Aug. 20, 1929. M. VON HALLE 1,725,115

BODY SUPPORTING MEANS

Filed July 24, 1926

Fig. 1.

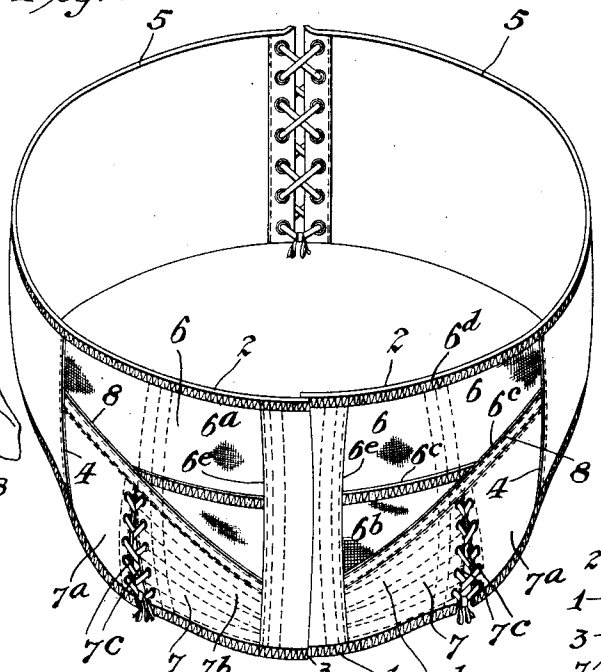


Fig. 4.

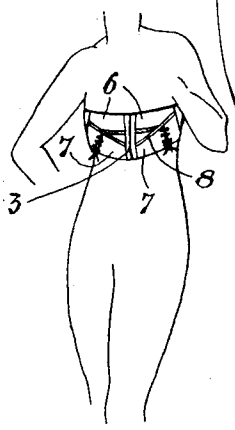


Fig. 3.

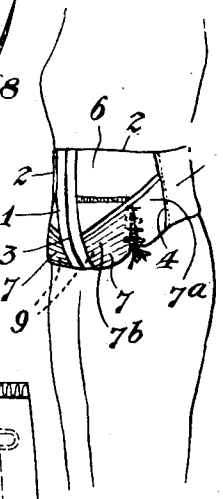
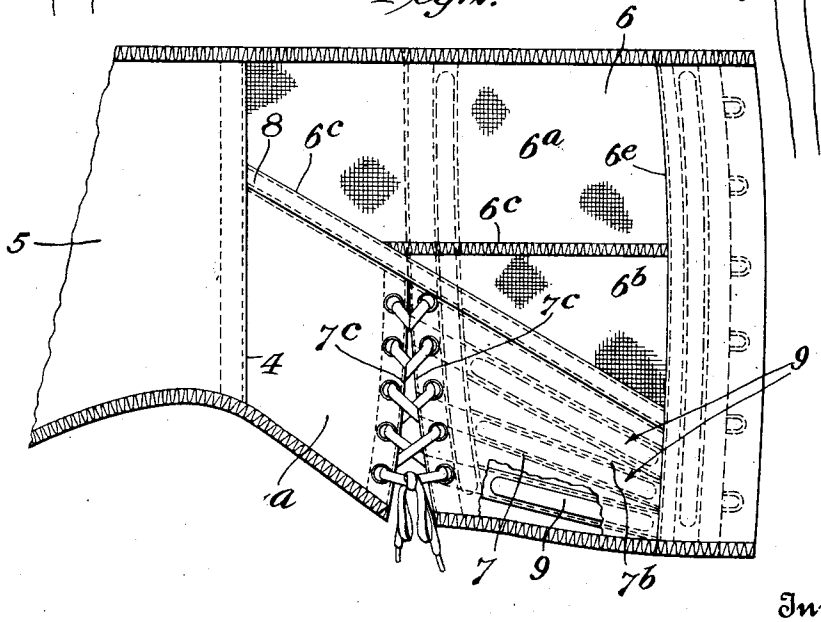


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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BODY-SUPPORTING MEANS.

Application filed July 24, 1926. Serial No. 124,606.

This invention relates to body supporting means such as abdominal and bust supports and has for its object the lifting and supporting of such parts of the body as because of weight or of weakness of the parts may need such artificial support or to improve the appearance of the wearer.

This invention may be applied to various articles of apparel such for instance as belts, girdles, corsets, brassières, bandeaux, abdominal and bust supports and may be made in various ways.

In the accompanying drawings, the invention is disclosed in a concrete and preferred form in which

Figure 1 is a front view, partly in perspective of the body supporting means of this invention applied to a belt for the purpose of abdominal support.

Figure 2 is a side elevation of a portion of Fig. 1.

Figure 3 is a view showing the body supporting means of Fig. 1 applied to the human form: and

Figure 4 is a view showing the body supporting means of this invention embodied in a bust support and applied to the human form.

1 is the body supporting means which as here illustrated is comprised of two connected members 2 and these members 2 may be fastened or connected together at 3 by any of the well know means for such purpose, such as hooks and eyes, eyelets and lacing, buttons and holes, etc.; or, they may be permanently connected together at 3 as in a manner well understood in the art. The other ends 4 of these members may be permanently or removably attached to the carrying means which as here shown in Figures 1 and 3 is a belt 5 but which of course may be any form such as a corset or corsetlet, to the inside of which the body supporting means may be attached, or a girdle or bandeaux or any other form of suitable wearing apparel. The body supporting means is provided at the longitudinal center with vertical stiffening means. As here shown each of the members 2 comprises two parts 6 and 7 permanently fastened together in oblique angular relation to each other, the upper part 6 being resilient and the lower part 7 substantially non-resilient so that when the two opposed members 2 are connected together to form the body supporting means 1, as shown in Figures 1, 3 and 4, the body supporting means 1 comprises an upper resilient member composed of two parts and a lower substantially non-resilient member comprising a central portion 7^b, 7^b and end members 7^a.

