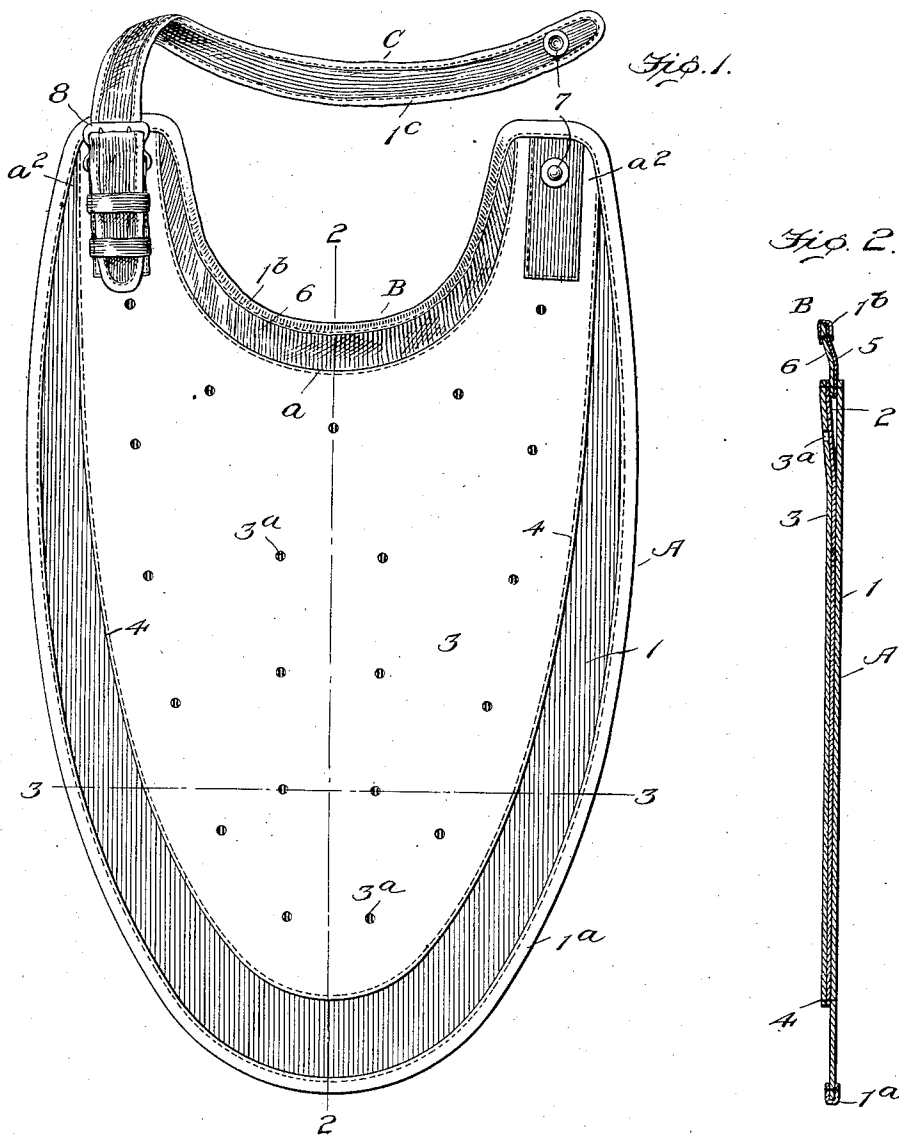


E. C. R. SCHMIDT.
CHEST PROTECTOR.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EMIL C. R. SCHMIDT, OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK.

CHEST-PROTECTOR.

1,016,444.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EMIL C. R. SCHMIDT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Rochester, in the county of Monroe and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Chest-Protectors; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to the construction of that class of chest protectors which are worn next to the person, or intermediate of the underwear, and which have for their purpose the protection of the chest and base of the neck, and that portion of the person of the wearer, which, by reason of the cut of the outer garments now commonly worn, is left exposed or illy guarded against wind and changes of temperature.

As is well recognized by all thoughtful persons the V-shaped exposure at the upper part of the chest resulting from the common form of outer garments leaves the organs there located, and also those at the base of the neck, inadequately clothed to resist high wind and material changes of temperature, and leads to loss of vital heat which results in chronic bronchial and catarrhal affections, if not to more serious acute ailments. To counteract these conditions various forms of chest protectors and mufflers have been devised, but of the chest protectors heretofore designed for wear intermediate of the undergarments, their construction and bulk have rendered them undesirable, while in the case of mufflers designed for outer wear, they have met with scant favor by reason of their concealment of the dress or costume and their more or less unsightly appearance.

The object of the present invention is the provision of a simple and efficient chest protector which may be worn intermediate of the undergarments and will be concealed thereby, without materially increasing the bulk of the person and without marring the effect of the costume worn, and which will at the same time retain the vital heat of the person and adequately protect the upper portion of the chest and base of the neck of the wearer against changes of temperature, cold winds, &c.

