

Oct. 6, 1936.

W. H. BLATH

2,056,767

PAD FOR INVALIDS

Filed Oct. 15, 1935

Fig. 1.

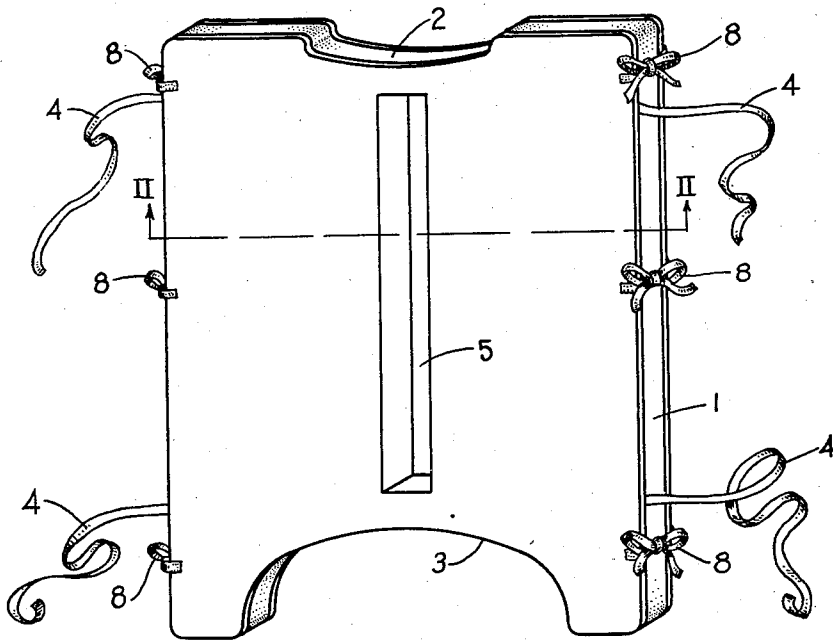
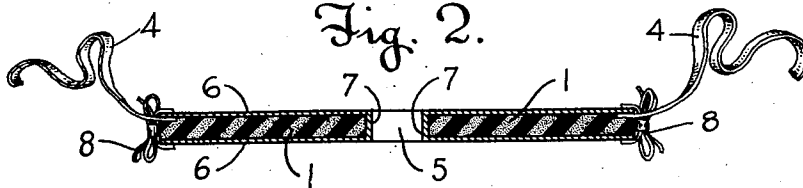


Fig. 2.



INVENTOR

William H. Blath

BY *Francis E. Bayne*

ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,056,767

PAD FOR INVALIDS

William H. Blath, Beechhurst, N. Y.

Application October 15, 1935, Serial No. 45,045

1 Claim. (Cl. 128—132)

This invention relates to improvements in pads for invalids, the principal object of the invention being to provide a back pad attachable to the body of the user so that it will be held in position whether the patient is lying in bed or sitting, and which pad will permit free play of the spinal column in either position of the wearer.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will appear as the description proceeds.

In the drawing accompanying this specification,

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a pad embodying the features of the present invention; and

Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional view taken on the line II—II of Fig. 1, looking in the direction indicated by the arrows.

It is well known that persons who are obliged to lie on their backs or to sit in a fixed position for long periods of time frequently become bed-sore, particularly in the region adjacent to the spine, for the reason that that region is in continuous contact with the surface of the bed or chair in which the invalid is reclining. In other words, while it may be possible for the patient to relieve one side or the other by a slight shift of the pressure of the body, the spine and the region thereabout must remain in contact with the bed under practically a constant pressure since it acts as a pivot for the shifting movements referred to. Moreover, with persons in a more or less emaciated condition, the spinal column projects out beyond the surface of the body, so that in such cases the pressure on the spine is increased and the discomfort of lying on the back is intensified.

The object of the invention, therefore, is to provide a pad which is usable either on a mattress or in a chair and in which the spine is free of contact with the bed or chair and therefore is not subjected to the pressure of the body, thus greatly relieving the distress usually accompanying an enforced confinement to a bed or chair and tending to reduce the liability of the formation of bed sores.

Referring to the drawing, 1 designates a pad formed from a sheet of soft material, such as felt, sponge or live rubber or any other material that may be found suitable for the purpose, the pad being of sufficient thickness to produce a substantial cushioning effect. At its upper and lower ends the pad is cut out, as indicated at 2 and 3 to accommodate the neck and buttocks respectively of the user, and tapes or straps 4 are secured at the opposite side edges, which tapes may be brought together and tied in front of the body of the wearer thereby to retain the pad in place.

An important feature of the pad is the formation centrally thereof of a longitudinally ex-

tending opening 5 of such width, and length that when in use the spine and adjacent portions of the back of the wearer will lie within said opening and will thereby be relieved of pressure incident to contact with the mattress or other surface on which the patient may be lying.

As shown herein, the pad is provided with a removable cover, said cover comprising two pieces 6 of sheeting or other suitable fabric cut to the shape of the pad, said cover pieces being united 10 along the edges of the central opening by a strip 7 and provided at the outer edges with tapes 8 by which they may be fastened together at the side edges of the pad, as shown in the drawing. It will be obvious that the cover is applied 15 to the pad by passing one of the pieces 6 through the elongated opening 5 of the pad, and, after spreading the said cover piece over the opposite side of the pad, the tapes 8 are tied together, thereby to hold the cover in position on both 20 sides of the pad.

It will be readily seen that the use of the pad above described will afford to sufferers who must continually lie on their backs, a greater degree of comfort and freedom from the usual bed-sores than is possible with any other device of which I have any knowledge, and when the sufferer can be transferred to a chair he carries with him the same degree of comfort due to the fact that the pad is strapped on him and is as effective in a sitting as in a lying position.

It will of course be understood that the pad will be made in large, small and intermediate sizes so as to meet the needs of various sizes of bodies.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

A back pad for invalids, comprising an approximately rectangular pad of cushioning material of substantial thickness, said sheet pad having an elongated opening extending longitudinally thereof at its central portion thereby to support the body of the user with the spinal column out of contact with the pad, said pad having portions thereof cut out at its upper and lower ends 45 respectively to accommodate the neck and buttocks of the user, straps secured in said pad at opposite sides thereof and adjacent its upper and lower ends for fastening the pad to the body of the user whereby the latter may move from a lying to a sitting position and vice versa without disturbing the pad, and removable cover members protecting the opposite surfaces of the pad, said cover members being permanently connected to each other along their center portions and 55 having means for temporarily connecting them to each other and to the pad at opposite sides thereof.

WILLIAM H. BLATH.