

CYRENE SMITH.
ABDOMINAL SUPPORTER.

No. 176,895.

Patented May 2, 1876.

Fig. 1.

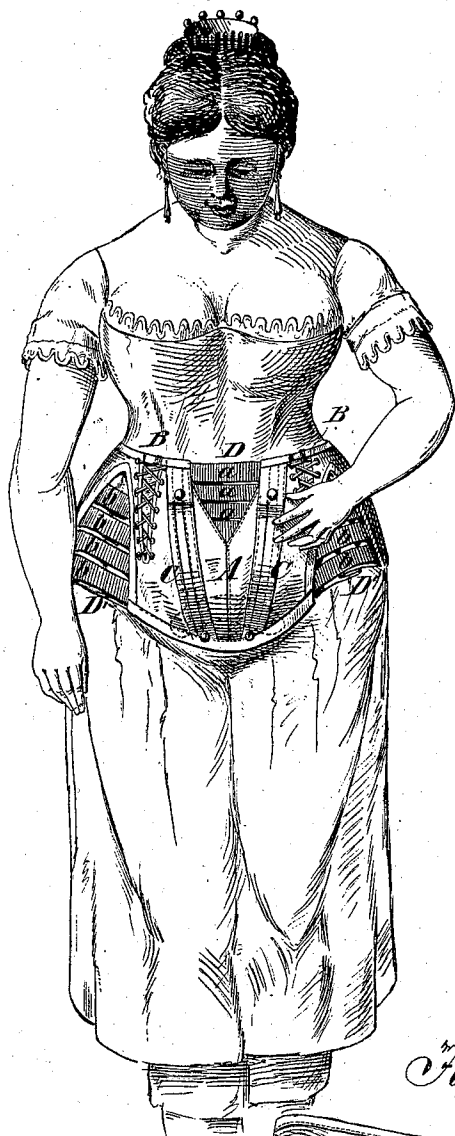


Fig. 2.

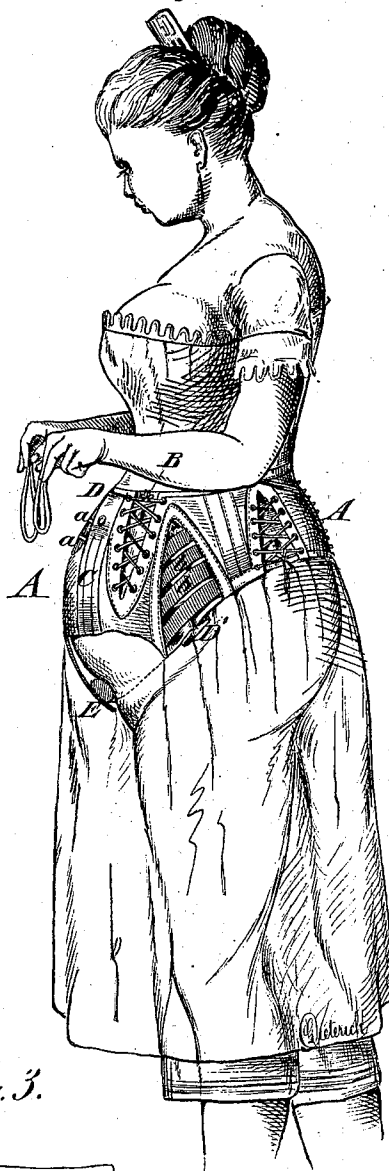
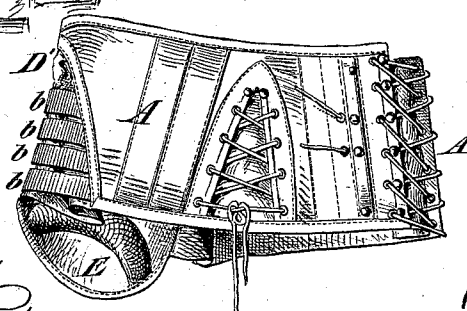


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CYRENE SMITH, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN ABDOMINAL SUPPORTERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **176,895**, dated May 2, 1876; application filed November 6, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, Mrs. CYRENE SMITH, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Abdominal Supporter, of which the following is a specification:

Figures 1 and 2 represent respectively front and side views of my improved abdominal supporter, shown as applied to the body; and Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the supporter detached, showing the back part and interior of the front portion of the same.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

The object of my invention is to furnish an abdominal supporter that may be readily adjusted to conform itself to the varying shape and condition of the body of the wearer, so as to fit neatly and comfortably to the abdomen, and support the weight of the same without causing painful sensation, being mainly adapted to the treatment of the various diseases incident to the displacement of the uterus, and a relaxed state of the abdominal parts, and for the use of women in "enceinte" state.

The invention consists of a supporter that is laced at the back, and adjusted by upper front and lower rear gussets, with lacing-strings, in connection with the front and side gussets, with elastic bands, to the condition of the abdomen. The front part is stiffened by stays, and extended to sufficient length to take up and support, by a curved anterior pad, the weight of the abdomen, and transfer it to the hips and back.

In the drawing, A represents an abdominal supporter that is provided in the usual manner with side and rear stiffening, whalebones, or stays, and laced at the back.

The rear or back portion of the supporter is of lesser width than the front part, which gradually increases in width until the lower front part extends below the point of greatest expansion of the abdomen, and is thereby enabled to take up and support the same.

The supporter A is arranged with front and rear gussets and lacing-strings B, that may be adjusted and adapted to the exact size and condition of the abdomen, so as to be fitted perfectly and comfortably to the body. The front gussets B extend symmetrically at both sides of the front stays C, from the upper edge

downward, while the rear gussets extend in similar manner from the lower edge upward.

For the purpose of adapting the supporter to the expansion and contraction of the body without producing disagreeable or painful sensations, as the same occupies different positions, an upper-front gusset, D, with elastic bands, *a*, and two lower side-gussets, D', with elastic bands, *b*, are arranged intermediately between the laced gussets C. These elastic gussets serve in connection with the laced adjustable gussets to conform the supporter, not only snugly to the general shape of the abdomen, but also to the state of the same in different positions—in walking, sitting, or bending—so that a feeling of great comfort and ease, without any cramping or drawing, is imparted to the abdominal parts of the body. The supporter is retained in the front parts in distended state by the strong front stays C, which run down from points at both sides of the elastic fronts of gussets D to the lower extremity of the front part, where they gradually approach each other, being confined by suitable rivets. To the inside of the lower front part of the supporter is attached a curved pad, E, whose central part is higher than the ends, and which serves to support the abdomen at the lowermost point, first lifting the same and throwing its weight in upward direction, and transferring and distributing it then by the supporter to the hips and back of the body.

This raising up the body is, in many cases of uterine displacement and pregnancy, of special advantage, as it furnishes direct and steady support, relieves thereby the abdominal muscles from strain, and defines and retains the uterus in position.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

An abdominal supporter, made with adjustable-laced upper, front, and rear gussets, and elastic front and side gussets, fitting the supporter to the shape of the abdomen, and adapting the same to the varying state of the same, substantially as specified.

MRS. CYRENE SMITH.

Witnesses:

PAUL GOEPEL,
T. B. MOSHER.