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P. JACOBS ET AL

2,544,386

MATERNITY GARMENT

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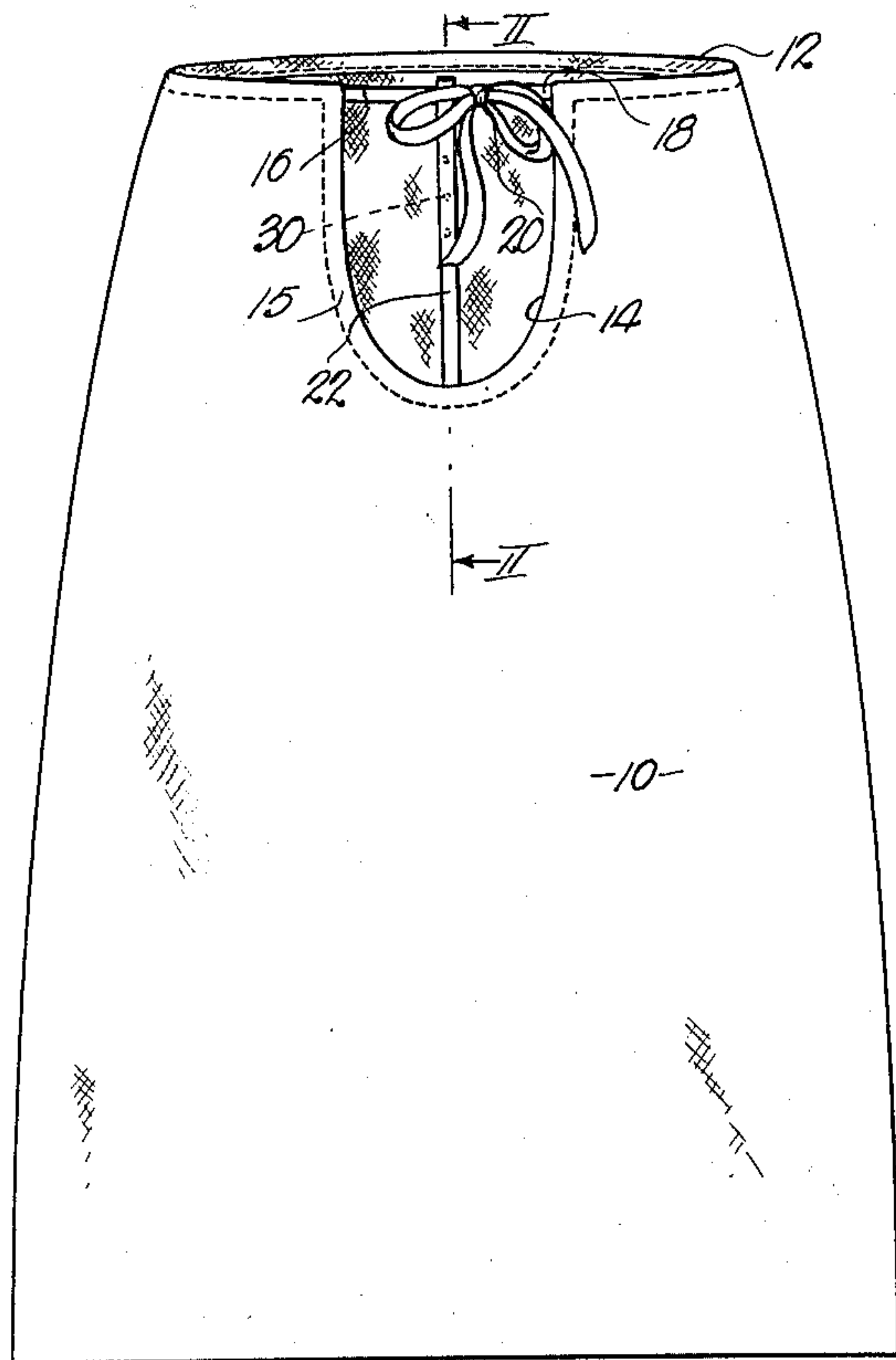


Fig. 1.

