

G. N. TORRENCE.
LIFE-PRESERVING MATTRESS.

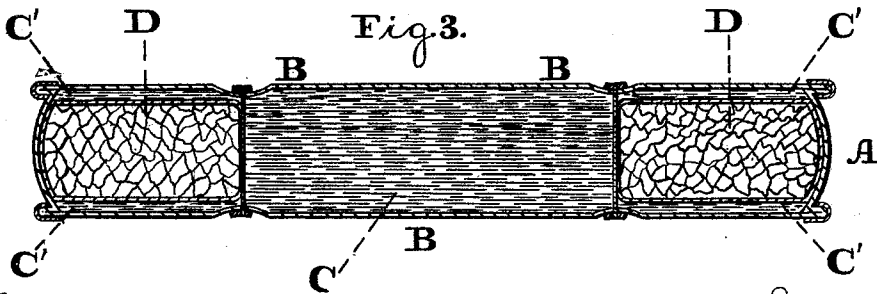
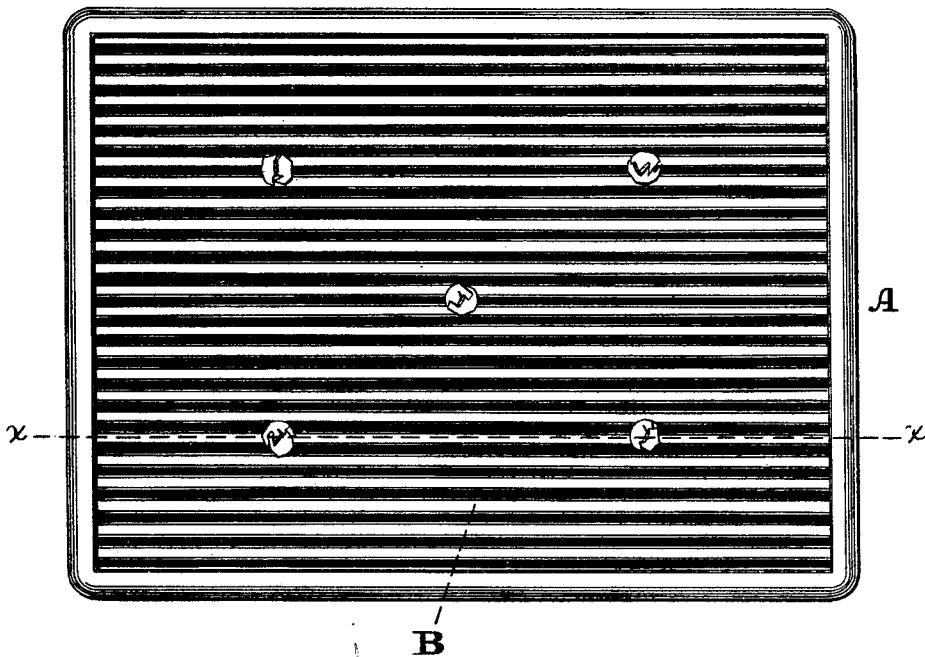
No. 181,118.

Patented Aug. 15, 1876.

Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



Witnesses:

A. P. Grant.

J. H. Hethington.

Inventor:

George N. Torrence
by *Paul Diederichsen*
Att'y

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE N. TORRENCE, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN LIFE-PRESERVING MATTRESSES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **181,118**, dated August 15, 1876; application filed October 28, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE N. TORRENCE, of the city and county of Philadelphia, and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Life-Preserving Mattresses; and I do hereby declare the following to be a clear and exact description of the nature thereof, sufficient to enable others skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to fully understand, make, and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side view of the device embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a top or plan view thereof. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section in line *x x*, Fig. 2.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

My invention consists in an ordinary mattress, having therein at its ends or sides cork or other buoyant substances, which are inclosed in bags or sacks, laid adjacent to a central filling, and inclosed by a covering common to all parts, with a light layer of mattress-filling between the bags or sacks and the covering, the operation and advantages of which will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

Referring to the drawings, A represents a mattress, of which B is the cover, and C the filling material. Within the mattress, at the ends or sides thereof, I insert, in lieu of the filling C, cork or other buoyant substance D, which is inclosed in bags or sacks, and thus

prevented from commingling with the filling C.

In order that the substance D will not be harsh or rough to the occupant of the mattress, the upper and lower faces of the bags or sacks containing said substance D will have a layer of filling material, as shown at C', so that the entire length of the mattress on both sides will present a soft and easy surface, similar to the portion occupied only by the filling material.

It will be seen that the cover B of the mattress will inclose both the filling material and the buoyant substance, and that while the mattress presents the appearance, and has all the advantages, of an ordinary bed-mattress, it has also buoyant qualities, which are available, in the event of shipwreck and other accidents, for purposes of saving life.

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

The life-preserving mattress, consisting of the centrally-arranged mattress-filling C, the end or side buoyant substance D, inclosed in bags or sacks, which are enveloped by the covering B, common to all parts, and a layer of filling intermediate of the bags and the said cover B, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

GEO. N. TORRENCE.

Witnesses:

JOHN A. WIEDERSHEIM,
A. P. GRANT.