L. C. LOWDER.

HYGIENIC GARMENT SUPPORTER.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 14, 1915.

1,276,238.

Patented Aug. 20, 1918.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

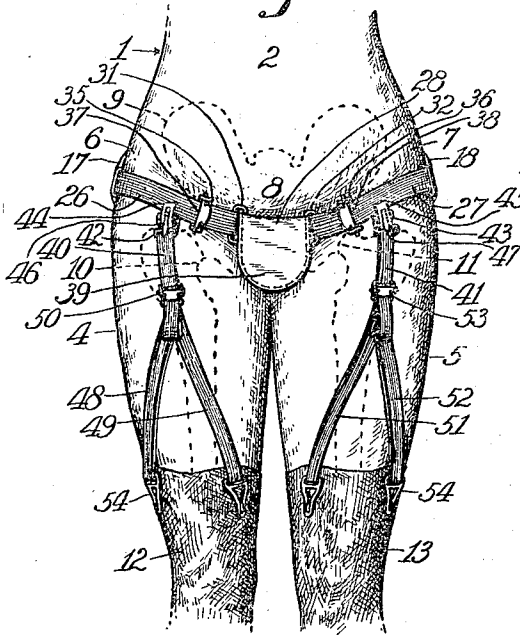


Fig. 2.

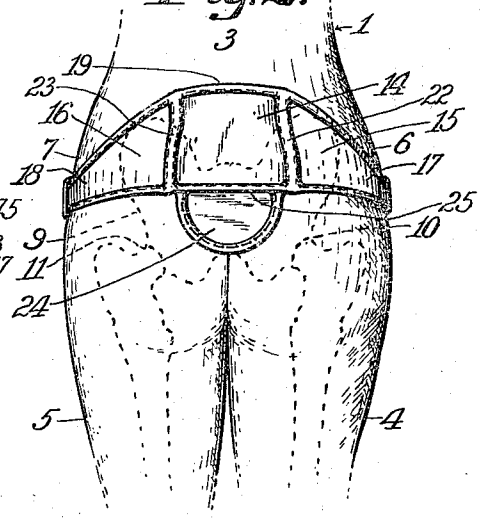


Fig. 3.

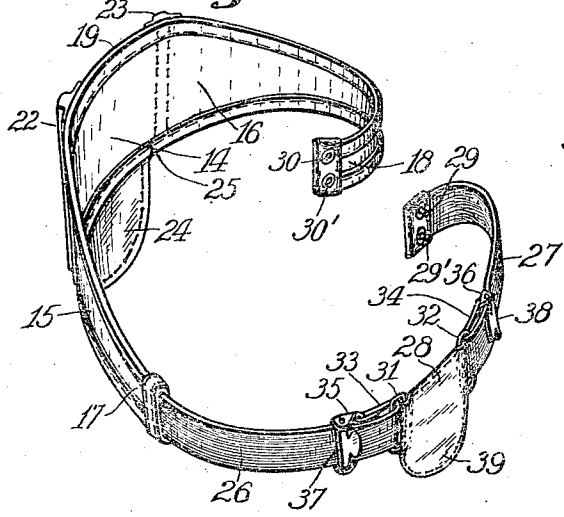
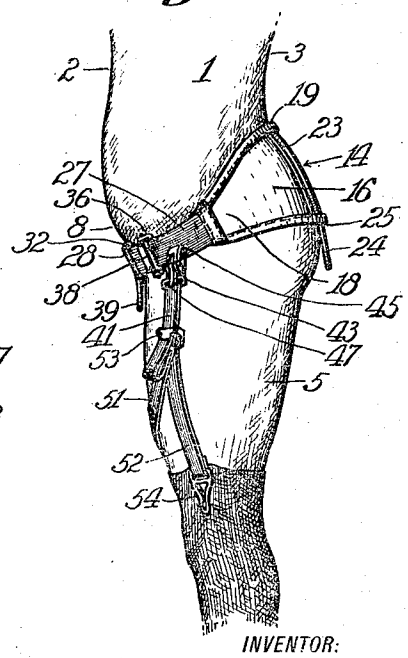


Fig. 4.



