March 25, 1958 W. MacLAUCHLAN 2,828,057

DEVICE FOR PUTTING ON STOCKINGS

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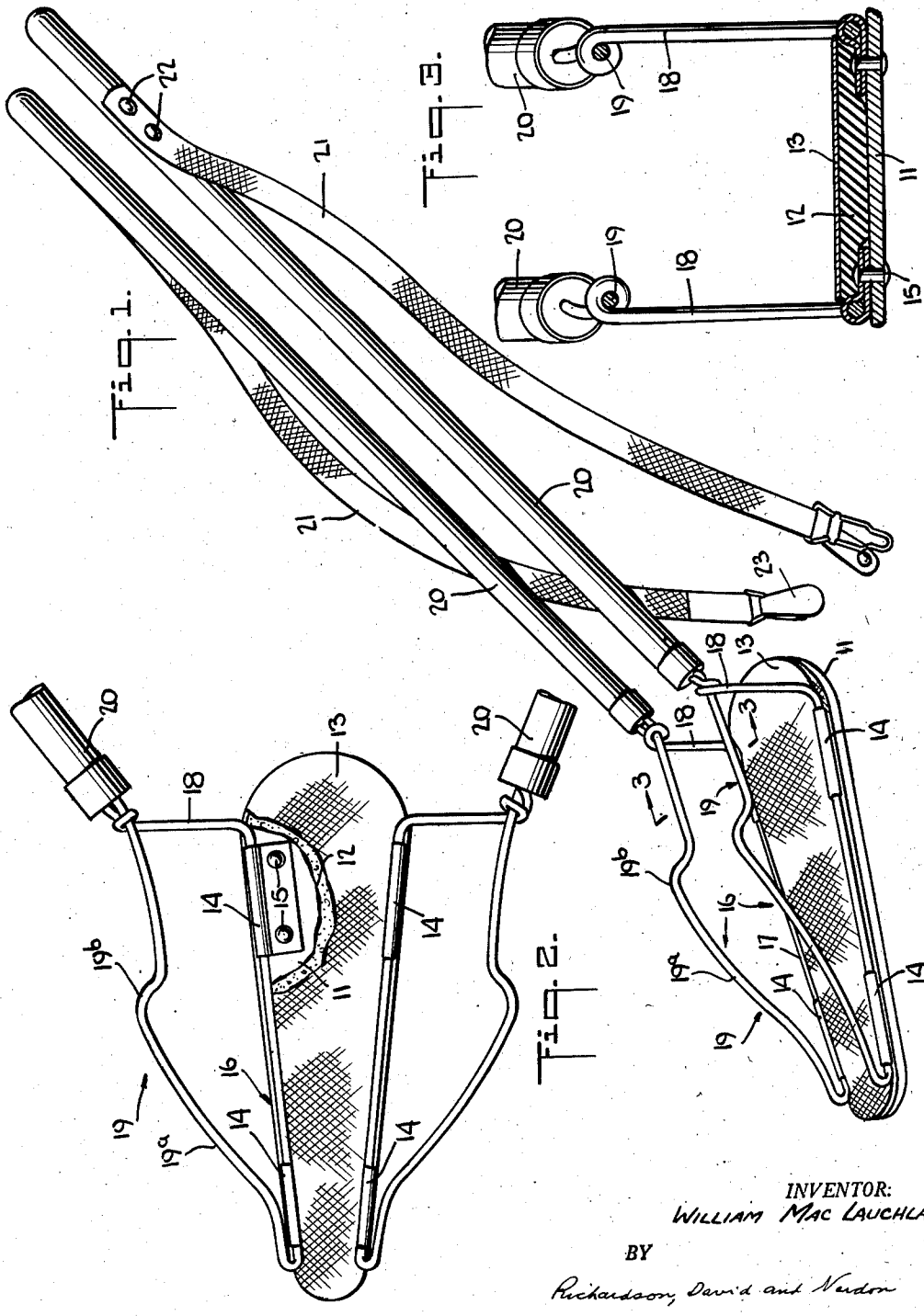


Fig. 1.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 2.

