Aug. 9, 1960 P. TOPA 2,948,278

BODY RESTRAINER

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Fig. 1.

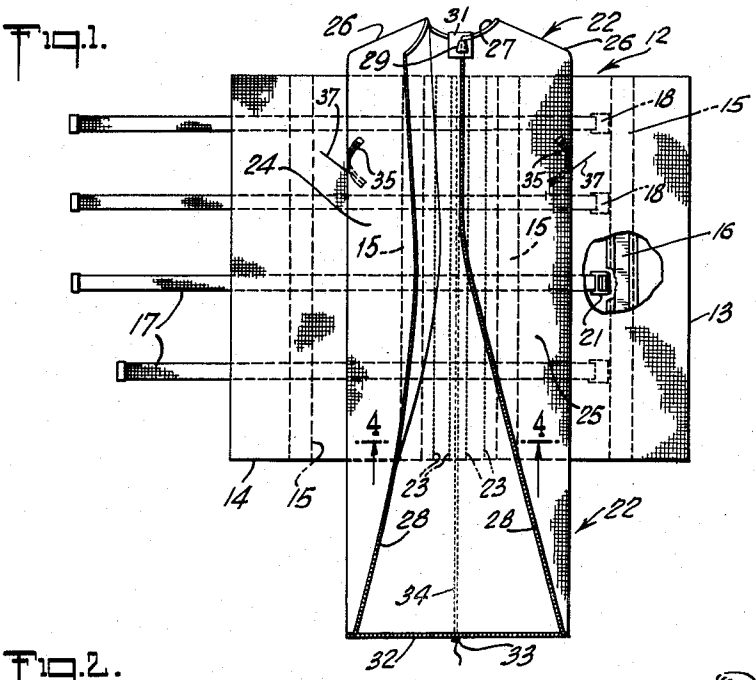


Fig. 2.

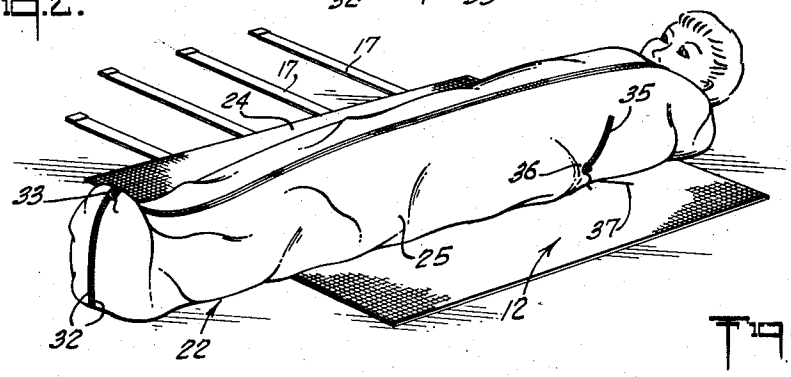


Fig. 4.

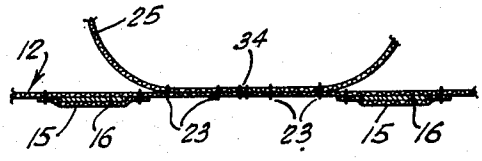
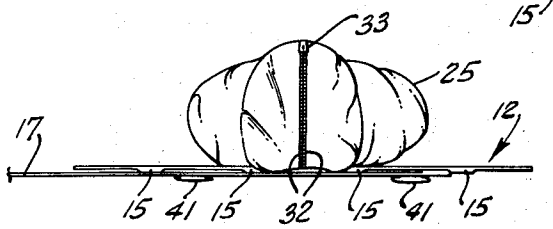


Fig. 3.



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Fig. 5.

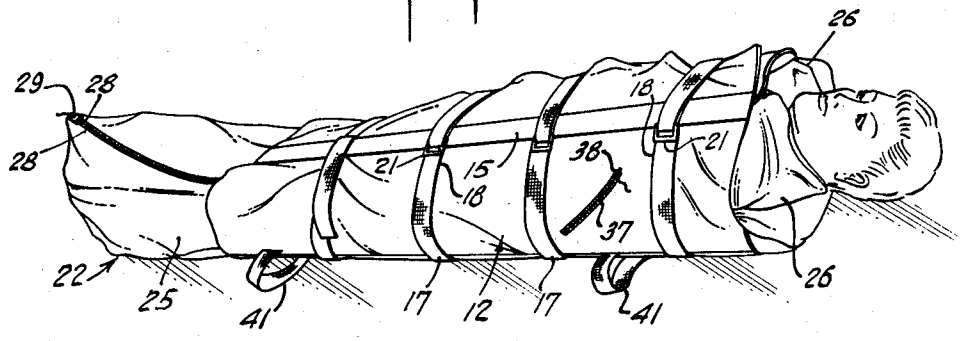


Fig. 6.

