

E. NESBITT.
SHOULDER BRACE.
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945,858.

Patented Jan. 11, 1910.

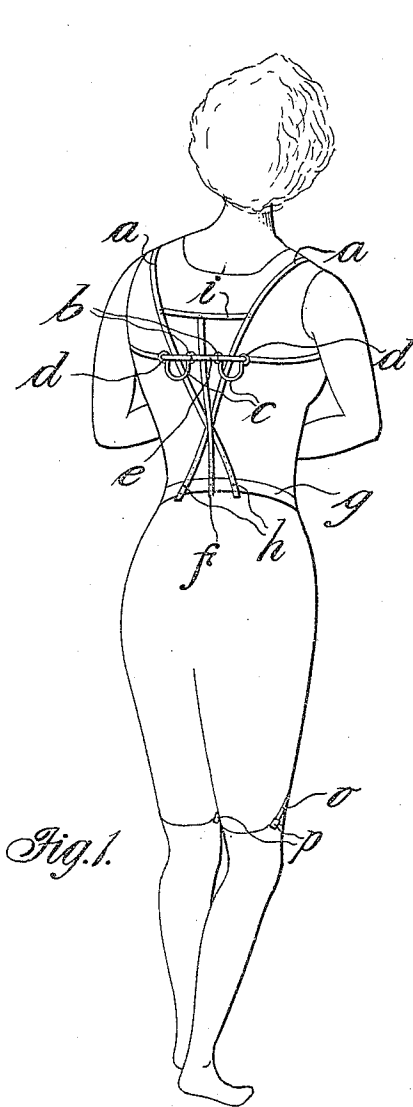


Fig. 1.

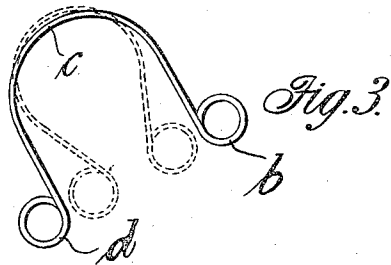


Fig. 3.

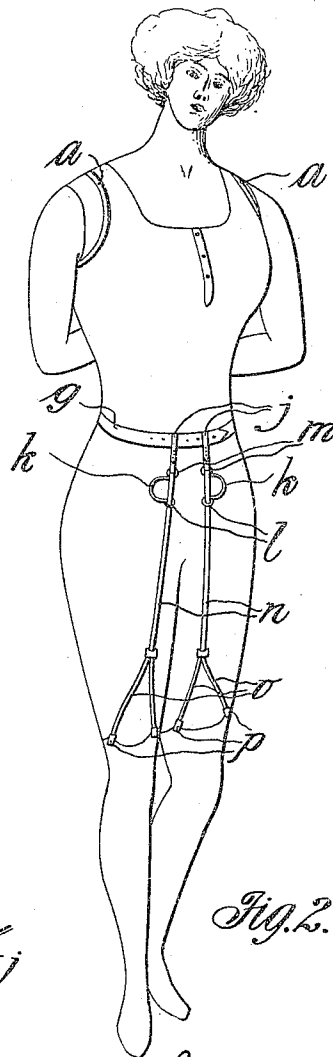


Fig. 2.

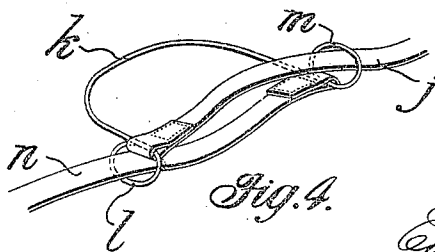


Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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SHOULDER-BRACE.

945,858.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDA NESBITT, a subject of the King of Great Britain, residing at Swan Hill, in the county of Tatchera and State of Victoria, Commonwealth of Australia, married lady, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shoulder-Braces, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved combination shoulder strap, dress and hose supporter, and has been devised principally in order to attain the following objects: Firstly, to provide an efficient and comfortable shoulder-strap designed to make a stooping figure erect and graceful, the elasticity of which strap will be uniform at all times even after being subjected to considerable wear, and which will enable the wearer to move the arms and body with perfect ease and freedom: secondly, the provision of a waist-strap for supporting a skirt and retaining it and a bodice in their correct positions: thirdly, to provide improvements in the means for supporting hose, which means will be exceedingly elastic and will not cause the wearer any discomfort nor inconvenience.

Suitable regulating devices have also been utilized to enable the different straps comprised in the invention to be adjusted to suit persons of varying proportions.

The means by which the above-mentioned objects are accomplished are illustrated in the accompanying sheet of drawings, wherein the same reference letters are employed to designate the same parts in the several views.

