

March 16, 1954

W. S. KROGER

2,671,899

ARTICLE TO ALLEVIATE HUNGER OF THE STOMACH

Filed May 22, 1952

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

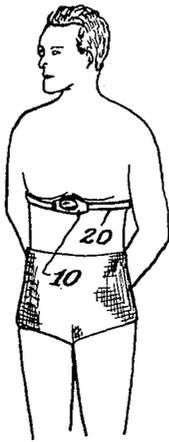


FIG. 4.

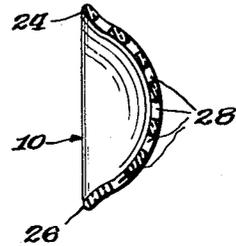


FIG. 2.

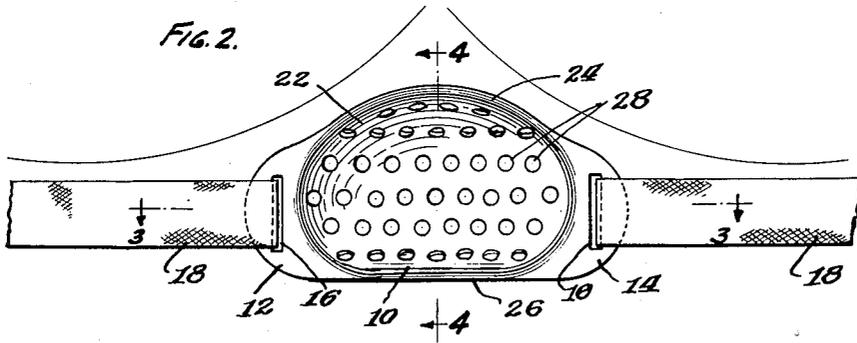
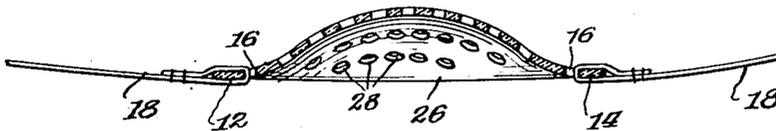


FIG. 3.



INVENTOR.  
WILLIAM S. KROGER  
BY  
Harry H. Hitzman  
ATTORNEY.

March 16, 1954

W. S. KROGER

2,671,899

ARTICLE TO ALLEVIATE HUNGER OF THE STOMACH

Filed May 22, 1952

2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 5.

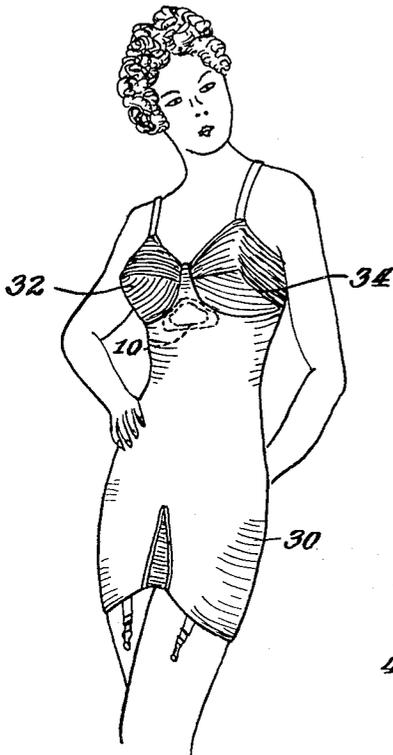
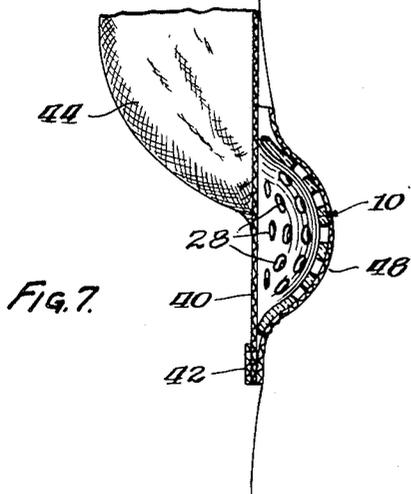
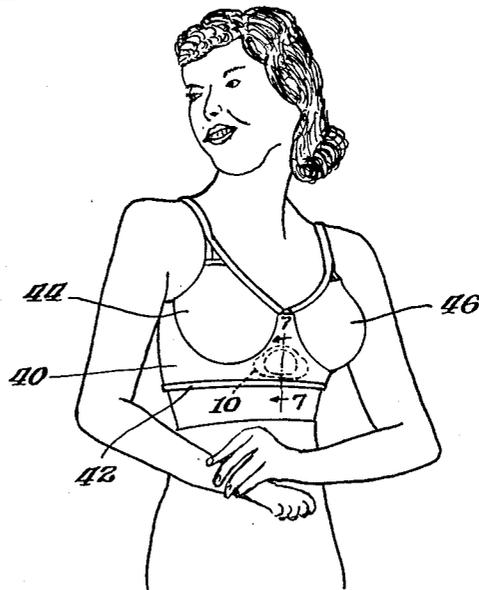


