No. 815,747. PATENTED MAR. 20, 1906.

F. SCHMITT.

CORSET AND ABDOMINAL SUPPORTER.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 14, 1905.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 6.

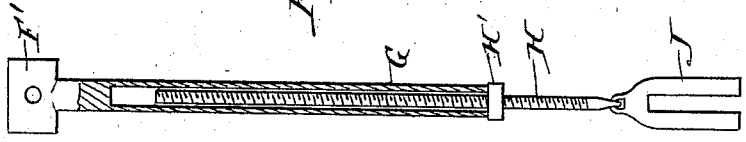
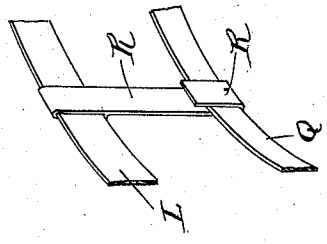


Fig. 5.



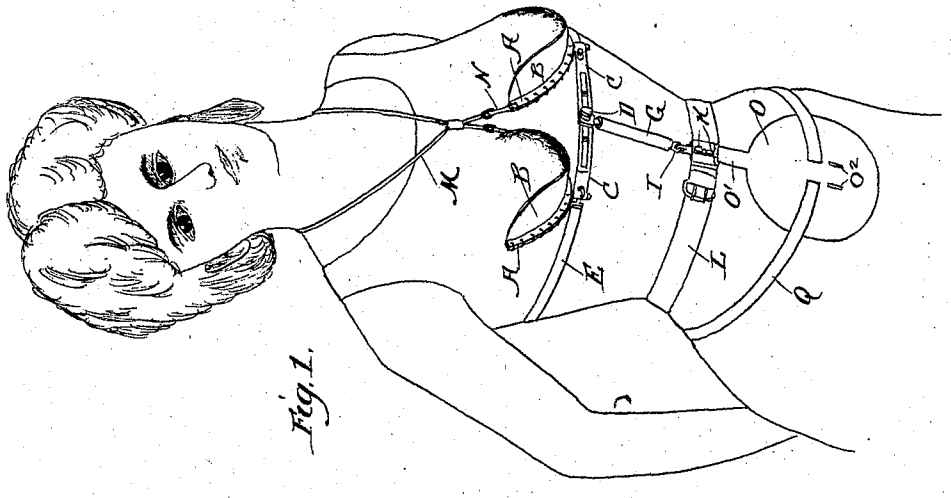


Fig. 1.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 2.

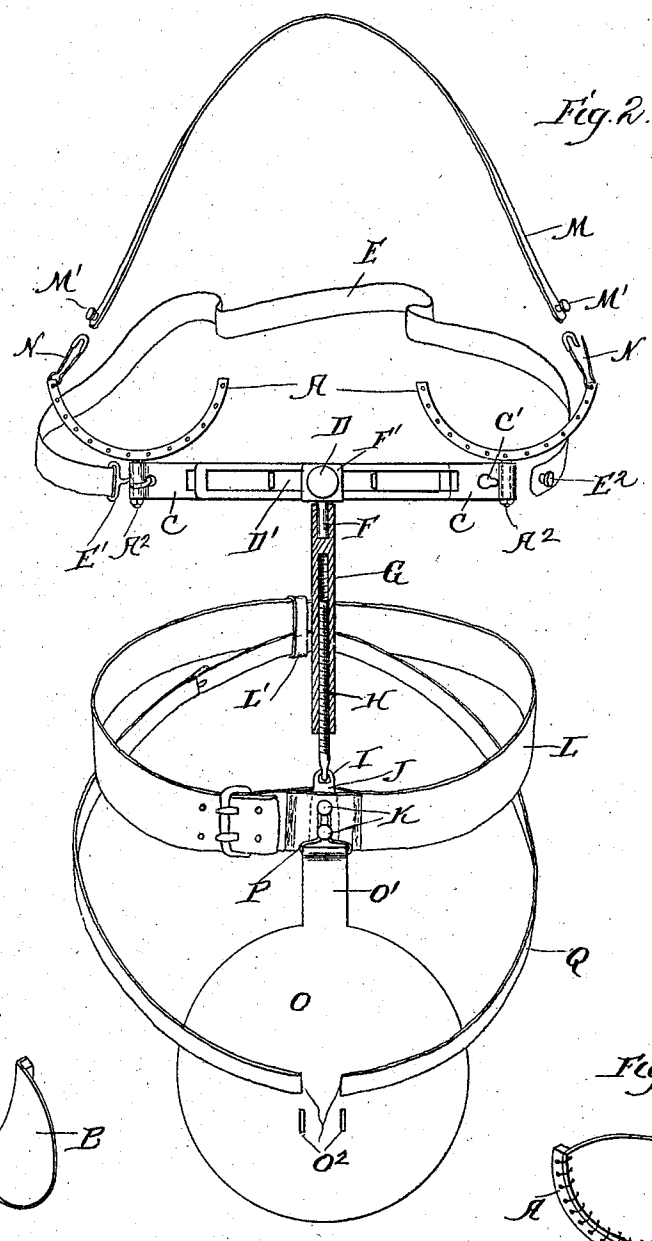


Fig. 3.

