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COMBINATION FOR SUPPORTING, RESTRAINING AND PROTECTING CHILDREN WHEN SEATED AT TABLES

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Fig. 2.

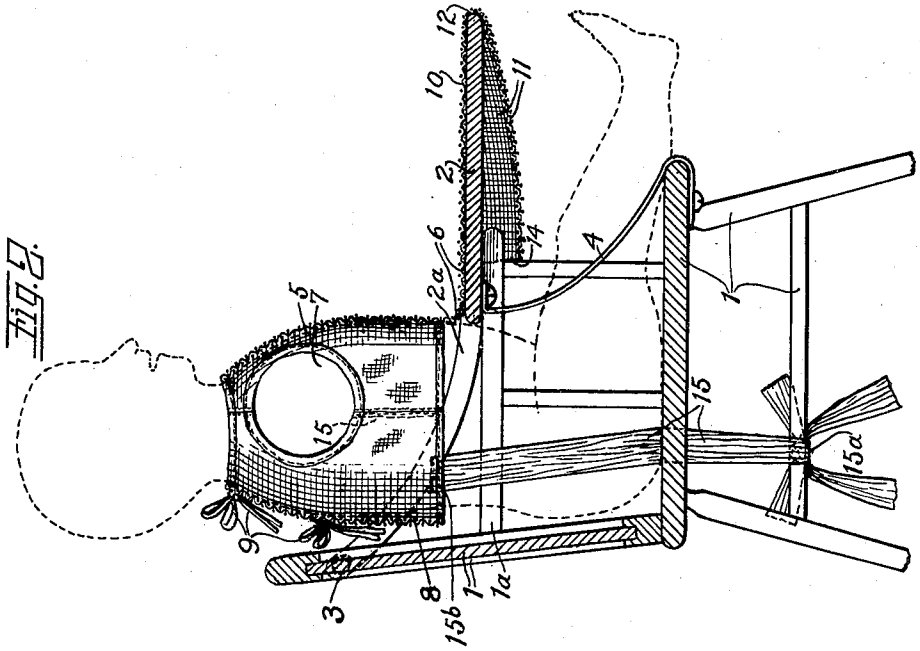
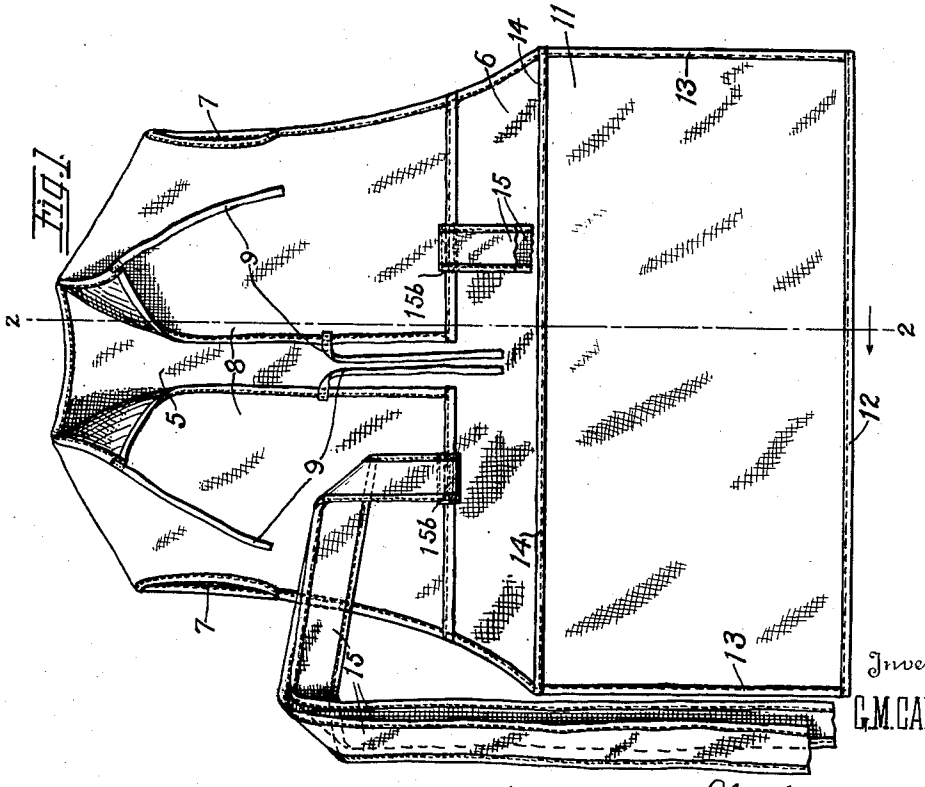


Fig. 1.



