

Nov. 19, 1935.

I. ABRAMS

2,021,711

GARMENT

Filed Nov. 16, 1933

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

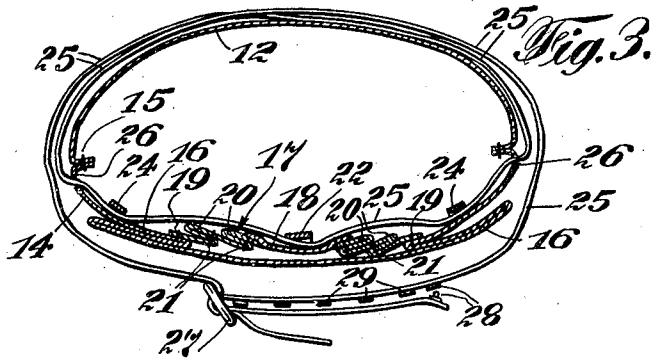
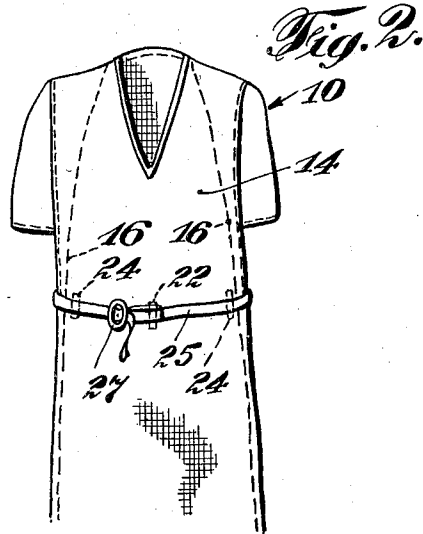
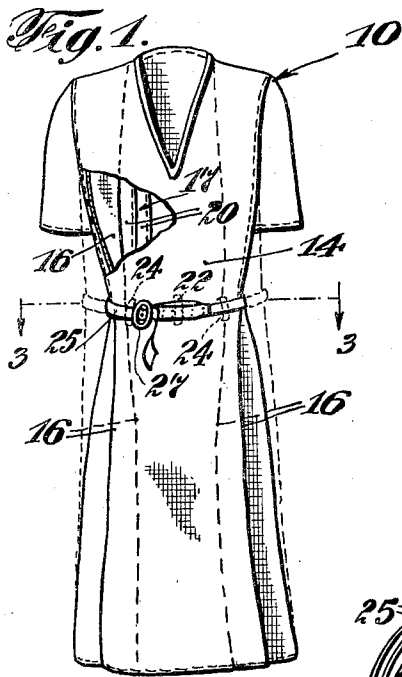


Fig. 4.

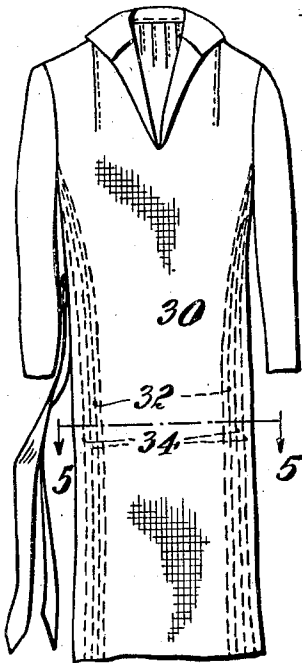
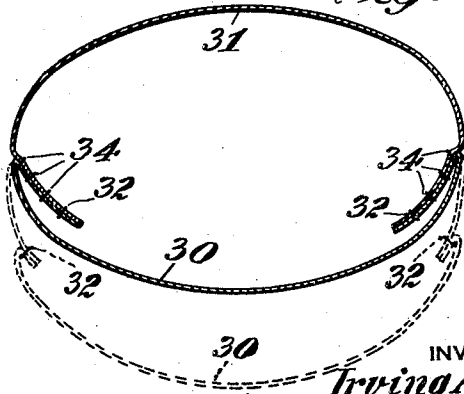


Fig. 5.



