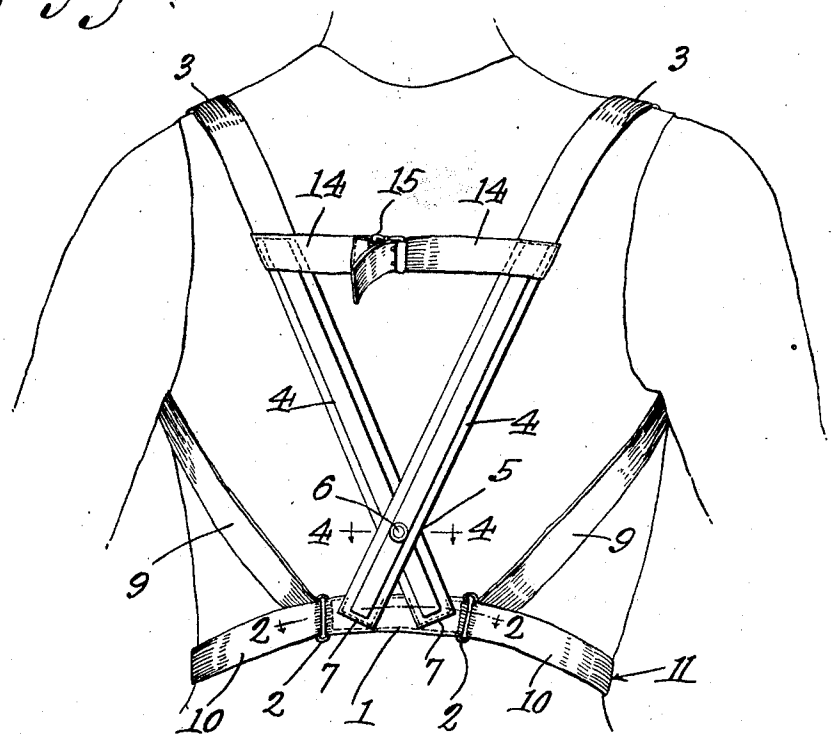
June 8, 1926. 1,587,716

L. A. FRITSCH

SHOULDER BRACE, CHEST, AND LUNG EXPANDER

Filed Nov. 14, 1925 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.



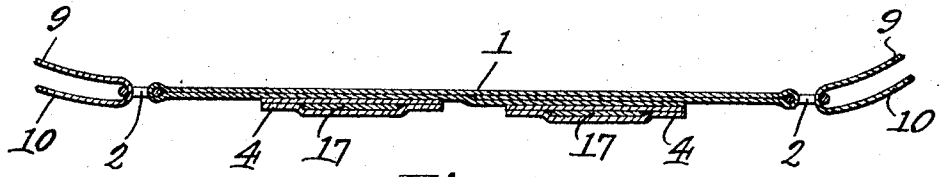


Fig. 2.

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Fig. 3.

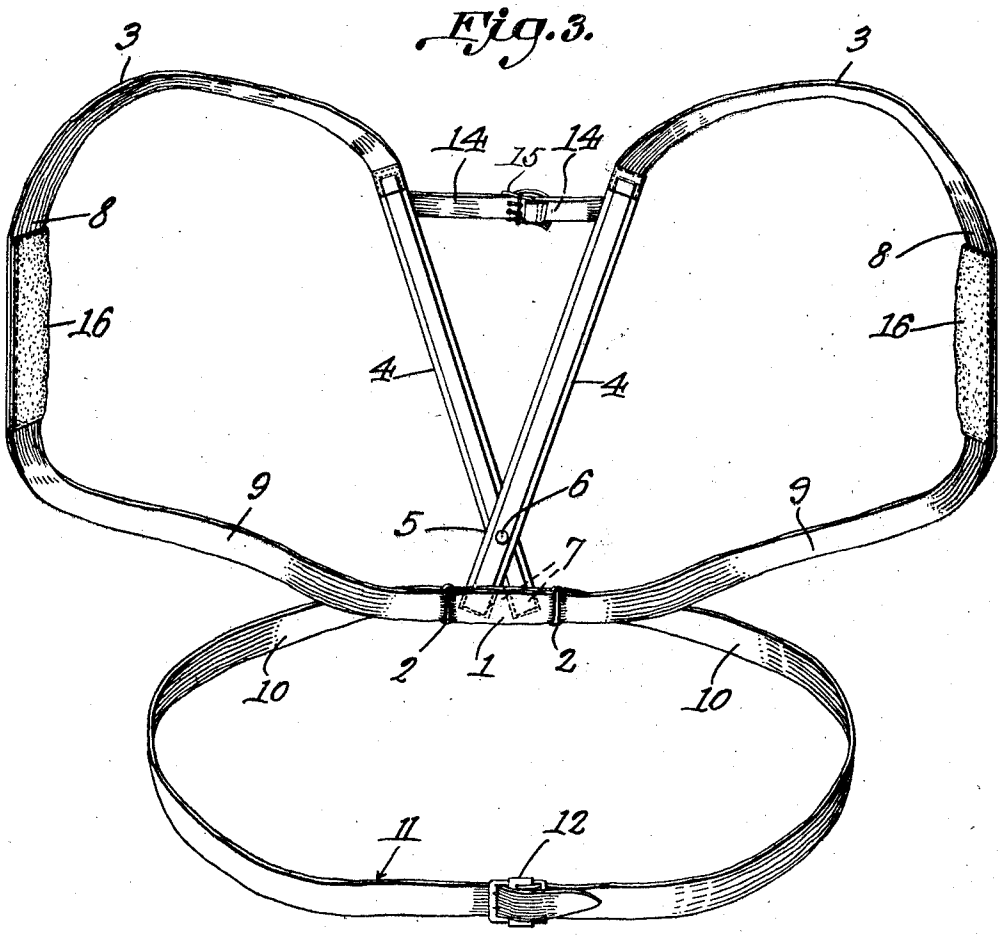
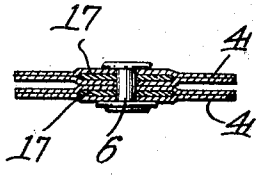


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEWIS A. FRITSCH, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO.

