

Aug. 10, 1926.

1,595,698

E. M. WILSON

AIR CUSHION

Filed July 8, 1925

Fig. 1.

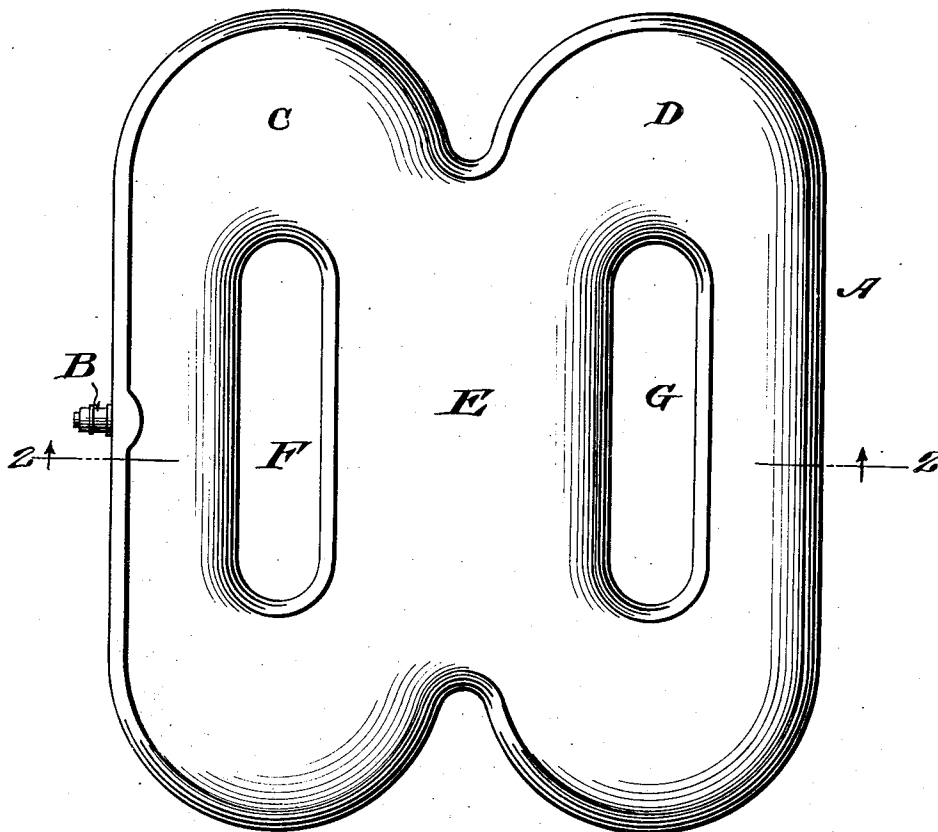
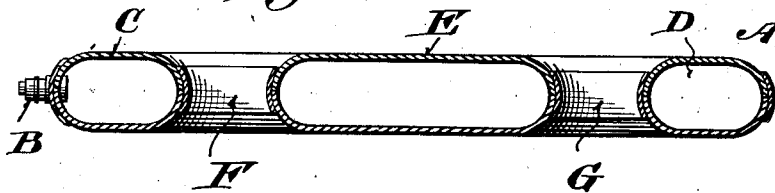


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EVELYN M. WILSON, OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT.

AIR CUSHION.

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This invention relates to cushions and more particularly to pneumatic cushions adapted for hospital and invalid use.

A primary object of the invention is to provide a cushion which is adapted to give support to the back of a patient lying in bed, particularly at points where most people complain of distress while in bed which is at the small of the back.

A further object of the invention is to provide an inflatable cushion which relieves pressure at different points on the body which are susceptible to becoming pressure sores from prolonged confinement to the sick bed. Cushions heretofore generally used usually leave the hollow or what is known as the "small" of the back unsupported, but the present device conforms to the contour of the body in such a way that all points of the body along the line of the cushion are supported in their natural manner thus relieving distress and giving support which adds to comfort.

With the above and other objects in view which will more readily appear as the nature of the invention is better understood, the same consists in the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter more fully described, illustrated and claimed.

A preferred and practical embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the improved air cushion.

Figure 2 is a cross sectional view taken on the line 2-2 of Figure 1.

Similar reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several figures of the drawings.

In carrying the invention into effect it is proposed to provide an inflatable body designated generally as A of any suitable material such as rubber, or the like, which is not only easily inflated but resilient and soft under the weight of the patient. At one side of the body there is provided an inflating valve B for receiving air when the device is to be used or deflating it when the cushion is to be collapsed for storage or carrying.

As will be observed from Figure 1 the body A is curved inwardly at its short ends thereby to substantially define a pair of relatively elongated wing-like pad members

C and D connected by an intermediate web portion E, the said wings having at their ends pairs of lobes L with an inverted V-shaped space between each pair to adapt them to underlie the buttocks of the user and yet not extend below the vertebral column. These wings are also equipped with central openings F and G, thereby providing in effect two elongated cushion loops or pads which are adapted to be positioned beneath the hollow portion of the patient's back on opposite sides of the spinal column so that the spinal column is supported on the connecting web portion E. The inflated area E forms in effect a back supporting saddle and serves particularly as a support to the vertebral column and muscles of the back thereby preventing, and also relieving, discomfort while the pads C and D support the sides of the body. Also due to the spacing and arrangement of the openings F and G sufficient ventilation is permitted to avoid discomfort from body heat, which would not otherwise be permitted to escape.

The construction and arrangement described provides in effect an air cushion having inflated side wings connected by the inflated intermediate web portion E; and, as will also be observed from Fig. 2, the outside portions of the inflated side wings provide relatively narrow inflated portions while the intermediate web portion E provides a relatively wide inflated back supporting saddle portion. These features have been found to be very practical and efficient for the intended purposes in hospital and invalid use.

The present cushion therefore includes a body which may be positioned crosswise or lengthwise beneath the body of the patient thereby to be doubly serviceable. Also, it will be apparent that the shape of the present air cushion is such that it may be applied to any part of the body for purposes of support, and for relieving discomfort and preventing pressure sores as previously indicated, and furthermore is readily reversible end for end or side for side.

Without further description it is thought that the features and advantages of the invention will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art, and it will of course be understood that changes in the form, proportion and minor details of construction

may be resorted to, without departing from the spirit of the invention and scope of the appended claim.

I claim:—

- 5 An air cushion comprising a body having transversely spaced longitudinally extending, the ends of said body being curved inwardly intermediate the width thereof to partially define separate sections

and form pairs of lobes and a comparatively wide inflated intermediate web connecting said sections and forming a back supporting saddle, sufficiently wide to span the spinal column and to lie on opposite sides thereof. 10 15

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

EVELYN M. WILSON.