March 22, 1966 J. E. BIRCHWOOD 3,241,156

GARMENT HAVING ADJUSTABLE LENGTH

Filed Jan. 2, 1964 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

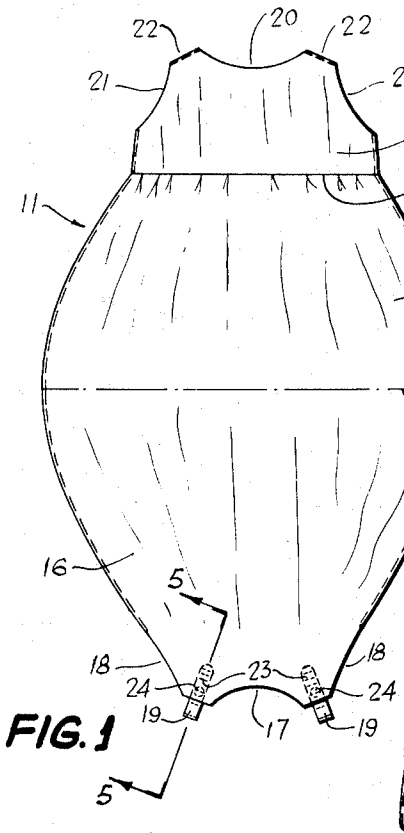


FIG. 1

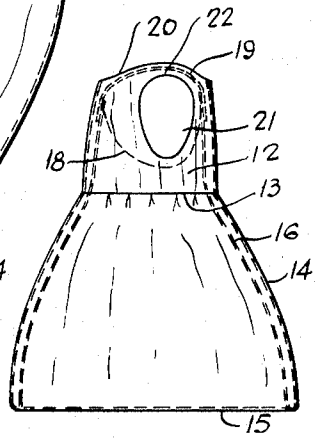


FIG. 3

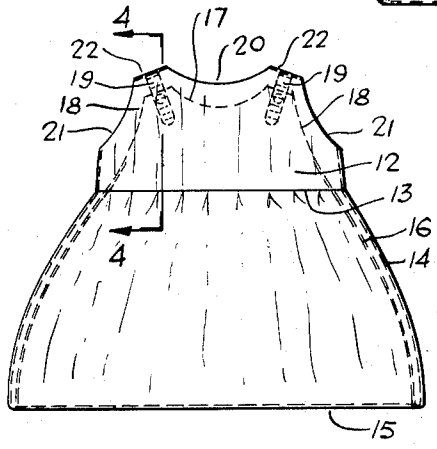


FIG. 2

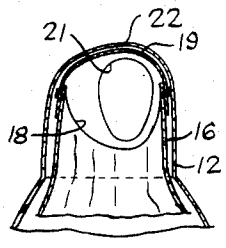


FIG. 4

INVENTOR
Joan E. BIRCHWOOD

Fitzpatrick & Co.

ATTORNEYS

March 22, 1966 J. E. BIRCHWOOD 3,241,156

GARMENT HAVING ADJUSTABLE LENGTH

Filed Jan. 2, 1964 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

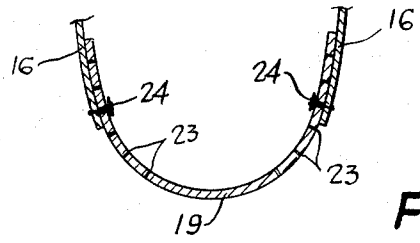


FIG. 5

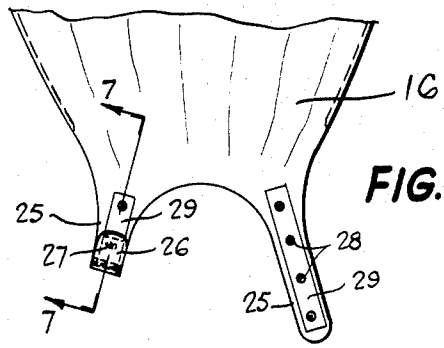


FIG. 6

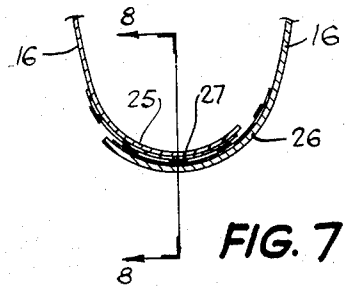


FIG. 7

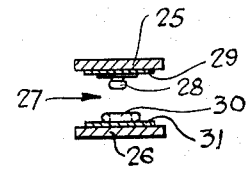


FIG. 8

INVENTOR
Joan E. BIRCHWOOD

Fethenstonhaugh & Co.
ATTORNEYS

United States Patent Office 3,241,156
Patented Mar. 22, 1966

3,241,156

GARMENT HAVING ADJUSTABLE LENGTH

Joan E. Birchwood, 102 Sheraton Drive,
Montreal West, Quebec, Canada

Filed Jan. 2, 1964, Ser. No. 335,181
4 Claims. (Cl. 2—75)

This invention relates to an improved garment having adjustable length and particularly to a child's dress in which the hem-line elevation may be adjusted without the need for any sewing operations.