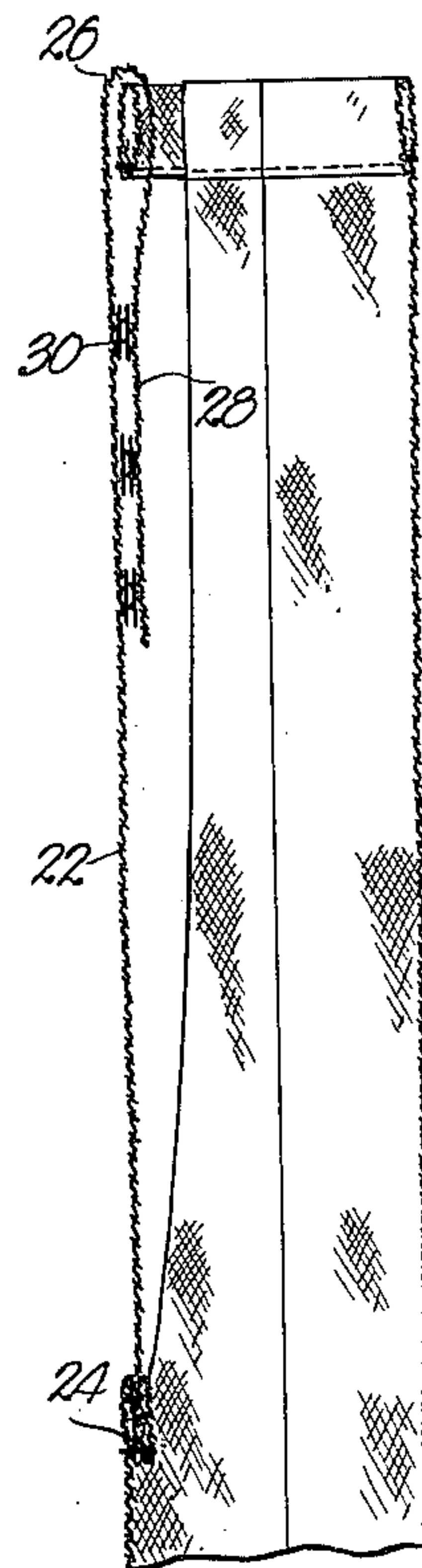


Fig. 2.

