A. T. VANCE.

APPLIANCE FOR TREATMENT OF THE SPINAL REGION.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 2, 1916.

1,250,392. Patented Dec. 18, 1917.

Fig. 1.

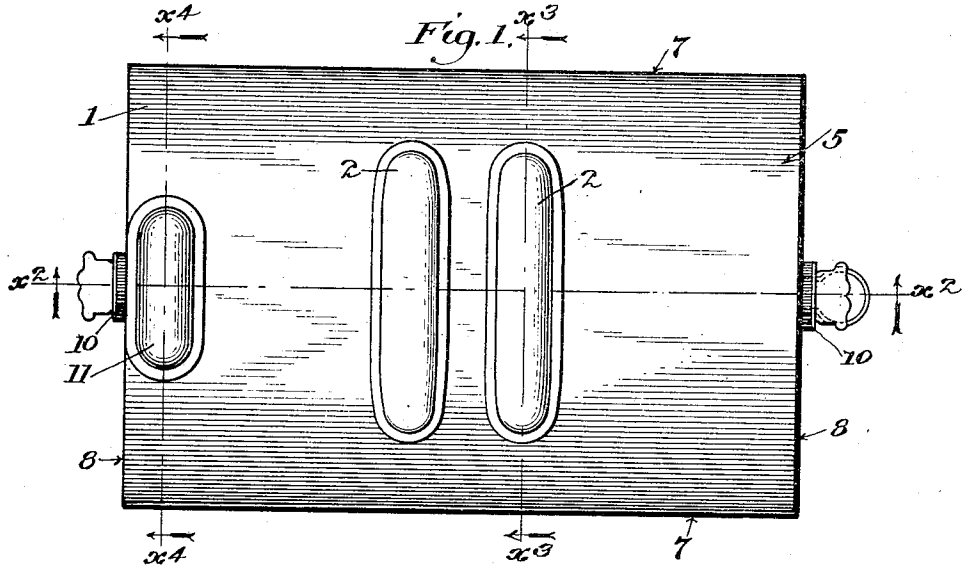


Fig. 2.

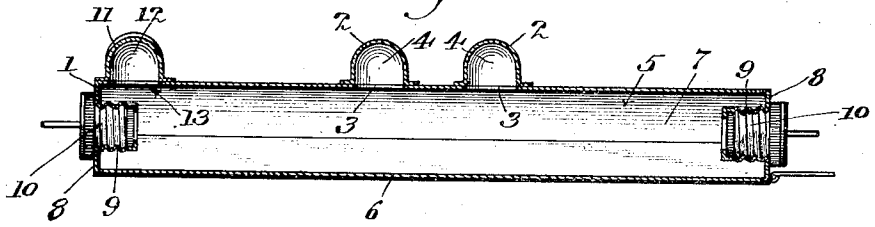


Fig. 3.

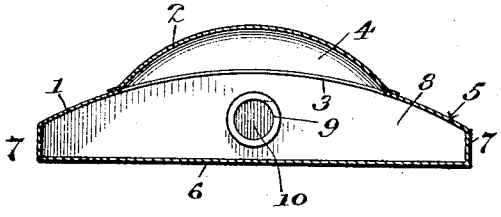
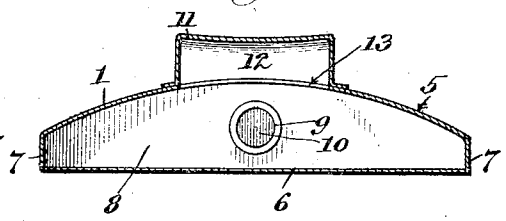


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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APPLIANCE FOR TREATMENT OF THE SPINAL REGION.

1,250,392. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 18, 1917.

Application filed October 2, 1916. Serial No. 123,286.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ARLYN T. VANCE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Los Angeles, in the county of Los Angeles and State of California, have invented a new and useful Appliance for Treatment of the Spinal Region, of which the following is a specification.