To this end the main feature of my invention is embraced in a chest protector comprised of a plurality of plies or fabrics, of

different material, one of which shall be of linen, cotton or a like fabric which will maintain the shape and stability of the protector apron and cause it to apply itself smoothly to the person of the wearer, said apron provided at its upper or neck end, with a narrow band adapted to lie concealed under the collar of the wearer, thus protecting the base of the neck and preventing the dissemination of the natural heat of the body at a point below the base of the neck.

A further feature of my invention embraces the combination with the upper or neck end of the protector apron of a detachable and adjustable curved strap for securing a close fit and ready adjustment of the apron to meet the proportions of different persons.

There are other, minor, features of invention, all as will hereinafter more fully appear.

In the drawing chosen for the purpose of illustrating my invention, the scope whereof is pointed out in the claims, Figure 1 is a plan view of a chest protector embodying my invention, Fig. 2 is a longitudinal central section of the chest protector taken in the plane of the line 2—2, Fig. 1, and Fig. 3 is a transverse section of the chest protector taken in the plane of the line 3—3, Fig. 1.

Like symbols refer to like parts wherever they occur.

In the drawings, A indicates the apron of the chest protector, B a neck-band therefor, and C a strap for securing the protector in proper position on the person of the wearer.

The apron A is comprised of a plurality of plies 1, 2, 3 of different fabrics, the foundation ply 1, or that nearest the person of the wearer, being preferably the largest, while the superposed plies 2 and 3 are somewhat smaller, and are stitched securely to the ply 1, as at 4. The foundation ply 1 is preferably formed of a firm, close-woven twilled, light-weight flannel, which will insure warmth without undue bulk or excessive weight, and said ply 1 may be neatly bound at its edges, as at 1^a, with a suitable narrow braid of silk, or its equivalent. The outer or upper ply 3, may, if desired, be also of flannel of like character with that used for ply 1, or it may be of select white or light straw colored chamois, and in the latter case is preferably perforated at intervals, as at 3^a, to permit of the escape of per-

spiration, and thus prevent the absorption of any moisture by ply 3, which moisture might be communicated to the next outer garment. The intermediate ply 2 of the apron A is depended on to maintain this stability and form of the apron A and insure its close and smooth application to the person of the wearer, and for this reason is preferably formed of a firm, though flexible, material such as a close-woven linen or cotton fabric. At its upper end the multiple ply apron A is cut out or provided with a semicircular notch a for the reception of the neck of the wearer and the attachment of a narrow neck band B which terminates at the ends of the neck-notch a , and which extends up a short distance within the collar of the shirt and protects the base of the neck of the person wearing the chest protector, as well as serves to confine the heat of the body.

The narrow curved band B is usually two-ply, viz., an inner fabric 5 preferably linen, to preserve the stability and form of the band, and an outer fabric 6 which may, for the sake of appearances, be of the same character as the upper ply 3 of the apron A. As in case of ply 1 of the apron, so also this band B is preferably bound as at 1^b with silk or similar narrow braid.

The semicircular neck notch a in the upper end of apron A is made of sufficient depth to permit of the portions a^2 a^2 of the apron A extending to the top of the shoulders of the wearer, and said portions a^2 a^2 serve as points of attachment for the narrow curved strap C, whereby the apron A is supported on the chest of the wearer of the protector.

C indicates a narrow curved strap of sufficient length to extend around the neck of a person, from one portion a^2 to the other portion a^2 of apron A and to permit of adjustment to meet the requirements of different persons. This strap C may be of any suitable material, but preferably, for sake of flexibility and stability, is made of linen bound at the edges with silk or similar braid as at 1^c. At the left upper end a^2 of the apron this strap C is detachably con-

nected thereto by a ball and socket or other suitable snap connection 7, and at the right upper end a^2 of said apron the strap is adjustably secured thereto by means of a buckle 8 or in any other well known way of securing an adjustable connection between the parts.

It is to be noted that by reason of the semicircular neck-notch a and the upward extensions a^2 a^2 of the apron A, and also the narrow neck band B, effective protection is afforded to the upper portions of the lungs, the bronchi, and the trachea, and the bodily heat of the person is so retained, thus enabling the wearer to resist bronchial and catarrhal attacks. It is also to be noted, that by reason of the deep curve of the neck notch a and the slight curve of the adjustable strap C, a couple of standard sizes of aprons and straps may be readily adjusted to fit comfortably the majority of wearers without regard to their different proportions.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A chest protector of the character described, comprised of a multiple ply apron having a deep neck notch, and a narrow neck band of less thickness than the apron which neck-band is secured to the apron at the neck notch and terminates at the ends of the neck-notch.

2. A chest protector of the character described comprised of a multiple ply apron having a deep neck-notch, a narrow neck-band of less thickness than the apron, said neck band secured to the apron at the neck-notch, and terminating at the ends of the neck-notch, and a curved neck strap adjustably secured to the apron at one side of the neck notch and detachably connected therewith at the other side of the neck-notch.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

EMIL C. R. SCHMIDT.

Witnesses:

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