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Fig. 4.

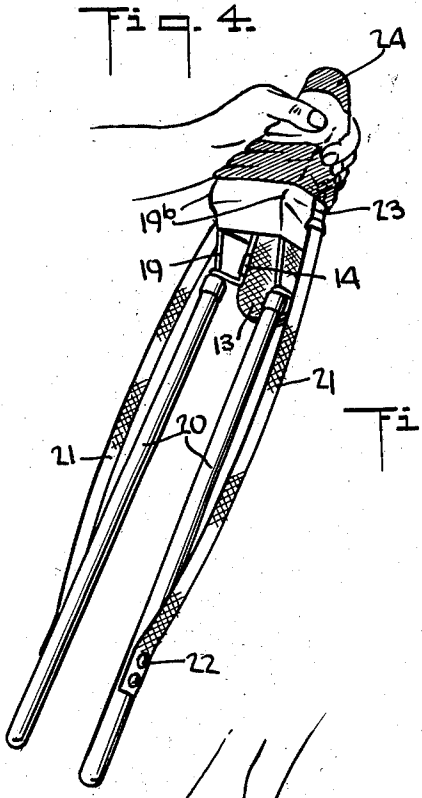


Fig. 5.

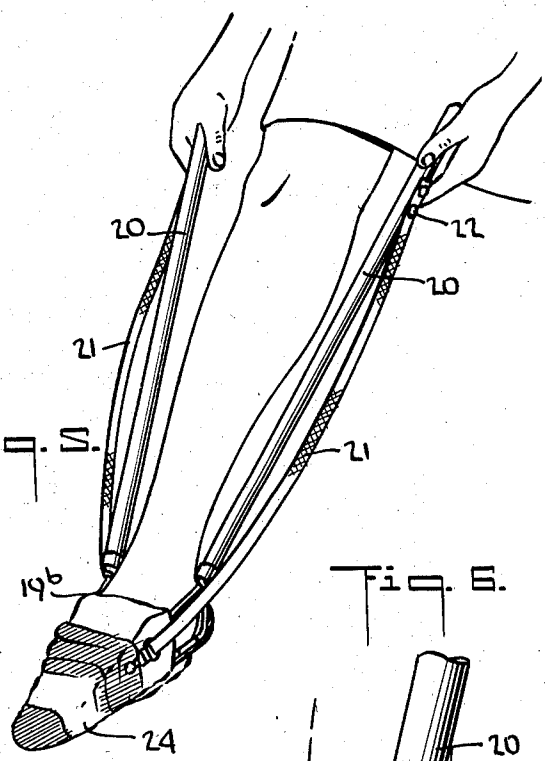


Fig. 6.