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 5.

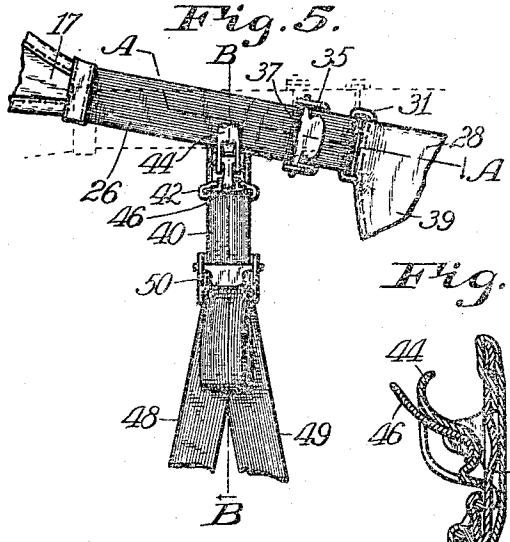


Fig. 6.

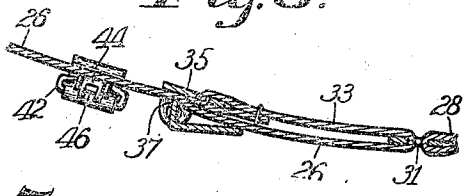


Fig. 7.

Fig. 8.

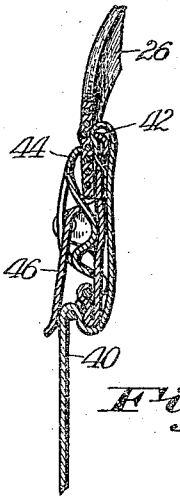


Fig. 9.

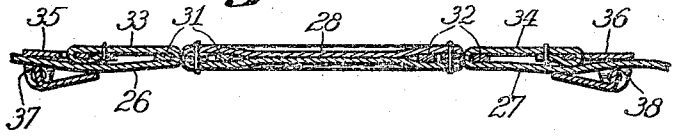


Fig. 11.

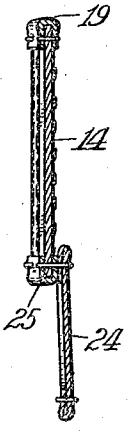
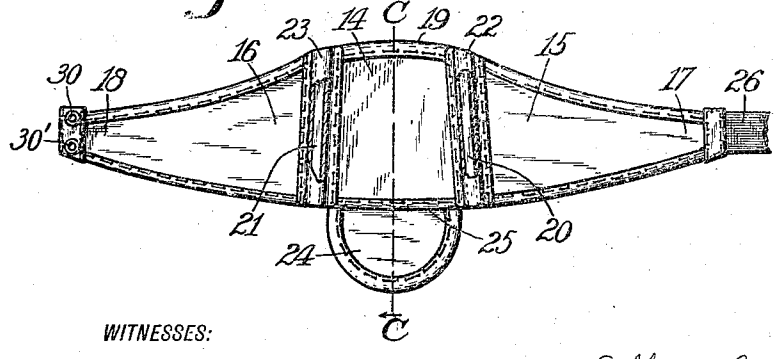


Fig. 10.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LILLIAN CROCKETT LOWDER, OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

HYGIENIC GARMENT-SUPPORTER.

1,276,238. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 20, 1918.

Application filed August 14, 1915. Serial No. 45,550.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LILLIAN CROCKETT LOWDER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Indianapolis, in the county of Marion and State of Indiana, have invented a new and uesful Hygienic Garment-Supporter, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

This invention relates to a combination device to be worn by human beings, the device having a plurality of functions as a supporter, the invention having reference more particularly to a supporter of the above-mentioned character that is designed to be used not only for supporting stockings or hosiery but for also supporting the abdomen of the wearer, and also for supporting various articles or appliances that have hitherto been sustained by the waist portion of the user's body.

An object of the invention is to provide a combination supporting device of the above-mentioned character that shall be so constructed as to be capable of being sustained by the human form and without being inimical to the health of the user, and capable of carrying various hygienic or sanitary appliances and during either the active hours or the sleeping hours of the user.

