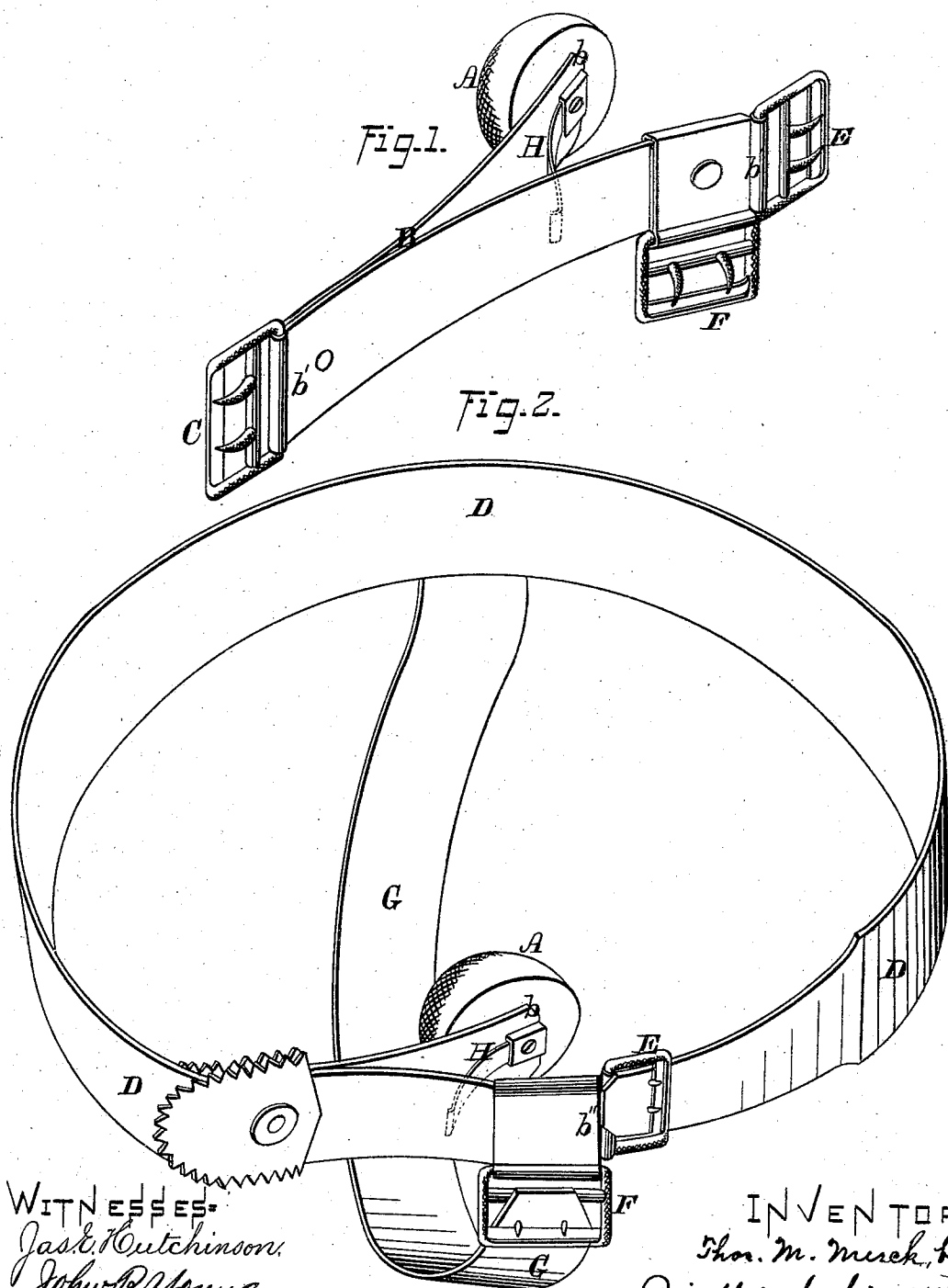


T. M. MERCK.

TRUSS.

No. 177,535.

Patented May 16, 1876.



WITNESSES.
Jas. C. Hutchinson.
John R. Young

INVENTOR.
Thos. M. Merck, by
Oriniddle and Co., his Attys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS M. MERCK, OF GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF
AND D. E. BANKS, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN TRUSSES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 177,535, dated May 16, 1876; application filed
February 12, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS M. MERCK, of Gainesville, Hill county, State of Georgia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hernial Trusses; and do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my pad, detached from the belts and strap, and Fig. 2 is a like view of the instrument complete.

Letters of like name and kind refer to like parts in each of the figures.

The design of my invention is to increase the efficiency and ease of mechanical appliances employed for the treatment of hernia; and to this end it consists in the means employed for connecting the pad to or with the felt, and for giving to said pad, when in use, an elastic pressure, substantially as and for the purpose hereinafter specified.

In the annexed drawing, A represents a semi-spherical pad, constructed, preferably, of wood, which is secured upon the outer face at the end of one arm or fork, *b*, of a V-shaped spring, B, that is flat, and at its ends has a width of about one inch, and from thence to its doubled central portion increases in width, as shown. At the doubled end *b'* of the spring B is hinged a buckle, C, to which one end of a belt, D, is connected, while at the end of the forks *b''* is hinged a second buckle, E, that receives the opposite end of said belt. A third buckle, F, is hinged to one edge, at the end of the forks *b''*, and receives one end of a strap, G, which, from thence, passes downward, rearward, and up-

ward, and has its opposite end secured to or upon the belt D, said strap being connected to the latter and to said spring at a right angle to their length. A flat spring, H, attached to the inner side of the forks *b* at its end, and from thence extending in a curve inward and toward the forks *b''*, completes the device, which is employed in the usual manner—by securing the belt around the body, so as to bring the pad over the rupture, and then passing the strap between the thighs, and connecting its free end to the buckle F. The form of the spring B gives to the pad a constant pressure upon the person of its wearer, while the supplemental spring H operates to slightly increase the tension of said spring B, and; by supporting the latter at its weakest point, renders practicable the employment of but slight thickness of metal, and, consequently, lessens the rigidity and increases the ease with which the device adapts itself to changes in the position of its wearer.

Having thus fully set forth the nature and merits of my invention, what I claim as new is—

The means employed for connecting the pad A to or with the belt D, and for producing an elastic pressure upon said pad when in use, consisting of the V-shaped springs B *b b'* *b''*, supplemental spring H, and buckles C, E, and F, combined with each other, and with said parts, in the manner substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 8th day February, 1876.

T. M. MERCK.

Witnesses:

CLAUDE ESTES,
J. W. BAILEY.