(12) **United States Patent**
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(54) **TRUSS, FOR HERNIA**

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John L. Price.

Letters Patent.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same, containing a description in the words of the said John L. Price, himself of his improvement in the construction of a metallic Truss, for the cure of Hernia.

To all to whom these presents shall come.

Be it known, that I John L. Price of the Town of Nicholasville in the County of Jessamine, and State of Kentucky, have invented a new and useful improvement in Surgery, in the construction of a Metallic Truss, for the immediate relief and ultimate cure of Hernia, and that the following is a full and exact description of the construction and operation of said Truss, as improved by me.

A plane convex ball of lead the convexity terminating in an obtuse ovoid base oval; the plane surface has five screws fixed in it; to two of the end screws, an elastic leather band or belt sufficiently long to pass around the body is permanently fastened to the other two end screws, and the centre screw, are fastened three short leather straps and buckles. The two buckles on the ends are for the purpose of receiving two straps the opposite end of the elastic leather band or belt to that which is fastened to the Truss, by which after the band is passed around the hips below the anterior superior spinous process of the ilium, the Truss is tightly & securely fastened within the aperture or opening through which the Hernia protrudes. To the leather band that passes around the body and from four to eight inches from the Metallic Truss, a strap is sewed called a thigh strap, that passes obliquely around the thigh, or rather over the gluteii muscles above the head of the thigh bone, and around the upper back & front part of the thigh and

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used is fastened to the buckle attached to the centre screw for the purpose of more securely fastening the Truss to the part to which it is applied, and preventing the apex of the instrument from turning down which would remove its pressure from the neck of the sack in Ventral and femoral Hernia, and consequently permit the escape of the bowel or other viscera in either of these varieties of the disease. This metallic Truss, with its bands for the body & thigh, as above described, is designed to give immediate relief, and ultimately, radically cure Ventral, femoral, inguinal and ventral Hernia, and with a shoulder strap instead of a thigh strap umbilical Hernia after the protruding viscera is reduced (returned to it's or their proper cavity) the aperture through which the bowel or omentum, or both, or other viscera passed, is to be found, into which the apex of the Truss is to be introduced, and and tightly fastened there by means of the bands that pass around the hips and thigh, and the buckles designed for their reception. By the pressure thus applied by the elastic bands and the weight of the truss, the largest Ventral and femoral Hernia can be securely kept up. The apex of the Truss presses on the neck of the sack in these two varieties of Hernia (Ventral and femoral) and keeps it empty and by its continual pressure excites irritation, and a slight degree of inflamation and effusion of coagulable lymph. by which actual agglutination of the neck of the sack takes place and produces a radical cure. In Inguinal & ventral Hernia, there is simply a tumour like protrusion of the viscera at the abdominal ring, in the one case, and through some part of the walls of the abdomen in the other. The Truss is applied to these varieties of the disease, in the same manner that it is to the others (Ventral and femoral). In inguinal Hernia it acts upon the same principle, and closes the abdominal ring. In ventral and umbilical Hernia, the pressure of the Truss

affords

affords a radical cure, by confining the protruding viscera within their cavity and by inducing a contraction of the parieties in the ventral & umbilical regions of the abdomen in obedience to a well known principle, that all hollow parts have to adapt themselves to their contents. In umbilical Hernia this Truss is firmly applied by buckling the band tightly around the body, and by using a shoulder strap to keep it from descending, instead of a thigh strap. When this Truss is applied as above described, to Scrotal, femoral, & inguinal Hernia, it has a rotary motion up and down, and from side to side, and accommodates itself to the various motions of the body, while at the same time, its apex is fixed and keeps up a proper degree of Pressure. As it can be worn without inconvenience, it is not to be taken off day or night, until a radical cure is effected in all or either of the five varieties of Hernia enumerated. It is the only truss in existance, that I have any knowledge of, that is equally applicable to these different varieties of this disease, and that will as certainly give immediate relief and ultimately cure, as that it is applied. From the successful trials I have made on labouring men, as well as on those who can, and do take their ease, I am fully convinced, that this improved Truss is better adapted to give relief to officers & soldiers in the army & Navy, than any other device suited for their use. A soldier or labouring man, who are the subjects of Hernia, and unable to discharge their duty in the camp, or on the farm, would be rendered as capable of discharging their respective duties by the application of this Truss, as they would be were they not the subjects of that affliction. This fact I have demonstrated in labouring men, and trust that soldiers will soon enjoy the same benefits.

Witnesses
James Leigh
Saml. D. M. Cullough

Wm L. Price M.D.