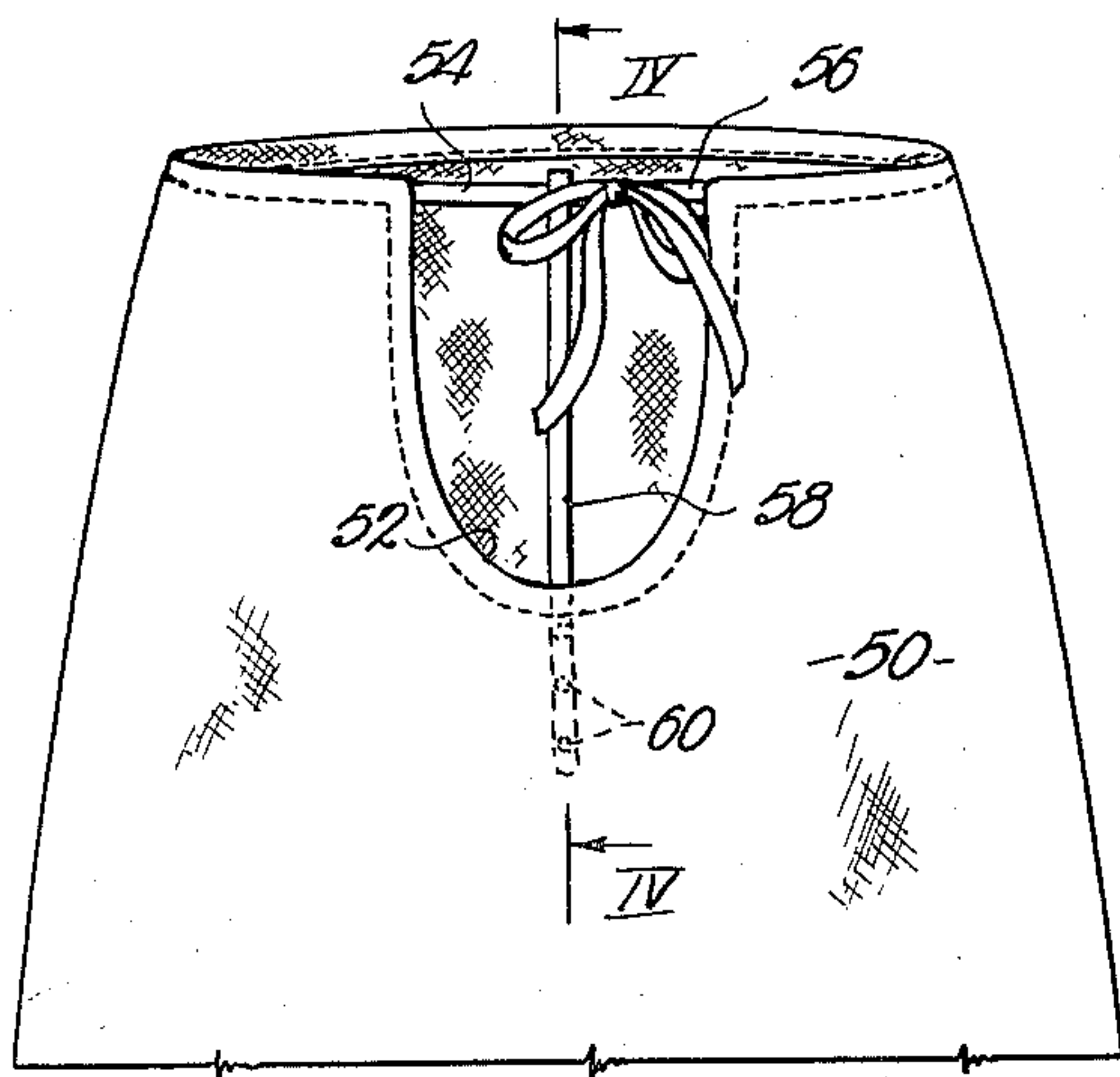


Fig. 3.