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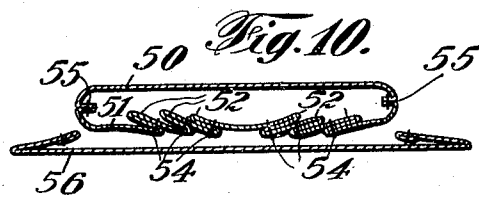
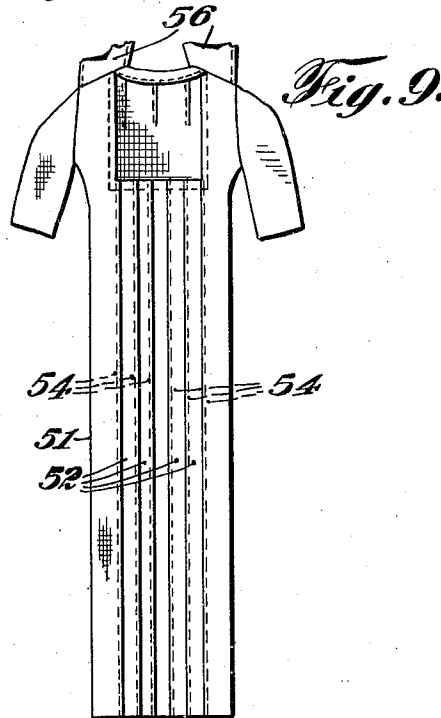
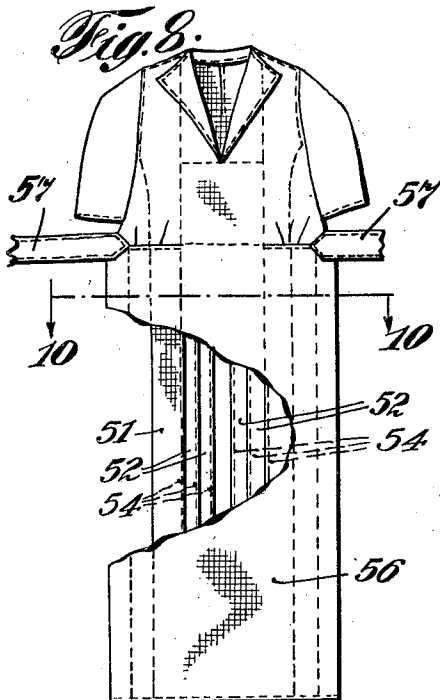
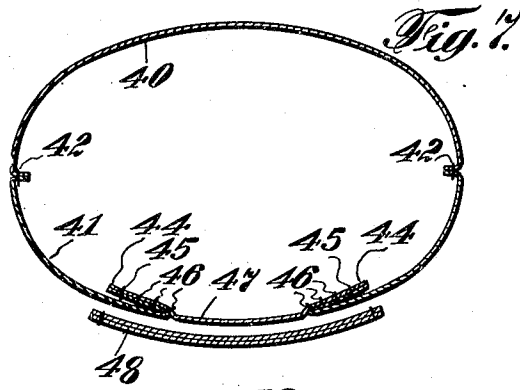
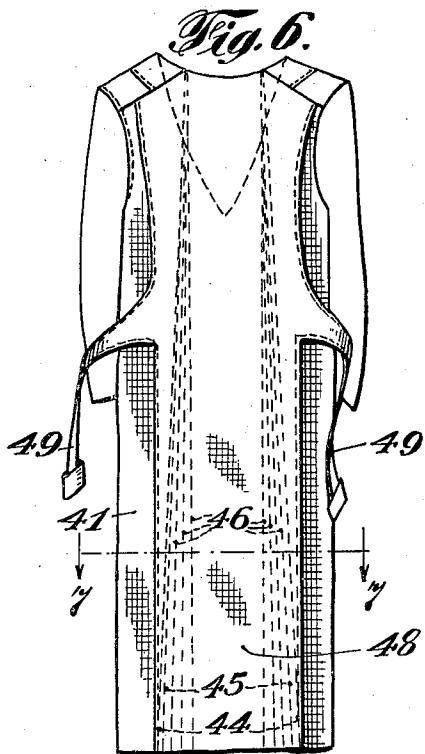
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GARMENT

Filed Nov. 16, 1933

2 Sheets-Sheet 2



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2,021,711

GARMENT

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Application November 16, 1933, Serial No. 698,264

10 Claims. (Cl. 2-74)

This invention relates to improvements in garments and more particularly to improvements in garments of the type known generally as "maternity dresses".

5 An object of the present invention is to provide a garment, the girth of which can be progressively increased as necessity arises.

10 Another object of the invention is to provide a dress of such character that the girth thereof has an initial limit which can be progressively increased in a simple manner.