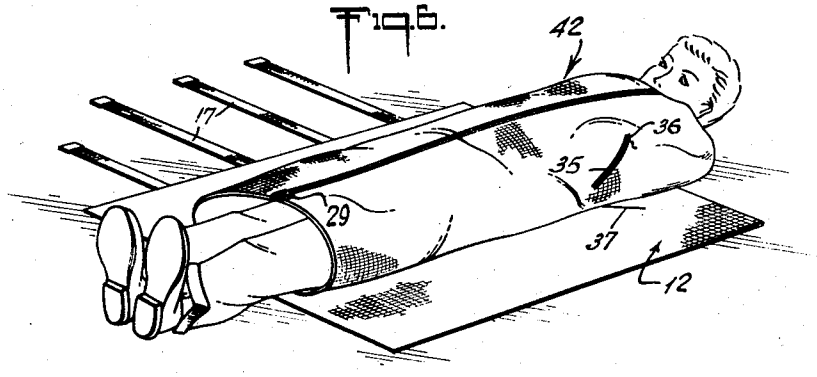
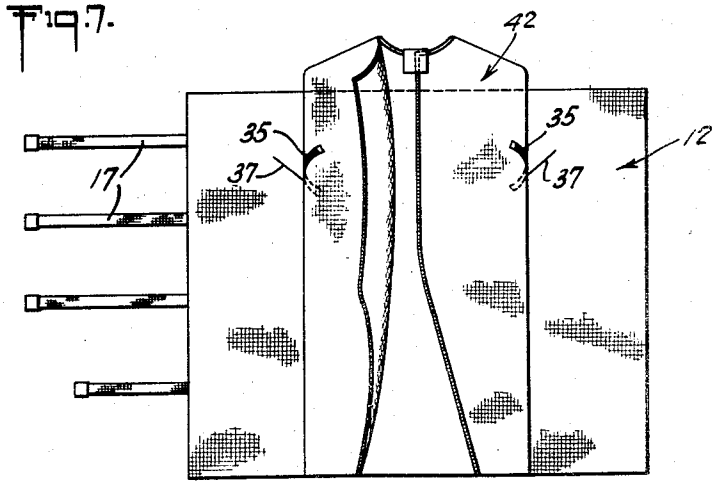


Fig. 7.



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BODY RESTRAINER

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7 Claims. (Cl. 128—134)

This invention relates to body restrainers for the treatment or management of neurotic and violent patients in hospitals, mental institutions, and the like, and for the transportation of such patients in ambulances and the like.

The present invention constitutes an improvement upon the body restrainers described and claimed in my previous United States Patent No. 2,766,751, issued October 16, 1956.

In attempting to secure a violent patient into a body restrainer such as that disclosed in the above mentioned patent, the patient may act with such violence by thrashing around his arms and legs, that it is extremely difficult to fold the body restrainer around him and thereafter to bind the straps. Often after having been bound in the body restrainer, the patient may continue to thrash around with both his legs and body in such a manner as to cause himself and the attendants considerable bodily harm.

According to the present invention, I provide means for quickly enclosing the patient into a shoulder-to-toe enclosure which, while it does not completely restrain all motions of the patient, nevertheless permits the attendants to proceed undisturbed in wrapping the final binding around the patient and securing the belts and shackles.

It is among the objects of the present invention to provide a body restrainer which satisfies medical requirements for the safety and comfort of the patient, while providing a safety factor for those attendants, orderlies and nurses who are required to handle him.

The invention comprises generally a rectangular sheet of strong canvas or the like, into which the patient is ultimately rolled and fastened, said sheet extending generally from the shoulders of the patient down to at least the knees or below the knees. Additionally, the inner surface of the sheet is provided with a coat-like, sleeveless insert, which extends from the neck of the patient down to below the feet thereof. The two opposing longitudinal edges of the insert are connectible to each other by means of a suitable strong slide fastener whereby the patient is quickly enclosed and rendered amenable to wrapping and binding in the complete body restrainer.

In another embodiment, the garment-like insert may be coextensive with the body restrainer itself and extend to approximately just below the knees of the patient.

Still other objects and advantages of my invention will be apparent from the specification.

The features of novelty which I believe to be characteristic of my invention are set forth herein and will best be understood, both as to their fundamental principles and as to their particular embodiments, by reference to the specification and accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the interior of the body restrainer showing the coat-like inner garment attached thereto, some parts being shown in phantom outline;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the body restrainer showing a patient enclosed in the coat-like garment;

Fig. 3 is an end view of the body restrainer, taken in the direction of the arrow in Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a section view taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is a side perspective view of a patient enclosed completely in both the inner garment as well as the complete body restrainer;

Fig. 6 is a view similar to Fig. 2, showing a modification of the inner garment; and

Fig. 7 is a plan view similar to Fig. 1, showing the body restrainer as constructed in the embodiment of Fig. 6.

