

H. E. CURTIS.
 ABDOMINAL SUPPORT FOR MEDICAL OR SURGICAL PURPOSES.
 APPLICATION FILED OCT. 8, 1910.

1,035,163.

Patented Aug. 13, 1912.

FIG. 1.

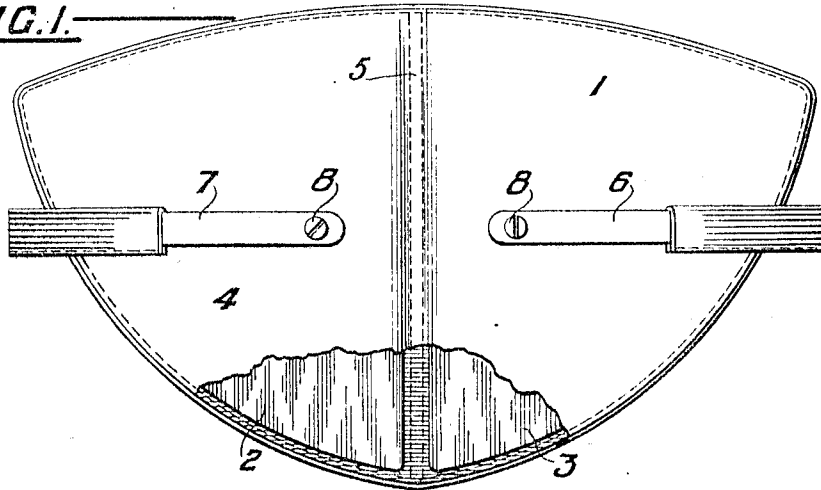


FIG. 2.

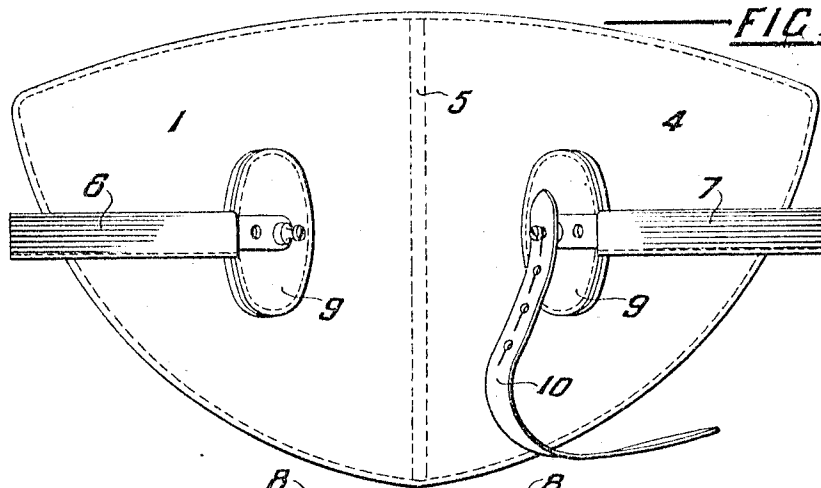
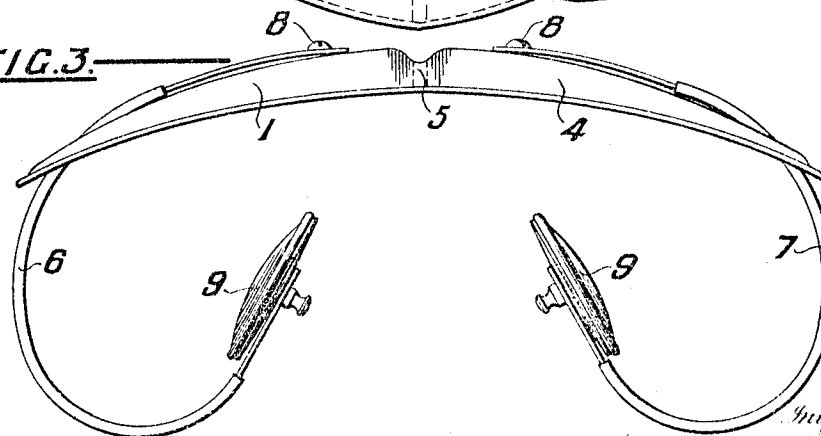


FIG. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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ABDOMINAL SUPPORT FOR MEDICAL OR SURGICAL PURPOSES.

1,035,163.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 13, 1912.

