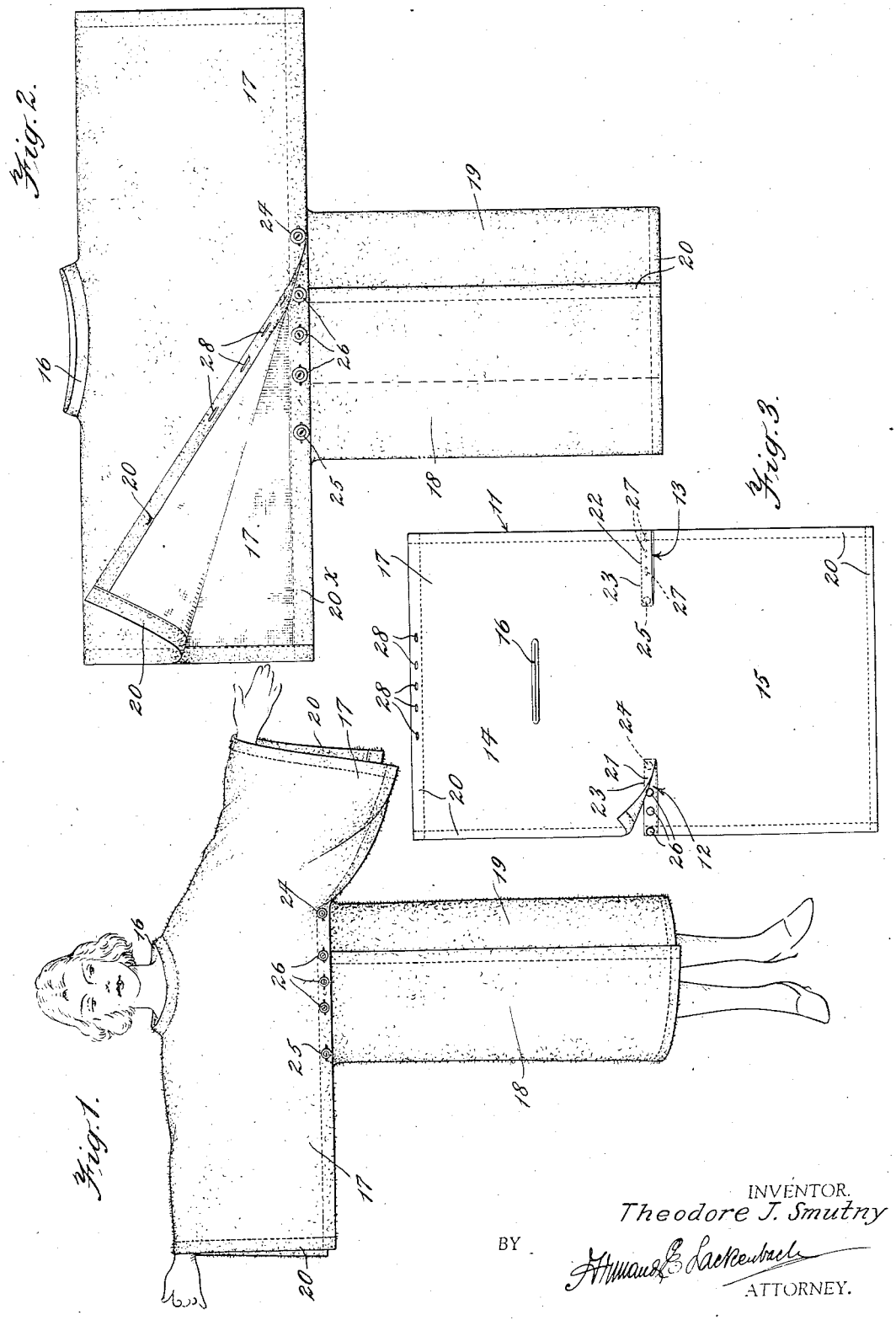
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COMBINATION BEACH ROBE AND RUG

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COMBINATION BEACH ROBE AND RUG

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This invention relates to an article of manufacture consisting of a combined beach rug and robe, and has for its general object to provide a combination article of this character so designed that it can be fabricated at a cost that will permit the articles to be marketed at a favorable price.

Under existing regulations, at substantially all of the bathing beaches throughout the United States, concerning the robing and disrobing by bathers, on the beach proper, and in automobiles at the beach or on adjacent portions of the roads leading to such beaches, only a garment of at least the general nature of a robe is universally acceptable, and existing forms of robes have the common disadvantage of being unduly conspicuous as a street costume.

Numerous attempts have been made to meet the need for an article which embodies in a unitary structure the elements necessary to form a garment that can be worn on the street, and which will also comply with the aforesaid regulations and serve as a practical robe when so used, and some of these attempts have resulted in the production of articles of this type upon which patents have been granted, but which have not been satisfactory in use, for various reasons.

