(No Model.)

R. V. SHOCKEY,

SHOULDER BRACE.

No. 396,837. Patented Jan. 29, 1889.

Fig. 1.

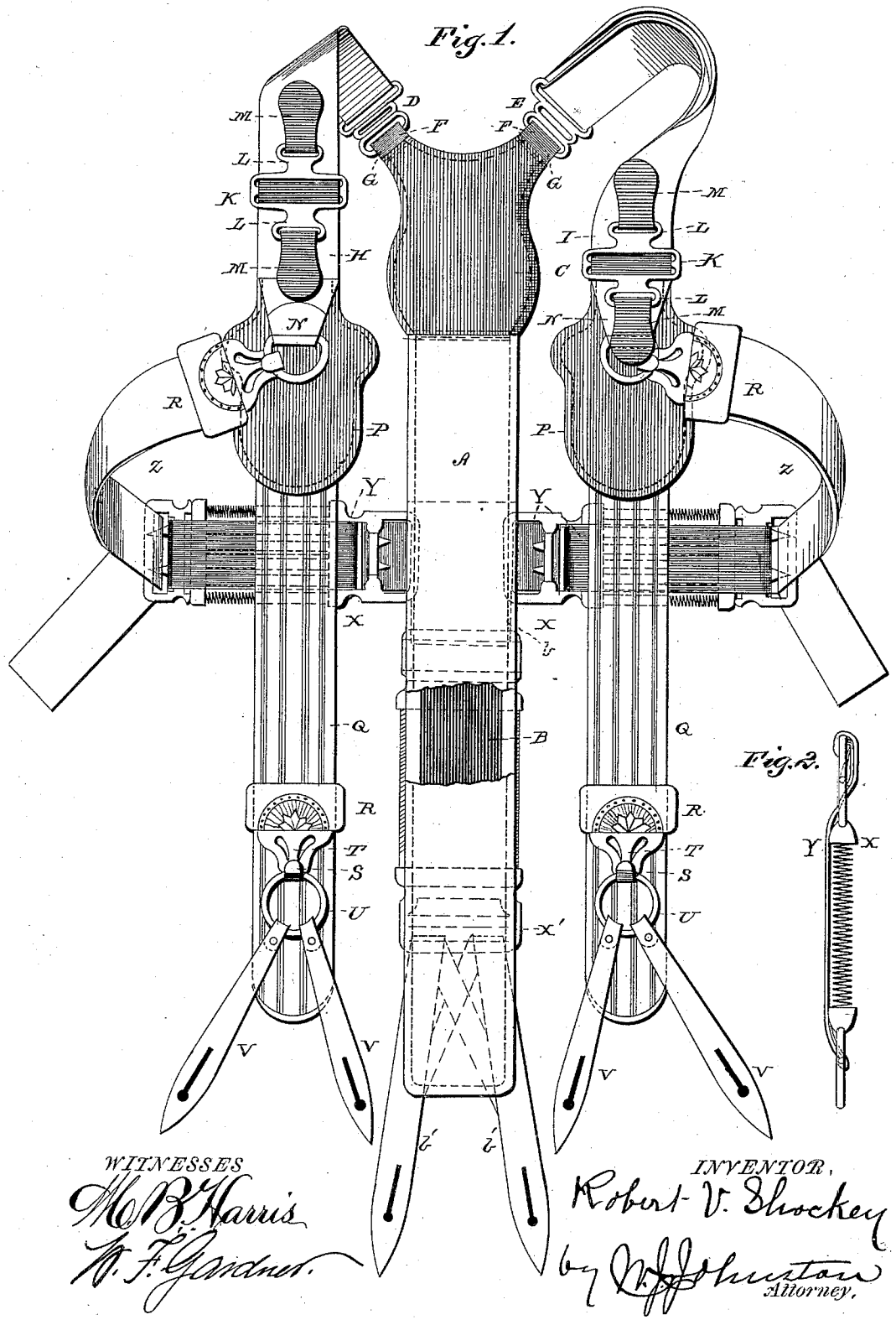


Fig. 2.

WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT VINTON SHOCKEY, OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA.

SHOULDER-BRACE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 396,837, dated January 29, 1889.

