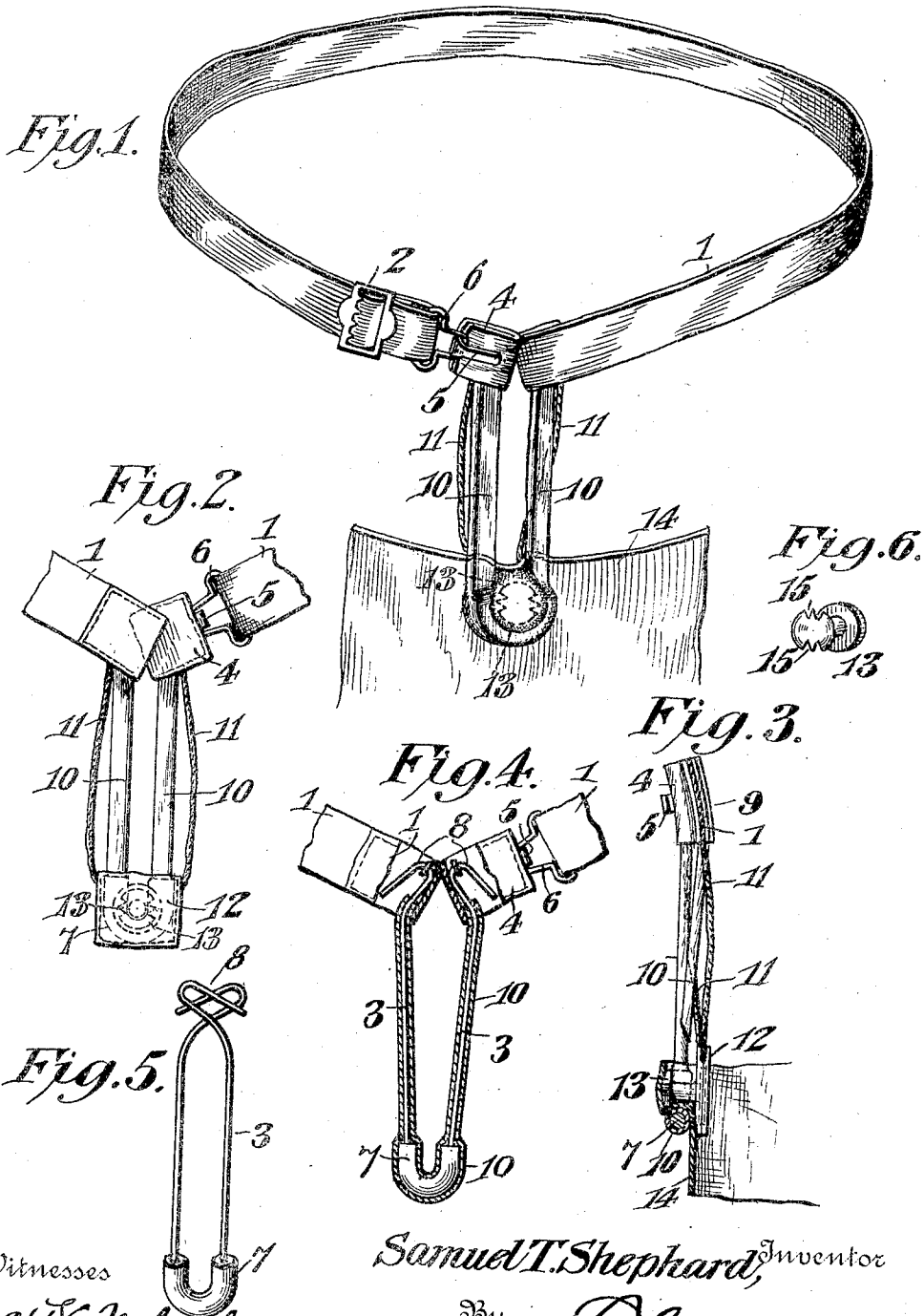


1,011,865.

Patented Dec. 12, 1911.



Witnesses

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SAMUEL T. SHEPHARD, OF ALBANY, NEW YORK.

HOSE-SUPPORTER.

1,011,865.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 12, 1911.

Application filed April 7, 1910. Serial No. 554,034.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL T. SHEPHARD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Albany, in the county of Albany and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Hose-Supporter, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to hose supporters for men's use, and has for its object the provision of a light and inexpensive device which may be worn without any liability of injurious effects due to excessive pressure placed upon the limb whereby proper circulation of the blood is prevented.

The invention also has for its object the provision of a garter which will be free of elastic and at the same time will be held firmly in its proper position without causing discomfort to the wearer, and which, through the absence of elastic, will be exceedingly durable, inasmuch as the ordinary elastic webbing soon deteriorates and becomes useless through the action of perspiration and heat.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device for the purpose stated which will be so formed that no metal parts will be in contact with the flesh and injury to the same will be thereby avoided, and finally the invention seeks to provide a device for the purpose stated which will firmly support the hose and prevent the dropping of the same, and which may be quickly applied or removed from the limb of the user.

