April 28, 1925.

1,535,208

H. H. DRENNAN

BODY LIFTER

Filed Jan. 7, 1922

Fig. 1.

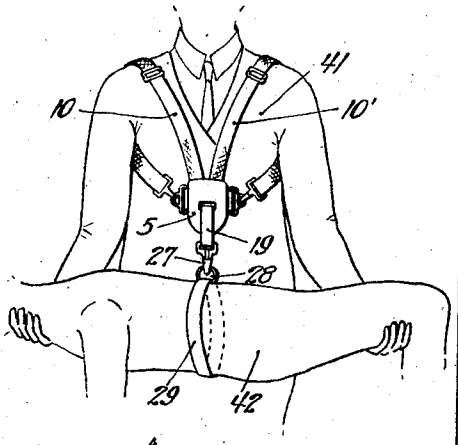


Fig. 2.

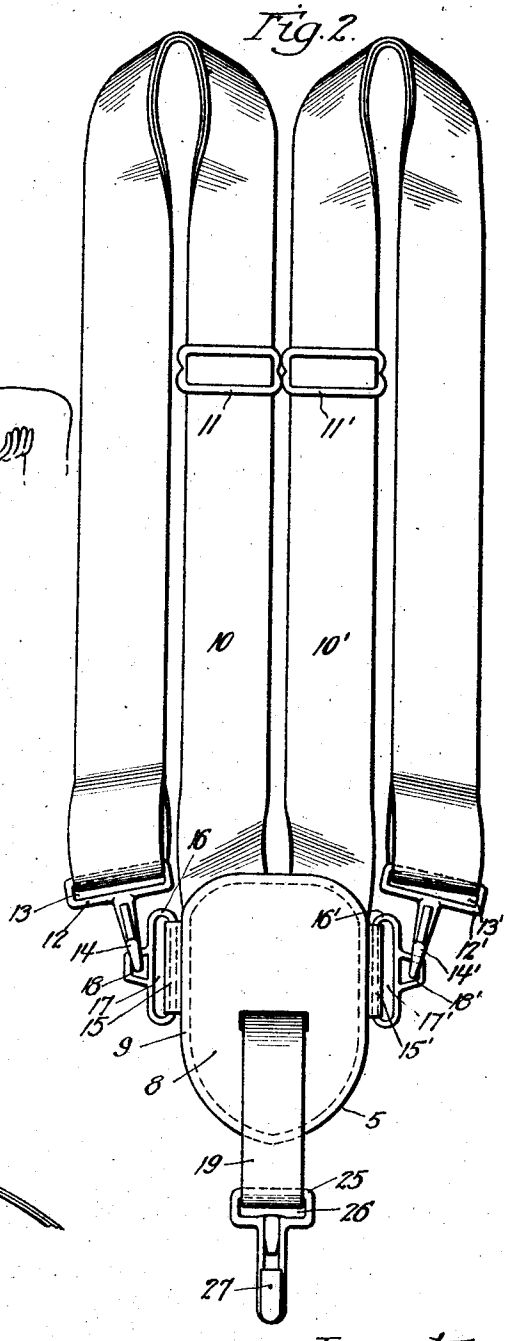


Fig. 3.