Fig. 6.



INVENTOR.  
WILLIAM S. KROGER  
BY  
Harry H. Hitzeman  
ATTORNEY.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,671,899

## ARTICLE TO ALLEVIATE HUNGER OF THE STOMACH

William S. Kroger, Evanston, Ill.

Application May 22, 1952, Serial No. 289,329.

2 Claims. (Cl. 2—25)

1

My invention relates to an article for alleviating or diminishing hunger pains.

My invention relates more particularly to an article of this type capable of being worn in a concealed manner upon the body of a wearer.

In the past various methods of reducing or securing weight loss in obese individuals have been used. One such method is to apply reducing bands over parts of the human body where it is desired to reduce or remove fatty tissues. Another method is by the internal use of so-called reducing drugs or medicines. This may include the use of such drugs as methylcellulose or methylcellulose preparations.

It is generally agreed that methylcellulose preparations, or moderately laxative bulk-formers, are among the fundamental drugs in medicine to suppress the appetite and secure weight loss in obese individuals. Sufficient evidence has accumulated to show that methylcellulose, even with the addition of the amphetamines, is not the complete answer.

In overweight individuals, increased appetite is a fundamental psychic aspect of medical importance. However, there is an additional mechanical aspect, namely, bulk hunger, that must be considered. Bulk hunger results from contractions of the empty stomach and is controlled by the ingestion of any type of known nutritive bulk material. Bulk hunger is satisfied by quantities, whereas appetite is satisfied by quality of food. Appetite and the desire for the taste of food may be suppressed, yet a person remains hungry for want of food regardless of its appeal, because of an empty stomach.

The failure to secure weight loss with methylcellulose and the amphetamines alone may not be due to failure to curb the appetite but failure to completely suppress the hunger contractions or peristaltic contractions of the stomach. The problem then, is to curb the appetite and suppress bulk hunger so that the decreased caloric intake is followed for a length of time.

For a more complete answer to the control of obesity, I have provided an appliance which will alleviate bulk hunger and abolish the peristaltic contractions of the stomach which produce hunger. From time immemorial, it has been known that if "one tightens the belt," the empty or gnawing feeling of the stomach diminishes. Since the hunger contractions of the stomach have a rhythmicity due to conditioning by three regular meals per day, an appliance worn during these periods will be of considerable aid in harmlessly giving the individual a feeling of fullness

2

in the epigastrium. Thus minimal amounts of food will be sufficient to allay the hunger contractions during an important period.

It is a well known fact that overweight in over 98% of individuals is due to the ingestion of too much food and that this craving for food is usually due to an emotional tension. My experience has demonstrated that a combination of psychotherapy designed to alleviate this tension and the wearing of this appliance to minimize bulk hunger has given far better results than the use of psychotherapy alone or the use of medicinal agents such as methylcellulose designed to alleviate bulk hunger.

The principal object of my invention, then, is to provide an article which applies pressure at the lower end of the sternum and adjacent the top end of the stomach.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device of the type described which is capable of being worn by a person and held in its proper position by means of a belt member fastened about the body of the person.

A further object of the invention is to provide an article of the type described capable of being worn by a person in a concealed manner, the article being adapted to supply continuous resilient or yielding pressure in the region of the lower end of the sternum.

A further object of the invention is to provide in combination with a brassiere or "bra," a plate-like member fastened in the brassiere to apply pressure over the region of the top of the stomach.

A further object of the invention is to provide in combination with a foundation garment or girdle a plate-like member fastened therein in such a position that it is capable of applying yielding pressure over the region of the top of the stomach.

