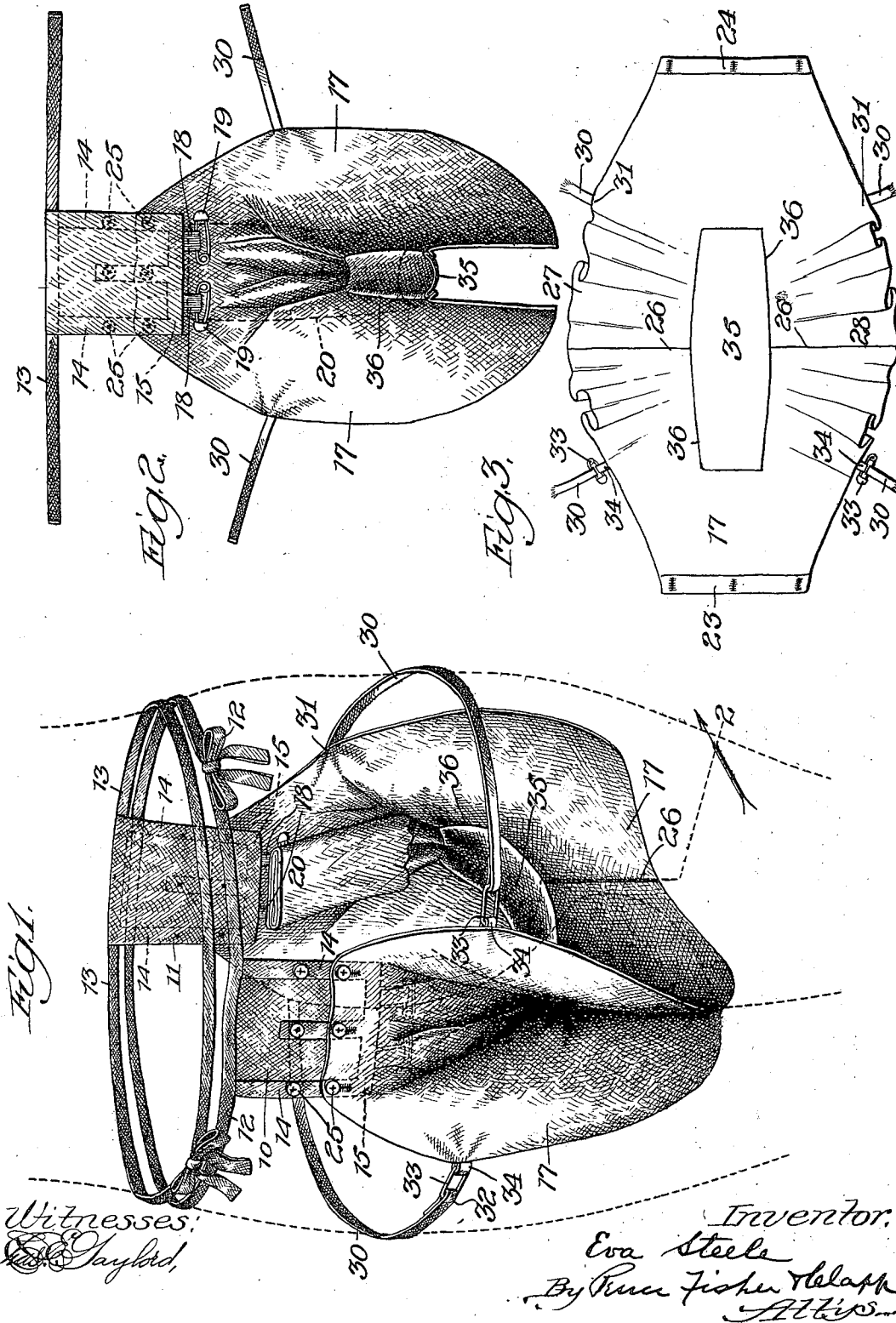


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CATAMENIAL APPLIANCE.
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CATAMENIAL APPLIANCE.

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Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EVA STEELE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, county of Cook, and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful improvements in Catamenial Appliances, of which I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming a part of this specification.

The invention consists in the features of novelty hereinafter described, illustrated in the accompanying drawing and particularly pointed out in the claim at the end of this specification.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the body of the appliance of my invention. Fig. 2 is a view in central vertical cross section through the appliance as shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a detail plan view of the shield in extended position.