Referring now to the drawings in detail, the body restrainer of the present invention comprises a large rectangular sheet, generally designated **12**, made of strong, woven canvas, or the like. In some embodiments the fabric may be made of rubberized cloth or rubber sheeting, or any other suitable flexible but strong material. The width dimension **13** is intended to extend over the major body and leg length of the patient, or generally from the shoulders to the lower portion of the legs while the length dimension **14** is sufficient for the sheet to be wrapped around the body of the patient with adequate overlap to form a secure binding.

In order to add strength to the restraining device, there is inserted into each of a number of spaced apart, parallel, elongated pockets **15** extending across the width dimension of sheet **12**, a slat **16** which may be made of a thin flexible and resilient material, such as wood, steel, plastic or the like, said slats serving to maintain the body of the patient in a generally straightened position, and to prevent him from making any excessive movement within the restraining sheet.

A series of spaced apart elongated straps **17** are attached by sewing, stapling or the like, to the exterior surface of sheet **12** at points **18**, said straps extending substantially perpendicularly to slats **16**, and cooperating with respective cinch buckles **21** which are attached by suitable means to the exterior surface of sheet **12** at points **18**.

Sewn to the interior surface of sheet **12** is a coat-like garment, generally designated **22**, the central portion only of which is connected to said sheet by means of spaced apart parallel stitch lines **23** (Figs. 1, 4), said lines being arrayed at the back portion of the garment. The remainder of garment **22** comprises a pair of opposing panels **24** and **25** which can be combined to encircle the body of the patient.

Garment **22** has a pair of shoulder portions **26** which surround a neck opening **27**. The opposing elongated edges of panels **24** and **25** of garment **22** are each provided with suitable slide fastener hooks **28** which are caused to interlock with each other by means of slide fastener element **29**. In some embodiments, a flap **31** of suitable fabric such as canvas, felt, cotton or the like, may be sewn to the neck portion **27** to extend loosely over slide fastener element **29** in order to protect the patient therefrom. The bottom edges of garment **22** may also be provided with slide fastening hook elements **32**, which can be secured together by means of slide fastener element **33** which is drawn from the bottom of the sheet at the heels of the patient to the toes thereof.

While in some embodiments that portion of garment **22** extending from the shoulders to the legs may be made of a unitary sheet of canvas or the like, Figs. 1 and 4 show that said garment may be made of two separate units making up panels **24** and **25** which are joined together by a double stitched seam **34** or the like.

When it is desired to enclose a patient into the body restrainer, the opposing edges of panels **24** and **25** are spread out apart from each other, and the patient is laid into the center thereof. The two panels are quickly brought together, slide fastener element **29** is adjusted to engage the upper ends of slide fastener hooks **28** and moved downward from the neck portion to secure the panel edges together, enclosing the body, arms and legs

of the patient. Thereafter, the bottom slide fastener 33 is operated to enclose the feet of the patient, while his head protrudes from the neck portion thereof. Then the ends of sheet 12 are folded over the garment enclosed body as shown in Fig. 5, and straps 17 are inserted through and engaged by corresponding buckles 21 to the extent necessary to render the patient immobile. By this means the patient is completely enclosed in a restraining garment which ensures him from bodily harm and also protects the attendants from any violence in thrashing about and kicking.

In some cases it is desirable or necessary to administer stimulants or sedatives by injection to the patient while bound in the body restrainer. For that purpose there is provided in panel 25 a slit 35 which is opened and closed by means of a slide fastener 36 (Fig. 2). Also in sheet 12 there is provided a slit 37 which is opened and closed by means of a slide fastener 38 (Figs. 2 and 5). Slits 35 and 37 are arrayed in such a manner that they are positioned sufficiently close to each other when the patient is wrapped completely in the restraining garment so that access to the patient may be had through both slits at the same time. It is also apparent that injections may be administered to the patient through slit 35 prior to his being bound in sheet 12 (Fig. 2).

Additionally, there may be provided two pairs of hand loops 41 that are secured by sewing or stapling to the outer surface of sheet 12 whereby the patient may be carried by attendants in the completely wrapped and bound condition (Figs. 3 and 5).

In some cases it is possible to dispense with binding the lower legs of the patient, and the body restrainer may take the form shown in Figs. 6 and 7, in which the lower portion of the inner coat-like garment, generally designated 42, is substantially coextensive with the lower edge of sheet 12, whereby the patient is bound from the neck down to just below the knees, leaving the patient free to walk, provided he is sufficient tractable for that purpose.