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COMBINATION FOR SUPPORTING, RESTRAINING, AND PROTECTING A CHILD WHEN SEATED AT A TABLE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 155—189)

This invention relates to a new and useful combination for supporting, restraining and protecting a child while it sits and eats from a food-container on a table; such combination consisting of a chair, a table supported by the chair, a protective cover for the child seated in the chair and for the table supported in front of the seated child or person, and a simple and effective means to prevent the seated person or child from rising and standing in the chair.

One object of the invention is to protect the child from bodily injury that might occur to a child who would rise to its feet, lose its balance, and fall on the floor or on a table containing hot food, glassware, Chinaware, etc., that might break and cut the child.

Another object is to shield not only the body and body-garments of the child, but also shield its legs from food, drinks, etc., that fall between the chair-supported table and child's body when not prevented by the bib-extension that constitutes a table-receiving pocket provided by this invention.

Another object is to provide a flexible, washable, easily attachable and detachable protecting cover that is normally attached to the chair and to the table, and into which the small child can be placed and secured while the protective cover is attached to the chair and table, and from which the child cannot easily detach itself, nor detach the protective cover from the chair and table; but which protective cover can quickly and easily be detached by an adult or large child who is free from the restraint and confines of the protective device.

Other objects and important features are pointed out or implied in the following details of description, in connection with the accompanying drawing in which:

Fig. 1 is a rear view of the protective device when spread flat on a wall or other plane surface, a pair of the restraining strips being broken off.

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view, the section through the protective cover or shield being taken substantially along the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Referring to the drawing in detail, in which, similar reference numerals refere to similar parts in both views, the invention is described in detail as follows:

The chair 1 and table or food-table 2 are of ordinary or conventional construction in which the table is supported on arms 1*a*, only one of which is here shown, and the table is also attached to the chair by arms 2*a* by any appropriate means at 3, and by a preferably flexible strap 4 having its upper and lower ends secured respectively to the table and chair by means of screws or other appropriate means. No novelty is claimed for the structures thus far described.

The protective device shown detached and spread in Fig. 1, and shown in its normal position is claimed to be novel per se, as an attachment for the combined chair and table; and also claimed to be an element of a novel combination, as an attachment in place, viz., the combination shown in Fig. 2. Such protective device or cover and chair-connections is preferably made of relatively light and flexible cotton fabric, for comfort, washability and low cost; though the invention is not confined or limited to any particular kind or class of woven fabric or other flexible material such as rubber, rubberized fabric, synthetic rubber, etc., of which these covers can be made.

Approximately the upper half of the protecting cover comprises an outer body garment, the front or chest and abdomen covering portion 5 being a bib or apron, or perhaps more correctly, the upper part 5 may be considered the bib, and the lower part, at 6, may be considered the apron. Arm-holes 7 are provided between the bib 5 and the two back-covering flaps 8 which are provided with tie-strings or other simple and convenient fasteners 9 that are normally out of reach of the small child seated on the chair-seat as indicated, by dotted lines, as being within the outer body garment whose ties 9 are knotted to secure the child's chest and shoulders in the said outer body garment.

The apron 6 is united with the bib 5 and with an apron-extension 10 that forms a pocket whose inner or lower wall is shown at 11, the normally front edge 12 and lateral edges 13 of the pocket being closed and preferably hemmed or bound as indicated; but the normally rear edge 14 being free to provide the pocket's opening for receiving the table 2 into the pocket 10—11. It is seen that the table overhangs the child's legs, so that if any thing is dropped or spilled by the child, its legs would be somewhat shielded by the table, but not entirely; for if the apron 6 were absent or displaced, the dropped or spilled material could pass down at the rear edge of the table and onto the child's legs or lower garment; but the presence of the apron 6 prevents such descent of material and effectively and fully shields the legs and lower garments. Moreover, even if the apron were provided with a pocket located to catch descending materials at the

rear end of the table only, it would not catch material spilled at the front or middle of the table, and if such material be liquid, it would be likely to seep or flow under such material-catching pocket and onto the child. Therefore, to entirely prevent such descent from rear of the table, its top and front edge and lateral edges are entirely covered by the apron, so, if the apron is impervious to the liquid the latter is checked thereby; or, if the apron and its extension 10 are absorbent they will hold the liquid substantially where spilled on the table, or at least retard the flow while a napkin or other absorber can be applied by the child's attendant.

