

J. WOODS.
ABDOMINAL SUPPORT.
APPLICATION FILED OCT. 24, 1916.

1,250,407.

Patented Dec. 18, 1917.
2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

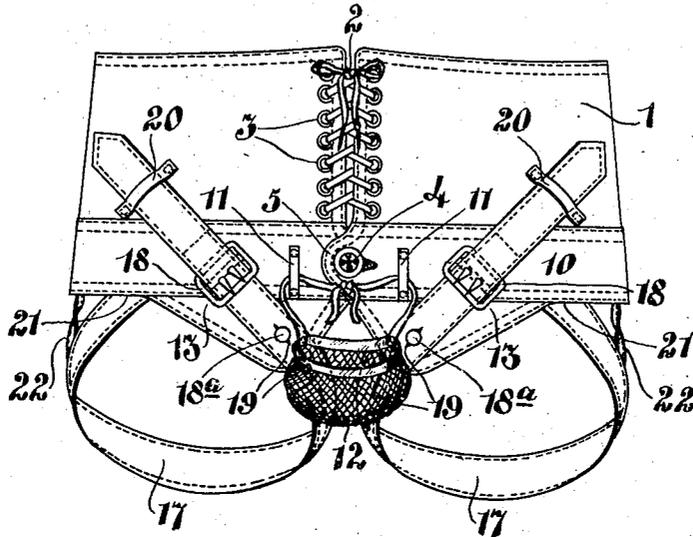
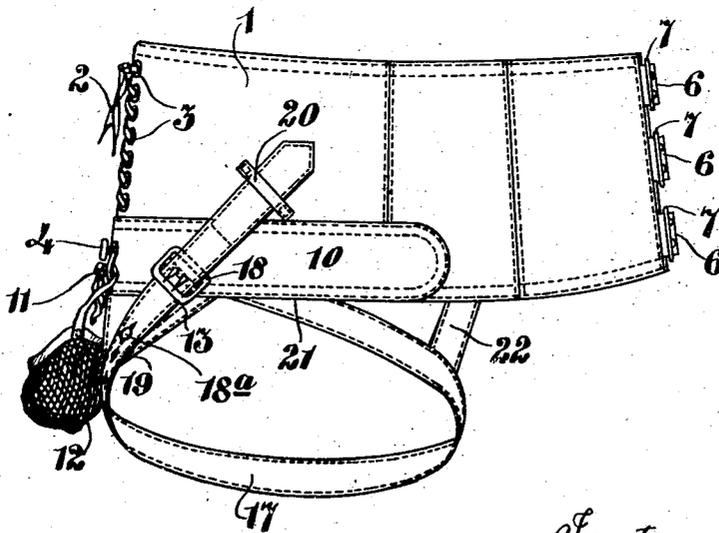


Fig. 2.



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 3.