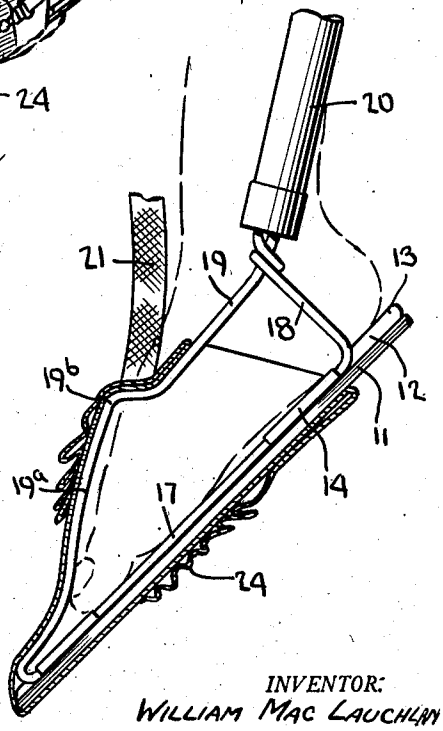
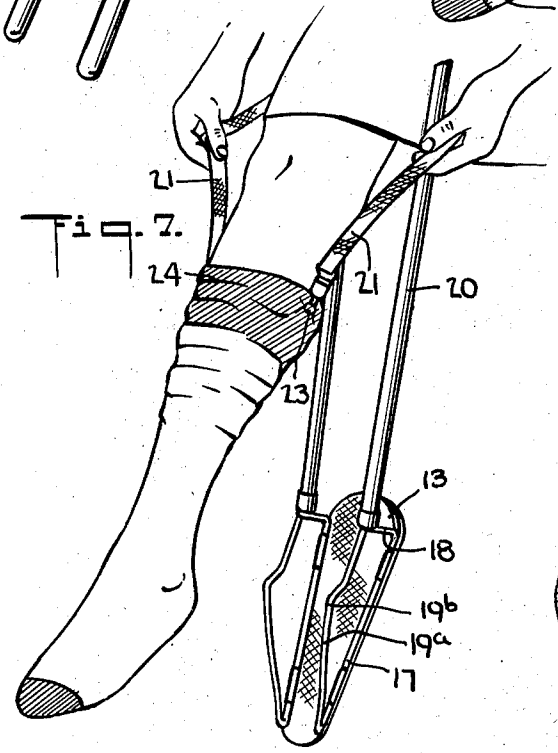


Fig. 7.



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DEVICE FOR PUTTING ON STOCKINGS

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Application July 16, 1956, Serial No. 597,962

7 Claims. (Cl. 223—111)

The present invention relates to a novel device for putting on stockings. More particularly, it relates to a novel device especially suited for aiding invalids or other people incapable of bending in the act of putting on stockings, whether the stocking extends above or below the knee.

It is generally recognized that the physical condition of invalids will be affected in direct proportion to their ability to lead normal or relatively normal lives. With invalid women, particularly, the ability to wear conventional stockings has a considerable effect on the morale of the patient.

To this end, much time and effort has been expended by family and hospital staffs in putting hose on individuals who are incapable of bending their bodies or knees and thus cannot properly position their toes in the front of the stocking, the first and basic step in putting on stockings. Efforts have been made at finding a device which will permit the invalid alone to perform this duty for the multiple purpose of making the individual feel less helpless, reducing the expenses for care, and reducing the amount of work required of already overtaxed hospital staffs.

The few devices which have been proposed for this purpose have suffered from certain major shortcomings which has mitigated against their adoption by either the individuals involved or the institutions caring for such individuals, so that at present the invalids must either avail themselves of the services of others or must do without wearing stockings. One of the disadvantages attending these prior art devices resides in the fact that they place a great stress on the stocking fabric. In addition, they require a certain amount of mobility on the part of the user if the stockings are to be properly fitted. Finally, the construction is such as to create snags and tears.

It is accordingly an object of the present invention to provide a novel device for putting on stockings which can be used with ease by individuals incapable of bending.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a device of the character described which can be used with nylon or other hose without fear of creating runs due to sharp edges or points.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device which does not place an undue strain on the stocking.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a device which is comfortable to use and which is compact so that it can be stored when not in use and will not ocupy a great deal of space, which requirement is especially important in hospital wards where the patient has

a limited amount of storage space for personal belongings.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide a device which can be manufactured inexpensively.

In accordance with the present invention, there is provided a device which includes a base for receiving the foot of the user. A pair of side members are hinged to the base and taper to the front together with the base. The side members are provided with humps so that the stockings can be brought over the front of the base with the front of the base at the tip of the stocking foot. The top of the stocking is lodged over the hump so that it will not fall down.

A pair of manipulating handles are attached to the side members and a pair of webs are attached to the handles, the webs carrying garters at their ends. The garters are attached to the top of the socking and the foot slid along the base until it reaches the front of the stocking. The handles may be used to stretch the stocking so as to facilitate entry of the foot.

