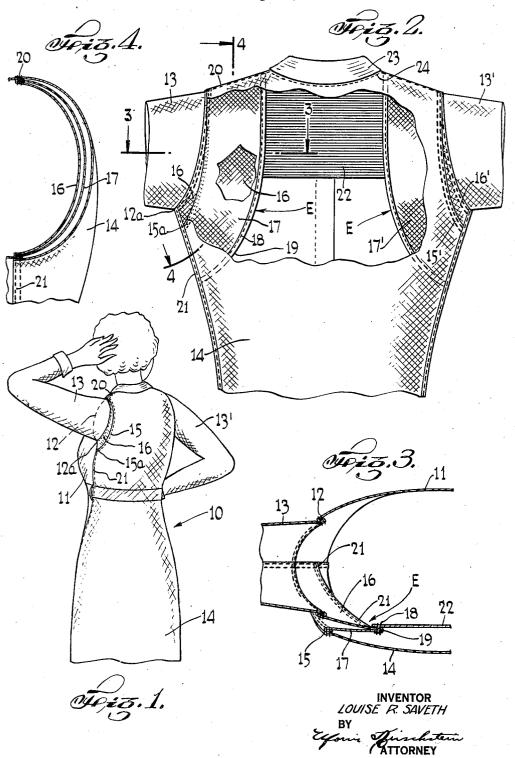
LADY'S GARMENT

Filed Aug. 30, 1940



## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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Louise R. Saveth, Bronx, N. Y., assigner to White Swan Uniforms, Inc., New York, N. Y., a corporation of New York

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1 Claim. (Cl. 2-93)

This invention relates to ladies' garments. More particularly it is directed to improvements in uniform dresses such as nurses' uniforms which are fitted to the wearer.

As will be readily understood, it is highly de- 5 sirable in garments of this character to allow for free movement of the body. It is a principal object of this invention to provide a garment of this character wherein such freedom of movement is allowed to a high degree, particu- 10 larly as to the arms and shoulders of the wearer without, however, marring the smooth fit and neat appearance of the garment and by such simple and comparatively inexpensive construction that the advantages thereof may be availed 15 of at no appreciable extra cost to the wearer.

Other objects of this invention will in part be obvious and in part hereinafter pointed out.

The invention accordingly consists in the features of construction, combinations of elements, 20 and arrangement of parts which will be exemplified in the construction hereinafter described, and of which the scope of application will be indicated in the claim.

In the accompanying drawing, in which is 25shown one of the various possible embodiments of this invention:

Fig. 1 is a view showing a garment embodying my invention on a wearer, and illustrating particularly the appearance of the back of the garment when one arm is raised while the other is in normal position;

Fig. 2 is a rear elevational view of the garment with portions of the back cut away to show the interior construction;

Figs. 3 and 4 are sectional views taken along the lines 3-3 and 4-4, respectively, of Fig. 2.

In the drawing I have illustrated a fitted uniform dress 10 embodying my invention comprising a front waist body portion 11 having armhole 40 sections 12 to which are stitched in the usual manner the front edges of the sleeves 13 and 13'. The back portion 14 of the dress is provided with armhole sections 15, 15', the bottom ends 15a of which are disposed slightly below the bottom 45 ends 12a of the front armhole sections 12.

In order to permit free movement of the sleeves 13, 13', the rear edges thereof are connected to the edges of the armhole sections 15, 15' by expansion members E substantially concealed be- 50 neath the back 14 of the garment. Each of these members E comprises an arcuate extension panel 16 stitched to its respective sleeve 13, 13' and a substantially similarly shaped anchor panel 17 stitched to its respective armhole section 15, 15'. 55 ness to avoid bulging in the back.

Said panels 16 and 17 are made preferably from a thin flexible fabric similar to that employed in the body of the garment itself and are joined to each other by a line of stitching 18 at their concealed inner edges. These edges, if desired, may be bound by tape 19. The upper and lower edges of said panels are secured to the garment along the shoulder and side seams 20 and 21. If desired, a single folded panel may be employed in lieu of each pair of panels 16 and 17. The deep articulated expansion members between the back 15 and sleeves 13, 13' allow free unconstrained swing of the shoulders and arms since the extension panels may be readily pulled out to allow the sleeves to move outwardly away from the back 15.

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In order that the extension panels 15 may be restored to normal concealed position underneath the back 14 without bunching up outside of the armholes, I provide an elastic panel 22 firmly secured to the articulated portions only of the panels 16 and 17 by the lines of stitching 18. At its upper edge the panel 22 is attached to the collar 23 by a line of stitching 24. The lower edge of said elastic panel is left unsecured.

It will be readily seen that since the elastic panel 22 is attached to the hinge portions only of the expansion members E, when the sleeves 13, 13' and extension panels 16 are moved outwardly the elastic panel is tensioned between the lines of stitching 18. Thus, when the wearer resumes her normal or ordinary position the elastic panel 22 will retract said extension panels 16 into their normal substantially concealed position underneath the back 15, as shown in Fig. 2.

The anchor panel 17 prevents the elastic panel 22 from drawing the extension panels 16 or their respective sleeves 13 any further into the dress, even if there be a residual tension in said elastic panel due to imperfect fitting of the dress or should the panels be too short in width. Likewise, if only one of the sleeves 13 is moved outwardly of the dress, as when the wearer raises one arm as shown in Fig. 1, the sleeve 13' and its associated extension panel 16 will not be pulled into the dress because the associated anchor panel 17 maintains the edge of the tensioned elastic panel 22 a predetermined distance from the armhole section 15'.

The elastic panel 22 is preferably thicker than the thin hinge panels 16 and 17 and approximately equal to the combined thickness of these panels so that the material underlying the back of the garment is of substantially uniform thickIt will be noted that the elastic panel 22 does not extend down the entire length of the expansion members E. Thus a narrow elastic panel, with consequent saving in material and avoidance of bulk in the back portion, serves to return the sleeves and extension panels to their normal position by reason of the firm stitching 18 of the elastic panel to the articulated upper portions only of the expansion members.

In fabricating the garment, the operator may 10 employ the collar, shoulder and side seams 24, 20 and 21, as well as the usual stitching adjacent the rear armhole section 15, in securing the expansion members E and elastic panel 22. Thus the only additional sewing operations required are 15 stitching the panels 16 and 17 and elastic fabric 23 together along the line 18 and stitching the panel 16 to the sleeve 13.

It will thus be seen that there is provided a device in which the several objects of this inven- 20 tion are achieved, and which is well adapted to meet the conditions of practical use.

As various possible embodiments might be made of the above invention, and as various changes might be made in the embodiments 25 above set forth, it is to be understood that all matter herein set forth or shown in the accompanying drawing is to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

A nurse's uniform or the like fitted garment, comprising a front waist portion and a back portion, both having armhole sections which remain in fixed positions on a wearer after the garment is donned, a pair of sleeves, each sleeve being attached to an armhole section of the front waist portion, a pair of expansion members underlying said back portion and connecting said sleeves to the armhole sections of said back portion, each of said expansion members comprising an extension panel secured to a sleeve and an anchor panel secured to a back armhole section and joined to said extension panel, and an elastic panel stitched to said expansion members only along the juncture between said extension and anchor panels whereby said extension panels are held against movement inwardly of said garment by their attached anchor panels.

LOUISE R. SAVETH.