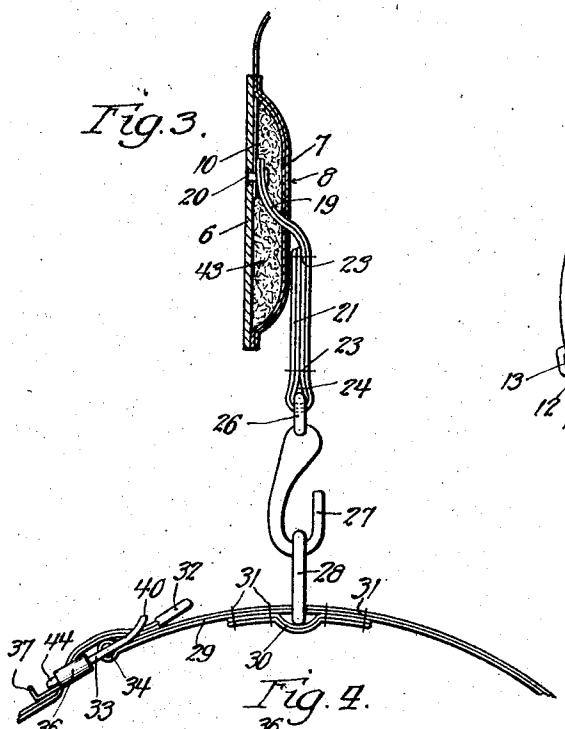
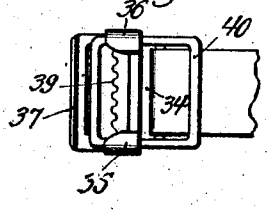


Fig. 4.



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Attys

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HOMER H. DRENNAN, OF CONNERSVILLE, INDIANA, ASSIGNOR TO UNDERTAKERS' SUPPLY COMPANY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, A CORPORATION OF ILLINOIS.

BODY LIFTER.

Application filed January 7, 1922. Serial No. 527,672.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HOMER H. DRENNAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Connersville, in the county of Fayette and State of Indiana, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Body Lifters, of which the following is a full, clear, concise, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification.

My invention relates to body lifters and more particularly to a device which is adapted to aid in lifting corpses in undertaking.

It is a purpose of the invention to provide a device for aiding in the lifting of heavy weights by a single person, particularly in lifting an object in a limp form.

It is more specifically a purpose of the invention to provide a harness-like device, which is adapted to be passed over the shoulders and under the arms of the wearer, and which is provided with a central pad or plate to which the members that pass over the shoulders are secured, and from which a flexible member provided with a securing device depends, said securing device being adapted to be secured to a ring on a flexible member which is adapted to be passed medially about an object that is to be carried, particularly about an elongated object which can be grasped by the hands of the person carrying the same on opposite ends from where the flexible member passes around the same. Said device is particularly useful for the purposes of lifting bodies from one place to another where only one person is available for doing this work.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will appear as the description of the accompanying drawings proceeds. However, I desire to have it distinctly understood that I do not intend to limit myself to the exact details shown or described, but that I intend to include as part of my invention all such obvious changes and modifications of parts as would occur to a person skilled in this art and as would fall within the scope of the claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a front view partly broken away showing the lifting device applied to a person carrying a dead body;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged view of the lifting device;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary view thereof partly in section showing the flexible band-like members secured thereto; and

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the buckle used on the strap member.

Referring in detail to the drawings, the improved body lifter comprises a central supporting member 5 which comprises a rear plate 6 of heavy leather or similar material, and front cover members 7 and 8 of lighter leather, said members 7 and 8 being secured to the member 6 by means of stitching 9, or in any other suitable manner, padding material 43 being provided between the layers 6 and 7. Extending from the supporting member 5 are the straps 10 and 10′ which are secured thereto in any desired manner, as for instance, by being stitched by means of the stitching 9. The flexible straps 10 and 10′ extend through the buckle members 11 and 11′ to the hook carrying members 12 and 12′, said hook carrying members 12 and 12′ comprising the eyes 13 and 13′ through which the straps or other suitable flexible members 10 and 10′ extend, and the hooks 14 and 14′. The flexible straps 10 and 10′ are looped back from the members 12 and 12′ to the buckles 11 and 11′, and are secured thereto at the ends thereof in any suitable or well known manner. The buckle members 11 and 11′ serve to adjust the length of the flexible strap-like members 10 and 10′, as will be well understood.