When the toes are properly positioned, the handles are closed at least partially and the base together with the side members are withdrawn from the stockings, leaving the stocking on the foot. The tapers of the side members and base facilitate this withdrawal. Then by pulling up on the webs the stocking will be pulled up the leg. Because the toes were correctly positioned in the stocking at the outset, pulling will serve to locate the stocking correctly on the foot. The garters are then unhooked and the stockings can be held up in any conventional manner.

The novel device is applicable to long stockings such as nylon hose or can be aplied equally well to short hose extending only slightly above the ankle.

A preferred embodiment of the invention will now be described more fully with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the novel device;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of a portion of the device with the side members pivoted outwardly;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken along line 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing how the stocking is placed on the device of Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is a view showing how the foot of the user is inserted into the stocking which is held open by the device through use of the handles;

Fig. 6 is a side view of the foot and device shown in Fig. 5 with the stocking shown in section for a more clear understanding; and

Fig. 7 is a view showing the base withdrawn from the stocking and the stocking being pulled up by the webs or straps.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, the novel device comprises a base **11** approximately equal in length to a foot and tapered toward its front end. The base **11** is provided with a foam rubber layer **12** and a fabric cover **13**. A pair of aligned hinges **14** are provided on either side of the base **11**, the ends of the hinges **14** being secured to the base **11** by rivets **15**.

An approximately triangular wire member **16** is connected to each side of the base **11** as follows: the first leg **17** extends through a pair of aligned hinges **14** and is thus pivoted to the base; the second leg **18** projects from the base **11** at the rear thereof; the third leg **19** extends between the ends of the first and second legs **17**,

18. Each third leg 19 is bowed slightly outward at 19*a* and is provided with an intermediate hump 19*b*.

A pair of wooden handles 20 is connected to members 16 by having the ends of legs 18, 19 sunk into the handles. A fabric web or strap 21 is secured to each handle 20 by tacks 22, the webs extending at least to the humps 19*b*. The end of each web 21 is provided with a garter 23, capable of being attached to the top of a stocking in conventional manner.

In use, the operator first sees to it that the handles are in the position shown in Fig. 4. (close to each other) and fastens the garters to the top of the stocking 24. The stocking 24 is then brought over the base 11 riding along legs 19 of members 16 until it lodges beyond humps 19*b*. It is noted that in this position the heel of the base 11 is not covered by the stocking and the excess stocking is folded back toward the toe so that it will be out of the way.

The operator then separates the handles 20 which will serve to stretch the stockings if not sufficiently large. In addition, this increases the width between the portion 19*a* of members 16 to accommodate the full width of the foot. The operator then introduces her foot into the folded over portion of the stocking until it reaches the forward portion of the stocking, as more clearly shown in Fig. 6. The base 11 is then withdrawn from the stocking 24 leaving the operator's foot properly positioned in the forward position of the stocking. The forward taper of base 11 and the incline of legs 19 facilitates this withdrawal. The operator then grasps the webs 21 as shown in Fig. 7 and pulls the stocking up into the desired position. The garters 23 are then unfastened from the stocking and the operation is complete.

Thus the only portions of the novel device which come into contact with the stocking during use are the base 11 and the side members 16 up until the hump 19*b*. These portions are made smooth without any sharp or pointed surfaces so that they will not catch in the stockings and create snags or runs. To this end, the bottom of the base 11 is rounded smoothly and the hinges 14 do not extend laterally as far as the sides of the base. The forward apex of the side members 16 does not come to a point but rather is curved for the same purpose. Even the exposed heads of rivets 15 which hold the hinges 14 to the base are rounded. The foam rubber pad 12 and fabric covering 13 on the base protect the foot and stocking 24 from contact with the hinges 14 and avoid the necessity for having to recess the hinges in the top of the base. If desired, the fabric covering 13 can completely enclose the sides and bottom of the base as well as the top, in which event the base and hinges will not have to be as smooth since they will be incapable of contacting the stocking.