If the table-cover 10 were not provided with the wall 11, it could be easily displaced accidentally or by playful pranks of the child; but if it is displaced, a part of the wall 11 automatically substitutes the displaced part of cover 10, so the table must remain completely covered while the body-garment is secured on the child. Moreover, the child cannot rise to its feet in an erect position, because the strap 4 prevents the table from being raised, and the wall 11, or pocket 10—11 cooperates with the table 2 and apron 6 and body-garment for restraining the child from rising. However, if the restraining means 15 were absent, the child's effort to rise might cause it to fall forward on the table; so the restraining means or fasteners 15 are of great importance, though exceedingly simple and convenient, and one important feature of the restraining means is that it is such as to allow or permit the child's chest and shoulder portions to move freely toward and from the table without discomfort. Such restraining means consists of two pairs of flexible and washable strips or tie-strings united with the body-garment at points below the arm-holes 7, as seen at 15b. One pair of the tie-strips is shown in Fig. 2 as having their lower ends tied together where they connect with one of the side rungs of the chair 1. Because of these two pairs of restraining strips, one at each side of the body garment and chair, the child cannot lean far over to one side or the other, so it cannot reach the ties at 15a. Therefore while the ties are quite simple per se, the arrangement thereof in combination with the other elements is not only effective and unfailing as a restraining means, but is also very convenient as a releasing means for manipulation by the child's attendant; and the same is true of the securing means 9; for when the ties of the means 9 and 15 are untied by simply pulling their free ends, the body garment can then be spread laterally for releasing the child's arms from the arm-holes 7, whereeupon the child can arise or be raised from the chair and from the elements combined therewith, and the protecting cover can then be removed from the chair and food-table when desired for washing or for other purpose. However the child can be removed from and replaced in the chair and protecting cover without untying at 15a, only the ties at 9 being then open, so it is a very quick and easy matter to remove only the child while the protecting cover, when used at the child's home, need not be removed from its normal engagement with the chair and table except when it is desired to wash and replace it.

I have no intention to limit my patent protection to the precise details of construction, arrangement or materials mentioned in the foregoing and shown in the drawings, for the invention is susceptible of numerous changes within the scope of the inventive ideas as implied in the foregoing and claimed hereinafter.

I claim the following as my invention:

1. In a combined protecting and restraining device, for use on a person in a chair having a food-table supported and secured in position on a front part thereof, the combination of a body-garment having arm-holes and including a bib and a table-cover and adapted to receive and cover the chest and shoulders of said person when seated on the seat of said chair and to cover said food-table, and means united with said body-garment at points below the level of said arm-holes and provided with means for being secured to and disconnected from substantially opposite lower parts of said chair in a proper relation below said seat to restrain said person from rising and to permit said person's chest and shoulders to have free movement towards and from said food-table.

2. The combination defined by claim 1, and a combined apron and table-receiving pocket that is united with said bib and is adapted to entirely cover the food-table's upper surface and front and lateral edges and to extend under the food-table far enough to restrain the person in the body-garment and chair from displacing said pocket from the food-table, said combined body-garment and apron and table-receiving pocket constituting a means to restrain said person from rising to an upright position in the chair when in its normal position on the person and food-table.

3. The combination with a chair, a food-table supported on a front portion of the chair, a pocket normally surrounding the greater portion of said food-table and entirely covering the top of the food-table, a body-garment united with said pocket and having arm-holes and including a bib and being adapted to receive the chest and shoulders of a person when seated on the seat of said chair, and means secured to opposite sides of said body-garment and normally secured to opposite lower parts of said chair in a proper relation to permit a person to be placed and secured in said chair and in said body-garment and permit such person's chest and shoulders to be moved toward and from said pocket and food-table, said means being effective to restrain such person from rising to an upright standing position in said chair.

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