

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

M. M. SHEPARD.
BATHING SUIT.

No. 601,781.

Patented Apr. 5, 1898.

Fig. 1.



Mary M. Shepard ^{Inventor}

Witnesses

E. H. Monroe By her Attorneys,

V. B. Hillyard.

C. A. Snow & Co.

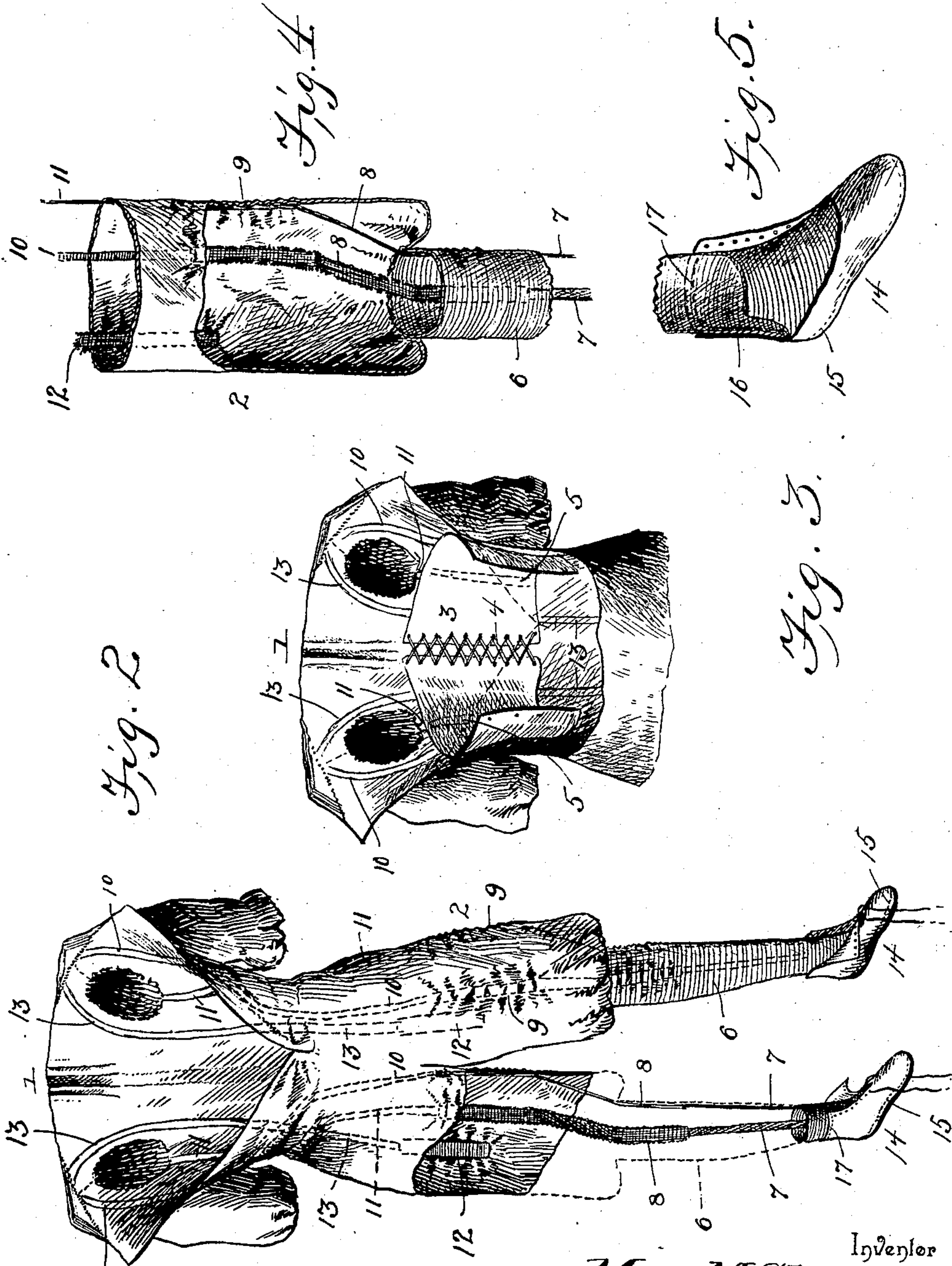
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARY MELISSIE SHEPARD, OF DARLINGTON, SOUTH CAROLINA.

BATHING-SUIT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 601,781, dated April 5, 1898.

Application filed January 11, 1897. Serial No. 618,832. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARY MELISSIE SHEPARD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Darlington, in the county of Darlington and State of South Carolina, have invented a new and useful Bathing-Suit, of which the following is a specification.

This invention provides a bathing-suit combining a waist, pants, stockings, shoes, and corsets in one and strengthening the same at points which under normal conditions are subjected to strain.

One of the principal features is to secure a neat and comfortable fit and enable the wearer to bend in all directions without straining the garment and with perfect ease and freedom, whereby physical exercises may be indulged in when the suit is worn.

Various other objects and advantages are contemplated and will suggest themselves as the nature of the invention is disclosed, and to this end reference is to be had to the following description and the accompanying drawings, in which corresponding and like parts are designated by the same reference characters.

