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RESTRAINING DEVICE

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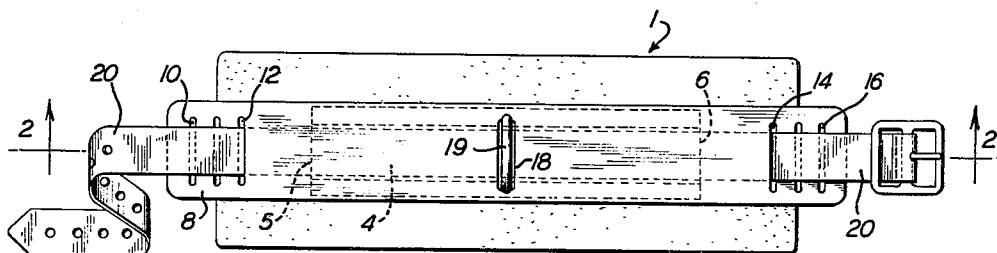


FIG. 1.

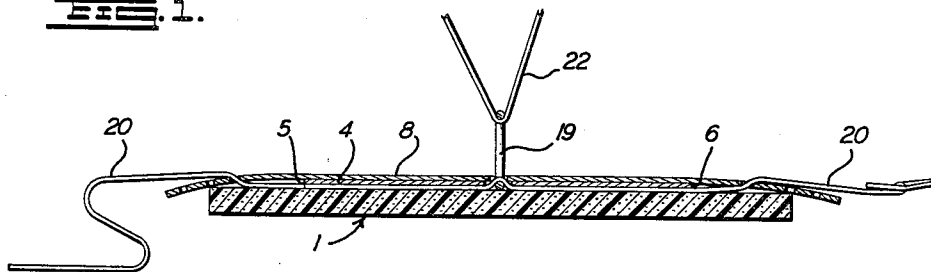


FIG. 2.

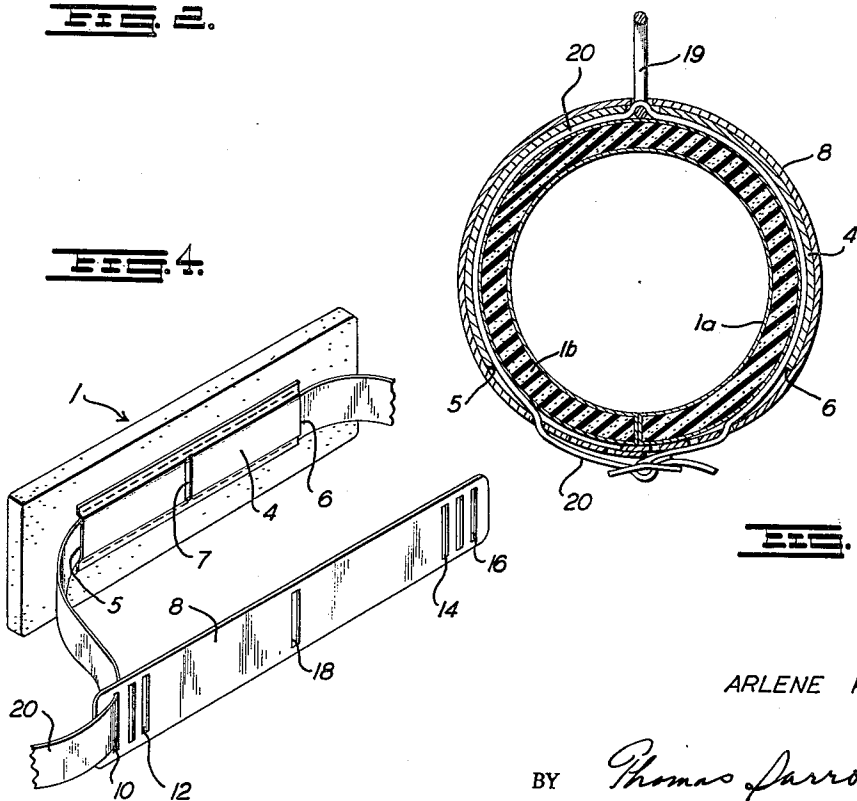


FIG. 3.

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RESTRAINING DEVICE

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This invention relates to a restraining device and more particularly to a device for restraining the movement of the arms or legs of patients who because they are delirious or mentally ill might otherwise inflict injury upon themselves or others or interfere with a surgeon while he is performing an operation.

Most of the restraining devices heretofore in use have not proved entirely satisfactory. An objection often raised to many restraining devices currently employed is that they have a tendency to produce burns, abrasions, bruises, etc. on the wrists and ankles of patients. Such injuries have been found particularly severe in the more serious mental cases and during the administration to mental patients of coma therapy as, for instance, insulin coma treatment. Many other restraining devices commonly employed are heavy, cumbersome, expensive and consequently entirely too impractical for hospital use.

