C. M. THOMAS.

TRUSS.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 11, 1921.

1,426,124. Patented Aug. 15, 1922.

Fig. 1.

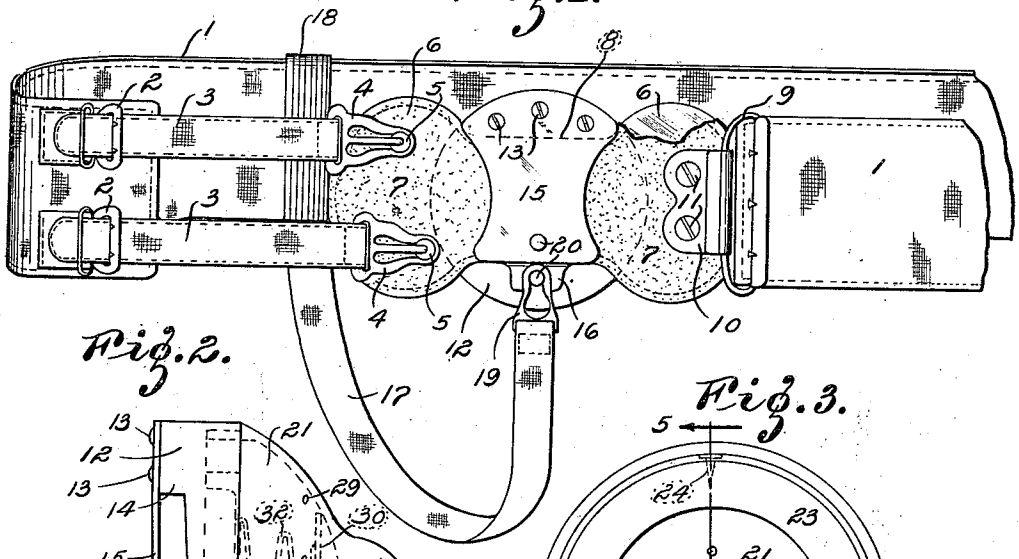


Fig. 2.

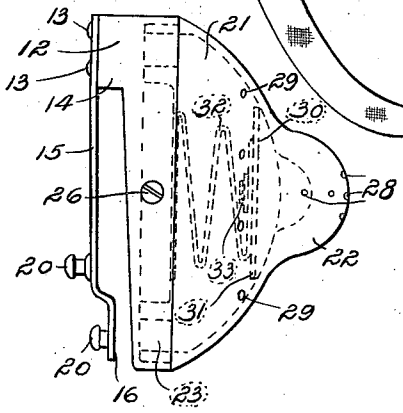


Fig. 3.

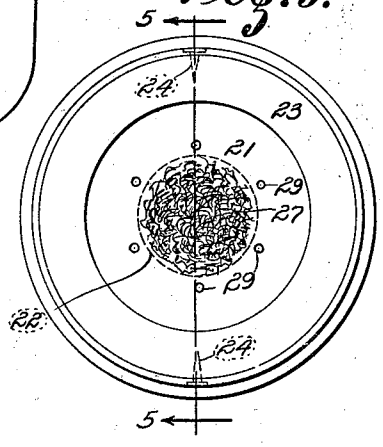


Fig. 4.

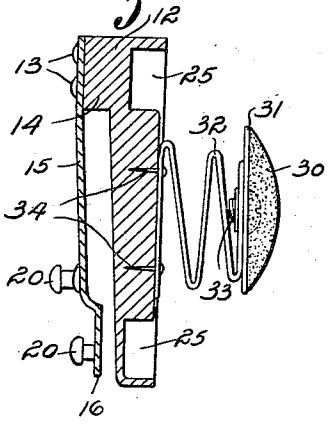
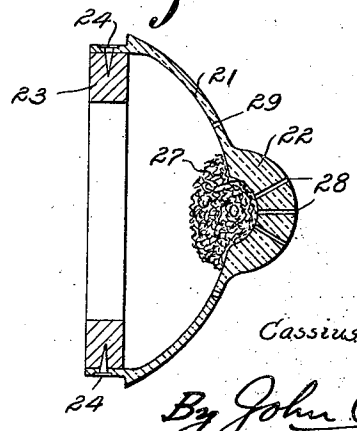


Fig. 5.



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TRUSS.

1,426,124. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 15, 1922.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CASSIUS M. THOMAS, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Louis, in the State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Trusses, of which the following is a specification, containing a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part hereof.

My invention consists in the novel construction and combination of parts hereinafter particularly described and distinctly claimed.

The object of my invention is to provide an improved rupture-feeding spring-pressed soft pad having a perforated harder or thickened nipple at its center; and an improved belt and pad-holding belt-plate; whereby the pad will more perfectly fit the rupture, and automatically support and feed the same, thereby rendering the truss highly efficient as well as comfortable, during use.

In the drawing,

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of my truss, with the belt broken away.

Fig. 2 is a detail side-elevation of the pad, detached.