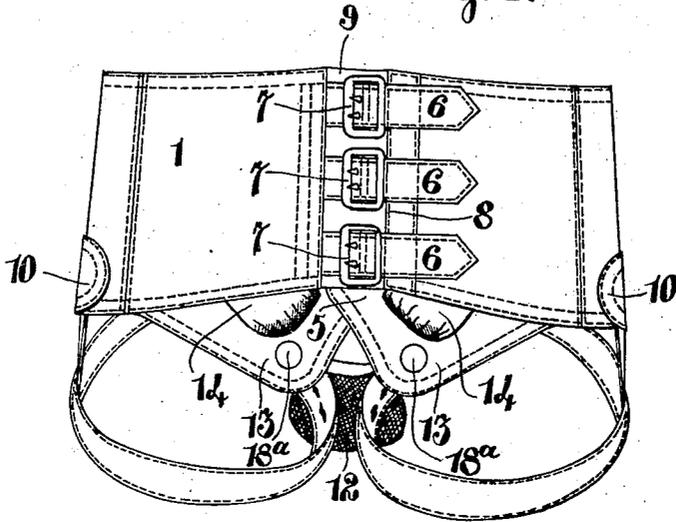
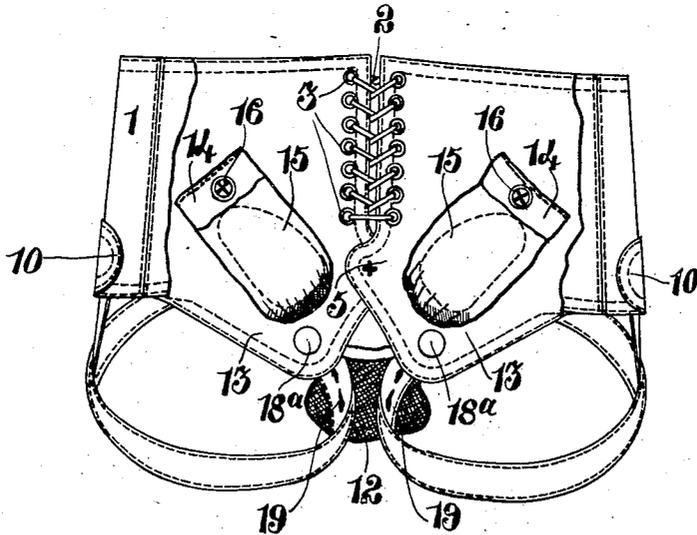


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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ABDOMINAL SUPPORT.

1,250,407.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 18, 1917.

Application filed October 24, 1916. Serial No. 127,406.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH WOODS, subject of the King of Great Britain and Ireland, residing at 12 Panoff's Buildings, Hankow, China, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in or Relating to Abdominal Supports, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improved abdominal support which can be adjusted around the body as desired to suit the wearer's requirements. It is well known that the ordinary truss is made of a band of steel or other material of a like nature which owing to its inflexibility is liable to press on the body and cause irritation; moreover the rupture pads are apt to press upon the affected part either too little or too much and the band itself is liable to slip out of position with the movements of the body; but with my improved form of abdominal support such disadvantages are effectively overcome.

According to my invention the support consists of a broad belt of fabric such for example as drill or similar light material adapted to be worn around the hips and lower part of the abdomen. This belt is furnished with two pockets in the inside, in both or either of which the rupture pads may be placed, and the pockets are arranged to cover the affected part or parts and if desired may be made adjustable so as to permit them to be placed in various positions to suit the wearer's requirements.

The front of the belt is made to lace up and this laced portion preferably terminates at its lower end in a button. A further feature of the invention consists in the provision of suitable straps at the rear of the belt so that better adjustment can be effected.

The belt is secured to the wearer by means of a pair of straps so that it cannot slip out of position. These straps are adjustably secured to the front of the belt by means of suitable buckles and pass downward and inward toward the rear of the belt and are subsequently turned outward and their other ends secured to the sides of the belt in any convenient manner. Further these straps are supported from the bottom of the belt at a convenient distance therefrom by means of a strip or strips of fabric or other suitable material.

By this arrangement of strapping the ab-

dominal support can be adjusted around the body so that the rupture pad or pads press upon the affected part with the desired degree of pressure, and the laced and strapped portions of the belt can be tightened to the wearer's comfort over the breathing part of the upper abdomen, and the support will be held in one position with all the varying movements of the body.

A pouch or suspensory sling is provided upon the front of the abdominal support and is intended to support the testes in the case of a very low rupture or hernia. The pouch is attached to the support by straps or tapes and is preferably made so that it can be adjusted to suit the wearer or can be entirely removed as desired.

It will be appreciated that my improved abdominal support can be worn with comfort and good effect not only by persons suffering from rupture but also by those who have to stand long hours in their various occupations and who are liable to strain in the abdominal regions.