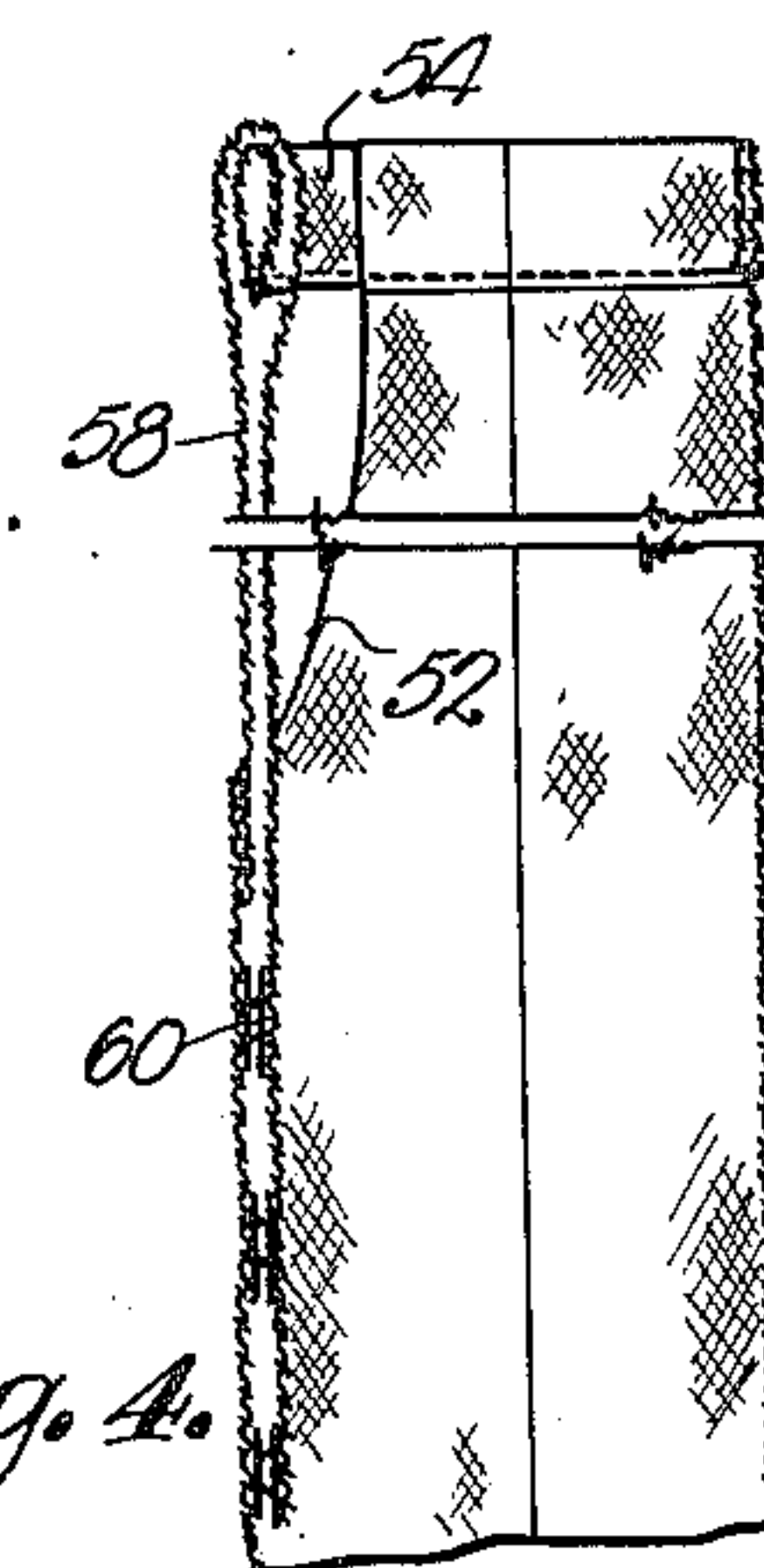


Fig. 4.

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## MATERNITY GARMENT

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1 Claim. (Cl. 2—221)

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This invention relates to a maternity garment, the primary object being to provide a skirt having an opening formed therein near the waist of the skirt to render the garment comfortable to the wearer thereof and to maintain its appearance from the standpoint of even adjustment, said opening being provided with a plurality of transverse straps adjustably arranged thereon to fit persons undergoing constant physiological development.

The most important object of this invention is to provide a maternity skirt as above set forth wherein the opening in the skirt is provided at its uppermost open end with a pair of tying tapes, said tapes being interconnected with the skirt through the means of an extensible strap disposed substantially perpendicular and secured to the skirt at the lowermost end of the opening.

Other objects of the present invention include the way in which the extensible member is formed to permit adjustment as the waist of the wearer increases in size, all of which will be made clear or become apparent as the following specification progresses, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a front plan view of a maternity garment made in accordance with the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary, enlarged cross-sectional view taken on line II—II of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary, front elevational view showing a modified form of the present invention; and

Fig. 4 is an enlarged transverse cross-sectional view taken on line IV—IV of Fig. 3.

The modification of this invention illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawing constitutes a tubular skirt, broadly designated by the numeral 10 having the ends thereof open and formed to define a waist portion at the uppermost end thereof.

A hem 12 at said uppermost end of the skirt 10 constitutes a waist band. An oval opening 14 is formed in the skirt 10 at the front thereof and adjacent the waist band 12. This opening 14 extends downwardly a distance from the waist band 12 and the fabric material from which the skirt 10 is formed is rebent to present a hem 16 at the periphery of the opening 14. It is seen that the uppermost end of this opening 14 is open and traversed by a pair of tying tapes 16 and 18 capable of interconnection by a knotted bow 20.

