

March 20, 1945.

I. R. VERSOY

2,372,034

SUPPORTING BELT AND PTOSIS PAD

Filed March 18, 1942

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

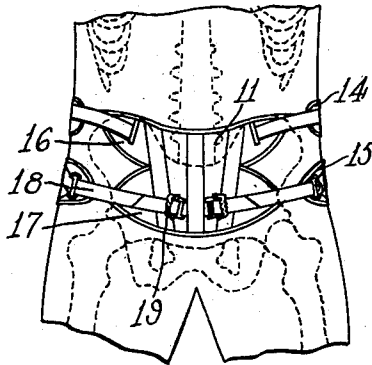


Fig. 2.

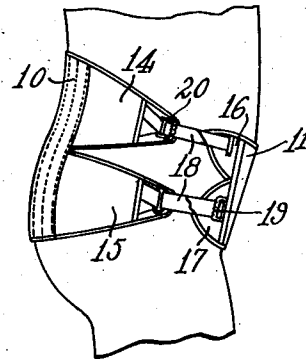
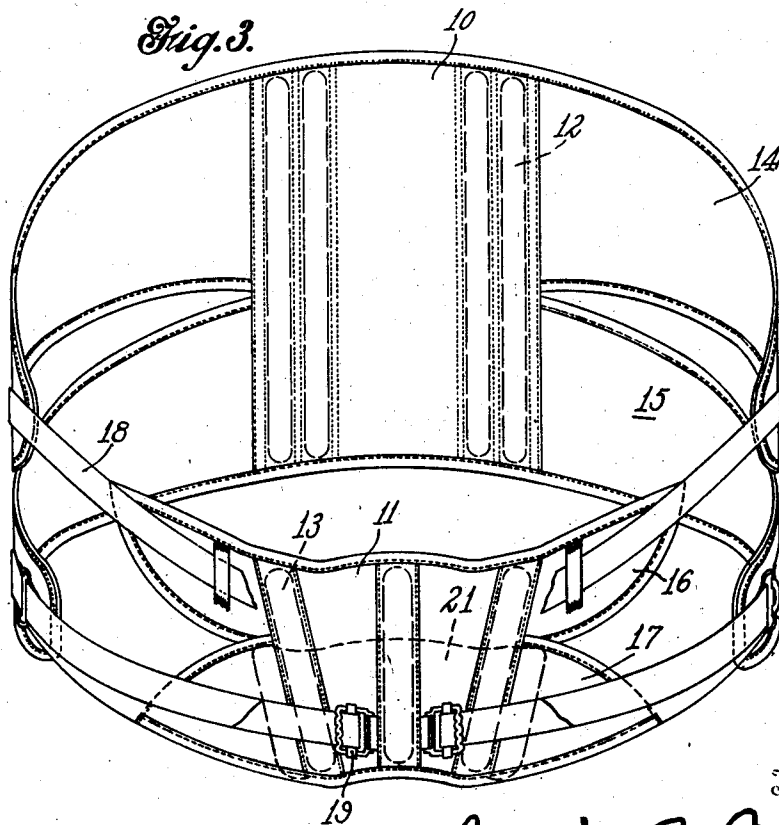


Fig. 3.



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Fig. 4.

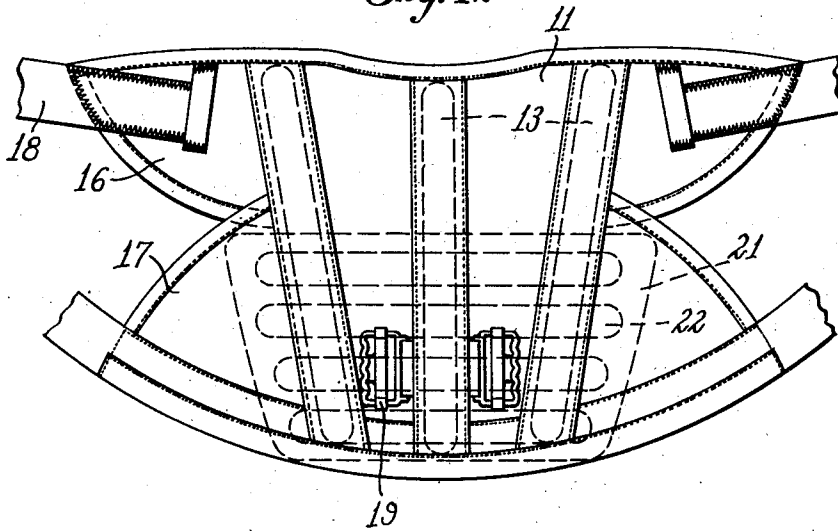


Fig. 5.

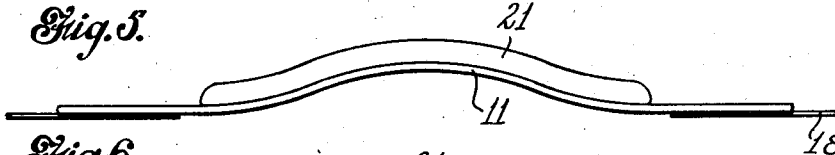


Fig. 6.