15 A further object of the invention is to provide a dress in which parts thereof are secured together by longitudinal seams or rows of stitches, certain of which seams or rows of stitching can be removed successively or selectively to progressively increase the girth of the dress.

20 An additional object of the invention is to provide rows of stitching for seams of the character set forth in such fashion that all of the rows of stitching, with the exception of the rows which limit the girth at any particular time, are concealed.

25 A still further object of the invention is to provide a dress incorporating the above features in which elastic material is used to aid in maintaining a correct fit.

30 In accordance with the present invention, a dress is made in the usual fashion but with the difference that the pieces of material used in the dress are made of oversize, so that excess material is provided. Certain parts of the dress, principally around the shoulders, are permanently secured together since these parts will not ordinarily require alterations due to physiological development. Other parts of the dress are secured together in such fashion that the girth of the dress, particularly around the abdomen and skirt, can be increased as occasion demands. For this reason parts of the dress, principally the waist and skirt portions, are secured together by means of longitudinal rows of stitches. The rows of stitches which determine the maximum girth of the dress may be called primary rows of stitches, but in addition to these primary rows of stitches, the garment is provided with a plurality of secondary rows of stitches which extend longitudinally of the part to be expanded, such secondary rows being of such number and so incorporated in the garment that they can be removed successively or selectively to progressively increase the girth of the waist and the skirt portion of the garment. However, if desired, it will not be necessary to remove an entire row of stitches, since the desirable increase of girth of

the garment may under certain occasions be secured by removal of only a portion of a row of stitches.

5 In the simplest form of the invention, the waist and skirt portions of the garment are secured together at each side of the garment by a primary row of stitches, and then by a plurality of secondary rows of stitches, with the result that an expanse formed of two plies of material is provided at each side of the garment with this two 10 ply expanse extending inwardly of the garment out of sight. Thus if the garment requires alterations to increase this girth, the secondary rows of stitching can be removed in toto or in part successively as the user may see fit.

15 In another form of the invention, the primary and secondary rows of stitching are so arranged as to lie either in the back of the garment or in the front of the garment, and a separate longitudinal panel which will conceal the area of 20 such rows of stitches is provided.

25 In still another form of the invention, the front of the garment is provided with a large pleat at each side thereof, which pleat normally is held in position by means of an encircling belt. The 25 loops of the pleat, however, are secured together inside of the garment by means of a strip of material which may be similar to that of the garment or which may be of suitable resilient material as desired. This strip of material is provided with a number of secondary rows of stitches which serve to shorten the length of the strip, so that initially the garment has a predetermined girth. As physiological development necessitates, the girth of the garment can be increased by removing the secondary rows of stitching successively or selectively, which removal permits the two large plies at the front of the garment to be extended. A belt is preferably used with this form of the invention to maintain the 40 pleats in flat position. As before stated, the strip of material between the loops of the pleat may be made wholly of resilient material, or, if desired, only the central portion thereof may be made of resilient material, with the outer expanse made of non-resilient material. In either event, a good fitting garment will result.

45 Other objects, features and advantages of the invention will become apparent by reference to the following detailed description read in the light 50 of the accompanying drawings forming a part of the same, wherein

Fig. 1 is a front view partially in section of a garment embodying the invention and shown in position of minimum girth.

Fig. 2 is a similar view of the same garment with the girth thereof increased.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged section taken substantially on the line 3-3 of Fig. 1.

5 Fig. 4 is a front view of a garment embodying another form of the invention.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged section taken substantially on the line 5-5 of Fig. 4.

10 Fig. 6 is a view of a back of a dress incorporating a further form of the invention.

Fig. 7 is an enlarged section taken substantially on the line 7-7 of Fig. 6.

15 Fig. 8 is a view partially in section of a front of a garment having the invention included therein and showing the front panel in position.

Fig. 9 is a front view of the garment, with the front panel removed.

Fig. 10 is a section taken substantially on the line 10-10 of Fig. 8.