A flexible strap 22, formed from any suitable fabric material interconnects the tying tapes 16

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and 18 and the skirt 10 adjacent the lowermost end of the opening 14. When the garment is placed in use, this strap 22 is substantially perpendicular to the tying tapes 16 and 18 and the lowermost end thereof is secured directly to the skirt 10 by stitching 24. From the point of connection 24 of strap 22 with the skirt proper, strap 22 extends upwardly and is looped as at 26 over the tied tapes 16 and 18. That end of the strap 22 opposite to the end connected to skirt 10, extends downwardly along the innermost face of strap 22 in an overlapped portion 28.

A plurality of snap fasteners 30 of the well known sectional type having one portion thereof on the innermost face of the strap 22 proper and a second section on the proximal face of the portion 28, interconnect the overlapped parts of strap 22. These snap fasteners 30 extend longitudinally along the strap 22.

It is thus seen that the skirt can be easily removed and replaced by untying the tapes 16 and 18 and by releasing the fasteners 30 to separate all three members 16, 18 and 22. As the waist of the wearer develops to a point requiring extension of the skirt, it is a simple matter to extend the strap 22 and using fewer of the snap fasteners 30 inasmuch as these elements are interchangeable and the lowermost section thereof on the innermost face of strap 22, need not be used. When the strap 22 is connected as illustrated in Fig. 2 of the drawing, it is at its shortest length and if the lowermost snap fastener section on portion 28 is connected with the uppermost snap fastener section on the innermost face of strap 22, then strap 22 is extended to its full length.

A slightly modified form of the invention is illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4 of the drawing and includes a tubular skirt 50 having an opening 52 registering with the waist of the skirt 50 in precisely the same manner as just above described with respect to the modifications of Figs. 1 and 2. The uppermost end of the opening 52 is traversed by a pair of tying elements 54 and 56 again as above described with respect to Figs. 1 and 2. In this modification, however, a strap 58 that interconnects the tying elements 54 and 56 with the lowermost end of the opening 52, is looped about the tying elements 54 and 56 and extends downwardly in overlapping relationship with the innermost face of the skirt 50.

Snap fasteners 60 of the kind having a pair of sections are provided for joining the overlapped end of the strap 58 with the skirt 10.



One of these sections of each snap fastener 60 is secured directly to the innermost face of skirt 50 and the other section thereof is mounted on the proximal face of the strap 58. Here again the snap fasteners 60 are disposed in spaced apart relationship and extending longitudinally of the strap 58.

It is to be noted that while the fastening elements 30 and 60 of the two modifications of the present invention have been indicated to constitute snap fasteners, it is appreciated that any other detachable securing means might be used, provided only that the same is capable of permitting the extension of the upright strap as desired by the wearer. It is, of course, obvious that this garment will be worn in conjunction with a jacket that is sufficiently long to cover the opening 14, together with the herein described tying elements and extensible straps. Obviously, the entire ensemble will present an attractive and neat appearing garment that is not only comfortable to the wearer thereof but easily fastened in place and removed as desired.

Manifestly, such changes and modifications as fairly come within the scope of the appended claim, are contemplated hereby.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

A maternity garment comprising in combination a tubular skirt having a waistband and an opening extending downwardly from the waistband at the front of the skirt to accommodate the abdomen when enlarged by reason of pregnancy; and readily releasable attaching means

for gradually increasing the girth of the skirt at and immediately below said waistband, said means comprising a pair of opposed tying tapes traversing the opening at the uppermost end thereof when tied together, an abdomen-traversing, flexible strap permanently secured at one end thereof to the skirt at the lowermost end of the opening, said strap having a first portion thereof spanning the distance between the tying tapes and said end of the opening and being looped over one of the tying tapes, terminating in a second portion depending from said one tying tape and disposed in face-to-face relationship to said first strap portion, and a plurality of equally spaced fastening elements between the proximal faces of said strap portions for joining the latter together, each element having a part attached to each strap portion respectively, each of said parts on one strap portion being adapted for selective connection with any one of the parts on the other strap portion.

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