Although the inner coat-like garment is shown in the drawings as extending up to and around the neck of the patient, it is understood that said garment may otherwise extend only to the shoulders or the torso of the patient to a sufficient extent whereby the arms of the patient may be constrained against the patient's body after being secured in said garment.

The slide fastening element 29 may perform its closing function upon the edges of panels 24 and 25 in both directions relative to the disposition of the patient's body within garment 22, starting either from the bottom to the top, or starting from the top to the bottom, of the garment.

In the specification, I have explained the principles of my invention, and the best mode in which I have contemplated applying those principles, so as to distinguish my invention from other inventions; and I have particularly pointed out and distinctly claimed the part, mode or combination which I claim as my invention or discovery.

While I have shown and described certain preferred embodiments of my invention, it will be understood that modifications and changes may be made without departing from the function and scope thereof, as will be clear to those skilled in the art.

I claim:

1. A body restrainer comprising a fabric sheet adapted to be wrapped around a person's body, a coat-like garment attached to the inner surface of said sheet, a pair of opposing panels on said garment extending from the neck of the person to the feet thereof, a slide fastener adapted to secure said opposing panels together over the body prior to wrapping said sheet around said garment, and a plurality of spaced apart substantially parallel straps secured to the outer surface of said sheet and extending laterally across said sheet, said straps being positioned to encircle and bind the body of the person after said sheet has been wrapped around the fastened garment.

2. A body restrainer comprising a fabric sheet adapted to be wrapped around a person's body, a coat-like garment attached to the inner surface of said sheet, a pair of opposing panels on said garment extending from the neck of the person to the feet thereof, a slide fastener adapted to secure said opposing panels together over the body prior to wrapping said sheet around said body, a slit in one of said panels, a slide fastener for opening and closing said slit, a second slit in said sheet, and a slide fastener for opening and closing said second slit, both of said slits being positioned near each other when the person is enclosed in both the garment and said sheet whereby access is obtained to the body of the person through said sheet and garment.

3. A body restrainer comprising a fabric sheet adapted to be wrapped around a person's body, a coat-like garment attached to the inner surface of said sheet, a pair of opposing panels on said garment extending from the shoulders of the person to the legs thereof, a slide fastener adapted to secure said opposing panels together over the body prior to wrapping said sheet around said garment, and a plurality of spaced apart straps secured to the outer surface of said sheet and extending in substantially parallel array perpendicularly in respect of the body of the person secured therein, said straps being arranged to encircle and secure the body enclosed in said garment and sheet.

4. A body restrainer comprising a fabric sheet adapted to be wrapped around a person's body, a coat-like garment attached to the inner surface of said sheet, a pair of opposing panels on said garment extending from the shoulders of the person to the legs thereof, a slide fastener adapted to secure said opposing panels together over the body prior to wrapping said sheet around said garment, a slot in at least one of said panels of said garment, and a slot in said sheet, both of said slots being substantially aligned with each other when the body is wrapped in both the garment and said sheet, whereby access may be had to the body from outside the restrainer.

5. A body restrainer comprising a fabric sheet adapted to be wrapped around a person's body, a coat-like garment attached to the inner surface of said sheet, a pair of opposing panels on said garment extending from the shoulders of the person to the legs thereof, a slide fastener adapted to secure said opposing panels together over the body prior to wrapping said sheet around said garment, a slot in at least one of said panels of said garment, a slide fastener for opening and closing said slot, a slot in said sheet, and a slide fastener for opening and closing said slot in said sheet, both of said slots being substantially aligned with each other when the body is wrapped in both the garment and said sheet, whereby access may be had to the body from outside the restrainer.

6. A body restrainer comprising a fabric sheet adapted to be wrapped around a person's body, a coat-like garment attached to the inner surface of said sheet, said garment being adapted to enclose said body and at least a portion of the legs of the person, a pair of opposing panels on said garment, the edges of said panels extending longitudinally of the person's body, a slide fastener for securing said opposing panels together over the body and legs prior to wrapping said sheet around said garment, and a plurality of spaced apart straps secured to the outer surface of said sheet and extending in substantially parallel array perpendicularly in respect of said body, said straps being positioned to encircle and secure the body enclosed in said garment and said sheet.

7. A body restrainer comprising a fabric sheet adapted to be wrapped around a person's body, a coat-like garment attached to the inner surface of said sheet, said garment being adapted to enclose said body and the legs

and feet of the person, a pair of opposing panels on said garment, the edges of said panels extending longitudinally of the person's body, a first slide fastener for securing said opposing panels together over the body and legs prior to wrapping said sheet around said garment, a second slide fastener for securing said opposing panels over said feet, and a plurality of spaced apart straps secured to the outer surface of said sheet and extending in substantially parallel array perpendicularly in respect of said body, said straps being positioned to encircle and secure the body enclosed in said garment and said sheet.

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