Application filed October 8, 1910. Serial No. 585,960.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HARRY EDWIN CURTIS, a subject of the King of Great Britain, residing at West Hampstead, in the county of London, England, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Abdominal Supports for Medical or Surgical Purposes, and of which the following is a specification.

10 This invention refers to improvements in abdominal supports for medical and surgical purposes, and particularly relates to means for supporting the lower abdominal muscle.

15 The improved device is employed among other uses in the treatment of constipation, indigestion and the like, and for use after abdominal operations.

20 The invention consists in a novel combination of parts and in an improved abdominal support embodying the same as hereinafter particularly described and claimed.

25 The leading object of the invention is to provide for effectively supporting the lower abdominal muscle by a simple device adapted to be readily applied from in front without disconnecting or injuriously straining any of its parts.

30 Other objects will be set forth in the general description which follows.

In the accompanying sheet of drawings, Figure 1 is a front elevation of the improved abdominal support; Fig. 2 is a rear elevation, and Fig. 3 a plan view.

35 Like reference characters refer to like parts in all the figures.

40 The leading member of the improved abdominal support is a suitably curved and shaped plate 1, so constructed that its face (Fig. 2) which is preferably padded, will fit closely against the hypogastric region of the wearer's body, in a position to support the lower abdominal muscle. The main or body portion of the hypogastric plate 1 is made of suitable metal in two rigid parts, 2, 3, arranged side by side and so that they do not meet along a vertical central line. The two rigid metal parts 2, 3 are located and inclosed within a leather cover 4; and said leather cover itself forms an easily flexible, frictionless and non-extensible vertical hinge joint, 5, between said rigid parts 2 and 3, upon which hinge portion the hypogastric plate 1 as a whole can be easily flexed.

The plate 1 as a whole and its flexibly joined rigid metal parts 2 and 3 individually, are held in position on the body of the wearer by two suitably curved resilient metal band members 6, 7; each of said rigid metal parts 2, 3 having one end of a curved resilient member permanently pivoted to its outer face (Fig. 1) by a stud 8 adjacent to the flexible joint 5, the pair of studs being central with reference to the plate 1 as a whole so as to equally distribute the resilient pressure, and so constructed as to limit the pivotal movement of the resilient members to the plane of the back of the plate 1. The free ends of the resilient members carry bearing pads 9 adapted to bear against the back of the wearer.

75 The improved abdominal support is applied to the body of the wearer from the front by pulling apart the free ends of the resilient members, 6 and 7, which is accompanied by a permissive bending or partial doubling of the hypogastric plate 1, about its hinge portion 5; the bearing pads 9 being thus readily separated sufficiently to be passed backward at the sides of the wearer, into contact with the back of the wearer at convenient points, without overstraining the resilient members 6, 7. When so placed in position the hypogastric plate 1 resumes its normal shape under the pressure of said resilient members 6, 7, and effectively supports the lower abdominal muscle; and the device as a whole does not confine the movements of the wearer, is not liable to shift in position and does not cause inconvenience. When the improved support is properly placed in position, the two pads 9 may be connected by a back strap 10, interacting with the attaching studs of said pads, as is customary, to obviate the possibility of accidental displacement.

I claim as my invention:

1. In combination with suitably curved resilient pressure members and bearing pads attached to the rear ends of said members and adapted to bear on the back of a wearer, an improved hypogastric plate comprising two rigid metal parts separated along a central vertical line and a leather cover inclosing said parts and forming an easily flexible, frictionless and non-extensible hinge joint between said parts, and pivotal pressure equalizing studs permanently attaching the front ends of said resilient members to said rigid metal parts respectively

adjacent to said hinge joint and centrally with reference to the hypogastric plate as a whole, substantially as hereinbefore specified.

- 5 2. A support for the lower abdominal muscle having, in combination, a suitably curved and shaped plate, the face of which is adapted to closely fit the hypogastric region of a wearer's body, said plate including two rigid metal parts separated along
10 a central vertical line and a leather cover inclosing said parts and forming an easily flexible, frictionless and non-extensible hinge joint between said parts, a pair of
15 suitably curved resilient members pivotally attached at one end of each to said rigid

metal parts respectively, and bearing pads attached to the other ends of said resilient members and adapted to contact with the back of the wearer; said plate being adapted to bend on said hinge joint so as to permit said bearing pads to be separated sufficiently to pass the sides of the body of the wearer without overstraining said resilient members, substantially as hereinbefore
20 specified.
25

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of two witnesses.

HARRY EDWIN CURTIS.

Witnesses:

THOMAS W. ROGERS,

WILLIAM A. MARSHALL.