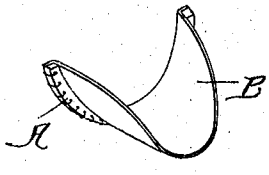
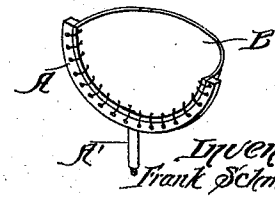


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CORSET AND ABDOMINAL SUPPORTER.

No. 815,747. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented March 20, 1906.

Application filed April 14, 1905. Serial No. 255,513.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK SCHMITT, a subject of the Emperor of Austria-Hungary, residing at Philadelphia, county of Philadelphia, and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Corsets and Abdominal Supporters, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a new and useful improvement in corset and abdominal supporters, and has for its object to provide a device to take the place of an ordinary corset which will support the breasts and confine the figure to a pleasing outline and at the same time give to the wearer perfect freedom in her movements and be free of all the objectionable disadvantages of ordinary corsets, such as exercising pressure on sensitive spots, &c.; and a further object of my invention is to provide an abdominal supporter which can be easily attached to the corset and support the abdomen without the necessity of any great pressure being applied upon any part.

With these ends in view this invention consists in the details of construction and combination of elements hereinafter set forth and then specifically designated by the claims.

In order that those skilled in the art to which this invention appertains may understand how to make and use the same, the construction and operation will now be described in detail, referring to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my device applied to a person; Fig. 2, a front elevation of my device unattached, a portion being shown in section to illustrate the interior construction; Fig. 3, a perspective view of one of the pockets for supporting the breast. Fig. 4 is also a perspective view of one of the pockets for supporting the breast, showing a modified form of construction; Fig. 5, a perspective view showing a modification of the manner of supporting the abdominal supporting-band at the rear; Fig. 6, a vertical section through the corset-adjuster showing a modified form of construction.

A represents the breast-supporting frames, which are practically semicircular in outline, and these frames are adapted to be attached to the breast-pockets B, and these breast-pockets can be either made in the form shown in Fig. 3 or that form shown in Fig. 4, and the pockets are adapted to be secured to the frame by any removable means—such as buttons, lacing, &c. These pockets can be made of any desirable material of sufficient thickness to hold the breast in the position desired, and these pockets may be made to extend outward at right angles or may be given any angle desired, according to the desire of the wearer as to whether the breast shall be held high or in a low sagging position. Each of the frames A is provided at its lowest extremity with a pin A′, adapted to extend downward and be swiveled in the end of the strip C. A small nut or bur A^2 may be threaded on the lower end of the pins A′ to prevent their removal from the sockets. The strip C may be made of any flexible material—such as thin steel, celluloid, whalebone, or the like—and these strips overlap one another and are slotted and adapted to be held in relative position to one another by a binding-screw D, which screw is threaded into a block D′ at the rear, thus binding the strips into whatever position they may be set. Thus by loosening the screw D the strips C may be adjusted so as to bring the breast-frames A nearer together or farther apart to adjust the same to the person.

E is an elastic belt, adapted to surround the body just below the breast, and this belt may be secured in any desirable manner, here shown as being provided with a hook E′ upon one end adapted to hook through a hole provided in the end of one strip C, the other strip C being provided in its end with a buttonhole-slot C′, into which a button E^2, located upon the opposite end of the band E, is adapted to pass.

F is a stud, the upper end of which is secured to a plate F′, through which the screw D passes, thus binding the plate F′ to the strips C. The stud F is swiveled in the upper end of a tubular support G, and threaded into the lower end of this tubular support G is a screw-threaded rod H, the lower end of said rod being connected by a universal joint I with the fork J, which fork is adapted to straddle the shanks of the buttons or headed studs K, secured to a belt L, adapted to pass around the waist of the wearer. At the point where the fork engages the button or headed studs K a separate piece is sewed to the belt L, and the fork J passes between the belt L and this separate piece, engaging the shanks of the studs K in between. By means of this adjustable support G it will be seen that by turning the tubular portion G

around the distance between the strip C and the waistband L may be lengthened or shortened so as to adjust it to the person. The weight of the breast will be supported in this way by the waistband L; but if it is desired to remove a part of this weight from the waistband L a flexible cord or band M may pass around the neck of the wearer, the ends being secured to the inside ends of the frames A, as shown in Fig. 1, or, if desired, the flexible cord or band M could be attached to the outer ends of the breast-frames, as shown in 2. Any means could be employed for attaching this band to the breast-frames; but I prefer to use a fastener formed like a safety-pin, (illustrated at N.) By unfastening the pin it may be passed through a hole in the ends of the frames A, and the ends of the band M being provided with buttons M′ may be buttoned into the pins, and when the free end of the pin is sprung into place the button will keep this free end from being accidentally disengaged until the button is pressed downward to the lower end of the pin.