The improvement is susceptible of various changes in the form, proportion, and the minor details of construction without departing from the principle or sacrificing any of the advantages thereof, and to a full disclosure of the invention an adaptation thereof is shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 shows the invention applied. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the garment, parts being broken away and the skirt and corsets omitted. Fig. 3 is a detail view of the waist portion of the garment, showing the corsets in place. Fig. 4 is a detail view of the lower portion of a pants-leg and the upper portion of a stocking connected therewith. Fig. 5 is a detail view of a shoe and the foot portion of a stocking, parts being broken away.

The waist 1 and pants 2 are of usual form and construction. The corsets 3 are provided with the ordinary fastenings for securing them in the front and are connected in the rear by means of an elastic cord or lace 4, so as to permit them to give and yield to the various movements of the body when exercising. Each half or part of the corsets is stitched to the waist directly under the arm, as shown at

5, the stitching extending from the arm-scyce to a point corresponding with the waist-line. By having the corsets attached to the garment in the manner set forth the waist is supported and retained in place, to the comfort and ease of the wearer.

The stockings 6 are joined at their upper ends to the lower edges of the pants and are strengthened by reinforcing-strips 7, stitched thereto and extending from the ankle to the knee and placed one upon each side of a line corresponding with the frontal bone. Elastic tapes or webbing 8 are joined to the upper ends of the reinforcing-strips 7, and their full or shirred edges are stitched to the upper portion of the stockings, whereby said upper portion of the stockings is correspondingly shirred, thereby permitting it to give and conform to the knee when bent, the elastics 8 taking up the fullness when the knee is straightened. These elastic tapes or webs 8 are joined to the pants a distance from their lower ends, leaving sufficient fullness for draping in the ordinary manner, and are stitched thereto, as shown at 9, the upper portion of the pants being shirred, as shown at 9, to enable the garment to yield and adapt itself to the movements of the body without impeding the free action of the bather or straining the garment. A tape or strap 10 is secured at its lower end to the upper extremity of the front elastic 8 and is stitched to the waist throughout its length and terminates at the juncture of the shoulder-seam with the seam between the neck-opening and collar. A tape or strip 11 is fastened at its lower end to the upper portion of the inner elastic 8 and extends to the lower portion of the arm-scyce and is stitched throughout its length to the intermediate portion of the garment. An elastic webbing 12 is stitched along its edges to the back or seat portion of the pants, and the latter are shirred to admit of stretching when the wearer bends forward, the fullness being automatically taken up by the elastic when the wearer regains an erect or straight position. A tape or strap 13 extends from the upper portion of each back elastic 12 to the collar and is stitched to the garment throughout its length, the upper ends of the tapes 13 and 10 coming upon opposite sides of the shoulder-seam.

The shoes 14 may be made of a textile fabric and provided with soles of felt, rubber, soft leather, or other material which will admit of their turning when removing the garment or for any purpose desired. These shoes are stitched along the sides to the foot portion of the stockings, as shown at 15, and in the back, as shown at 16, and along the top, as indicated at 17, and these shoes may be laced or fastened in any manner found most desirable.

The garment when worn by ladies or misses is provided with a skirt 18, which is secured about the waist in any way found most convenient, thereby completing the suit. The several elastic tapes or webbing serve to support the garment and preserve its form, and the shirring being located at points corresponding with joints of the human frame enables the person to bend in any direction with perfect ease without straining or tearing the garment. The reinforcing tapes or straps distribute the strain throughout the garment, thereby preventing tearing of the garment when bending the body or limbs.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is—

1. In a bathing-suit, the combination of stockings, pants having their leg portions of larger diameter than the stockings, and having their lower ends gathered and permanently secured to the upper ends of the said stockings so as to drape thereover and produce a baggy effect, and elastics secured at their lower ends to the upper portion of the stockings and at their upper ends to the lower portion of the pants a distance above the tops of the stockings and having the intermediate portion loose, whereby the stockings are supported without interfering with the baggy effect of the pants, substantially as set forth.

2. In a bathing-suit, the combination of a waist and a pair of pants formed together, the pants having the seat portion shirred, elastics

applied to the shirred portions, and reinforcing tapes or straps joined at their lower ends to the upper portion of the elastics and connected at their upper ends with the waist, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. In a bathing-suit, the combination of a waist and pants formed together, stockings attached to the pants, reinforcing-strips applied to the stockings, elastics joined to the upper ends of the reinforcing-strips and having connection at their lower ends with the knee portion of the stockings and at their upper ends with the pants, and reinforcing-strips joined at their lower ends to the upper ends of the said elastics and stitched to the waist and extending to the upper portion thereof, substantially as set forth.

4. A bathing-suit comprising a waist, pants, stockings and shoes permanently connected substantially as set forth, corsets having each half permanently secured between its ends to the waist upon opposite sides of a medial line, elastics shirred to the seat portion of the pants, reinforcing-strips applied to the lower portion of the stockings, elastics joined to the upper ends of the reinforcing-strips and having connection at their lower ends with the knee portion of the stockings and shirred thereto, and shirred at their upper ends with the lower portion of the pants, tapes secured to the upper portion of the waist and having their lower ends attached to the upper ends of the elastics applied to the pants and stockings, and other tapes secured to the upper back portion of the waist and having connection at their lower ends with the elastics secured to the seat, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

MARY MELISSIE SHEPARD.

Witnesses:

C. W. MEDLIN,

G. B. BRASINGTON.