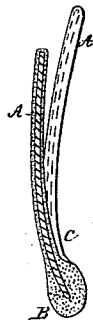
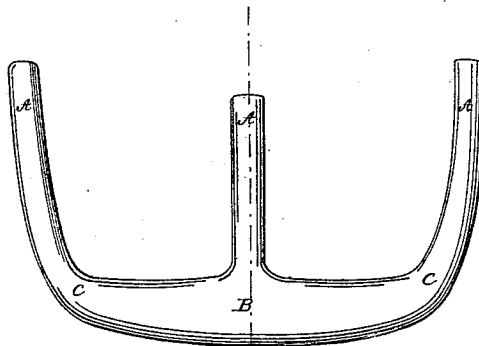
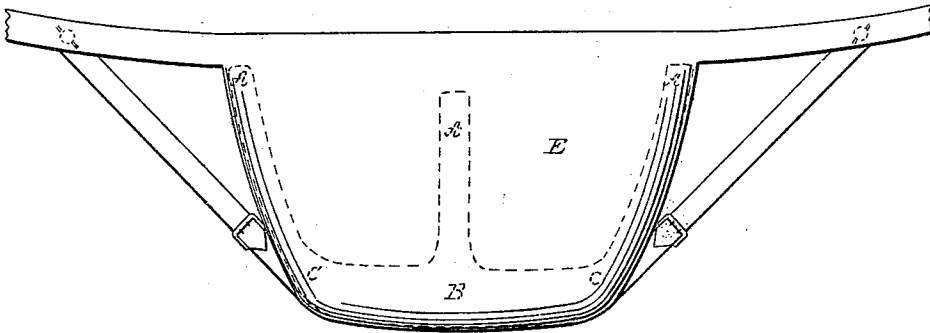


J. Funkhouser,

Bandage.

N^o 82,702.

Patented Oct. 6, 1868.



Witnesses:

Charles E. Hall

John M. Locke

Inventor:

Joseph Funkhouser

United States Patent Office.

JOSEPH FUNKHOUSER, OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

Letters Patent No. 82,702, dated October 6, 1868.

IMPROVED ABDOMINAL SUPPORTER.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH FUNKHOUSER, of the county of Rockingham, in the State Virginia, have invented a new and improved Abdominal Supporter for the relief and thorough cure of the disease known as *prolapsus uteri*, or falling of the womb; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, and the letters of reference marked thereon.

The nature of my invention consists in providing an iron padded brace, which is placed in a semi-oval sack, which is fitted to the lower part of the abdomen, which is retained in its place by four bands, which connect at the back of the patient, and act as a support there. The padded brace being formed to fit easily, and without chafing, the lower part of the stomach, gradually but surely forces the *uterus* or womb to its proper position, and retains it there.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

I construct my brace or iron support, marked A A A B, out of iron or other metal, as follows: The back of it five-eighths of an inch in width, and five and three-quarter inches long. The ends of the back at C C are prolonged, almost at right angles with the back, but slightly curving, four inches, forming the outer arms C A A C of the brace, and an arm is also placed at the centre of the back A B, the same width and length of the arms A C, the flat surface of the whole brace being slightly curved, so as to fit easily and tightly the lower part of the abdomen. The brace is padded with cotton or other material, a half inch thick, or less, and covered with linen or other material. The upper end of the extreme arms A C A C are six and seven-eighth inches apart.

I then construct a sack, E, with a lip to it, an inch and three-quarters wide, and place in it the padded brace or support, with its back against the lipped side of the sack. I extend from the lip of the sack, at each side, a band, to pass round the body of the patient, and buckle or fasten at the back. The bands are two inches in width, more or less. At the lower end of the sack, at each side, I attach a buckle. I connect these buckles, by bands, with the upper bands running from the lip of the sack, the point at which the upper and lower bands are connected depending on the size of the patient, which, however, may be met by placing several buttons on each of the upper bands, to which the lower bands may be attached, according to comfort. The sack and bands may be made of cotton or other material.

The lower bands of the sack will draw the lower part of the supporter close in above the pelvis, and, if the patient is not pregnant, the lips of the sack lie down over the mouth of the sack. If the patient be pregnant, the lip is thrown up, as the abdomen enlarges, forming a most comfortable support. The upper bands support the back.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The iron padded brace or support A B C, the sack E, the bands, and the manner of attaching the same, substantially and for the purposes above described, using therefor the metal and material aforesaid, or any other substantially the same.

JOSEPH FUNKHOUSER.

Witnesses:

J. E. ROLLER,
CHARLES E. HAAS.