If desired, the tubular support G, rod H, and fork J could be dispensed with and the breast supported entirely from the neck or shoulders, or the flexible band M could be dispensed with and the breast supported entirely from the waist. It can be seen that by this device perfect freedom is allowed the wearer, as the breast-frames A are swiveled in the ends of the strips C and can turn to respond to the movements of the person. The strips C are flexible and can turn upon the stud F, and by means of the universal joint I the whole device can move in any direction from the waist, and while the device is perfectly flexible, as described, it can be seen at a glance that it will support the breast in any desired position and confine the form of the person to the desired shape.

In Fig. 6 I have shown a modified form of tubular support in which the rod H instead of being threaded into the tubular support G is provided with a nut H′, threaded upon said rod, and the tubular support G rests upon this nut, and in this modified form I have shown the plate F′ as being secured or made integral with the tube G. This support can be made in four different ways—that is, the rod H could be threaded into the tube G, the stud F swiveled in the top thereof, as shown in Fig. 2, or the rod H could be threaded into the tube G, with the plate F′ integral with said tube, or the rod H could be provided with a nut, as shown in Fig. 6, with the stud swiveled in the upper end, or it could be made entirely as shown in Fig. 6.

In Figs. 1 and 2, O represents an abdominal supporter which is in the form of a circular plate adapted to fit the abdomen, and from this plate extends upward a strap O′, which is secured to a clip P, fitting over the shanks of the buttons K of the waistband L. The heads of the buttons are removable either by being threaded on the shanks or otherwise. Q is a strap which passes through slots O^2, formed in the plate O, and then passes around the hips and may pass through a loop L′, secured to the waistband L at the rear, or if it is desired not to have the strap Q pass around the hips at an angle said strap Q may pass directly around the hips and be held upward in the rear by a strap R, depending from the waistband L, the lower end being formed into a hook R′, into which the strap Q is adapted to rest. There may be several sets of the slots O^2, so that the straps may be secured to the supporter in a higher or lower position.

Of course, if desired, the ordinary bandage-supporter could be used, which passes entirely around the person, and the same means could be utilized for holding up the supporter, as here shown. Of course this device is adapted to be used with or without the abdominal supporter, as desired, and may be made of any of the various materials and may be made in various shapes, and therefore I do not wish to be limited to the exact construction here shown, as slight modifications could be made without departing from the spirit of my invention.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new and useful, is—

1. In a device of the character described, two semicircular breast-frames, pockets removably secured to said breast-frames and extending outward therefrom, an adjustable band, in the outer ends of which the breast-frames are swiveled, an elastic belt extending around the wearer and connected at each end to the adjustable band, a belt adapted to pass around the waist of the wearer, and means for supporting the adjustable band and breast-pockets, as and for the purpose specified.

2. In a device of the character described, two semicircular frames, pockets or breast-supports removably secured to said frames, an adjustable band consisting of two strips overlapping one another, the semicircular frames pivoted one in the outer end of each strip, a block arranged at the center of the adjustable band, means connected with the said block for holding the two strips of the band in position, an elastic band passing around the body of the wearer and removably connected at each end to the adjustable band, a belt adapted to pass around the waist of the wearer, an attachment removably secured to said belt, a screw-threaded rod extending upward from the attachment and connected thereto by a universal joint, a tubular support threaded upon said rod, a circular stud extending downward from the block and swiveled in the upper end of the tubular support, a flexible cord removably connected to the device and passing around

the neck of the wearer, as and for the purpose specified.

3. In a device of the character described, two semicircular frames, pockets or breast-supports adapted to be removably attached to said frames, a flexible connector consisting of two strips overlapping one another, the frames pivoted in the outer end of said strips, a block arranged in the center of the connector and provided with means for securing the two strips together, an elastic band passing around the body and adapted to be removably connected to the ends of the connector, a belt passing around the waist of the person, two buttons or headed studs secured to the belt, a fork adapted to straddle the shanks of the button from above, a screw-threaded rod extending upward from said fork and connected thereto by a universal joint, a tubular support threaded upon said rod, a stud extending downward from the block and swiveled in the upper end of said support, and means for suspending the device from the neck of the wearer, as specified.

4. In a device of the character described, two semicircular breast-frames, pockets removably secured to said breast-frames and extending outward therefrom, an adjustable band in the outer ends of which the breast-frames are swiveled, an elastic belt extending around the wearer and connected at each end to the adjustable band, a belt adapted to pass around the waist of the wearer, means for supporting the adjustable band and breast-pockets, an abdominal supporter suspended at the forward end from the waist-band and also at the rearward end from the waistband, as specified.

5. In a device of the character described, two breast-supports, an adjustable band connecting said breast-supports together, a belt extending around the wearer and connected at each end to the adjustable band, a belt passing around the waist of the wearer, an adjustable support between the adjustable band and the belt, a flexible cord or band passing around the neck of the wearer and connected to the adjustable band, an abdominal supporter consisting of a disk shaped to conform to the abdomen, a strap extending upward from the disk and removably secured to the belt provided with slots formed through the same, a strap passing through said slots and extending around the hips of the wearer, and means for supporting said strap at the rear from the belt, as specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto affixed my signature in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

FRANK SCHMITT.

Witnesses:
MORRIS M. VON MOSKOVITZ,
L. W. MORRISON.