Feb. 22, 1949. A. R. KNEIBLER 2,462,508

UNDERGARMENT

Filed Sept. 27, 1945

Fig. 1

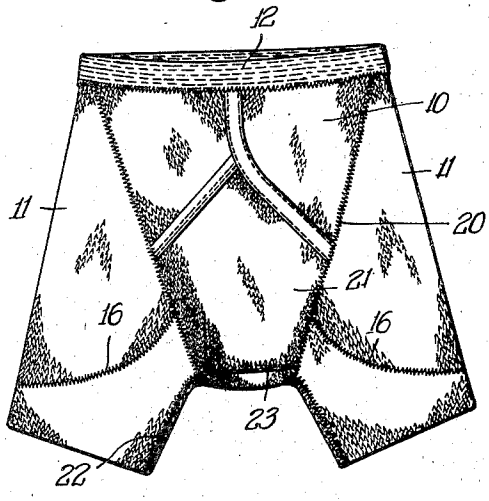


Fig. 2

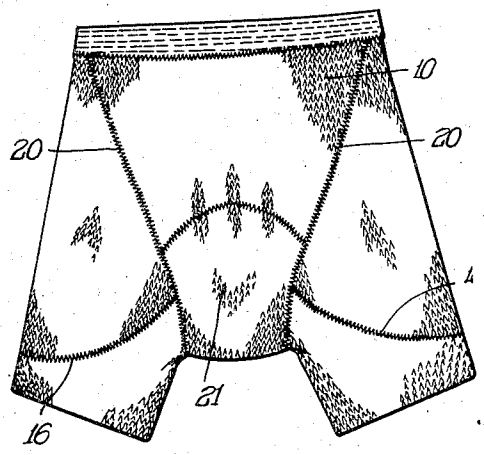


Fig. 3.

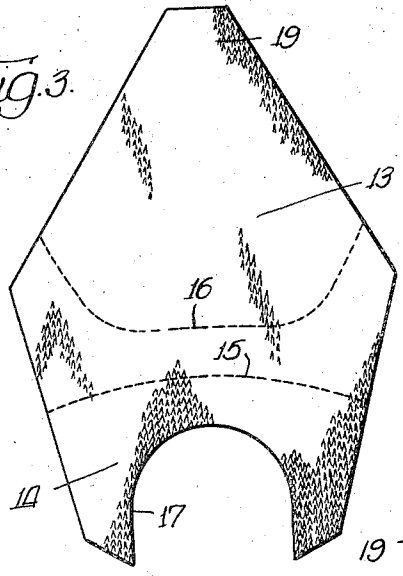


Fig. 4.

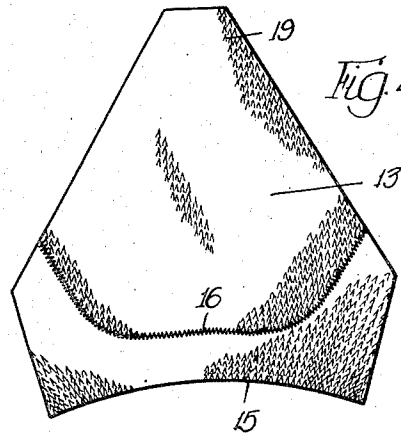
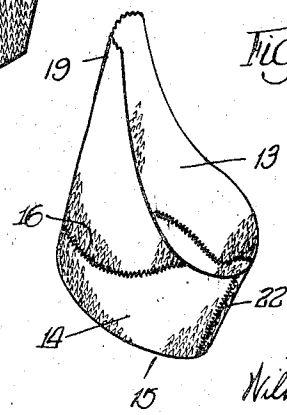


Fig. 5.



INVENTOR.
Arthur R. Kneibler,
BY
Wilkinson, Huxley, Byron & Knight
Attys.

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UNDERGARMENT

Arthur R. Kneibler, Kenosha, Wis., assignor to Cooper's, Incorporated, Kenosha, Wis., a corporation of Wisconsin

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5 Claims. (Cl. 2—224)

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This invention relates to a new and improved undergarment, and more particularly to the lower garments or drawers for men, women, and children.

The present invention relates to garments having legs and which are of improved construction at or adjacent the crotch portion thereof.

The invention relates particularly to garments having leg portions which have a novel construction at the base of the leg portion, whereby an improved reinforcement results on the inside of the legs and adjacent the crotch along groin or crotch seams.

The invention fulfills the objects of this invention, which are to provide a double thickness of fabric at the points of friction to which the garment is exposed when worn, whereby the life of the garment is prolonged.

A second object is to provide a double thickness of fabric at the crotch portion of the garment for reinforcing and strengthening purposes without restricting the garment by coarse seaming in the inner leg area, whereby prolonged life and increased strength are provided while at the same time a high degree of elasticity in the leg opening is maintained and the tendency of the leg opening to become permanently stretched or non-snug in its fitting qualities is reduced.

A further object of this invention is to provide a double thickness of crotch material to provide, in addition to reinforcement, extra absorbability for disposition of excess perspiration during wear.

A further object is to provide a garment which may be constructed from material cut according to a highly practical pattern, which enables the same to be satisfactorily made quickly and inexpensively.

These and other objects not specifically enumerated are contemplated for this invention as will readily appear from the following description and the accompanying drawings, both of which are given by way of illustration.

In the drawings—

Figure 1 is a front elevational view of an undergarment constructed in accordance with the present invention.