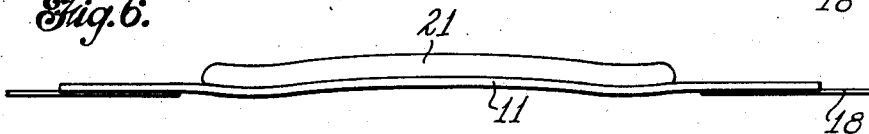


Fig. 7.

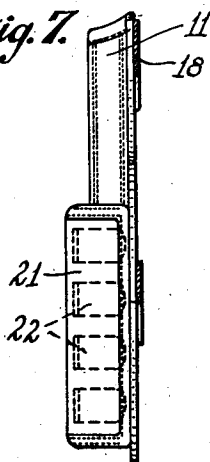
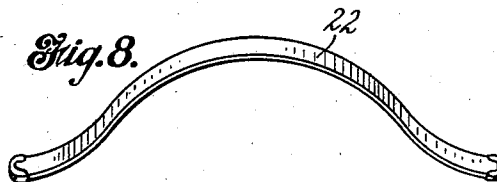


Fig. 8.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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SUPPORTING BELT AND PTOSIS PAD

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Application March 18, 1942, Serial No. 435,184

3 Claims. (Cl. 128—96)

This invention relates to a supporting belt and ptosis pad, and more particularly to a belt of this character designed to encircle the body and provided with means by which the organs of the abdominal region of the body may be elevated to and supported in their proper positions. Also the belt to which the ptosis pad is secured is designed to give support to other portions of the body, such as the back and the sections between the hip bones and the ribs of the wearer.

In the past, garments of this character have for the most part been provided with pads of relatively inflexible material which may be compressed against the body to a certain extent, but when so compressed are apt to bulge outwardly so as to effect an objectionable appearance. Moreover, if the pad is designed to cover an area of some extent, it may be disposed against portions of the body which are not of equal softness, and therefore the compression of the pad will be unequal over its area, with the result that it will not exert the same pressure over its whole area, and therefore will not effectively serve its purpose of elevating and supporting the organs of the body.

One object of the present invention is to provide a supporting belt and ptosis pad of improved construction.

Another object of the invention is to provide a body-encircling belt having a ptosis pad therein which will be so constructed that it will be able to adjust itself to the various portions of the area of the body which it covers and exert the proper pressure over its entire area.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a ptosis pad which shall be bowed inwardly at its intermediate portion and provided with resilient spaced horizontally extending stiffening members such that the pad may readily adjust itself to the portions of the body which it covers, and exert the proper pressure upon the body without any likelihood of an outward bulging appearance which will be objectionable.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a supporting belt and ptosis pad, the latter being so constructed that it may conform to the relative softness of the area of the body which it covers, and embed itself to a certain extent in the body of the wearer, while the front of the garment will present a flat or slightly concave appearance and avoid any outward bulging.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a ptosis pad provided with spaced horizontally extending stiffening members or stays.

which members are bowed or arch-shaped intermediate their ends and possessed of such resiliency that they will tend to flatten out when placed under tension, whereby when the pad is applied to the body it will tend to embed itself therein, and at the same time tend to assume a flattened form which will present a neat appearance and also effect the proper application of pressure upon the body to elevate and support the abdominal organs in their proper positions.

To these and other ends the invention consists in the novel features and combinations of parts to be hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings:

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view of the belt and ptosis pad embodying my invention in position upon the body;

Fig. 2 is a side elevational view of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the belt and pad;

Fig. 4 is a front view of the front section of the belt, with the pad shown in dotted lines at the rear or inside thereof;

Fig. 5 is a top plan view of the front section of the belt and pad;

Fig. 6 is a view similar to Fig. 5, showing the position assumed by the pad when tension is applied thereto;

Fig. 7 is a side elevational view of the parts shown in Fig. 4; and

Fig. 8 is a perspective view of one of the stiffening members used in the pad.

To illustrate a preferred embodiment of my invention, I have shown a body-encircling belt comprising a rear section 10 and a front section 11. The rear section is preferably of greater height than the front section, and is provided with substantially vertically extending stiffening members or stays 12, of which two are shown adjacent each side edge of this section of the garment. The front section tapers slightly from top to bottom, and is provided with substantially vertically extending stay members or bones 13, there being, as shown, one adjacent the center of the section and one adjacent each edge thereof. The two outer stay members slightly diverge upwardly, owing to the fact that the section is slightly larger at the top than at the bottom.

