B. F. CLARKE.

BREAST SUPPORTER.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 28, 1914.

1,167,741. Patented Jan. 11, 1916.

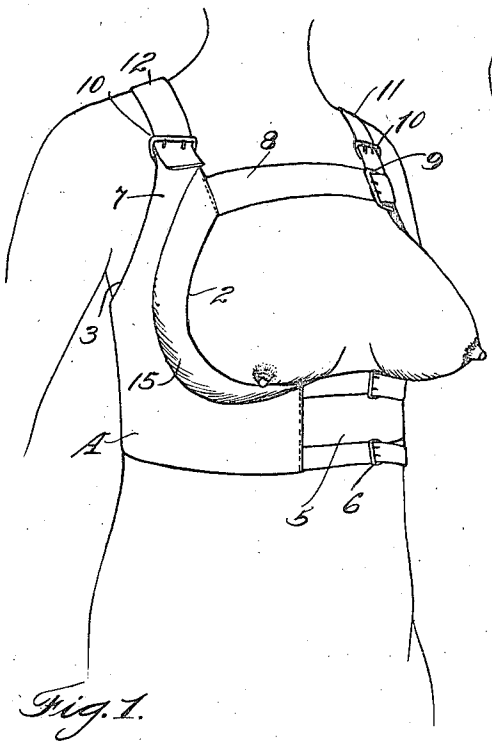


Fig. 1.

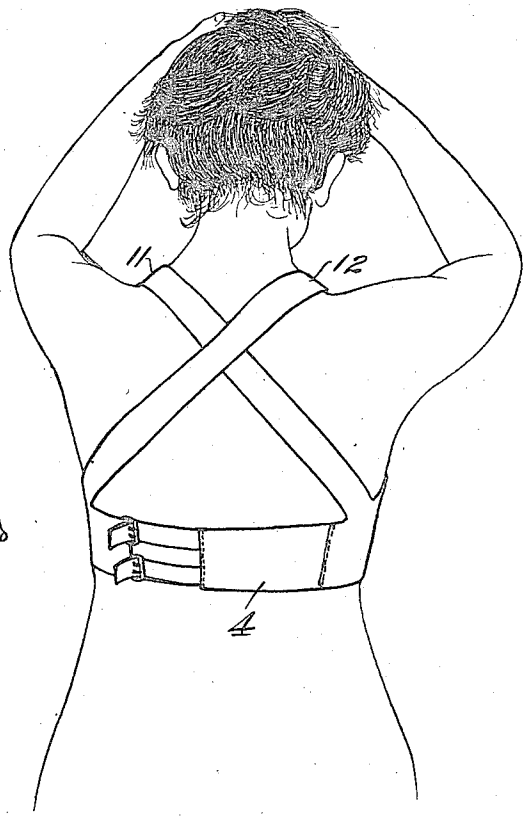


Fig. 2.

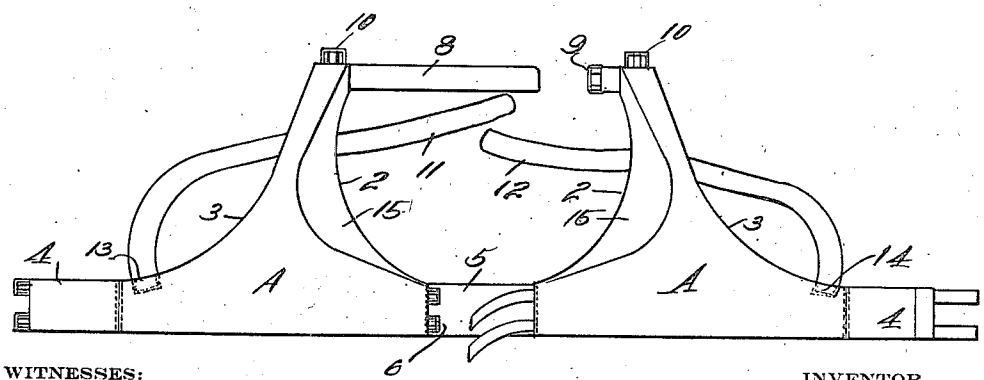


Fig. 3.