The principal difficulty has been to effect a reconcilement between the demand for a certain finished appearance in the garment, where worn away from the beach, without undue expense in its construction, and undue complexity in the structure by which the change from bath robe to street garment is made possible and the converse change from street garment to bath accessory.

This difficulty has been aggravated by the attempts to make the body of the garment of a single oblong piece of material, both with a view to economy of material, and to furnish a beach rug which will lie flat and square when fully extended, such attempts having also resulted in patented structures that have not given entire satisfaction in use.

A particular disadvantage of certain of the patented structures has been the adoption of a design which includes the use of ties as the means for securing together the component flaps of the flat piece of fabric when formed into a garment. Such ties, while serviceable in a bath robe, are not acceptable for the desired street use.

Another disadvantage of such articles has been their organization with a continuous stretch of the body piece from the neck-opening to the bottom of the skirt panel, making it difficult, if not impossible, to create a sufficiently form-fitting waist effect, at either the front or back of the garment, to impart to it the desired finished effect for street use.

Another disadvantage has been the failure to provide a structural form of garment capable of being embodied in a fabric of the nature of towelling, which lends itself especially to advantageous use as a beach rug, as a bath robe, and as a means for drying the body, and is also useful in general as an accessory of the bath, but requires a skillfulness in design when utilized as material for a street garment that has not been exhibited in the patented structures.

Under such conditions, it is a particular object of the present invention to provide, and the invention has provided, an article which eliminates the above difficulties and comprises a unitary structure in which substantially the entire garment body, including skirt and sleeves, is made of a single piece of fabric, oblong in form and adapted to lie flat and square when extended for use as a rug, and which accords, in a single row of buttons, with complemental buttonholes, the entire equipment required for completing the formation at will of either a bath robe, or a street costume of sufficiently modish appearance to serve as a suit or dress.

A cognate object is to provide a novel structural arrangement of the elements of the aforesaid garment such that a fabric of the nature of towelling can be used advantageously.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will appear as the description of the particular physical embodiment of the invention selected for illustration progresses.

In the accompanying drawing like characters of reference are applied to corresponding parts throughout the several views which make up the drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a combined beach rug and robe in the construction of which the present invention has been embodied;

Fig. 2 is a view in front elevation on a larger scale of the article of Fig. 1 illustrated in place upon the body of a wearer; and

Fig. 3 is a similar view of the article shown separately with certain parts in a different relative position to illustrate the mode of securement of the article in place.

In the embodiment of the invention selected for illustration and description, the part designated by the reference character 10 is the body portion of the article and is preferably made of a single piece of fabric of the nature of towelling,

and desirably such a fabric as that known to the trade as "Terry Cloth".

In the instance illustrated it is of rectangular over-all shape, and when fully extended may be employed usefully as a beach rug or like accessory for the bath, and for similar purposes, the absorbent nature of the towelling making it available for drying the body of the user and its flat shape facilitating its folding for transportation and storage.

In pursuance of an important object of the invention, the article is also adapted to be arranged for use as a robe, substantially in the manner shown in Fig. 2, in which the article of Fig. 1 is shown in position upon the body of a wearer, this view illustrating clearly the modish effect produced by certain details of structure herein disclosed, and by which the article of the present invention is distinguished from various articles provided for a similar combination of uses but which have lacked the style of a finished dress, suit or like garment adapted for use upon the street.

For the last-named purpose, the body portion **11** as shown in Fig. 1, has a pair of slits **12**, **13**, extending inwardly, one from each margin of the piece **10**, part way from the sides respectively toward the major axis of the piece, at about the median transverse region thereof, the piece having a length desirably about twice its breadth so that the line in which the slits are formed defines approximately the waist line of the wearer, as shown clearly in Fig. 2.

When so worn, the robe is donned by slipping over the head of the wearer the panel **14**, in which is formed a slit **16** to permit this operation, and the skirt is formed by wrapping around the loins and lower limbs of the wearer the panel or lower part of the piece which is designated by the reference character **15**, in the manner shown in Fig. 2.

The free edge **17** of the upper panel drapes itself naturally over the shoulders, and after the wearer has secured together the flaps of the skirt, **18** and **19**, by means now to be described, the free edge **17** of the upper panel is also secured at the waist to give the desired effect.

In fabricating the combined beach rug and robe from a one-piece body member, the lateral margins thereof may be, and preferably are, provided throughout their extent with a selvage **20**, as by folding the edges over and hemming or stitching them in known fashion, as shown. Such a hem or selvage may also be formed at that margin of each slit which constitutes part of the lower border of the upper panel **14**, for example, as shown at **20***x* in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3 where the overlapping flap edge **17** is turned back to reveal the underlying structure.