20 Referring now to the drawings and particularly to Figures 1 to 3, inclusive, 10 indicates generally a dress which may be made in any suitable fashion so long as provision is made for the features of the present invention. As shown
25 in the drawings, the invention is incorporated in the longitudinal expanse of the dress which is made up of a back portion 12 and a front portion 14, these portions being secured together as at 15. The front portion 14 is provided at each side
30 with two large pleats 16, the loops of which are secured together by means of a strip of fabric 17. This strip of fabric 17 may be of any suitable material, either elastic or non-elastic as desired.
35 Also the mid portion 18 of this strip may be made of elastic material while the end parts are of non-elastic material for a purpose to be explained hereinafter. As shown in Fig. 3, the strip 17 is secured to the loops of the pleats 16 by primary rows of stitches 19, and in addition to these rows
40 of stitches 19, the strip is provided at each side of the central portion with a pair of pleats or gathers 20 held in place by secondary rows of stitches 21. The underside of the strip 18 may be provided with loop 22, while similar loops 24
45 are provided in the underside of the front member 14. These loops 22 and 24 serve as guides for a belt 25 which passes therethrough and through openings 26 to be passed around the garment, crossed in the back, and then buckled in the
50 front. Since the dress is expansible, use is made of an adjustable feature in the belt wherein one end is folded back upon itself through the buckle 27 and held in place by means of coacting snap fasteners 28. A plurality of sockets 29 are provided
55 for the reception, selectively of the coacting member on the end of the belt.

60 In this form of the invention, the dress in the condition shown in Fig. 3 is ready for use prior to any physiological development. As such development necessitates an increase in the girth of the dress, it is necessary only to remove a single row of secondary stitches 21 to provide a
65 small increase in girth. These rows of stitches 21 can be removed successively, with the result that as each row is removed the distance between the loops of the large pleats 16 can increase, so that these pleats may become successively smaller. Thus by using a belt and the large pleats,
70 it is possible for the dress to have a smooth appearance in the front at all times. Furthermore, the pleats are not apt to get out of shape, since the retaining strip 17 serves to limit the expansion or bulging of the pleats. Moreover, if this strip 17 is made entirely or partially of
75 elastic material of the type well-known now in

the art and commonly called "two way stretch material", a good fit of the garment is assured at all times. Of course, the belt 25 can be lengthened as the girth of the dress is increased.

8 In the arrangement shown in Figs. 4 and 5, 5 the front member 30 and the rear member 31 of the dress are secured together by primary rows of stitches 32 at each side and then by three or any suitable number of secondary rows of stitches 34 at each side. A belt of the character shown 10 in Fig. 3 may be utilized if desired with or without the feature of crossing the belt in the back of the garment. In the position shown in Fig. 5, the dress has its minimum girth, which girth can be increased by removing a part of a row of secondary stitches 34, or an entire row as the occasion demands. Thus when all of the rows of secondary stitches have been successively removed, the front and back members are then held together with the dress having maximum 20 girth by the opposite primary rows of stitching 32, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 5. It will be apparent that a dress so constructed presents a normal appearance at all times, since all of the secondary rows of stitches together with the primary rows of stitches are within the confines of the garment so that they are not visible.

9 In the arrangement shown in Figs. 6 and 7, use may be made of a front 40 and a back 41, which, if desired, are secured together at the 30 sides by rows of stitches 42. Parts of the back 41 are doubled upon themselves as shown at 44, which double portions are held together by primary rows of stitches 45 and secondary rows of stitches 46. The secondary rows of stitches can be successively removed to increase the girth of the garment as desired. However, it will be apparent that instead of providing the seams with the stitches 42, a single piece of material can extend across the front of the garment around the 40 back and be folded against a smaller insert 47 by means of the same primary and secondary rows of stitches. In order that these rows of stitches may be somewhat concealed, use is made of a back panel 48 secured to the shoulders of 45 the garment and extending the full length thereof. This back panel 48 may be provided with belt members 49, preferably of adjustable length to be fastened together at the front of the garment. 50

10 In the arrangement shown in Figs. 8 to 10, inclusive, the principle is comparable to that of the dress shown in Figs. 6 and 7, with the exception that the girth increasing arrangement is provided in the front of the garment instead of in 55 the back. In this form, the main body of the dress is made up of a back 50 and a front 51, which front 51 has a plurality of pleats or folds 52 therein at each side held in place by means of rows of stitches 54. Primary rows of stitches 60 55 are provided for determining the maximum girth of the dress. A panel 56 secured to the shoulders of the dress covers the arrangement of pleats or folds 52 so that they are not ordinarily visible. This panel 56 may be provided 65 with belt portions 57, preferably of adjustable length, for fastening the garment and causing it to conform to the shape of the wearer.