SHOULDER BRACE, CHEST, AND LUNG EXPANDER.

Application filed November 14, 1925. Serial No. 69,147.

The device forming the subject matter of this application is a shoulder brace and chest and lung expander, combined, and one object of the invention is so to construct the article that it may be taken off the body and folded into a small parcel, adapted to be placed in the pocket of a garment, it being possible for the store-keeper or shipper to stow away a large number of the devices, in small space.

Another object of the invention is so to construct the article that the fitter may place the stays directly on the shoulder blades, the stays pressing inwardly and tending to straighten round shoulders without cutting under the arms.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device of the class described which may be washed or laundered readily.

The invention aims so to construct the article that but two stays will do the work, thereby dispensing with a large number of stays.

Another object of the invention is to construct the article in such a way that it may be adapted readily for narrow or broad shoulders.

It is within the province of the disclosure to improve generally and to enhance the utility of devices of that type to which the invention appertains.

With the foregoing and other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention resides in the combination and arrangement of parts and in the details of construction hereinafter described and claimed, it being understood that changes in the precise embodiment of the invention herein disclosed, may be made within the scope of what is claimed, without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In the drawings:—

Figure 1 shows in rear elevation, a device constructed in accordance with the invention; Figure 2 is a section taken about on the line 2—2 of Figure 1; Figure 3 is a view wherein the device appears in perspective, as seen from the front; Figure 4 is a section taken about on the line 4—4 of Figure 1.

The device forming the subject matter of this application comprises a flexible back piece 1 supplied at its ends with guides 2 in the form of eyes. Flexible shoulder loops 3 are supplied, the rear portions 4 of the shoulder loops 3 being crossed upon each other, as at 5, and being connected, at their point of crossing, by a pivot element, such as a two part rivet 6. The lower extremities of the rear portions 4 of the shoulder loops 3 are connected at 7, by stitching or otherwise, with the back piece 1, at points between the guides 2. The forward portions 8 of the shoulder loops 3 are extended rearwardly, as at 9, through the guides 2, to slide therein, the rearwardly extended portions 9 of the loops being prolonged laterally in opposite directions, as at 10, from the guides 2, to fashion a body-encircling belt 11, of which the back piece 1 forms part. Any suitable means, such as a buckle 12, or its equivalent, may be provided for adjustably connecting together the ends of the belt 11 at the front of the device. A means is provided for adjustably connecting together the rear portions 4 of the shoulder loops 3, above the place where the said rear portions of the shoulder loops are connected by the element 6. Having this consideration in mind, transverse straps 14 are joined at their outer ends to the parts 4 of the shoulder loops 3, the inner ends of the straps 14 being united by a buckle 15 or otherwise, the construction at this point being such that the device is adapted to broad shouldered persons, and to persons having narrow shoulders. Pads 16 are mounted on the forward portions 8 of the shoulder loops 3, and prevent those parts of the loops from annoying the wearer.

Stays 17, preferably made of steel or other resilient material, are mounted in the rear portions 4 of the shoulder loops 3 and are held against longitudinal movement therein, the rivet 6 passing through the stays 17 at their point of crossing, the construction being such that the stays 17, with the corresponding parts 4, may be adjusted laterally, so as to bring the stays into proper position with respect to the shoulder blades of the wearer. The stays 17 extend downwardly to and upon the back piece 1, and extend upwardly to the adjusting straps 14.

It will be obvious that when the occasion for the use of the device has passed, the rear portions 4 of the loops 3, and the stays 17, may be swung together, in alignment, on the pivot element 6, thereby enabling the article to be disposed in small compass, either in the pocket of the wearer, or in a storage receptacle.

Owing to the collapsible or accordion effect obtained by the use of the rivet or pivot element 6, several persons of different sizes may be fitted with one size of brace or expander. Thus, one article may be used by different members of one family, the article being passed from one member to another, as a cure is effected. A single article only, thus, may be purchased, saving the expense of buying two or more. Furthermore, a dealer can carry a comparatively small number of the article in stock, and, nevertheless, be able to fit a large number of customers.

What is claimed is:—

In a device of the class described, a back piece provided with guides, shoulder loops having their rear portions crossed upon each other and connected to the back piece, flexible stays in the rear portions of the shoulder loops, a pivot element connecting the stays and the shoulder loops at their point of crossing, the forward portions of the shoulder loops being extended rearwardly through the guides, to slide therein, said rearwardly extended portions of the loops being prolonged laterally in opposite directions, from the guides, to fashion a body-encircling belt, of which the back piece forms a part, means for adjustably connecting together the ends of the belt, and means for adjustably connecting together the rear portions of the shoulder loops at points near to the upper ends of the stays.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature.

LEWIS A. FRITSCH.