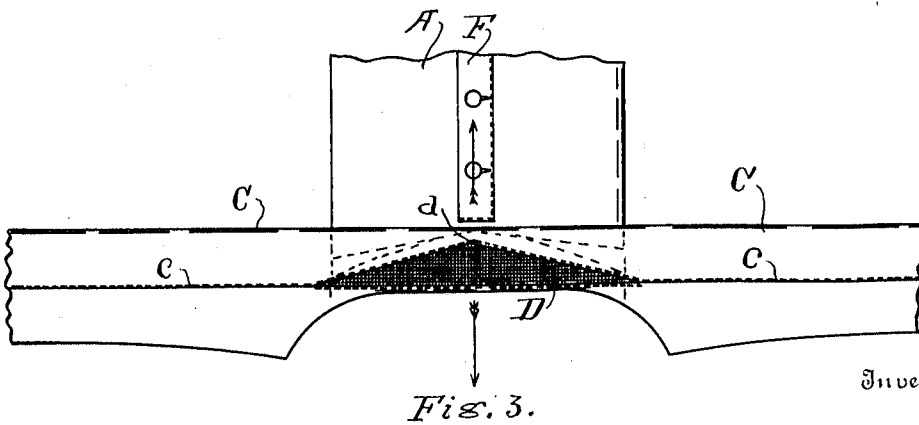
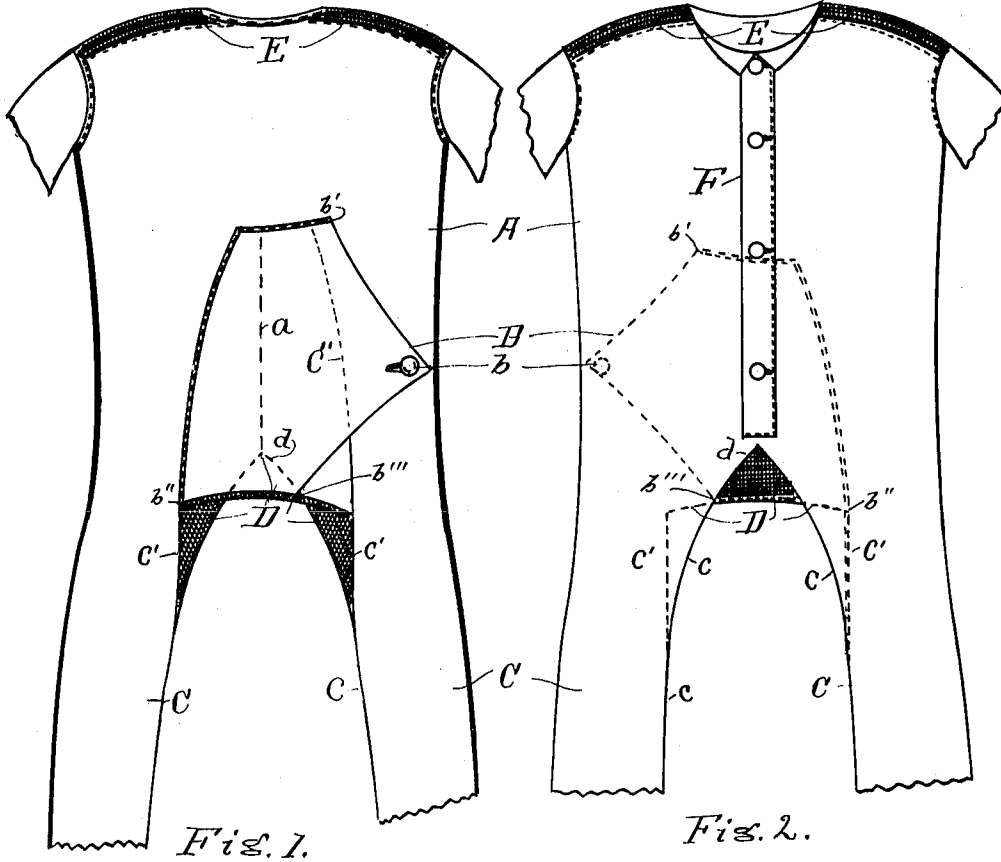


A. E. CLARKE.
GARMENT.
APPLICATION FILED AUG. 2, 1911.

1,035,819.

Patented Aug. 13, 1912.



Inventor

Fig. 3.

Witnesses

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GARMENT.

1,035,819.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 13, 1912.