Application filed September 24, 1888. Serial No. 286,201. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT VINTON SHOCKEY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Hastings, in the county of Adams and State of Nebraska, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shoulder-Braces; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to combined shoulder-braces and suspenders; and it consists in the construction and novel combination of parts, as will be hereinafter fully described, and pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a front view of a combined shoulder-brace and suspenders embodying my invention, the same being partly broken away, and showing the stay B. Fig. 2 is a side view of one of the re-enforced springs.

Referring by letter to the accompanying drawings, A designates an elongated pocket or casing made of suitable textile or other fabric—such as canvas, leather, chamois-skin, or the like. This pocket A is made elongated in form, and is adapted to and does receive a metal or other flat stay, B. I prefer to use a flat steel spring for this purpose. The incased stay forms the back-supporting piece of the combined brace and suspenders. At its upper end the pocket A is provided with a pad, C, of any suitable material, which is designed to bear against the person of the wearer between the shoulders and directly against the spinal column. The upper opposite corners of the pad C are provided with buckle-frames D E, which are connected to the pad C by loops F F, formed of narrow webbing.

H I are shoulder-straps, formed of narrow webbing, passed loosely through the larger lower slots or openings of the buckle-frames D E, one end of each of the straps H I being provided with a sliding buckle-frame, K, having oppositely-projecting side loops, L, provided with textile finger-pieces M for manipulating said sliding buckle-frame. At their lower ends each of the straps H I are provided with ring-loops N, and immediately above said ring-loops N the upper edges of the pads P are secured by stitching or otherwise.

To the lower edges or ends of the pad P the upper ends of the lower portions of the suspender-straps Q are stitched or otherwise secured. The lower ends of the straps Q are provided with metal slides R, having loops S and snap-springs T to receive and hold the ring U, to which the suspender-ends V V are secured.

To opposite sides of the elongated pocket A, nearly intermediate of its ends, are secured the elastic or spring buckles X, which are re-enforced on their inner faces by straps Y, of elastic webbing, secured to the end frames of said buckles, as shown in Fig. 2.

The buckles X are connected with the metal slides R by strips of webbing, which are preferably inelastic.

A spring-buckle, X′, similar to the buckles X, is secured at its upper end to a tongue, *b*, of leather or the like, stitched to the rear or outside face of the pocket A, preferably just below the point where the laterally-projecting buckles X are secured to the pocket A. The spring-buckle X′ is also re-enforced by an elastic strip of webbing, the object being to prevent the entire strain from coming on the buckle proper. This spring-buckle *x′* is the rear buckle of the suspenders, and is provided with suspender-ends *b′ b′*, which are secured thereto in any desired manner.

The cushions or pads of the suspenders are designed to rest upon or against the collar-bone or clavicle of the wearer, in order to render the device more comfortable to the wearer. The rear pad also assists in obtaining this result.

The manner of wearing the combined shoulder-brace and suspenders will be obvious to any person who may need to use them.

Having described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination, with the elongated pocket incasing the spring-stay and forming the common back piece, of the pad at the upper end of the same provided with buckle-frames connected thereto by loops, the suspenders engaging said loops and provided

with collar-pads and suspender-ends, the laterally-extending spring-buckles, and the inelastic webbing, and clamping-slides for connecting the spring-buckles and suspenders, substantially as described.

2. In combination with the central elongated pocket provided with the spring-stay, the centrally detachable shoulder-straps, and the suspender-ends, the spring-buckles re-enforced with elastic webbing, and the button-hole straps, substantially as described.

3. The combined shoulder-braces and suspenders, composed of the elongated pocket incasing the spring-stay and forming the common back piece, A, the shoulder-straps composed of the separate sections, each adjustably connected to the back piece and adapted, by means of the ring-loop and clamping-slide on their respective ends, to be instantly connected or disconnected, the collar-pads P, having their upper ends secured to the upper section slightly above the ring-loops, and their lower ends to the suspender-ends Q, whereby they form a cushion beneath the connecting ends of the shoulder-straps, and the button-hole straps attached to the suspender-ends by buckles, all arranged and combined substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

4. The combination, with the central elongated pocket provided with the spring-stay, the shoulder-straps secured thereto, made in two detachable sections, and the collar-pad, of the spring-buckles re-enforced with elastic webbing, the suspender-ends, and the button-hole straps, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature, in presence of two witnesses.

ROBERT VINTON SHOCKEY.

Witnesses:
C. E. HIGINBOTHAM,
H. HIGINBOTHAM.