the shield or panel of netted or meshed material fills in the space between the shoulder straps on the front and the top front edge of the trunk portion, thereby concealing that part of the body but still permitting air and sun 35 to reach the body through the open meshes of the material.

In the accompanying drawings illustrating the preferred embodiment of the invention, Figure 1 is a rear or back elevation of 40 a play-suit constructed in accordance with the invention; Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the same; and Fig. 3 is a view on an enlarged scale of one form of netted or meshed material suitable for the shield or panel part of the suit.

Referring to the drawings, 10 designates the trunk portion of the garment having side leg openings 12 and a waist band 14 which may be of elastic material or not as preferred. 45 The leg openings 12 are preferably finished

with elastic binding 16 in order to fit the legs snugly. The trunk portion 10 may be made of knitted, woven or any other suitable material and may be made full or tight as desired. Ornamental elastic stitching 18 is employed for attachment of the waist band and leg bindings to the trunk portion 10.

For supporting the trunk portion on the body of the wearer, a pair of shoulder straps 20 are permanently attached at both ends to the trunk portion. Preferably, the front ends 22 of the straps are secured at the side seams 24 of the waist band of the trunk portion and the back ends 26 of the straps to the waist band in the rear at suitable points intermediate the side seams.

Between the front portions of the shoulder straps and stitched thereto and to the front portion of the waist band by stitching 28 and 18 respectively is a shield or panel 30 of netted or meshed material for concealing the front upper portion of the body of the wearer. The upper edge of the shield or panel 30 is cut on a curve and finished with a binding 32 and stitching 34 which are continued at both ends into the shoulder straps 20. Preferably, the binding 32 is made in double thickness by folding suitable tape material lengthwise and stitching the two edges thereof to the panel 30 and the front portions 35 of the straps are made in the same manner and the back portions of the shoulder straps are formed by stitching the edges of the bindings 32 and 35 together. This method produces shoulder straps which are sufficiently wide to prevent curling and to obviate cutting into the flesh to the discomfort of the wearer.

By attaching the front ends 22 of the shoulder straps to the side seams of the waist band, the shield or panel 30 at the waistline is drawn around the sides of the body thereby insuring a close fit over the chest portion of the wearer. The back portions of the shoulder straps may drop straight down to the waistband from the shoulders in which case a cross-strap 36 may be fastened at one end to one of the shoulder straps and at its other end by providing a buttonhole 38 to receive a button 40 fastened to the other shoulder.

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strap so that the two straps may be buttoned together to prevent slipping off the shoulders or the back portions of the shoulder straps may be crossed in the ordinary manner which will obviate the use of the cross-straps 36.

The garment may be made of any suitable material or of various materials to suit various uses or of different colored materials or may be decorated to add to its attractive appearance.

In the use of a garment made in accordance with the invention, the garment is put on by stepping into the trunk portion and drawing the straps over the shoulders and is removed by reversing these steps. In garments having crossed shoulder straps, it is, of course, unnecessary to manipulate any buttons or fastening devices but in the garment shown in the drawings, there is required the manipulation of merely one button for fastening the cross straps. The garment can, therefore be put on and removed most expeditiously. Its use gives the utmost freedom of movement to the wearer without restricting freedom of motion in any respect and at the same time exposes the body to the fullest degree permissible with modesty to sun and air. The advantage of a front panel of netted or meshed material is obvious because while it conceals the portions of the body covered thereby yet it permits the concealed portion to receive a benefit from the fresh circulation of air through the meshes and to the influence of the sunlight.

It is to be understood that the garment shown in the drawings and described hereinbefore is merely illustrative of the invention and that the invention is not to be limited to the form shown and described since it may be embodied in various other forms of construction all within the purview of the following claims.

What I claim is:

1. A play suit including a trunk portion, a pair of shoulder straps, each secured at one end to the said trunk portion at the waist line and adjacent one side thereof and at its other end to the back of the trunk portion, said straps diverging downwardly at the front, a neck portion connecting the straps at the front thereof near their shoulder engaging portions, and a front shield or panel filling in the space between said straps, neck portion and trunk portion, said shield or panel being of a mesh formation sufficiently close to conceal the front upper portion of the body from view and yet leave the same exposed to the influence of sun light.

2. A play suit including a trunk portion, a pair of shoulder straps, each secured at one end to the said trunk portion at the waist line and adjacent one side thereof and at its other end to the back of the trunk portion, said straps converging upwardly at the front, a neck portion connecting the straps at the

front thereof near their shoulder engaging portions, a front shield or panel filling in the space between said straps, neck portion and trunk portion, said shield or panel being of a mesh formation sufficiently close to conceal the front upper portion of the body from view and yet leave the same exposed to the influence of sun light, a fastening strap secured to the back portion of one of said shoulder straps, and means for detachably securing the free end of said fastening strap to the back portion of the other shoulder strap.

3. A play suit comprising a trunk portion, a pair of shoulder straps each secured at its ends to the trunk portion at the waist-line thereof, a relatively narrow front neck portion extending between and connecting the straps at the front thereof near their shoulder engaging portions, and a front shield or panel filling in the space between said straps, neck portion, and trunk portion, said shield or panel being supported by said straps and neck portion substantially free from trunk supporting strain and being of a mesh formation sufficiently close to conceal the front upper portion of the body from view and yet leave the same exposed to the influence of sunlight, the other areas between said straps above said trunk portion being completely open to leave the body of the wearer above the trunk portion fully exposed except for said straps, neck portion, and front panel.

4. An article of the character described consisting of a child's play suit comprising a trunk portion, supporting means including a pair of shoulder straps each secured at its front end to the trunk portion at the waist line thereof, and a front shield member carried by said supporting means and substantially free from trunk supporting strain, said shield member being of a size and mesh formation sufficiently close to conceal the breast portion of the body from view and yet leave the same exposed to the influence of sun light, the other areas between the parts of the supporting means above said trunk portion being substantially open to leave the body of the wearer above the trunk portion fully exposed except for said supporting means and front shield member.

In witness whereof, I hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of January, 1928.

GEORGE F. EARNSHAW.

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