The prime object of the present invention is to provide a restraining device which largely reduces the likelihood of injury to the patient's arms or legs. Another object of this invention is to provide a device which is simple, durable, strong and inexpensive to manufacture which can be readily adjusted to fit the limbs of the patient and quickly secured to give the desired restraint.

Another object is to provide a device that generally restrains the patient but permits a limited range of movement of the limbs, thus preventing injury to limbs, cramping of muscles and lessening the fear and mental tension that often arises in patients where limbs are restrained from all movement.

A further object is to provide a device that can be easily disassembled when not in use so as to facilitate storage and can be laundered as often as desired.

My invention will be better understood by reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

FIGURE 1 is a plan view of the restraining device; FIGURE 2 is a detailed longitudinal sectional view taken on line 2—2 of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is a detailed sectional view of a preferred modification of the device as applied; and

FIGURE 4 is an exploded view of the main components of the restraining device.

Referring to the drawings the restraining device comprises a soft flexible cushioning member designated generally as 1 of sufficient length to pass around the limb of the wearer. This member may be made of any soft flexible material, for instance, cotton, foam rubber, or synthetic materials having similar soft, resilient characteristics. The thickness of the material can vary depending upon the protection desired and the characteristics of the particular material employed. Ordinarily, a thickness of about one-quarter of an inch is found suitable. If found desirable, member 1 can be a composite of a durable textile cover 1a and a soft, resilient liner 1b (see FIG. 3), the cover having an opening (not shown) on its bottom side, that is the side to be placed adjacent the limb, for introduction and removal of the soft flexible liner. The liner can be any soft, resilient material such as foam rubber, cotton, or other synthetic material having similar soft, resilient characteristics. The cushion 1 is provided on its top side with a strip of flexible material 4 such as a flexible fabric attached along its longitudinal edges to the cushion, as for example, by stitching, so as to provide openings 5 and 6. The strip is also provided with

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an opening 7 approximately near its center. A flexible band 8 preferably of fabric such as heavy canvas is provided with a series of slots 10, 12 and 14, 16 near its ends with an opening 18 approximately at its center. In use this band is positioned over fabric strip 4 so that the opening 7 of strip 4 coincides with opening 18 of fabric band 8. The fabric band 8 should be of sufficient length to extend over the openings 5 and 6 of strip 4, preferably of a length that just overlaps the longitudinal ends of cushion 1. A ring 19, preferably of metal which will not bend or break, is positioned within the coincident openings 7 and 18. A belt 20, is inserted, respectively, through one of the openings 10, 12, opening 5, ring 19, opening 6, and one of the openings 14, 16. The openings in the series of openings 10, 12 and 14, 16 selected for belt 20 should be those that best fit the size of the patient's wrist or ankle. Another belt 22 is looped through ring 19.

The restraining device as shown in FIGURE 1 is ready for application to the wrist or ankle of a patient. The device is placed on the limb and the belt 20 tightened to the desired pressure or size about the wrist or ankle as shown in FIGURE 3. The belt 22 of leather or other sturdy material may then be buckled on a nearby structure, as for instance, on the posts, sides or bottom of the patient's bed, chair, etc.

It is to be observed that the patient's arms or legs are permitted a desirable amount of rotary movement by virtue of ring 19. This feature, together with those more obvious from the drawings and description, greatly lessens the chance of injury to the patient's limbs and yet sufficiently restrains the patient. Additional movement can be provided the patient's limbs, if desirable, by increasing the length of the belt 22 from ring to point of attachment. It is also to be observed that when not in use, the device can be simply disassembled and conveniently stored in a minimum of space.

Although a particular embodiment of the invention has been shown for purposes of illustration, it is to be understood that various changes and modifications may be made therein as will readily appear to a person skilled in the art.

I claim:

1. A restraining device comprising a soft flexible cushion, a strip of flexible material attached by its longitudinal edges to one side of said cushion, said strip having an opening at approximately the center thereof, a flexible band having a slot near each end and an opening approximately in the center thereof superimposed over said strip so that the central opening of said band coincides with the central opening of said strip, a metal ring inserted in the coincident openings, a belt inserted, respectively, through a slot near one end of said band, under the strip and through said ring and through a slot at the other end of said band.

2. The device of claim 1 wherein a soft flexible cushion is a piece of foam rubber with a fabric cover.

3. The device of claim 1 wherein the soft flexible cushion is a composite of a textile cover and a soft resilient liner, said cover having an opening for the introduction and removal of the soft resilient liner.

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