In these drawings: Figure 1 is a view showing the manner of affixing the improved shoulder-straps to a person. Fig. 2 is a front view of the same illustrating the shoulder-straps and suspenders in position. Figs. 3 and 4 are detail views of part of the invention.

In these views, the letter *a* is employed to designate two shoulder-straps having their upper ends secured to the inner rings *b* of loop or U-shaped wire springs *c*, while the outer rings *d* of both of the said springs are connected by a short loose strap *e*. The shoulder-straps *a* are passed through the outer rings *d* of the springs *c* and then beneath the arm-pits and back over the shoulders of the wearer. After passing over the shoulders, the said straps *a* are extended downwardly crossing themselves and being secured to a vertical strap *f* approximately

midway between the shoulders and the waist line. The said straps *a* after being crossed have their ends fastened to a waist-belt or band *g* by means of buttons, studs or other fastening means indicated by the letter *h*. The said straps *a* are connected together about midway of their length by means of a short retaining strap *i* situated at a point approximately level with the wearer's shoulder blades.

To the buttons or the like *h* the wearer can connect the bodice and skirt, by which means they are not only held together, but the weight of the skirt hanging direct from the shoulders keeps a constant strain thereon and tends to draw them backward, thereby materially assisting in retaining the wearer's figure erect. The said connecting strap *i* is designed to prevent the straps *a* from slipping off the shoulders, and its central portion is secured to the top of the vertical strap *f*. The front of the said waist-band is provided with two short depending straps *j*, to the lower ends of which are secured springs *k*, similar to those employed to give elasticity to the shoulder-straps *a*, and indicated by the letter *c* in Fig. 1. The said straps *j* are secured to the lower rings *l* of the springs *k*, while the opposite rings *m* are connected by suspender straps *n* to the usual branch straps *o* provided with ordinary fastening clips *p*.

Owing to the suspender straps *n* being connected to the waist-band *g*, the strain thereon assists in drawing the shoulders of the wearer backward and assists the shoulder-straps *a* in their functions.

Fig. 4 clearly illustrates the manner in which the U-shaped wire springs *k* are fitted to straps *j* and *n* to relieve the strain thereon. In this view the strap *j* shown passed through the ring *m* and then secured as by sewing, riveting or the like to the opposite ring *l*, while the end of the strap *n* is passed through the ring *l* and is secured to the opposite ring *m*. Thus when the free ends of the said straps are subjected to opposite strains the ends of the spring are forced together as indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 3, and when the strain is reduced the spring resumes its normal position. The springs *c* operate in a similar manner to relieve the strain between the shoulder-straps *a* and the spring connecting strap *e*.

The springs are preferably made of spring wire bent in the form of a loop, or U-shaped

as shown in the drawings, and each having its ends provided with outwardly turned rings to which the straps can be secured and passed through as hereinbefore described.

5 Any well-known devices as slides or buckles can be attached to any or all of the straps of the invention for the purpose of enabling correct adjustments to be made, the adjustment slides for regulating the length of the shoulder-straps *a* being preferably positioned under the arm-pits (see Fig. 2).

The various straps comprised in the invention may be of webbing, leather or other suitable material not necessarily elastic as sufficient elasticity is obtained by the provision of the springs *c* and *k*.

What I do claim is:—

1. In a combination shoulder-strap, dress and hose supporter, two shoulder-straps connected by means of interposed U-shaped springs and a short strap, said shoulder-straps being adapted to pass beneath the arm-pits, return over the shoulders and be crossed, a waist-band to which the ends of the shoulder-straps are fastened, and a retaining strap joined to said shoulder-straps and adapted to keep the same in position on the body, substantially as and for the purposes herein set forth.

2. In a combination shoulder-strap, dress and hose supporter, two shoulder-straps connected by means of interposed U-shaped springs and a short strap, said shoulder-straps being adapted to pass beneath the arm-pits, to return over the shoulders, and be crossed, a waist-band to which the ends of the shoulder-straps are fastened, a retaining-strap connecting both of said shoulder-straps, and a strap connecting said waist-band with said retaining strap, substantially as and for the purposes herein set forth.

3. In a combination shoulder-strap, dress and hose supporter, two shoulder-straps connected by means of interposed U-shaped springs and a short strap, said shoulder-straps being adapted to be passed under the arm-pits, over the shoulders and be crossed, a waist-band to which the ends of the shoulder-straps are adjustably secured, two depending straps affixed to said waist-band each being provided with a U-shaped spring to which is secured a suspender strap, substantially as and for the purposes herein set forth.

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Witnesses:

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