Figure 2 is a view similar to Figure 1, except that it shows the rear view of the garment illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a plan view of the cloth blank or piece of material from which the novel leg construction is made.

Figure 4 is the piece of material illustrated in Figure 3 folded and sewed to form the leg of the garment, and showing the hem and reinforcing

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portions sewed in overlapping relationship; and

Figure 5 shows the leg of the garment illustrated in Figure 1 while separated from the rest of the garment and to clearly illustrate how the tubular leg member is formed from the cloth piece illustrated in Figure 4.

From the various figures of the drawings it will be noted that the garment illustrated comprises a central section 10 and a pair of leg sections 11—11, and a waist band 12 at the top of the garment. The particular garment here illustrated is especially designed for manufacture from knitted material to provide support underwear for men of the general type illustrated in United States Letters Patent No. 2,232,950. Such garments have a fly opening and seams extending along the groin, which serve to connect the central portion of the garment to tubular leg portions thereof. Whereas the garment illustrated in said prior patent is primarily designed for masculine wear, the present invention, though illustrated as applied to such masculine types of garments, is applicable with equal utility to garments for women and children. It may also be applied to garments made from non-knitted materials.

The nature of the improvements can best be understood by referring to Figures 3, 4, and 5, wherein it will be noted that each of the leg portions illustrated in Figure 1 is formed from a piece of material cut in the shape represented generally in Figure 3. The piece of material consists of a main portion 13 and an overlapping portion 14 which, as best illustrated in Figure 3, is adapted to be folded along the fold-line 15 so as to form combined hem and reinforcing members at the bottom of the leg 11. As indicated in Figures 3 and 4, the hem is adapted to be attached along its edge 16 to the body of the piece by stitching 17. By virtue of the fact that the fold-line 15 is arcuate rather than straight, it has the effect of spreading or turning out the reinforcing portions of the hem so as to open up the arcuate edge marked 17 into a broader arc which lies along the seam line 16 so as to be sewed as at 17.

If knitted material is used, the wales of the material may extend vertically, as represented by the lines 19, and as a result of the enlargement or outward extension of the edge 17, the wales fan outwardly as represented in Figure 4 so that in the reinforcing portions not only is the double thickness provided but the two thicknesses of knitted material are composed of wales which run in different directions, that is to say, in

directions which are angularly disposed with respect to each other. The angle is such, however, that good elasticity and stretch are provided and greater strength and resistance are built into the garment.

After the leg piece is formed as shown in Figure 4, the same is sewed to the body of the garment 10 by groin seams 20 which extend down the front and back alike. As best shown in Figures 1 and 5, the lateral edges of the leg piece, throughout the extent of the reinforcing, are joined along seam-lines 22 by suitable stitching.

If desired, the portion 21 of the central section 10 may be formed of two layers of material to give double thickness in the crotch area. This is particularly desirable in connection with underwear for men. However, inasmuch as the improvement here described and claimed relates to the leg formation, it is to be understood that the novel form of hem and crotch reinforcement can be applied with equal value and utility to garments having other constructions throughout the body portion.

When masculine support is desired as a feature of the garment, a transverse tuck 23 may be formed in the front for the purpose of providing fullness. Obviously, however, a tuck is not essential as other means may be employed to provide fullness. In garments for women, no fullness is necessary unless the same may be desired for special purposes.

In practicing this invention, the hem and reinforcing portion 14 may be turned outside and sewed as shown, or if desired it could be turned inside with equally good results.

It is to be understood that the particular garment here illustrated is merely given by way of example and is not to be regarded as limiting the invention in any respect, as the claims are to be given the broadest possible interpretation which may be ascribed to them in view of the prior art.

I claim:

1. An undergarment comprising a body portion of knitted material having front and back sections, and leg portions of knitted material connected to said body portion, each of said leg portions being connected to said body portion by a seam which is located along the line of the adjacent groin of the wearer of said garment, the adjacent edge of the crotch of said body portion and the adjacent edge of the back section of said body portion, a hem and reinforcing member for each of said leg portions, each comprising a layer of knitted material overlapping

the base of the associated leg portion, and an extension of knitted material secured to the inside of each of said leg portions above the base thereof, each extension having its edges secured at the location of said seam at the adjacent edge of the crotch of the body portion of said garment.

2. A garment of the construction defined in claim 1, characterized in that each of said leg portions is tubular and is provided with a seam on the inside thereof, and has said reinforcing extension disposed on both sides of said seam.

3. A garment of the construction defined in claim 1, further characterized in that said hem and reinforcing member is formed from an integral extension of the material constituting the leg portion itself, and in which said hem and reinforcing member is folded outwardly of the garment and sewed at the upper edges thereof to the associated leg portion.

4. A garment of the construction defined in claim 1, further characterized in that each leg portion is formed from a blank having an integral extension provided with an edge cut on an arc and which is folded upwardly in overlapped relation in such manner that the arcuate edge is extended outwardly so as to stretch the fabric of said extension out of its normal position.

5. A garment of the construction defined in claim 1, further characterized in that each leg portion is made of knitted material having the wales running generally vertically at the sides of the garment, and in which said hem and reinforcing member is provided by an extension of said material constituting said leg portion which is folded upwardly and sewed to said leg material in a stretched manner, whereby the wales of said overlapping portion are angularly disposed throughout the reinforcing portions with respect to the wales of the underlying leg portions.

ARTHUR R. KNEIBLER.

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