It should be noted that although the following specification and figures refer to improvements in children's dresses it will be understood that the features of the present invention can equally well be applied to dresses of all sizes to fit wearers of any age.

It is well known that rapidly growing children equally rapidly outgrow their dresses before the dresses are sufficiently worn to be discarded. This presents the constant problem of increasing the lengths of the dresses to keep up with the growth of the children.

The conventional procedure for increasing the length of a dress is to adjust the hem-line of the dress by unloading the hem stitching, restitching the hem, and then repressing the hem to remove the old hem-line crease mark.

This is a relatively time consuming procedure usually requiring the services of a competent dressmaker. This procedure also leaves undesirable stitch marks in certain materials, clearly indicating the position of the original hem or hems.

The present invention overcomes the disadvantages mentioned with regard to the conventional procedure by providing a dress which can be altered in length in a matter of moments and which does not require any hem stitching or pressing.

The basic features of the present invention provide a garment of substantially tubular shape having neck and arm openings at the upper end thereof and being opened at the lower end with shoulder straps of adjustable length attached thereto. The lower portion of the garment is turned inwardly and upwardly until the shoulder straps on the lower end are in position to fit over the shoulders of a wearer and thus support the upwardly folded lower portion. The fold line thus forms the hem-line of the garment and the elevation of the hem-line can be adjusted by adjusting the length of the shoulder straps.

The adjustable shoulder straps fitted to the lower end of the garment include simple fastening means such as buttons, snap fastenings, or hooks and eyes, etc.

The process of adjusting the fitted length of the garment becomes, therefore, simply a matter of releasing the fastening means on the shoulder straps, lifting the lower portion of the garment further upwards to raise the fold or hem-line and to decrease the length of the garment, or lowering the lower portion to increase the length of the garment, and then refastening the fastening means on the shoulder straps.

Another advantageous feature of the present invention is that the upwardly folded lower portion provides an inner layer, making the garment, effectively fully lined and removing the need for a petticoat or similar undergarment.

It is, therefore, the main object of the present invention to provide an improved dress-type garment, the length of which can be adjusted without the need for any stitching operations.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a dress-type garment in which the lower portion is turned inwardly and upwardly, providing a dress having two layers and thus removing the need for a petticoat or similar undergarment.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an improved dress-type garment, the length of which can

be adjusted without leaving any crease marks from the original hem-line and without needing any pressing operations.

A further object of the present invention is to provide an improved dress-type garment, the length of which can be adjusted without requiring any dressmaking experience and without the need for any specialized equipment, by simply adjusting fastening means on shoulder straps.

These and other objects and advantages of the present invention will be further apparent by reference to the following detailed specification and figures in which:

FIG. 1 is a front elevation of a child's jumper-type dress embodying the features of the present invention and shown in the state before the lower portion is folded inwardly and upwardly for fitting.

FIG. 2 is a front elevation of the dress shown in FIG. 1, but shown folded in the fitted state.

FIG. 3 is a side elevation of the dress as shown in FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is a section on 4—4 in FIG. 2 showing details of a shoulder strap and outer dress shoulder portion.

FIG. 5 is a section on 5—5 in FIG. 1 showing, to an enlarged scale, details of a shoulder strap according to the preferred execution of the present invention.

FIG. 6 is a detail of shoulder straps according to an alternative execution of the present invention.

FIG. 7 is a section on 7—7 in FIG. 6.

FIG. 8 is a section on 8—8 in FIG. 7 and shows, to an enlarged scale, details of the fastening means embodied in the alternative execution of the present invention.

With reference now to FIG. 1, which shows a front elevation of a child's jumper-type dress before being folded inwardly and upwardly for fitting, the substantially tubular garment **11** comprises an upper body fitting portion **12** attached at the waistline **13** to a skirt portion **14**. Skirt portion **14** is extended downwardly below hem-line **15** to form a lower tubular portion **16** which is open at the lower end thereof. The open end of lower portion **16** is adapted to form neck opening **17** and arm openings **18**, with adjustable shoulder strap portions **19** fitted therebetween. The upper end of upper body fitting portion **12** contains neck opening **20** and arm openings **21**.

