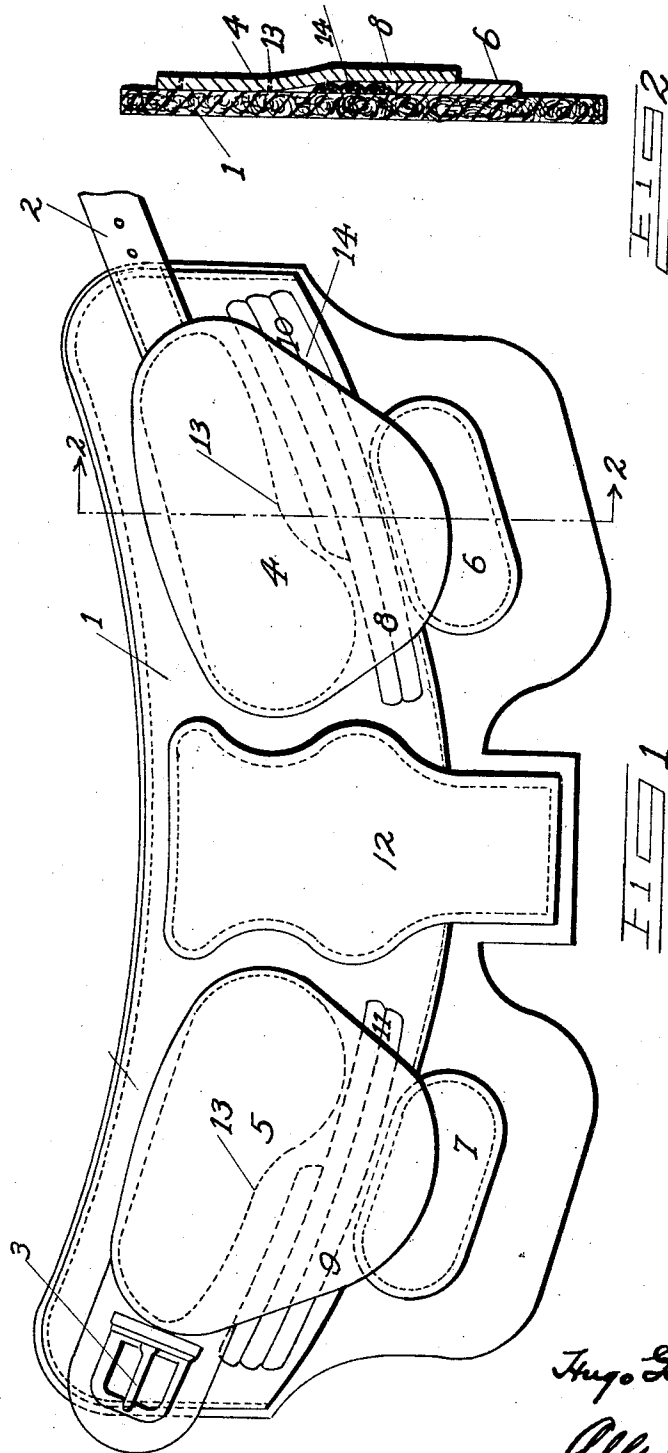


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H. GOLDSMITH  
ATHLETIC PROTECTIVE DEVICE

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## ATHLETIC PROTECTIVE DEVICE

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My invention relates to athletic protective devices particularly for the kidneys, thigh and hip socket joints.

In the art it has been customary to mount protective pads such as leather or fibre pieces in such position on a waist enclosing band that those parts of the body which are most susceptible to injury shall be protected. In order to permit free movement of the body of the wearer the protective pads have been mounted in spaced position allowing an unpadded line of articulation. These lines of articulation have consequently been unprotected and as a result injury has often resulted by a blow on one of these unprotected areas.

One of the essential places which require protection is the body in the vicinity of the kidneys. Another place requiring protection is the body in the vicinity of the hip socket joints. The free movement of the body between these two protected areas has been permitted through an unprotected area where the flexible supporting waist band has been free to bend. It so happens that as the protective garments are made standard, that is, that the protective pads are mounted in similar positions on different waist enclosing supports, that according to the particular shape of the wearer's body, some zones between the portion of the body in the vicinity of the kidneys and the hip socket joints have been unprotected.

It is the object of my invention to provide a protective device which will protect the wearer from the upper side of the zone of the body in which the kidneys are located down over the zone in which the hip socket joints are located without an intervening unprotected zone and at the same time in which there will be entire freedom of movement for the wearer when he assumes a crouching position. It is specifically my object to provide a flexible supporting band for enclosing the waist with protecting pads for the kidneys and protecting pads for the hip socket joints with preferably integral portions of the kidney pads extending down overlapping the hip socket protectors.

The above and other objects to which refer-

ence will be made in the ensuing disclosure I accomplish by that certain combination and arrangement of parts of which I have illustrated a preferred modification.

Referring to the drawings:—

Figure 1 is a plan view of the protecting device laid out flat.

Figure 2 is a sectional view taken along the lines 2—2 in Figure 1 showing the preferred type of kidney protector overlapping the hip socket joint protector.

I have shown a flexible waist enclosing band 1, in this instance comprising a felt pad having a strap 2 at one side which, when the wearer adjusts the device around his waist, is secured within a buckle 3 attached to the opposite side of the pad. Pieces of shock absorbing material, in this instance leather, are stitched to the pad as indicated at 4, 5, 6 and 7. The pieces 4 and 5 are the protectors for the right and left kidney zones respectively, and the pieces 6 and 7 are the protectors for the right and left hip socket joints respectively.

It is of considerable importance that the pads 4 and 5 be shaped as shown in the drawings. They have a narrow width at the groin section and extend in a flaring wider section over the hip bones. Thus free movement is allowed and the groin section, kidney and hip socket joints are adequately protected.

In order to provide overlapping members which will extend from the kidney pads 4 and 5 to the hip socket joint pads 6 and 7, I cut out the kidney protectors as indicated with extensions 8 and 9 respectively which will overlap the hip socket joint pads and at the same time leave the areas 10 and 11 so that they will be free to bend when the wearer assumes a crouching position or when his body is bent into position other than straight.

In the particular protecting device illustrated I have further shown a pad 12 stitched to the back of the garment for protecting the base of the spine and while the placing of a pad in this position does not, in itself, constitute invention, I may extend parts of the kid-

ney pads out so as to overlap the spine protector.

5 The flexible extensions 8 extend from lines of stitching which curve upwardly from the ends of the pads providing curved lines of articulation, as indicated at 13. Further, in my preferred modification I provide tufted padding as indicated at 14 on the band in the areas thereof which underlies the extensions. Lines of articulation which run transverse  
10 the band permit the tufted padding to bend freely so that there will be no rigidity to the pad tending to restrict free movement of the wearer.

15 A modification of my invention which will readily occur to those skilled in the art is to apply separate pieces instead of extending portions of the kidney pads and to secure these overlapping pieces to the kidney pads in any suitable manner, as with straps.

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

25 An athletic protective device comprising a waist enclosing band with protective guard members secured to the band so that they will overlie the kidneys of a wearer, said band being flexible below said guard members and shock resisting portions unattached at their lower ends extending downwardly  
30 from said guard members, said portions being formed integrally with said guard members and having curved lines of articulation relative thereto.

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