To each edge of the rear section 10 are secured relatively wide upper and lower tabs 14 and 15 to extend partially around the body of the wearer, and extending from the side edges of the front section 11 are corresponding upper and lower tabs 16 and 17. In each case the tabs are relatively wide but taper somewhat toward their free

ends, so that at their points of connection with the respective sections the combined width of the tabs is as great or greater than the height of the sections themselves. These tabs are connected by straps 18, as shown, so that the parts heretofore described constitute a body-encircling belt. The straps 18 will normally be adjustable by means of the buckles 19 arranged upon the front section for the lower straps and similar buckles 20 arranged upon the rear tabs to receive the upper straps. As shown, the belt is made of non-elastic material, although variation in this respect may be resorted to if desired.

As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the belt illustrated is designed to be worn at the lower portion of the body, the lower tabs passing about the hips of the wearer, while the upper tabs, and particularly those attached to the rear section of the garment, are designed to cover and give support to that portion of the body substantially between the hip bones and the ribs. The front section 11 is designed to be disposed at the lower abdominal region of the wearer, so that the pad attached to the interior of this section, as will be presently described, will press against a soft portion of the body.

The ptosis pad, shown particularly in Figs. 4 to 8 of the drawings, is attached to the lower portion of the front section, and comprises a padded body 21, somewhat larger at its upper end than at the lower end, thus following to some extent the shape of the front section 11, to the interior of which it is secured. The pad is provided with transversely or substantially horizontally extending, spaced, reinforcing members or steels 22. These members are resilient but are molded or shaped as shown in Fig. 8, so that they are bowed or arched intermediate their ends, thus giving the pad 21 a bowed or arched shape between its side edges or in a horizontal direction.

It may be noted from Fig. 5 of the drawings that the pad is substantially uniform in thickness, but will project inwardly from the normal plane of the front section 11 due to the bowed or arch-shaped form imparted to it by the reinforcing steels 22. The pad will, therefore, tend to embed itself in the soft abdominal portion of the body to some extent when the belt is worn.

As stated, the steels 22 are resilient, so that when the belt having the pad attached thereto is worn and tension applied to the straps 18, there will be a tendency for the pad to flatten out, as shown in Fig. 6. That is, the pressure or tension upon the ends of the pad or upon the ends of the steels 22 will press the bowed portion of the pad against the body, and the resistance of the latter will be sufficiently great to cause a flattening of the pad or a straightening out of the bowed portion thereof, depending upon the softness of the abdomen and amount of tension.

It will be noted that when worn, as shown in Fig. 6, the pad will be substantially flat or slightly concave across the front exterior surface thereof. It will never bulge outwardly in objectionable fashion, and the fact that it will be embedded into the soft abdomen to some extent will cause it to stay in place without likelihood of slipping upwardly from its correct position.

It will also be noted that the shape of the pad will effect a lifting of the organs of the body so

that they will be kept in their proper position, and will in effect embed itself to some extent in the soft portion of the body to form a shelf to hold the body organs in raised position. This will be particularly the case when the lower portion of the pad lies opposite a softer portion of the human body than the upper portion, in that, as there are a plurality of the spaced steels 22, the lower steels opposite the softer portion of the body will embed themselves to a greater extent than the portion of the pad against the upper steels.

It may also be noted that the wide tabs at the front and back of the garment will give support to the body over a large portion of the surface covered by the belt, but at the same time the provision of separated or individual tabs allows flexibility and ventilation at the sides of the body.

While I have shown and described a preferred embodiment of my invention, it will be understood that it is not to be limited to all of the details shown, but is capable of modification and variation within the spirit of the invention and within the scope of the claims.

What I claim is:

1. A body-encircling belt and ptosis pad, said pad being secured to the belt to be supported thereby at the inner surface thereof and having a plurality of laterally extending vertically spaced stiffening members incorporated therein, said members being bowed inwardly at their intermediate portions whereby the pad is arched in a horizontal direction to embed itself in the body of the wearer, said stiffening members being resilient and tending to flatten out when the belt is applied to the body under tension, and said belt including body-encircling straps secured to and applying tension on the edges of the pad when the belt is tightened on the body of the wearer.

2. A body-encircling belt and ptosis pad, said belt including a front section and body-encircling means secured to the side edges of said section to embrace the body and secure the belt in place, and said pad comprising a relatively soft body and being secured to the inner surface of said front section and having a plurality of laterally extending stiffening members embedded therein, said members being substantially parallel and disposed in a series vertically of the pad and being bowed inwardly at their intermediate portions to hold said pad in arch-shaped form in a horizontal direction, and said body-encircling means comprising straps to apply tension to the edges of the pad to cause the latter to assume a flattened form.

3. A body-encircling belt and ptosis pad, said belt including a front section and a rear section and adjustable straps securing said sections together, there being relatively wide tabs at the side edges of the front section to which the straps are secured, said pad being secured to said front section and being bowed inwardly intermediate its side edges and having a plurality of resilient arch-shaped horizontally disposed stiffening members therein, said members being disposed in spaced relation vertically of the pad to be dispersed over a substantial area thereof, and said straps exerting tension on the edges of the pad when the belt is tightened upon the body of the wearer to cause the pad to tend to assume a flattened form.

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