

MARY S. LARNED.
Abdominal-Supporters.

No. 147,275.

Patented Feb. 10, 1874.

Fig. 2.

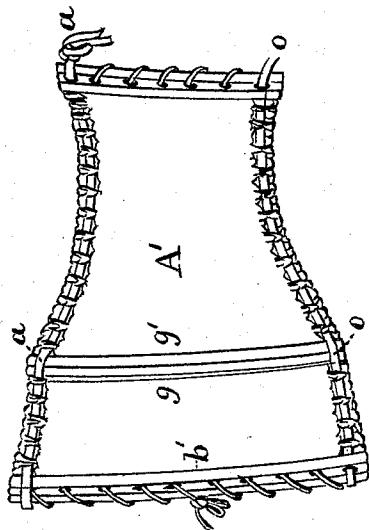


Fig. 3.

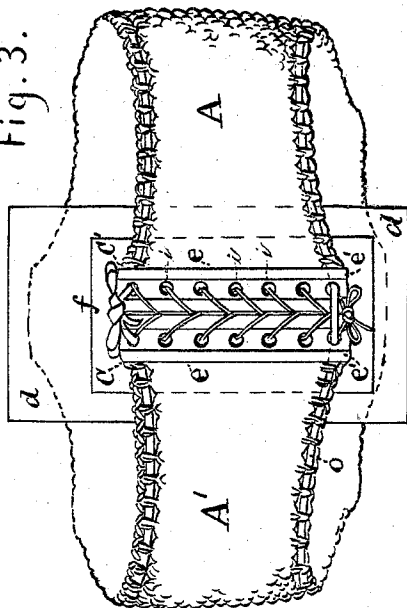
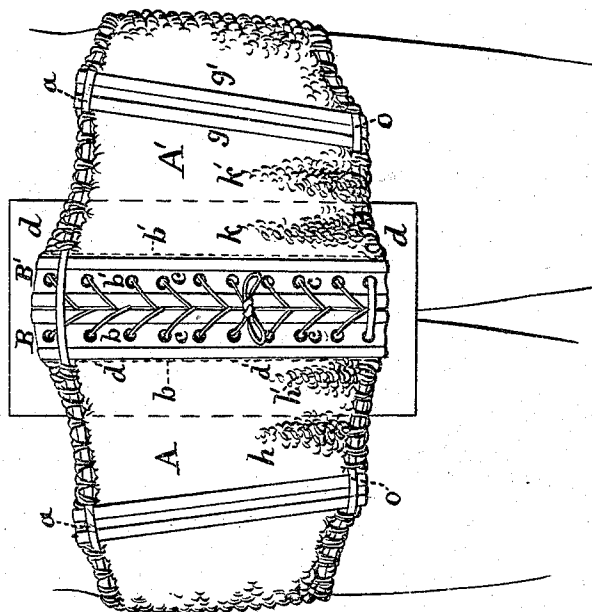


Fig. 1.



Witnesses.

H. A. Daniels,
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Inventor.

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By Louis Baggett Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARY S. LARNED, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

IMPROVEMENT IN ABDOMINAL SUPPORTERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 147,275, dated February 10, 1874; application filed October 29, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARY S. LARNED, of the city of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Self-Adjusting Abdominal Supporters; 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 pertains to make and use it, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, which forms part of this specification.

The nature of my improvements consists in providing an abdominal supporter for the use of females, which shall, by the peculiar construction of the web or material from which it is made, be self-adjusting—that is to say, shall at all times retain its position upon, and conform to, the configuration of that portion of the body for which it is destined to offer relief and support, and which, at the same time, will of itself expand in conformity with the enlargement of the abdomen during the period of pregnancy, without chafing or irritating the skin.

Having thus briefly stated the nature of my invention, I shall go on to describe it, reference being had to the drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a front view, Fig. 2 a side view, and Fig. 3 a back view, of my improved self-adjusting abdominal supporter as it appears when placed in position on the body.

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

A and A' is the body of the supporter, consisting of a knitted web, and formed, by the peculiar stitch of the knitting, in ridges that run perpendicularly up and down, or nearly so, from the top edge to the bottom edge of my supporter. This body I construct, preferably, of two parts or pieces shaped alike, and united at the front and back by eyelets and cords or their equivalents, in the usual manner, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3. The body may, however, also be made in one piece and laced in front only, or in the back only, or at one side only, without affecting the results attained by the application of my invention. *a* and *o* are elastic bands, the former running through the upper edge, and the latter through the lowermost edge, of the body of the supporter, as shown. These bands may be lengthened or shortened

in the usual manner, so as to increase or decrease the circumference of the supporter, in the usual manner, when it is found desirable to do so. The front portions of the body of the supporter are attached to narrow plaits or bands made of cotton cloth or any other suitable material, as shown at B B' in Fig. 1. At the edges of each of these plaits or bands are inserted two whalebones, *b b* and *b' b'*, or steel corset-springs covered by the cloth or other material whereof the plaits are made, and between these whalebones, which reach from the top to the bottom of the supporter, I insert the eyelets *c c c*, as shown. On the inner side of the body of the supporter, in front, there is a wide flap, made, preferably, of cotton cloth, doubled or three-ply, which extends above and below the supporter proper, as shown at *d' d* in Fig. 1. This flap is attached, on the inside, to one of the bands or plaits B B', at a line indicated by *d' d* in Fig. 1, and its object is to act as a pad to the front part of the supporter, by softening the pressure, and preventing the whalebones and corset-cords from chafing the skin of the body.

When the construction of my supporter shown in the drawing is adopted—viz., making the body thereof in two parts—an exactly similar arrangement is used for the back part thereof, as shown in Fig. 3, where C C' represent the cotton cloth plaits or bands; *c c* and *c' c'*, the whalebones; *i i i*, the eyelets; and *f' f*, the cotton flap, extending above and below the body of the supporter, precisely as set forth in the description of the front or fore part. *g* and *g'* are two whalebones or corset-steels inserted in the sides of the body of the supporter. (See Fig. 2.) On the other side of the supporter (not shown in the drawing) there are two corresponding whalebones similarly inserted and covered on the outside with cotton cloth or equivalent material.

For the purpose of adding strength and elasticity to that part of my supporter which, when applied to the body of the wearer, comes directly in front of and under the abdomen, where the pressure is greatest, I gather the knitting-stitches into close parts or sections, as shown at *h h'* and *k k'* on Fig. 1. By this arrangement of the stitches in the fabric, great

softness, flexibility, and strength are added to those parts of my improved supporter where these qualities are most essential to the relief and comfort of the wearer.

I do not claim, broadly, the construction of the supporter as hereinbefore set forth; nor do I lay any claim to the usual expediences and arrangement of whalebones, eyelets, cords, &c.

I am unaware of the employment of the same material, or of any analogous one, which is not only sufficiently porous to prevent heating, but will also force itself into and hold upon the skin. The ordinary elastic ones have rubber in them, which makes them objectionable.

I claim as a new and useful improvement, and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

A supporter formed, as above described, of a coarsely-knitted fabric, provided with the proper lacings and stiffenings, all arranged as hereinbefore set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing, I have hereunto set my hand this 13th day of October, 1873.

Mrs. MARY S. LARNED.

Witnesses:

JOHN H. WHIPPLE,
S. A. GOODWIN.