Other objects and advantages will be more apparent from the following description wherein reference is had to the accompanying drawings, upon which

Fig. 1 is a front perspective view of a person wearing the hunger alleviating article as shown attached to a belt or strap for fastening directly to the body of the wearer;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary front elevational view thereof showing the position in which it is worn;

Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view thereof taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a vertical sectional view through the cup-shaped member taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 5 is a front perspective view of a person wearing a combination foundation garment including a brassière and girdle, showing the manner in which the cup-shaped member is positioned in the garment;

Fig. 6 is a front perspective view of a person wearing a brassière showing the manner in which the cup-shaped member is disposed in the brassière; and

Fig. 7 is a cross-sectional view through the brassière and cup-shaped member taken generally on the line 7—7 of Fig. 6.

In the embodiment of the invention which I have chosen to illustrate and describe the same, in Fig. 1 I have shown the cup-shaped member 10 formed with a pair of side ear portions 12 and 14, each of which has a slot 16 to receive an end 18 of a strap or belt member 20 which may be fastened about the waist of the wearer, preferably so that the cup-shaped member will lie directly below the sternum, with the belt passing below the ribs of the wearer.

The cup-shaped member is preferably made of a flexible plastic material so that in use it will be comparatively comfortable, but effecting yielding pressure inwardly, the member having the somewhat oval-shaped cavity 22, having an arcuate peripheral upper edge 24 and a comparatively straight lower peripheral edge 26. I provide a plurality of openings 28 throughout the surface of the cavity 22 for air circulation and to permit perspiration to evaporate.

As hereinbefore pointed out, when the appliance is fastened below the sternum and over the top end of the stomach, the pressure which is applied will be of considerable aid in giving the individual a feeling of fullness, with the result that smaller amounts of food will be sufficient to allay the hunger contractions of the stomach. Since the hunger contractions are periodic due to the habit of eating three regular meals a day, the appliance may be worn during the periods in which the hunger pains commence and for a period of time thereafter.

In Fig. 5 I have shown the cup-shaped member 10 positioned in a foundation garment 30 at a point preferably medially below the breast cups 32 and 34 of the brassière portion of the garment. The member 10 may be held in position in any suitable or desirable way, but preferably by providing a pocket having an open upper end in the brassière portion of the garment at this point.

In Fig. 6 I have shown the cup-shaped member 10 positioned in a brassière 40 at a point directly above the lower band 42 of the brassière and disposed medially between and below the breast cups 44 and 46.

As shown in Fig. 7, I have provided an inner pocket 48 fastened in the inside of the brassière

into which the cup-shaped member may be placed. With this construction it can be seen that by fastening a pocket on the inside of a brassière, the hunger alleviating device may be carried in the purse if desired, and when the hunger contractions of the stomach occur, the person may position the appliance in the brassière and thus effectively overcome the same.

While in the drawings I have shown a shape which is generally preferred, it will of course be understood that the exact formation may be modified, depending upon the physical requirements of different persons, both as to size and other characteristics.

I contemplate that changes and modifications may be made in the exact details shown and I do not wish to be limited in any particular; rather what I desire to secure and protect by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. The combination with a girdle of an object to alleviate hunger pains which comprises a cup-shaped member adapted to be worn directly over the region of the top of the stomach, said member having an inwardly directed oval-shaped cavity to apply pressure inwardly when worn, said object being fastened in said girdle medially of and near the top of the same, said cup-shaped member having a curved top peripheral margin or edge extending downwardly and outwardly from a medial vertical axis and a generally horizontal lower marginal edge, said member being made of yieldable plastic material and having a plurality of openings therethrough in the surface of said cavity.

2. An article for alleviating hunger pains which comprises a semi-rigid cup-shaped member adapted to be worn directly over the region of the top of the stomach, said member having an inwardly dished wall to apply pressure inwardly when worn and a top peripheral margin extending generally downwardly and outwardly from a medial axis, the lower peripheral margin being generally horizontal, slots adjacent the side edges of said member and means engaging said slots for attaching the same on the body of the wearer, said inwardly dished wall having a plurality of openings throughout its surface.

WILLIAM S. KROGER.

References Cited in the file of this patent  
UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
1,487,406	Somers -----	Mar. 18, 1924
1,501,672	Lawton -----	July 15, 1924
1,535,822	Goodwin -----	Apr. 28, 1925
1,775,365	Jones -----	Sept. 9, 1930
2,294,589	Waterbury -----	Sept. 1, 1942