Secured to the supporting member 5 are the loops of flexible material 15 and 15′ which have the material of the members 16 and 16′ extending therethrough, said members 16 and 16′ being provided with the elongated eyes 17 and 17′ and with the eyes 18 and 18′ for receiving the hook members 14 and 14′. A flexible member 19 extends downwardly from the member 5, said flexible member being preferably made of a double thickness of material and being secured to the rear plate 6 by means of the rivets 20. Said rivets may also be used for securing the other flexible members in position, being shown in Fig. 3 as securing the flexible members 10 to the plate 6. The flexible member 19 is doubled back as at 21 and is stitched as at 22 and 23 so as to provide a loop or eye at 24 for receiving the material of the hook member 25, which is provided with an eye 26 and with a hook 27, said hook 27 being

adapted to engage with a ring 28 on a flexible member 29, said ring 28 being secured to the flexible member by means of the flexible material 30, which is stitched to the member 29 at 31, to secure said ring 28 on said flexible member. The flexible member 29 is practically made of a double thickness of material, and is provided at one end thereof with a metal tip 32, and at the other end thereof with a buckle 33, said material being looped back over a cross bar 34 of said buckle to secure said buckle to said flexible material.

Mounted on the side bars 35 of the buckle frame is a slidable member having the sleeve-like portions 36 slidably engaging the side bars 35 and being provided with an upturned flange 37, which is adapted to be engaged by the finger or any other member to move the locking member of the buckle out of locking position. Said locking member is provided with a cross bar 38 having teeth 39 which are adapted to engage with the flexible material to hold the same in position by clamping the same between the cross bar 38 and the cross bar 44, particularly when the end of the belt having the metal tip 32 is passed between the end cross bar 40 and the other portion of the strap-like or flexible member.

It will be seen that as the locking member having the flange 37 is moved toward the left in Fig. 3, the teeth 39 will engage with the flexible material locking the flexible member 29 against movement relative to the buckle, while if the flange 37 is pushed toward the right, the teeth 39 disengage the flexible member 29 and allow movement thereof to any desired extent.

In Fig. 1 is shown a man 41 with the straps 10 and 10′ extending over his shoulders, and with the pad or plate 5 resting against the forward portion of the body, and with the flexible member 29 secured to the depending strap 19 by the inter-engagement of the hook 27 and eye 28, the flexible member 29 being passed around a corpse 42, said figure showing the manner in which the body can be carried with the aid of this device by supporting the extremities by the hands and the medial portion of the body by means of the device comprising my invention.

It will be obvious that the device can be used for other objects, as well as that which has been referred to above, it being particularly important that the weight to be carried is supported from the shoulders, so as to give a maximum lifting power to the person using the device when it is necessary to lift a weight practically the equal of or greater than the weight of the person using the device.

Having thus described my invention, what I desire to claim and secure by U. S. Letters Patent is:

1. The combination of a lifting harness comprising a central supporting member, a pair of adjustable shoulder straps secured thereto and a flexible member depending therefrom, a band of flexible material adapted to be passed around an object, said band having means for detachably securing the ends thereof together whereby the same may be formed into a loop, and means for detachably connecting said band to said flexible member.

2. A body lifter comprising a central plate, shoulder straps secured thereto, a flexible member depending therefrom, a band of flexible material having a buckle at one end thereof whereby the same may be adjusted to form a loop of any desired size, and cooperating securing devices on said flexible member and said band for detachably securing said band to said flexible member.

3. A body lifter comprising a central plate, adjustable shoulder straps secured thereto, said straps being detachable from said plate at one end thereof, a flexible member depending therefrom, a band of flexible material having a buckle at one end thereof whereby the same may be adjusted to form a loop of any desired size, and cooperating securing devices on said flexible member and said band for detachably securing said band to said flexible member.

4. A device of the character described, comprising a padded bearing member, a pair of shoulder straps secured at both ends thereto, and a flexible member depending therefrom, said flexible member having a fastening device on the free end thereof.

In witness whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name this 16th day of December A. D., 1921.

HOMER H. DRENNAN.