A further object is to provide a supporter of the above-mentioned character that shall be so constructed as to be specially suitable for use by those who may engage in athletic sports or exercises, for the purpose of enabling them to carry or wear various appliances or devices that may be desired or required, such as sacks, pads, abdominal braces or supports, and stockings or hosiery, and without hampering or interfering with the free bending or twisting movement of the body when in action, an aim being to not only avoid the application of downward pressure on the abdomen but to assist in preventing downward strains on the abdominal muscles during violent exercises, as when the user is running or jumping.

A still further object is to provide a hygienic combination supporting device that may be readily adjusted to different sizes of bodies or be re-adjusted by the wearer according to requirements or conditions of service; which supporting device shall be so constructed that parts thereof may be removed and replaced by new parts, and be inexpensive, durable, and economical in use.

With the above-mentioned and other objects in view, the invention consists in an improved yoke having a saddle-like flexible portion constructed so as to be self-fitting on the back portion of the human body below the waist, the yoke having an elastic portion that is relatively adjustable for supporting the abdominal regions of the body and also for supporting stocking or hosiery suspenders, the yoke being provided with flexible appendages to which sanitary or other appliances may be pinned or sewed; the invention consisting also further in the parts, and combinations and arrangements of parts, as hereinafter particularly described and further defined in the accompanying claims.

Referring to the drawings,—Figure 1 is a front perspective view of the improved supporter as applied to the human form, of which a fragmentary front view is shown as illustrating the relative positions of the hip-bone and joints and the supporter; Fig. 2 is a rear perspective view of the supporter and its relation to the human form; Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the improved supporter as preferably constructed; Fig. 4 is a fragmentary side elevation of a human form and the improved supporter applied thereto; Fig. 5 is a fragmentary elevation showing forward portions of the supporter; Fig. 6 is a fragmentary section approximately on the line A A on Fig. 5; Fig. 7 is a section of the preferred form of clasp for adjustably and detachably connecting the stocking suspender to the yoke, as on the line B B on Fig. 5, the clasp being shown in open relation; Fig. 8 is a section on the line B B; Fig. 9 is a central section of the front middle portion of the yoke, as on the line A A; Fig. 10 is a rear elevation of the saddle-like portion of the yoke; and Fig. 11 is a section on the line C C on Fig. 10.

On the different figures of the drawings, similar reference characters indicate corresponding elements or features of construction herein referred to.

In practically carrying out the objects of the invention, a yoke of novel form is provided which is composed of suitable flexible material that will permit the yoke to readily adapt itself to the external contour of the human form over the pelvic girdle and above the hip joints and to fit clingingly to

the form about the back portion thereof below the waist-line, so as to avoid constriction or compression of the soft portions of the waist and sides of the body. On the drawings the numeral 1 indicates the waist, 2 the front, and 3 the back of the body, 4 and 5 the limbs, 6 and 7 the hip portions, 8 the abdomen, 9 the hip-bone, and 10 and 11 the hip joints, as approximately indicating the various portions of the human body to which the improved supporter is practically related, 12 and 13 indicating the upper portions of stockings covering the limbs.

