No. 654,856. Patented July 31, 1900.

M. E. STEELE.

COMBINED SUPPORT AND CATAMENIAL SACK.

(No Model.) (Application filed Aug. 23, 1899.)

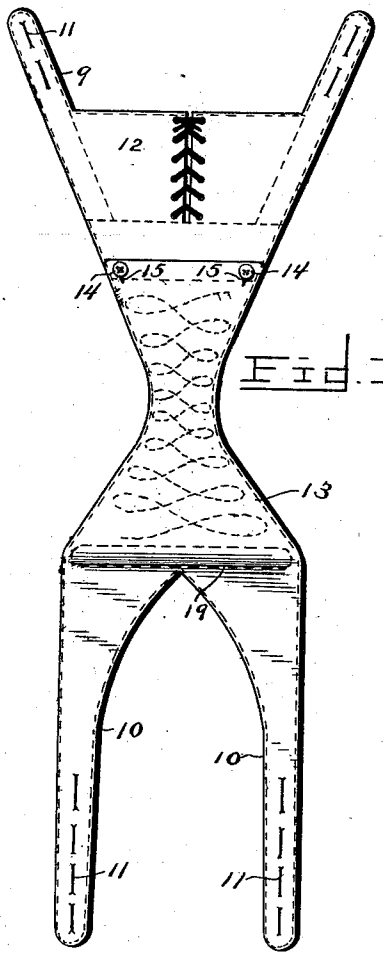


Fig. 1.

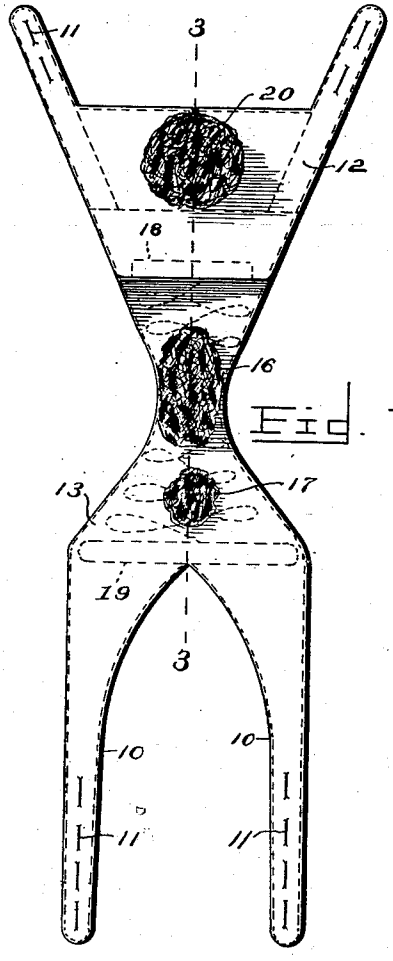
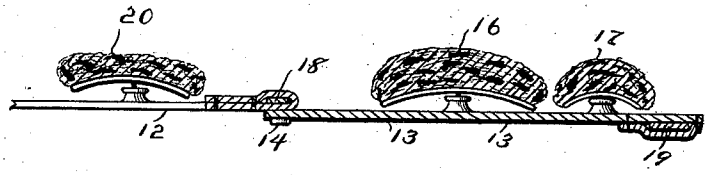


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.



Witnesses
F. G. Campbell.
Chas. S. Hoyer.

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By her Attorneys,
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARTHA ETTA STEELE, OF COWDEN, ILLINOIS.

COMBINED SUPPORT AND CATAMENIAL SACK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 654,856, dated July 31, 1900.

Application filed August 23, 1899. Serial No. 728,239. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARTHA ETTA STEELE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cowden, in the county of Shelby and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Abdominal Support, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a novel abdominal support or relief-brace, and has for its object the production of a device of this character for the relief and comfort of sufferers from various female weaknesses, adapted to support the abdomen and prevent bearing down or other sensation incidental to certain female disorders and to the approach of maternity and provided with pads for the reception of vaginal or other discharges and for the suppression of hernial or other enlargement incident to rupture.

To these ends the present invention consists in the combination and arrangement of parts, as will be hereinafter more fully described, shown in the accompanying drawings, and particularly pointed out in the appended claim, it being understood that changes in the form, proportion, size, and minor details may be made within the scope of the appended claim without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is a bottom plan view of the improved bandage. Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the same. Fig. 3 is a sectional view on the line 4 4 of Fig. 3.

Referring to the numerals of reference on the drawings, 1 indicates a body-belt preferably composed of side sections 2 and 3, which, by means of terminal buttons 4 and series of buttonholes 5, are designed to be adjustably connected at the front and back of the wearer to form a support from which the device proper is suspended. Each of the sections is provided at or about the center of its lower edge with a depending loop 6, designed for the reception of sliding straps 7, provided at their opposite ends with buttons 8, by means of which the front and rear straps 9 and 10, provided, respectively, with series of buttonholes 11, are connected with the sliding straps 7. These front and rear straps extend from what I term the "front" and "rear" sections 12 and 13 of the bandage, the sections being connected by buttons 14 at the lower corners of the front section 12, engaging buttonholes 15 in the rear section. The latter is constricted at its center to permit it to pass between the legs of the wearer and to fit snugly under the body for the purpose of presenting pads or sponges 16 and 17 carried by the rear section to the vagina and rectum of the wearer. The front section is preferably bifurcated and laced, so as to afford a lateral adjustment therefor to fit the abdomen, and the rear section 13 is preferably padded or quilted, as illustrated.

An important feature of my bandage is the provision of transverse steels or stiffeners 18 and 19 across the lower end of the front section 12 and across the upper extremity of the rear section 13. The stiffening devices prevent the wrinkling of the garment and compel it to retain at all times a uniform position in conformity to the contour of the body. Where it is desired to provide for the suppression of a rupture, the front section is provided with a rupture ball or pad 20.

It will be noted that when it is desired to remove the bandage it is simply necessary to release the buttons 14, thereby disconnecting the sections, after which the release of the buttons 8 and 4 will effect the entire removal of the bandage. It will also appear that the various movements of the body will be accommodated by the straps 7 sliding through the loops, which will always be properly positioned by the relative adjustment of the sections of the belt.

What I claim is—

In an abdominal support, a bandage, comprising front and rear sections, the front section having its opposite longitudinal edges coverging rearwardly, and said section also being centrally and longitudinally bifurcated from the front edge thereof, the opposite edges of the bifurcation being laced, suspending-straps at the opposite front corners of the sections, and a transverse stiffening device located at the rear end of the section, the rear section having its longitudinal edges converging inwardly in opposite directions from the opposite front and rear ends thereof, and provided with a transverse stiffening

device at its rear end, suspending-straps at its rear corners, and a detachable connection with the rear end of the front section, and a support for detachable connection with the suspending-straps, substantially as shown and described.

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

MARTHA ETTA STEELE.

Witnesses:
JOHN FRIZZELL,
H. H. G. CONRAD.