In the drawing, 10 and 11 designate respectively front and rear supporters which will be provided at their upper ends with suitable means whereby they may be suspended from the wearer's waist. The front supporter 10 is provided with tapes 12 adapted to pass around the wearer's waist and be tied together, and similarly, the rear supporter 11 is shown as provided with tapes or straps 13 that pass around the wearer's waist and are tied together; although obviously, other suitable means may be employed for suspending the supporters from the waist of the wearer. The supporters 10 and 11 may be formed of any suitable thin fabric and as shown, each of the supporters is reinforced by vertical tapes or strips 14 that are stitched to the bands 12 and 13 respectively, the lower ends of the tapes 14 being preferably connected together by a cross tape or strip 15 stitched thereto. Both the front and rear supporters are provided on their outer surfaces with fastening devices to which may be detachably and adjustably connected the front and rear portions of a protective shield 17, the preferred construction of which will hereinafter more fully appear. To the tapes or strips 15 at the lower ends of the supporters 10 and 11 are attached tabs 18 carrying safety pins or other suitable fastening devices 19, to which may be fastened the

front and rear ends of an absorbent bandage or napkin 20 that will pass between the wearer's legs.

In the preferred embodiment of my invention, the protective shield 17 is formed of thin rubberized cloth or like waterproof fabric 20. At its front upper portion the protective shield 17 is reinforced by a stout tape or strip 23, and similarly, the rear upper portion of the shield 17 is reinforced by a tape or strip 24, these tapes or strips 23 and 24 serving to receive button holes (or other fastening appliances) to engage with the buttons 25 on the outer faces of the front and rear supporters 10 and 11. Preferably, there are a series of buttons 25, or other fastening devices, vertically disposed so that the shield may be adjusted to conform to the size of the wearer.

In order to enable the protective shield 17 to better conform to the body and upper leg portions of the wearer, I prefer to make the shield 17 of two pieces of fabric united together along the cross seams 26, since by this means the sides of the shield 27 and 28 are given a fullness which will enable them to pass partially around the upper portion of the wearer's legs. At each side of the shield 17 and at points where the fulled portions 27 and 28 begin, are attached elastic tapes 30. As shown, each of these elastic tapes has its rear end permanently connected to the shield, as at 31, and has its front end formed with a loop 32 to receive a loop 33 that may be detachably secured to a tap or loop 34 attached to the border of the shield.

The central portion of the shield 17 is cut away and the cutaway portion is supplied by an oblong strip 35 united to the shield by a seam 36. In this way, the shield can be shaped to better conform to the outline of the body and when in use the oblong strip 35 will be centrally depressed to form a slight cavity or pouch along which the bandage or napkin 20 will extend.

The foregoing description and manner of using my improved appliance will be readily understood by those familiar with this class of devices. When the front and rear supporters 10 and 11 have been suspended from the wearer's waist, the ends of the absorbent bandage or napkin 20 will be suspended from the lower ends of the pads or support-

ers and the front and rear upper portions of the protective shield 17 will be fastened to the buttons or other fastening devices on the outer surfaces of the front and rear supporters 10 and 11. At such times as it is unnecessary or undesirable to wear the protective shield 17, it may be readily detached from the supporters 10 and 11. Similarly, when it is desirable to wear simply the protective shield, the absorbent napkin or bandage 20 can be readily detached from the lower ends of the front and rear supporters 10 and 11. Inasmuch as the supporters 10 and 11 are broad and have buttons 25 at their edges and inasmuch as the upper end portions of the shield 17 are truncated and correspondingly broad and are provided with buttonholes at distances apart, it will be seen that the upper portion of the shield, particularly at the front, is so held that it will more effectively conform to the outline of the body and avoid the danger of displacement; and it will be seen, also, that the expanded side portions of the shield will extend about and protect the upper leg portions of the wearer, and the tapes or straps 30 being located at a distance below the tops of the front and rear portions of the shield, will encircle the wearer's legs in such manner as to most effectively hold the shield in place.

The precise details of construction above set out may be varied without departing from the spirit of the invention and features

of the invention may be employed without its adoption as an entirety.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

A catamenial appliance comprising a protective shield formed of front and rear sections, the inner edges of said sections being secured together and the inner portion of each section being correspondingly cut away so that when the sections are brought together an oblong space is formed about the center of the shield, said space terminating at a distance from the ends thereof; an oblong strip inserted in said cutaway space and secured at its sides and ends to said shield section to form a pouch to receive a napkin; the outer side portions of each of said shield sections being given such fullness as to cause the shield sections when in use to snugly fit the wearer's legs and assume a substantially vertical position; both said front and rear shield sections having broad outer truncated ends tapering from the central portions of the shield and adapted to snugly engage the wearer's body and provided with a plurality of means arranged across the upper edges thereof for attachment to front and back supporters; and straps connected to the outer edges of said shield sections at a distance below the upper ends thereof for holding said shield sections snugly in place.

EVA STEELE