The base and handles are conveniently made of wood although they could be made from metal or plastic. The hinges and side members are preferably made of metal although they might also be fabricated from plastic. It will be noted that the side members could be made of sheet material rather than of wire but open wire is preferred since there is less contact with the foot of the user, an important consideration since many of the users will be suffering from feet conditions. Of course if the side members are closed sheets, the hinging will be modified but the result will be the same.

Various changes and modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention and it is intended that such obvious changes and modifications be embraced by the annexed claims.

What I claim is:

1. A device for putting on a stocking comprising a substantially flat elongated base adapted for placement thereon of a person's foot, a pair of members extending upwardly from the sides of said base and running approximately from the front to the rear of said base, said members each being provided with a hump intermediate the front and rear of said base, a pair of rigid elongated elements respectively connected at one end with said members and extending upwardly and rearwardly of the rear end of said base, the upper ends of said elements being operative as handles for controlling placement of said base, a pair of elongated webs respectively extending from upper portions of said elements approximately to said members, and means for removably attaching the extending ends of said webs to a stocking.

2. A device for putting on a stocking comprising a flat elongated base no wider at its front than at its rear and adapted for placement thereon of a person's foot, a pair of members hinged to said base at the longitudinal sides thereof and swingable towards and away from each other above said base, each of said members extending upwardly from the front of said base to the rear thereof and being provided with an intermediate hump, a pair of rigid elongated elements respectively connected at one end with said members adjacent the rear of said base and extending upwardly and rearwardly of the rear of said base, the upper ends of said elements being operative as handles for controlling placement of said base, a pair of webs respectively connected at one end with upper portions of said elements and extending at least to said humps, and means for removably attaching the extending ends of said webs to a stocking.

3. A device as defined in claim 2, wherein each of said members is approximately triangular, the first leg of the triangle extending along a side of said base, the second leg projecting away from said base, and the third leg connecting the ends of the first and second legs and being provided with an intermediate hump, each element being connected to a respective member approximately at the joinder between the second and third legs.

4. A device as defined in claim 3, wherein each third leg is bowed slightly outward away from the other third leg.

5. A device for putting on a stocking, comprising a substantially flat base approximately the length of a foot and tapered forwardly, a pair of approximately triangular wire members, the first leg of each member extending along a side of said base, the second leg projecting away from said base adjacent the rear thereof, and the third leg connecting the first leg adjacent the front of said base with the second leg and being provided with an intermediate hump, each of said first legs being pivotally connected to a respective side of said base for rotation about its longitudinal axis for swinging said wire members towards and away from each other above said base, a pair of rigid elongated elements respectively connected at one end with said wire members rearwardly of said humps and extending upwardly and rearwardly of the rear end of said base, the upper ends of said elements being operative as handles for controlling placement of said base, a pair of flexible webs respectively connected at one end to said elements at positions remote from said base and extending at least to said humps, and a garter at the other end of each of said webs.

6. A device as defined in claim 5, including a soft pad on said base approximately equal in thickness to the diameter of the wire of said members, and a fabric covering for said pad.

7. A device for putting on a stocking, comprising a smooth substantially flat base approximately the length of a foot and tapered forwardly, a pair of aligned hinges positioned on said base adjacent each side thereof at the front and rear of said base, a pair of approximately triangular wire members, the first leg of each member extending through a respective pair of said aligned hinges, the second leg projecting away from said base adjacent the rear thereof, and the third leg extending from the front end of said first leg toward the end of said second leg, said third leg being provided with an intermediate hump and being bowed slightly outward away from the

other third leg, a foam rubber pad on said base between said third legs, a covering for said pad, a pair of rigid elongated elements, the meeting ends of the second and third legs of each member being connected to one end of each of said elements, whereby said wire members can be pivoted relative to said base by operating the other end of said elements operating as handles, a pair of webs connected at one end to said elongated elements adjacent

their ends remote from said wire members and extending beyond the humps of said members, and a pair of garters respectively attached to the other ends of said webs.

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