Fig. 3 is a detail view of the interior of the flexible pad, detached from its hard-rubber base.

Fig. 4 is a vertical side-section of the base carrying an internal spring-pressed follower, and

Fig. 5 is a vertical section through the pad, taken on line 5—5 of Fig. 3.

The numeral 1 designates a suitable wide belt of strong flexible material, having at one of its ends common buckles 2 and elastic adjusting-straps 3 provided with button-holes or metallic fasteners 4, for detachably engaging buttons or studs 5 on one end of a belt-plate 6 made of aluminum or other stiff and waterproof flexible material.

In the present illustration of my invention the said belt-plate 6 is provided with a covering of cloth or leather 7 stitched or otherwise secured to said plate, but this covering is unnecessary in most cases, and should be omitted if the belt is to be worn when the wearer is taking a bath.

Said belt-plate 6 is reduced in width for about one-third of its length, at some distance from its ends, to form at about the center of its length a pad-holding neck 8.

The end of the belt 1 that is opposite the end to which said elastic straps 3 are attached, is provided with a single wide buckle 9 having a buckle-plate 10, and the latter is fastened to the belt-plate 6 by screws 11 or other fastening means.

Such construction of the belt provides the desired adjustment for fitting waists of varying sizes, and the said elastic straps 3 yieldingly hold the belt in place, while same is being worn.

The pad is composed of a hard-rubber circular base 12 having a shoulder 14 at its upper edge and upon its outer side, which overhangs the said pad-holding neck 8 of the belt-plate 6 when the pad-base is in place on the belt-plate, and acts as a stop, to hold the pad at the proper height on the belt-plate.

A flat wide pad-attaching and holding spring 15 has its upper end secured to the outer face of the said shoulder 14 of said pad-base 12 by means of screws 13, and said spring extends downwardly across the said neck 8 of said belt-plate 6, when the pad is in position upon said neck, and yieldingly but removably clamps the latter between the spring 15 and the outer face of the pad-base 12, the lower end or edge of said spring 15 being bent inwardly at 16, to form an inclined shoulder thereat, which passes beneath the lower edge of the neck 8 and removably holds the pad-base in the described position.

A crotch-strap 17 has its rear end connected to the rear of the belt 1 by means of a loop 18, and the front end of said strap is provided with a metallic fastening-member 19 which is adapted to engage any one of a vertical series of studs 20 projecting from the front face of said pad-attaching spring 15, to prevent the pad from moving upwardly off of the rupture.

A rupture-engaging member 21 is made of soft rubber or similar material, and it is circular at its base and is breast shaped with a central nipple 22 that has thicker or harder walls than the walls of said breast-shaped portion of the pad, so that said nipple will be pressed into the rupture when pressure is applied to said nipple from the front thereof.

Said soft pad-member 21 has a ring 23 secured within its base by means of screws 24 or other fastenings, the purpose of said ring being to stiffen the base of said soft pad-

member, and enable it to be readily secured to and detached from the said hard pad-base 12.

Said hard pad-base 12 has a circular recess 25 formed in its inner face to detachably receive and hold the reinforced base of said soft pad-member 21.

Screws 26, or the well-known bayonet-joint connection, may be used to detachably hold the reinforced base of said soft pad-member 21 in said circular recess 25 of the hard pad-base 12.

A sponge 27 or other absorbent body, is located within the hollow nipple 22, and should be kept saturataed with a suitable oil cream or flesh-food, and small ducts or openings 28 lead from said sponge to the exterior of said nipple, to continuously supply food and lubricant to the rupture.

Openings or perforations 29 are formed in the soft pad-member 21 at a point near the base of the said nipple 22, to permit the escape of any excess of oil or flesh-food not absorbed by said sponge 27.

A spring-pressed follower-pad 30 engages and yieldingly squeezes the said sponge 27, and also yieldingly urges the said nipple 22 into contact with the rupture, when my invention is in actual use.

Said follower-pad 30 has a hard base-plate 31, to which the inner end of a coiled spring 32 is secured by a screw 33, and the outer end of said spring is fixed to the inner face of said hard-rubber pad-base 12, by means of tacks 34, Fig. 4, so that said follower-pad 30 will perform the function just mentioned.

When the wearer of one of my improved trusses with an uncovered metallic belt-plate 6, desires to take a bath, he should remove from the belt 1 the surgical pad above described, and apply thereto another hard pad-base 12 carrying a dummy wooden pad, which the water will not injure.

After the bath the dummy wooden pad should be of course replaced by said surgical pad.

The operation and advantages of my invention will be readily understood without further description.

I claim:—

A truss comprising a suitable body-embracing member, a belt-plate having a reduced neck intermediate of its ends, the latter being detachably connected to said body-embracing member, a hard pad-base, a flat spring carried by the latter for detachably connecting said pad base to the reduced neck of said belt-plate, and a pad detachably carried by said pad-base.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification, in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CASSIUS M. THOMAS.

Witnesses:
JOHN C. HIGDON,
HENRY L. HIGDON.