FIGS. 2 and 3 show front and side elevations, respectively, of the child's jumper-type dress shown in FIG. 1, but in which lower portion **16** is folded inwardly and upwardly until adjustable shoulder strap portions **19** are adjacent the shoulder portions **22** formed between neck opening **20** and arm openings **21** of upper body portion **12**. In this fitted state the lower fold line is on hem-line **15** and the dress now comprises a two-layer garment.

FIG. 4 is a section on 4—4 in FIG. 2 and shows, in detail, an adjustable shoulder strap portion **19** adjacent shoulder portion **22**.

FIG. 5 is a section on 5—5 in FIG. 1 and shows details of the preferred execution of shoulder strap length adjusting means in which shoulder strap portion **19** contains a plurality of buttonholes **23**, and the lower end of lower portion **16** has buttons **24** attached thereto. Thus adjusting the lengths of shoulder strap portions **19** is simply a matter of selecting appropriate buttonholes.

FIGS. 6, 7 and 8 show details of shoulder straps and adjusting means according to an alternative execution. In this alternative execution separate front and rear shoulder strap portions **25** and **26** respectively extend downwardly from the front and rear lower edges of lower portion **16** and overlap to form the shoulder straps. In FIG. 6 shoulder strap portions **25** and **26** are shown fastened together on the left hand side and unfastened on the right hand side. The overlapping shoulder strap portions **25** and **26** are fastened together by a plurality

of snap fasteners 27, the male portions 28 of which are attached to a tape 29 sewn to front shoulder strap portion 25 and the female portions 30 of which are attached to a tape 31 sewn to rear shoulder strap portion 26. Thus adjustment of the shoulder strap lengths is simply executed by connecting appropriate snap fasteners 27.

Shoulder strap portions 19 and front and rear shoulder strap portions 25 and 26 may also be in the form of cross-over straps, the strap cross-over preferably being made on the back of the wearer, before passing over the shoulders.

It will be understood that numerous other means can be used for obtaining adjustment of the shoulder strap length, such as hooks and eyes fastened to shoulder strap portions 25 and 26.

It will be further understood that the child's dress illustrated in the figures is a preferred execution and that the features of the present invention can equally well be applied to other types of garments, such as dresses having sleeves and collars, or to dresses having outer shoulder straps.

To effect economies in dress material lower tubular portion 16 can be made from a less expensive material than that of the outer body and skirt portions of the garment, the connecting seam between the two materials being made at a convenient position below hem-line 15. This feature can also be used to provide specific lining materials for the inner layer of the garment.

What I claim is:

1. A garment of adjustable length comprising a body member of substantially tubular shape, said body member having openings at the upper end thereof to receive the neck and arms of a wearer and being open at the lower end thereof, shoulder strap portions positioned at said open lower end, said lower end adapted to be turned inwardly and upwardly until said strap portions are in position to fit over the shoulders of said wearer, the fold-line in said garment forming a lower hem-line, said shoulder straps being adjustable in length such that reducing the length of said shoulder strap portions will result in raising the elevation of said hem-line and increasing the length of said shoulder strap portions will result in lowering the elevation of said hem-line.

2. A garment of adjustable length as set forth in claim 1 in which said shoulder strap portions include separate shoulder straps, said separate shoulder straps being adjustably connected to the lower end of said garment by button and buttonhole means.

3. A garment of adjustable length as set forth in claim 1 in which said shoulder strap portions include an adjustable shoulder strap for each of said shoulders, each of said adjustable shoulder straps comprising a front strap attached to the front surface of the lower end of said garment and a rear strap attached to the rear surface of the lower end of said garment, said front and rear straps being adjustably connected by snap fastener means.

4. A garment of adjustable length comprising a body member of substantially tubular shape, said body member having openings at the upper end thereof to receive the neck and arms of a wearer and being open at the lower end thereof, fastening elements positioned at said open lower end, said lower end adapted to be turned inwardly and upwardly until said fastening elements are in position connecting with co-operating fastening elements adapted to fit over the shoulders of said wearer, the fold-line in said garment forming a lower hem-line, said co-operating fastening elements being adjustable in length such that reducing the length of said co-operating fastening elements will result in raising the elevation of said hem-line and increasing the length of said co-operating fastening elements will result in lowering the elevation of said hem-line.

References Cited by the Examiner

UNITED STATES PATENTS

779,809	1/1905	Sherick	2—75
1,992,892	2/1935	Schoenberger	2—73
2,638,598	5/1953	Abramson	2—75
2,743,450	5/1956	Kling.	
2,942,272	6/1960	Ovagyan	2—74

JORDAN FRANKLIN, *Primary Examiner.*

M. J. COLITZ, *Assistant Examiner.*