Application filed August 2, 1911. Serial No. 641,930.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALGERNON E. CLARKE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Grand Rapids, in the county of Kent and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Garments, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in knit underwear, and especially in so called union suits, and its objects are: First, to provide a practical and comfortable "closed crotch" for union undergarments. Second, to provide a means whereby the wearing qualities of the garments may be greatly increased in the crotch without rendering it heavy, thick and uncomfortable, and, third, to provide a means whereby the wearer of a union suit may stoop or draw upon the shoulders of the suit, especially when perspiring freely, without drawing upon the suit sufficiently to render the pressure at the crotch inconvenient or uncomfortable. I attain these objects by the construction and arrangement of parts shown in the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a back elevation of the upper portion of a suit of union underwear showing the improvement as it appears from behind. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the same, and Fig. 3 shows the legs of the garment folded upon the body and extended at right angles therewith to plainly illustrate the form and application of the portion of the improvement at the crotch.

Similar letters refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

The body portion A and the legs C are knit, cut and constructed the same as all garments of this class are made, the body being opened on the line *a* of Fig. 1, and a flap B is sewed thereon upon the lines *b'-b''-b'''* so that when the button *b* is released the flap may be carried back so that the garment may be conveniently opened or closed on the line *b'-b-b'''* and *a*.

My improvement consists of attaching two elements to the garment, namely:

First, I remove a part of the fabric from the crotch, of practically the form indicated by the shaded triangle in Fig. 3, and fill this space with a double thickness of very elastic fabric, as D, that is so placed that it may be stretched laterally, or in the direction of the arrows in Fig. 3, sufficiently to nearly or quite double the width of the

fabric. The back or base line of this fabric is stitched directly along the line of stitching *c c* of the legs, and the point *d* is arranged to pass forward through the crotch to a position just below the folding plait F in the front of the garment. This fabric is sufficiently elastic so that it will readily adjust itself to the position of the legs of the wearer, thus, if the wearer finds it necessary to raise the foot and leg to an elevated position, the elasticity of the fabric will cause it to readily adjust itself to the position without danger of pressing upon the parts and injuring or greatly inconveniencing the wearer. So, also, when bending at the hips this fabric will so adjust itself by stretching in the direction of the arrows in Fig. 3 that no inconvenience whatever will be experienced by reason of the rigidity of the fabric, or of the presence of several thicknesses of fabric, as is the case with all open crotches, and with all closed crotches so far produced. The elasticity of the fabric is produced in the weaving, hence there is no danger of rotting rubber elastic, and the life of this portion of the garment is greatly prolonged for the reason that the elasticity of the fabric averts all possibility of rubbing, chafing and wearing which must result from the use of rigid or firm knitted goods.

Second, it is a well known fact that if the wearer of union underwear stoops considerably at the shoulders, especially if he straightens and stoops frequently and suddenly and when perspiring freely, the garment will be drawn closely at the crotch and will become very uncomfortable to the wearer of closed crotch garments. To avert this difficulty I place narrow strips of very elastic fabric, as E, between the edges of the garment fabric at the shoulders which, like the piece D, are arranged to stretch the narrow way only, so that when the wearer is in a stooping position, or in the act of stooping, the draw upon the garment will stretch said fabric sufficiently so that no strain will be felt at the crotch. While this element is not an absolute necessity to carry out the objects of my invention, it does, certainly, act as a most desirable auxiliary to the crotch piece D to avert the danger of drawing the fabric too closely against the parts especially, as stated, when the wearer is stooping forward or makes

any sudden forward movement with the body.

In Fig. 3 *c'* represents the outline of the patch D of fabric as it is attached to the back of the garment, as clearly shown in Fig. 1; and *c''*, in Fig. 1, represents a continuation of the seam *c c'* under the flap B so as to give proper form to the body of the garment and at the same time have a full double fold from the point of securing the flap by the button *b* to the line *a*. This line of stitching is not absolutely necessary, and has no connection with my invention, simply being introduced to add to the symmetry of the garment. Nor do I claim the flap B as essentially my invention, as such flaps are in common use both upon garments having open crotches and those having closed crotches.

While the piece D should, to be absolutely practical, be made of triangular form, as shown in Fig. 3, it is not absolutely necessary to confine it to such form as other forms may be used with reasonably good results, though with any other form there is likely to be a surplusage of fabric at some point that will render the garment uncomfortable under certain conditions,

hence I greatly prefer the use of the triangular piece, as shown.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is:

In combination with a union under garment having an opening in the back extending to the crotch, a flap stitched to the garment at one side of the opening in the back and arranged to extend across the back and be buttoned to the opposite side of the garment with the lower edge of said flap secured at the crotch of the garment, a second flap stitched to the opposite side of the garment and extending under the first named flap, an elastic knit fabric extending well up in the front of the garment and extending down the leg seams forming a laterally elastic closed crotch that is firmly sewed to the front of the garment, to the leg seams and to the lower edges of the flaps, substantially as shown and described.

Signed at Grand Rapids Michigan July 29, 1911.

ALGERNON E. CLARKE.

In presence of—
FRED W. FOUTS,
I. J. CILLEY.