An object of this invention is to produce relaxation of the muscles adjacent the spinal column and to soothe the nerves of the spinal cord.

Another object is to produce a device that is capable of simultaneously producing pressure and heat along both sides of the spine.

Another object is to produce a device for giving heat and pressure treatment to the occipital region.

Other objects and advantages will appear in the subjoined detail description.

The accompanying drawings illustrate the invention:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the appliance wherewith the newly discovered method is performed.

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional elevation on line indicated by x^2—x^2, Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional elevation on line indicated by x^3—x^3, Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a transverse sectional elevation on line indicated by x^4—x^4, Fig. 1.

The appliance comprises a suitable support 1 which may be curved from side to side, if desired, as shown in Figs. 3, 4 and said support is provided near its mid length with two transversely extending abutments in the form of relatively long narrow ridges or ribs 2 that are curved transversely and also longitudinally, the longitudinal curvature being greater than the curvature of the support so that the end portions of the ribs merge gradually into the support. The support 1 and ribs 2 may be integral with one another or, as shown in the drawings, said ribs may be of separate construction and fastened by solder or any other suitable means, not shown, to the support 1.

The ribs 2 may be hollow as shown in the drawings and the support 1 may be provided with openings 3 communicating with the cavities 4 of the ribs.

The support 1 and ribs 2 are designed to be heated and said heating may be accomplished in any suitable manner. In the device illustrated in the drawings the heating is accomplished by hot water and for this purpose the support 1 and ribs 2 form the top of a container indicated in general at 5, said container comprising besides the support 1 and ribs 2 a bottom 6, sides 7 and ends 8.

The ends are provided with screw-threaded openings 9 closed by screw-threaded plugs 10. One of said openings 9 may be used for filling and emptying the device and to the other opening may be attached a rubber tube if it be desired to use the device as the container of a syringe.

In practice, to use the device, the attendant or the patient who is to be treated will place the device against the patient's back or against a covering of cloth or the like placed against the back with the ribs 2 arranged longitudinally on both sides of the spine. The patient being treated will preferably lie on the appliance so as to cause his weight to bring pressure to bear on those portions of the body adjacent the ribs 2. The combined heat and pressure is very beneficial in many cases.

The support 1 may be provided near one end with a third abutment or rib 11 having its cavity 12 communicating through an opening 13 with the interior of the container. The rib 11 is preferably rounded transversely and may be curved longitudinally upward from its middle toward its ends.

In practice, if it be desired to treat the occipital region of the spine, the patient will lie with the head on the support 1 or on a cloth or pad placed on said support with the rib 11 crosswise under the neck so that some of the patient's weight will cause pressure of the rib 11 against the neck. The combined pressure and heat is often quite beneficial in treatment of the occipital region.

The ribs 2, 11 constitute hollow abrupt abutments having their sides substantially at right angles to the support adjacent said support, the advantage of this being that when a patient lies back down on the appliance pressure and heat will be brought to bear by the abrupt abutments only on the parts of the body desired and the pressure on the parts of the body on either side

of the abutments will be minimized. If the abutments were not abrupt the pressure on those parts of the body resting on said abutments where it should be a maximum would be reduced.

It is understood that the support 1 and ribs 2, 11 may be heated otherwise than by the use of hot water in the container and that the invention is only limited by the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. An appliance of the character described comprising a support, and spaced hollow ribs curved transversely and longitudinally and mounted on said support, the sides of said ribs being substantially at right angles to the support adjacent said support.

2. An appliance of the character described comprising a container for a heating medium, having openings in its top, and ribs on the top having recesses communicating with said openings.

3. An appliance of the character described comprising a support, and spaced hollow abrupt abutments projecting from the support and adapted to extend longitudinally along both sides of and close to the patient's spine and adapted to be heated so that when the patient lies back down on the appliance both heat and pressure will be transmitted to those portions of the patient's body resting on the abutments, and pressure on other portions of the patient's back adjacent the abutments will be lessened.

Signed at Los Angeles, California, this 26th day of Sept. 1916.

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Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."