In order that my invention may be more readily understood, reference is had to the accompanying drawings wherein one form of support is shown by way of example and in which:—

Figure 1 is a front elevation;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation;

Fig. 3 is a rear view, and

Fig. 4 is a similar view to Fig. 3 with a portion of the belt removed.

Referring to the drawings the abdominal support comprises a broad belt 1 of drill or other suitable material adapted to be worn around the hips and lower part of the abdomen. The belt 1 is made in two separate portions which are adjustably secured together at the front by a lace 2 passing through holes or eyelets 3 arranged near the forward extremities of the two portions. A button 4 arranged on overlapping members 5 and beneath the laced portion of the belt 1 helps to keep the same firm and tight across the affected part. The two portions forming the belt 1 are connected together at the rear of the support by straps 6 secured to the extremity of one portion and engaging buckles 7 connected by loops to a strengthening strip 8 upon the opposite portions. The portion of the belt to which the strengthening strip 8 is attached subsequently continues inward to form a tongue 9 which covers the gap behind the straps 6

(see Fig. 3). This arrangement permits of a better adjustment of the belt inasmuch as the rear straps 6 can be moved first to give a rough adjustment after which the lace 2 can be tightened according to the build of the person wearing the support and the pressure required.

The forward half of the belt 1 is reinforced near its lower edge by a strip 10 preferably of the same material as the belt, and upon this strip 10 is sewn a pair of loops 11 arranged one on each side of the button 4. These loops 11 receive the tapes of a pouch or suspensory sling 12 which may be of any well known form and which can be adjusted or entirely removed as desired. The primary object of this pouch 12 is to support the testes in the case of a very low rupture or hernia.

Below the laced portion of the belt is provided two depending portions 13 which are shown in the drawings to be made in one with the belt 1, and at the rear of these portions (inside the belt) are provided a pair of pockets 14 which carry removable rupture pads 15. The pockets 14 are kept closed to prevent the pads 15 from slipping out, by buttons 16 sewn to the belt 1 and passing through button holes near the upper extremities of the pockets; thus by unfastening the buttons the pads can be readily removed if it is desired to wear the support without them.

In order to secure the support firmly upon the affected part without shifting during the various movements of the body, a pair of straps 17 are provided upon the belt 1, and are adjustably attached to the front of the belt by suitable buckles 18 connected by loops to the reinforced strip 10. These straps 17 are so arranged upon the front of the belt that they lie over the depending portions 13 and are maintained flat thereon by studs 18^a passing through one of a series of button holes 19 in the straps 17. The free ends of these straps pass beneath loops 20

which keep them flat upon the belt 1. From the depending portions 13 the straps pass downward and inward toward the rear of the belt 1 as shown and subsequently turn outward and forward and their ends are permanently secured at 21 to the side of the belt. Each strap is further supported at a convenient distance from the lower edge of the belt 1 by strips 22 of cloth or other suitable material. By this arrangement the straps 17 embrace and lie flat upon the thighs, when the support is placed around the body of the wearer, and do not chafe the flesh.

It will be understood that the hereinabove dispositions are given by way of example and the forms and dimensions can be varied according to the circumstances without departing from the principle of the invention.

What I claim as my invention and desire to obtain by Letters Patent is:—

In an abdominal support, a broad belt formed of two portions of fabric laced together at the front and provided with buckles and straps for connecting the two portions together at the rear, whereby a double adjustment is provided, a depending portion on each belt section at the front end thereof each provided with a stud at the lower end thereof, pockets sewed to the front inner portions of the belt sections, removable rupture pads for insertion in said pockets, a pair of straps for the belt, buckles and loops for the straps located on the front of the belt, said straps being secured at their ends to the sides of the belt and passing downward and inward toward the rear of the belt and then forward and outward and adjustably secured to the buckles and loops, and held positively in position by the studs at the lower end of the depending portions passing through holes in the straps, said straps being further attached to the belt portions intermediate the ends of said straps.

JOSEPH WOODS.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."