The several stated objects, and such other incidental objects as may hereinafter appear, are attained in the use of a device such as illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and the invention consists in certain novel features which will be hereinafter first fully described and then pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a garter embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a detail rear elevation of a portion of the same. Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view. Fig. 4 is a sectional elevation taken at right angles to Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a detail perspective view of the spring. Fig. 6 is a detail perspective view of the button.

In the drawings there is shown a tape or band 1 which is constructed of non-elastic fabric and has at one end a buckle 2 for the purpose of adjusting the effective length of the band. There is, also, provided a U-shaped spring 3 of rod or wire of suit-

able diameter with the legs thereof straight for the greater portion of their length and the free ends of the legs connected one to one end of the band and the other to a small piece 4 of tape equipped with a hook 5 adapted to engage a loop 6 carried by the doubled end of the band 1 where extending beyond the buckle 2. The ends of the legs of the U spring are usually connected to the fabric by being sewed thereto. The spring 3, considering the device as applied to the leg of the wearer and the person standing, is pendent from the band and the bend or bight of this spring is lowermost. This simple spring member with the two straight legs connected at the free ends to the ends of the band 1, one end directly and the other through the hook and eye 5 and 6, constitutes the sole elastic portion of the garter and the free ends of the spring have a normal position of rest from which the ends are separated when the garter is applied to the leg of the wearer, so that the tendency of the displaced ends is to cause the band 1 to clasp the leg of the wearer with a yielding embrace which will hold the garter against slipping, but which may exert such a gentle pressure as not to be either uncomfortable or injurious. The separation of the free ends of the U-shaped spring tends to bend the spring at the bight or bend where the two legs are united and constant bending of this portion of the spring tends to cause a breaking of the spring at such point of bending. To overcome this tendency and at the same time imparting to the spring a desirable stiffness without the necessity of increasing the thickness of the wire forming the legs of the spring, the bend or bight of the spring is reinforced by a stirrup 7 extending around the bend of the spring and for an appropriate distance along the straight portions of the legs 3, this stirrup also having another function which will be referred to hereinafter. The stirrup is comparatively rigid, that is, it will bend but to a slight extent under the force tending to separate the free ends of the spring one from the other. The free ends of the legs of the spring are bent first one toward the other, so that in their normal position of rest they overlap and are then bent away one from the other to form open loops 8 by means of which the free ends of the springs may be sewed to the fabric of the band 1 and member 4. Fur-

thermore, the free ends of the loops are bent out of alinement with the longitudinal plane of the spring in a direction which when the garter is applied to the leg of the wearer will be away from the leg of the wearer, such bent portion being indicated at 9 in Fig. 3. The entire spring member where exposed and the stirrup are covered with a sheath 10 of suitable material, such as textile material, so that there are no metal parts exposed, thus protecting both the metal parts of the device and the wearer of the garter.

Hung from the free ends of the spring by a cord 11 is a piece of textile fabric 12 carrying a button 13 adapted to extend between the legs or branches of the spring and thereby hold the fabric of the hose 14 in engagement with the bight of the spring, the head of the button being preferably serrated or provided with small teeth or spurs 15 at diametrically opposite points to engage the fabric of the hose and thereby prevent slipping thereof.

To secure the garter to the fabric of the hose the head of the button is covered with a portion of the fabric and together with the fabric is then introduced between the legs of the spring which are forced apart for the purpose and on the release of the spring the return of the legs of the spring toward the normal position under the resilient action of the spring will cause the button and the fabric covering the same to be firmly clasped against withdrawal. The neck of the button and the separation of the facing portions of the reinforcement or stirrup 7 may be so proportioned that the button 1 covered by the fabric of the hose may be seated in the stirrup and be clasped thereby when the legs of the spring have been released from the force applied to separate them for the introduction of the button. The cord 11 constitutes a flexible attachment for the button which will prevent its loss or misplacement.

The advantages of the construction and

of the method of operation will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art to which the invention appertains, and while I have described the principle of operation of the invention, together with the device which I now consider to be the best embodiment thereof, I desire to have it understood that the device shown is merely illustrative, and that such changes may be made when desired as are within the scope of the claims appended hereto.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:—

1. In a hose supporter, a supporting band, a resilient U-shaped hose engaging member having substantially straight legs connected at the ends to the ends of the band, the said U-shaped member being provided at the bight or bend with a U-shaped stirrup constituting a reinforcement, and a button carried by the hose engaging member and provided with a shank adapted to engage between the legs of the U-shaped stirrup or reinforcement.

2. A hose supporter comprising a supporting band, a resilient U-shaped hose engaging member having straight legs terminating at the free ends in return bends having a normal tendency to overlap and respectively connected to the ends of the supporting band, the U-shaped hose engaging member having at the bight or bend a U-shaped stirrup or reinforcement rendering the bight or bend stiffer than the main portions of the legs of the hose engaging member, and a button adapted to have its shank lodged between the legs of the U-shaped reinforcement to confine hose thereto.

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

SAMUEL T. SHEPHARD.

Witnesses:

AMBROSE MATTOCKS,
J. A. MITCHELL.