June 29, 1937. G. CAREY 2,085,296

INVALID CUSHION

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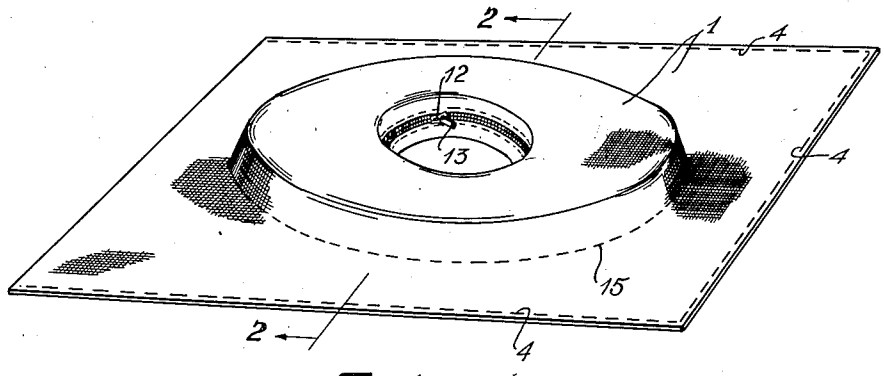


FIG. 1

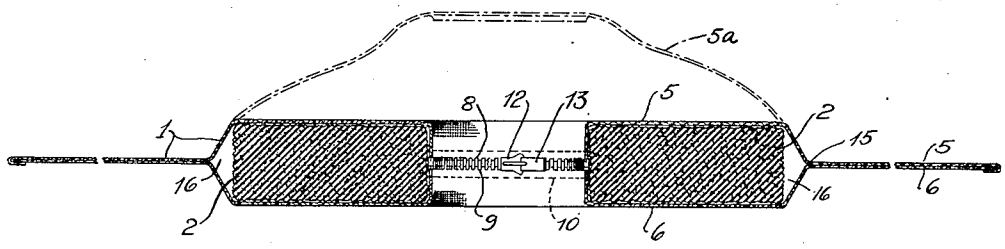


FIG. 2

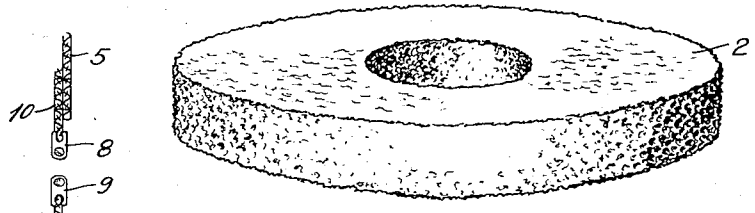


FIG. 4

FIG. 3

INVENTOR.

BY Gertrude Carey

Bates, Jolwicke & Teare

ATTORNEYS.

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INVALID CUSHION

Gertrude Carey, Cleveland, Ohio

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2 Claims. (Cl. 5—327)

This invention relates to an invalid cushion device, and specifically to a device in the nature of a pillow, having definite provision for protecting portions of the human body which are affected by soreness or disease, and to maintain the affected part out of contact with the bed, chair or other support, and/or out of contact with bed clothing or other covering, as the case may require.

An object is to provide an improved device of the character above indicated.

A specific object is to provide an invalid cushion which may be made and sold at comparatively low cost, and inexpensively maintained in a sanitary condition.

A further object is to provide an effective means for enclosing a sponge rubber pad in a protective covering, such as soft fabric, and maintaining the pad in a definite position relative to such covering and, thereby, relative to the body of the patient or user.

Still another object is to provide an invalid cushion composed of a cover adapted to be cleaned and sterilized, as by laundering in the usual way, and a resilient filler which may not be so adapted, wherein said two parts may be easily separated and, after appropriate cleansing and/or sterilization, then reassociated.

A further specific object is to provide an invalid cushion, comprising a yielding pad or filler, and an envelope therefor, which pad may be easily inserted into and removed from the envelope and held securely in place therein, and wherein the holding means is definitely maintained in a position out of contact with the body of the patient or user.

A further object is to provide a cushion of the class above referred to, which will be self-ventilating.

Other objects and features of the invention will become apparent from the following description relating to the accompanying drawing, showing the preferred form. The essential characteristics are summarized in the claims.

In the drawing, Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a cushion incorporating the various features of my invention; Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional view thereof, as indicated by the line 2—2 on Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a preferred form of resilient filler for the cushion, and Fig. 4 is a diagrammatic sectional view of the coacting parts of a preferred closure device for the envelope of the cushion, the view illustrating one manner in which said parts may be secured to the sheet material of which the envelope is composed.

The cushion device, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, comprises an envelope 1 and a pad or filler 2. The envelope is made similarly to a pillow slip and may be appropriately closed at all margins as by folding or stitching, the latter being indicated conventionally at 4 on three margins. The envelope is preferably muslin or other suitable soft fabric, which is serviceable and which may be readily laundered, but may, in some cases, be made of other material, such, for example, as soft rubber sheeting. The pad is preferably made of sponge rubber, and will be later more fully described.