11 From the foregoing it will be seen that the present invention in any of the forms illustrated, 70 provides a garment which can be adjusted in such fashion as to increase the girth thereof as occasion requires. This increase in girth can be accomplished by the successive or selective removal, partially or in toto of any and all of the 75

secondary rows of stitches. These secondary rows of stitches as described, serve in effect to gather the material of the dress in such fashion that the initial girth thereof is considerably less than the maximum girth. Thus, the dress provides a garment which can be made to fit the wearer at all stages of physiological development. Moreover, the garment is one which can be made to closely fit the wearer so that the unsightliness commonly found in garments of this character is eliminated.

It will be apparent that modifications can be made in the invention without departing from the spirit thereof, in view of which it is not to be limited by the illustrated embodiments, but is to be limited only by the scope of the following claims.

I claim:

1. In a garment of the type described, folds in the front of the garment forming deep pleats, a strip of material joining the loops of the pleats and connected thereto by primary rows of stitches, said strip being shortened by secondary rows of stitches retaining folds of the strip, said secondary rows of stitches being selectively removable to increase the length of the strip whereby said pleats may be expanded to increase the girth of the garment.

2. In a garment of the type described, folds in the front of the garment forming deep pleats, a strip of material joining the loops of the pleats and connected thereby by primary rows of stitches, said strip being shortened by secondary rows of stitches retaining folds of the strip, said secondary rows of stitches being selectively removable to increase the length of the strip whereby said pleats may be expanded to increase the girth of the garment, and an adjustable length belt for holding the folds of the pleats substantially flat.

3. In a garment of the type described, folds in the front of the garment forming deep pleats, a strip of material joining the loops of the pleats and connected thereby by primary rows of stitches, said strip being shortened by secondary rows of stitches retaining folds of the strip, said secondary rows of stitches being selectively removable to increase the length of the strip whereby said pleats may be expanded to increase the girth of the garment, said strip being of resilient material for aiding in maintaining the shape of a garment on the wearer.

4. In a garment of the type described, folds in the front of the garment forming deep pleats, a strip of material joining the loops of the pleats and connected thereto by primary rows of stitches, said strip being shortened by secondary rows of stitches retaining folds of the strip, said secondary rows of stitches being selectively removable to increase the length of the strip whereby said pleats may be expanded to increase the girth of the garment, said strip being made partially of resilient material for aiding in maintaining the shape of a garment on the wearer.

5. In a garment of the type described, folds in the front of the garment forming deep longitudinal pleats, a strip of material inside the garment and connected to the loops of the pleats by rows of primary stitches, said strip being provided with pleats locked in place by secondary rows of stitches whereby the strip is shortened and said folds are maintained in pleat form, said secondary rows of stitches being selectively removable to increase the length of the strip whereby the folds of each pleat may be expanded to increase the girth of the garment.

6. In a garment of the type described, folds in the front of the garment forming deep longitudinal pleats, a strip of material inside the garment and connected to the loops of the pleats by rows of primary stitches, said strip being provided with pleats locked in place by secondary rows of stitches whereby the strip is shortened and said folds are maintained in pleat form, said secondary rows of stitches being selectively removable to increase the length of the strip whereby the folds of each pleat may be expanded to increase the girth of the garment, said strip being composed partially of resilient material to conform the garment to the shape of the wearer.

7. In a garment of the type described, folds in the front of the garment forming deep longitudinal pleats, a strip of material inside the garment and connected to the loops of the pleats by rows of primary stitches, said strip being provided with pleats locked in place by secondary rows of stitches whereby the strip is shortened and said folds are maintained in pleat form, said secondary rows of stitches being selectively removable to increase the length of the strip whereby the folds of each pleat may be expanded to increase the girth of the garment, said strip being composed partially of resilient material to conform the garment to the shape of the wearer, and an adjustable length belt for maintaining the folds in pleat form on the wearer.

8. In a maternity dress having united shoulder, waist and skirt portions and having a predetermined maximum girth, a plurality of longitudinal rows of stitches decreasing the girth of the dress, said rows of stitches extending downwardly from adjacent the shoulder part of the dress the remainder of the length thereof and being removable successively in whole or in part to increase the girth of selected parts of the dress, and an outside panel formed as a part to the dress, said panel being secured to and extending downwardly substantially symmetrically from adjacent the opposite shoulder parts of the dress to overlie and conceal the area of the dress in which the removable rows of stitches occur both before and after the removal of any of said rows of stitches.

9. The arrangement set forth in claim 8 in which said panel is formed as a part of the front of the dress.

10. The arrangement set forth in claim 8 in which said panel is formed as a part of the back of the dress.