WITNESSES:

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BREAST-SUPPORTER.

1,167,741. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Jan. 11, 1916.

Application filed October 28, 1914. Serial No. 869,064.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN F. CLARKE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Paso Robles, in the county of San Luis Obispo and State of California, have invented new and useful Improvements in Breast-Supporters, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to breast supporters and pertains especially to means for supporting and relieving the breasts of a woman while in a recumbent position as distinguished from devices designed for ordinary wear.

The object of this invention is to provide a new and improved breast supporter designed and adapted to be worn next to the skin by women immediately following child birth, and while confined to bed. Its purpose is to prevent and cure caking and inflammation of the breasts, which is such a frequent sequence of the "lying-in" state, and which so frequently accompanies the beginning of lactation in this class of cases. The present invention accomplishes this result by supporting the heavy inflamed breasts upon the front of the body while the wearer is in a recumbent position, by preventing tension and dragging of the heavy breasts toward a lateral position when the wearer is lying in bed. In consequence of this support, tension and swelling is relieved, the circulation of blood through the glands favored and pain relieved by putting the breasts at rest.

The invention consists of the parts and the combination and construction of parts as hereinafter more fully described and claimed, having reference to the following drawings in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective of the device applied. Fig. 2 is a rear view. Fig. 3 is a diagrammatic plan.

The body of the device includes two complementary triangular pieces A—A, of suitable fabric fashioned so that their inner borders 2 conform to the shape of the breasts and the outer edges 3 extend rearwardly under the arms, while the lower horizontal base or waist portions of the pieces form part of an adjustable belt 4 that passes around the body; the pieces A—A being connected in front below the breasts by the webbing 5 and also the adjustable connections as straps on one piece A and the buckle or buckles 6 on the other piece A.

The upper angles 7 of the body portions A—A are connected across the chest and above the breasts by appropriate means as the strap 8 and buckle 9. The upper angles 7 are also provided with buckles 10 to receive one terminal of respective shoulder straps 11—12 which latter extend diagonally across the back of the wearer and connect to the body piece A under the arms at 13—14.

A gore 15 is inserted along each inner border 2 of pieces A—A, so that the necessary flaring or cup shape is produced to conform as far as possible to the fullness or rotundity of the breasts and give the necessary lateral support.

All parts are adjustable, soft and yielding to adapt the device to the convenience and comfort of the patient.

Among the advantages of the breast support are: 1. It favors nursing of the new born babe without removing the support. 2. The use of the breast pump, the use of massage and the application of medicines locally, may all be accomplished without removing or in any way interfering with the support. 3. The support is light and made of washable material; there being no rubber or steel in its composition. 4. This supporter is not intended to take the place nor perform the function of a corset or bust former.

Having thus described my invention what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

1. A breast supporter comprising a body-encircling piece having spaced upwardly extending portions, one for each breast fashioned and adapted to pass upwardly at the outside of the breast to give the latter lateral support, said portions terminating above the breasts, an adjustable connection above the latter and between the upwardly extending portions, a strap secured adjacent each upward portion to the body-encircling piece for extending upwardly across the back and over the shoulder to be fastened to the terminal of the other upward portion, adjustable connections between the straps and the upwardly extending portions, and an insert secured to the inner border of each upward portion to provide a cup-shaped support for the breast.

2. A breast supporter comprising two complementary triangular body pieces, each having a waist portion connected at front and rear with its mate and also an upwardly extending portion terminating just above a breast and fashioned to pass under an arm and to give lateral support to the outerside of a breast, the upward portion being wider at the base whereby the under arm part provides for the lateral support of the breast, connections between the pieces above and below the breasts, and shoulder straps connected with the top angles of the respective pieces and with the opposite base portions after passing over the shoulders.

3. A breast supporter comprising two complementary body portions adjustably connected around the waist, each body portion having an upward under-arm extension terminating above the adjacent breast and which is cup-shaped to fit the contour of the outer side of a breast and laterally to support the latter, an adjustable connection between said upward extensions extending across the chest above the breasts, and adjustable shoulder straps connected to the upward extension and passing therefrom over the shoulders.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN CLARKE.

Witnesses:
OSCAR CLAUSSEN,
J. H. HERRING.