The stretch of the upper resilient member is increasingly restricted in the direction of the lowermost point of that member by and along the line of joinder 8 which being oblique causes a step-by-step pull on the lower part of the body supporting means along the entire length of the line of joinder to impart throughout the lower part a lifting movement.

As here shown the upper part 6 is made of elastic webbing and is in the shape of substantially a truncated right-angle triangle, the hypothenuse 8 which forms the lower edge of the part 6. This part as here ilustrated is made of two pieces, permanently fastened together, the upper piece being irregular in shape, its lower edge 6^c being in part substantially parallel with the top edge 6^d of the part 6 and in part oblique to it; and 6^b, the lower piece, being in the shape of substantially a right angle triangle the hypothenuse of which is in the plane of the hypothenuse of the right angle triangular part 6 and forms part of that hypothenuse. The part 6, however, may be made of one piece of material and its upper edge may be of any suitable conformation. The base 6^e of the substantially right angle triangular part 6 is preferably, and as shown in the drawing herein, slightly curved inwardly in the direction of the top of the member 6.

The lower part 7 is preferably made of substantially non-resilient material and is permanently secured along it upper edge to

the lower edge of the upper part 6 with which as here illustrated it is co-extensive and is made preferably, and as here shown, in two pieces 7^a and 7^b in opposed relation to each other with their adjacent edges 7^c abutting at the top of part 7, the distance between these adjacent edges gradually increasing until the bottom of the support is reached where the distance is greatest; or, this lower part 7 may be made of one piece and a V-shaped slit made up through the bottom edge and extending to near the top edge to form the members 7^a and 7^b. The adjacent edges of the members 7^a and 7^b are here provided with means for varying their opposed relation to each other, in this instance, with eyelets and lacing; but any means for accomplishing this purpose may be used. The lower edge of part 7 may be of any suitable conformation; and that end nearest the center of the body supporting means, as here shown and preferably, is slightly curved inwardly in the direction of the bottom of part 7.

As shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3 the member 7^b of the body support illustrated is reinforced by strips of flexible material 9 so disposed as to lie in the plane of the abdominal muscles. The disposition of the reinforcement of the member 7^b may be varied to suit the needs of the wearer and may be of flexible material or rigid material and of any suitable form or may be omitted.

The adjacent edges of the connected members 2 of the body supporting means as here shown and preferably are curved inwardly in the direction of the top and bottom of the members so that the greatest girth of the supporting means is substantially at the center thereof.

From the above, it will be seen that the body supporting means of this invention produces a construction in which the lower part of the support is of greater rigidity than the upper part and that this lower part is adjustable, in respect to the girth of the wearer, independently of the upper part thus admitting of nicer and more exact adjustments than have heretofore been possible. With the construction herein provided the body supporting means when in position on the wearer lifts that part of the body to be supported (as shown in Fig. 3, the abdomen, and in Fig. 4, the bust) and supports it in elevated position and this lifting effect can be increased to suit the requirements of the wearer by adjustment of the opposed relation to each other of the members 7^a and 7^b and this without effecting any change in the upper part of the support.

The body supporting means may be attached to the carrying means permanently or removably by any of the well known means for such purpose.

I claim:

1. An article of manufacture to be placed around the body of the wearer, consisting of carrying means and body supporting means attached thereto, said body supporting means comprising an upper resilient member and a lower substantially non-resilient member, and a stiffening means extending vertically at the longitudinal center of said upper resilient member, said members secured together along a line extending on either side of said stiffening means in an upward oblique and circumferential direction to increasingly limit, in the direction of the lowermost point of said upper resilient member, the degree of stretch circumferentially of said upper resilient member, and thereby to effect, when said body supporting means is under tension as in wearing position, an upward pull along said line of joinder to distribute the lift over said resilient member and thereby lift the lower member of said body supporting means.

2. An article of manufacture to be placed around the body of the wearer, consisting of carrying means and body supporting means attached thereto, said body supporting means comprising an upper resilient member and a lower substantially non-resilient member, and a stiffening means extending vertically at the longitudinal center of said upper resilient member, said members secured together along a line extending on either side of said stiffening means in an upward oblique and circumferential direction to increasingly limit, in the direction of the lowermost point of said upper resilient member, the degree of stretch circumferentially of said upper resilient member, and thereby to effect, when said body supporting means is under tension as in wearing position, an upward pull along said line of joinder to distribute the lift over said resilient member and thereby lift the lower member of said body supporting means, said lower substantially non-resilient member comprising end members and a central portion, said end members being in opposed relation to said central portion, and means for connecting and varying the relation of the adjacent edges of said end members and central portion to cup said lower member.

3. An article of manufacture to be placed around the body of the wearer consisting of carrying means and body supporting means attached thereto, said body supporting means comprising: an upper resilient member and a lower substantially non-resilient member, said members extending from side to side across the front of the body and being secured together along a line extending, on either side of the longitudinal center of the body supporting means, circumferentially and upwardly from said center in substantially straight lines at such an angle to said center that circumferential lateral

strains on said body supporting means exert an upward pull along said lines of joinder direct from their outer ends to the center of said supporting means and substantially simultaneously produce throughout the extent of said lines of joinder lifting stresses to impart throughout said lower member a lifting movement to act against the resistance of the body.

Signed at Holyoke, in the county of Hampden and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, this 20th day of July, 1926.

MILLARD VON HALLE.