The material for hem **20***x* is in a sense secured from that margin of each slit which extends along the upper border of the skirt flap **18** or **19**, as the case may be, and in order to replace this material with a member which will constitute part of the waistband, each such upper flap border is, in pursuance of the invention, provided with a strip, as **21** and **22**, shown as of double thickness and stitched to the upper portions of the panel **15**, in conventional manner, as indicated at **23**, on each side thereof.

Each of these waistband components is provided as at **24** and **25**, with a fastener, preferably a button, and the member **21** has three buttons **26**, arranged in a group in alignment with the buttons **24**, **25**, while the member **22** has complemental buttonholes **27** in a group arranged to register with the buttons.

When the panel **15** is wrapped around to form the skirt, its flaps **18** and **19** are disposed in overlapping relation to each other, as shown in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3, and the waist-band parts **21** and **22** are buttoned together, so that the skirt is secured in place, regardless of any securement of the upper panel **14** at its free edge **17**.

In pursuance of another important object of the present invention, however, which is to provide for a more modish effect at the front region of the waist line than has characterized articles of this general type heretofore, I have formed in the free edge **17** of the upper panel **14** a series of buttonholes **28**, of which there are five in the present instance, although the provision of that number is not intended to exclude the use of a larger series thereof or fewer if the present object can be satisfactorily attained by a different number than five, the primary feature being to define a waist-line effect that will impart a finished appearance to the robe, so that, with a minimum of expense and of effort on the part of the user the robe will be caused to present the effect of a suit or dress for street wear.

It will be noted that the middle three buttons as **28**, will be engaged with the three buttonholes of the middle portion of the series **27**, on the free edge **17** of the upper panel **14**, while the end buttonholes thereof receive the end buttons **24** and **25**, the latter being preferably so spaced as to create an effect of extending the waist-line to a substantial distance around the sides of the wearer's waist.

It will be noted that, in contradistinction from certain articles of the known art, the present article provides for an integral formation of the panel **14** at the back of the wearer, in continuance of the rear skirt panel, and this makes it possible, if so desired, to provide for as much form-fitting at the back of the robe as may comport with the general character of the garment, by a suitable disposition of the several series of buttons and buttonholes.

I claim:

1. As a new article of manufacture, a combined beach rug and robe comprising an elongated body of fabric of the nature of towelling adapted for arrangement in a fully extended, substantially flat disposition for use as a rug, and also disposable selectively in a folded arrangement as a robe; said article being further characterized by the formation of said fabric body as a substantially rectangular oblong having a length approximately double its width, being divided partially at its median region by slits extending from opposite margins toward its major axis, said slits defining the waist line of a garment having a skirt portion to be wrapped about said major axis, enclosing the loins and lower limbs of the wearer, the moiety of said fabric body beyond said waist line constituting a panel having a portion integral with said skirt portion and in direct continuance thereof at the rear of the robe, the free edge of said last named panel being foldable on a transverse axis intersecting the major axis at the shoulder line of the wearer, and formed with a slit at the region of said intersection adapted to receive the wearer's head; and means to secure together removably across the front waist region the front medial portion of the free lower edge of said folded-over panel and the underlying contiguous edges of said waist-defining slits, said

means being effective also to secure the skirt in closed position, thereby completing the organization of said article as a garment.

2. A combined beach rug and robe constituted as set forth in claim 1, and further characterized by having said securing means include a series of buttons attached to a waist-band member along the skirt flap edge defined by said slit at one side of the body, a series of complemental buttonholes in registering position upon the other skirt flap edge, whereby said upper skirt edges can be buttoned together in overlapping relation to each other to form a continuous waist-band, for securement of the skirt flaps in closed position, independently of any securement of the free edge of the flap depending from the wearer's shoulder line, and a series of buttonholes formed in the free edge of said depending flap adapted to register with said waist-band buttons and serving to permit the wearer to secure said free edge at will to said waist-band, thereby to impart to said robe the effect of a finished suit or dress.

3. A combined beach rug and robe constituted as set forth in claim 1, and further characterized by having the edges of said body folded upon themselves and stitched to form selvages throughout the borders of said article, including the borders of the slits respectively defining the lower boundary of the upper panel; and a pair of false selvage pieces secured along the upper edges of the skirt flaps adjacent to the slits and serving as complemental waist-band components, one of which is provided with a group of buttons and the other with a coacting group of buttonholes, each of said waist-band components having an auxiliary button in alignment with the buttons of said first-named group, and a series of buttonholes formed in the free edge of the depending flap of the upper panel and corresponding in number and position to the buttons of the first-named group and to the auxiliary buttons, so that the waist effect is carried around by the line of buttons entirely across the front of the robe and for a substantial distance at the sides thereof.

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