The main or saddle-like part of the yoke comprises a middle portion 14 from which two tapering side portions 15 and 16 extend, the side portions having relatively narrow end portions 17 and 18 respectively. The middle portion 14 is of suitable width so as to extend across the spine of the wearer, being approximately square in plan, the top 19 thereof being considerably extended upward relatively to the end portions 17 and 18 so as to lie flexibly and present a relatively large frictional contact surface on the back of the body. In order to prevent the middle portion 14 from wrinkling and partially destroying the frictional adhesion, two whalebones or other stiffening devices 20 and 21 are secured to the outer side thereof in suitable casings 22 and 23 applied to the junctions of the middle portion and the side portions 15 and 16 respectively in vertical arrangement. An appendage 24 is connected to or extends downward from the lower edge 25 of the middle portion 14, so as to be between the planes of the stiffening devices and is composed of suitable fabric to which safety-pins or other connecting devices may be secured for supporting a catamenial sack or other devices that may be desired. The front portion of the yoke comprises two relatively narrow elastic parts 26 and 27 and also a non-elastic part 28, the elastic parts being suitably connected at one end to the end portions 17 and 18 of the non-elastic saddle-like part of the yoke and are also suitably connected to the part 28. Suitable provision is made for varying the effective length of the elastic part of the yoke. Preferably the elastic part 26 is sewed to the end portion 17, the elastic part 27 being provided with studs 29 and 29′ adapted to be removably secured in sockets 30 and 30′, respectively, with which the end portion 18 is provided. Two metallic links or eyes 31 and 32 are secured to opposite edge portions respectively of the part 28, the latter being composed of suitable flexible fabric. The elastic parts 26 and 27 are drawn through the links respectively and backward behind the main portions of the elastic parts so as to form loops 33 and 34 respectively that are connected to buckle frames 35 and 36 provided with clamp devices 37 and 38, respectively, that are adapted to engage the elastic parts when adjusted thereto, so that the effective length of the elastic parts may be changed as may be desired. The part 28 has a downwardly extending appendage 39 that is adapted to have a safety-pin or other connecting device secured thereto to support a suspensory or forward portion of a sanitary appliance.

In order to support the stockings, two suspenders 40 and 41 are provided which preferably are composed of elastic webbing and are provided with any suitable clasp whereby to adjustably and detachably connect the suspenders to the yoke, especially to the elastic parts 26 and 27 respectively. Preferably a well-known form of clasp is made use of, comprising main parts 42 and 43 connected to the suspenders and provided with clamp devices 44 and 45 controlled by means of levers 46 and 47 respectively whereby the clasps are securely clamped to the yoke. The suspenders preferably include branches 48 and 49 connected to a suitable buckle 50 which is adjustably connected with the suspender 40, and branches 51 and 52 connected to a similar buckle 53 which is adjustable with the suspender 41, each branch being provided with a suitable clasp or fastener 54 for connecting it to the fabric of the stocking.

It should be understood that various modifications in the details of construction may be made within the scope of the appended claims.

In practical use the supporter may be worn either outside or under a garment and in some cases may be worn constantly, the stocking suspenders being detached from the yoke at night or during the sleeping hours. The elastic portion of the yoke, while assisting to support the abdomen also tends to retain the saddle-like portion of the yoke in proper position so that it shall not creep or slide downward, the tendency to such movement being also prevented by the action of the stocking suspenders when connected to the yoke, as will be understood, all the strains being resisted by the region of the pelvic girdle so that no ill effects may be produced, while the shoulders, chest and waist are left free for action, there being no interference with the circulation or nerve supply of the lower extremities; and as will be understood, the pressure upon the kidneys is avoided as is also the pressure over the delicate organs which suffer when various other supporters are used.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is—

1. An improved hygienic garment supporter comprising a main part having a fastener connected directly to one end thereof, a front part, two metallic links secured directly to the two opposite edges of the front

part, a side part secured at one end directly to the opposite end of the main part, a second side part having a connecting device on one end thereof to engage said fastener, the side parts extending through the links respectively, two buckle frames directly connected to the opposite end portions of the side parts respectively, and securing devices connected to said frames to directly engage said side parts respectively.

2. In a hygienic garment supporter, the combination of a main part comprising a middle portion and two side portions, laterally-elastic ribs secured in said main part adjacent to the junctions of the side portions respectively with the middle portion of the part, an appendage directly secured to the middle portion of said main part between said ribs, a fastener directly secured to the end portion of one of said side portions, a front part having two metallic links on the upper portions of the two opposite edges thereof, the lower portion of said front part forming an integral appendage, two side parts adjustably connected with said links respectively, one of said side parts being secured directly to the end portion of the remaining one of said side portions, a connecting device secured to the remaining one of said side parts to engage said fastener, and two suspender clasps connected to said side parts respectively.

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

LILLIAN CROCKETT LOWDER.

Witnesses:

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LOUISE KRUMB.

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