Centrally of the envelope on each panel 5 and 6 thereof, the sheet material is cut out circularly as shown, and the continuous inner margins of the openings so formed are provided with fasteners, shown as of the interlocking tongue type,—"Zipper" "Talon" etc. fasteners being well known examples. Such fasteners comprise two sets of tongues 8 and 9 of the character illustrated in Fig. 4, the tongues being secured in spaced relation to each other on suitable strips of tape 10, which may be stitched or appropriately secured to respective continuous margins of the material forming the panels 5 and 6 of the envelope. The tongues 8 and 9 are interlocked with and detached from each other through the medium of the usual guiding device 12 having a pull tab 13. The device 12 is detachable from one set of tongues, while remaining associated with the other set, as well known at the present time.

Outwardly, from the central openings of the two panels 5 and 6, the sheets are continuously fastened together as by circumferential stitching, conventionally indicated at 15, this stitching forming a radially outwardly closed pocket 16 to which access is provided by the interlocking fastener and central openings. The elements of the fastener are shown as mutually associated, in Figs. 1 and 2, in a manner to fully close the pocket and contain the desired padding.

Access is had to the pocket from either side of the envelope when the sets of fastener elements 8 and 9 are detached from each other, the cental region of the top panel being shown in broken lines Fig. 2 at 5a in raised position to illustrate how the pad 2 may be inserted into the pocket and removed therefrom through either central opening. The openings, while much smaller than the pad, are of ample size to receive it, because the pad may be readily compressed or folded by one hand, which may be extended

through one of the openings to properly adjust the pad in the pocket, or to remove the pad.

Referring further to the pad 2, this, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, is preferably in one piece and made in the shape of a continuous flat ring, with substantially abrupt corners at the inner and outer margins, both top and bottom. The sponge stock is of the so-called "interlocking cell" type (cells communicating with each other), and fairly soft and pliable. The sponge structure preferably has no "skin" at any part, although the skin may be left on the major flat faces without disadvantage, if punctured in various places to allow free passage of air into and out of the cell structure. The firmness of stock is preferably at least that of ordinary sponge rubber bath sponges and may be somewhat more firm. The pad 2 may be somewhat elliptical or may be circular, or, in fact, any other desired shape, and, of course, the shape of the pocket in the envelope corresponds in general to that of the pad.

The walls of the central opening of the pad embrace the adjacent fastener supporting portions of the pocket snugly enough so that all parts of the fasteners 8, 9, etc. are maintained thereby in position about midway between the two faces of the cushion, as illustrated. Thus, no metal can touch the patient.

The relatively abrupt corners on the pad, both at the inner and outer wall surfaces, are of advantage in assisting the attendant or patient in properly locating the cushion, but still more important in supporting the body as close to the affected part as possible, thereby insuring greater comfort to the patient by making certain of definitely isolating the affected part from contact with the bed or bed clothing.

It may be mentioned that types of fasteners, other than that shown, may be used at the central opening of the cushion, and that the shape and extent of the flat margins of the envelope shown are illustrative only. For further example, opposite margins of the envelope may be extended sufficiently to be wrapped entirely around the patient's body, thereby to assist in properly securing the cushion, or, for further example, the envelope may be made in the proportions of a bed sheet and be so used. It is not essential that the envelope comprise two thicknesses of material, except as necessary to form the two sides of the pocket for the pad. The margins beyond the pocket may be of one thickness, their principal function being to secure the pad in desired position as by means of safety pins.

The envelope may be laundered as "flat work" when the pad is removed, and the pad may be cleaned and sterilized as are other rubber articles.

It will be seen that movement of the patient's body, when supported by the pad, causes the pad to breath, and thereby the supporting portions of the cushion are ventilated, at least to some extent. The sponge rubber is found much more comfortable than pneumatic devices, such as generally used, for the reason that the sponge forms a more stable support. It does not have a tendency to throw the patient from one side to the other, as does the usual inflated ring or bag, and yet has all the necessary supporting and cushioning effect. Moreover, the present device cannot suddenly collapse and thereby cause the patient to become injured or discomfited.

I claim:

1. In an invalid cushion, two cloth sheets that are annularly stitched together materially inwardly from opposite margins to provide a pocket for padding, said margins enabling the cushion to be fastened to the bed clothing, registering openings in the two sheets within the annular stitching for affording an entrance to the pocket, and a sliding fastener associated with the registering edges of the sheets at said openings for closing the pocket.

2. In an invalid cushion, two cloth sheets that are stitched together to form a pocket for padding, an extension web projected beyond said pocket on all sides enabling the cushion to be fastened in position, registering openings in the two sheets within the stitching for forming a central opening through which padding may be inserted into or removed from the pocket, and a sliding fastener associated with the registering edges of the sheets at said openings for closing the pocket.

GERTRUDE CAREY