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MASSAGING BELT

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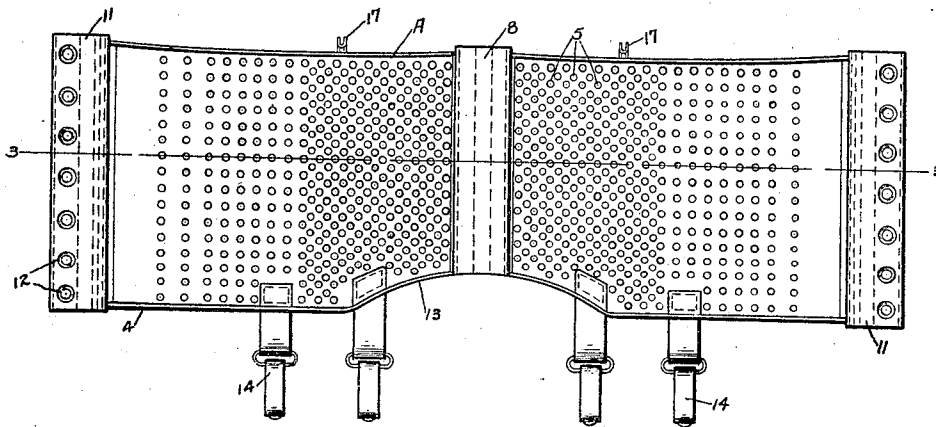


FIG. 1

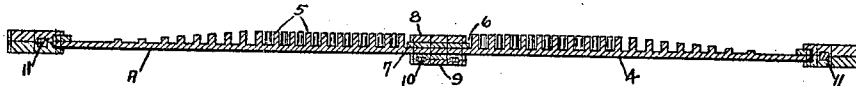


FIG. 2

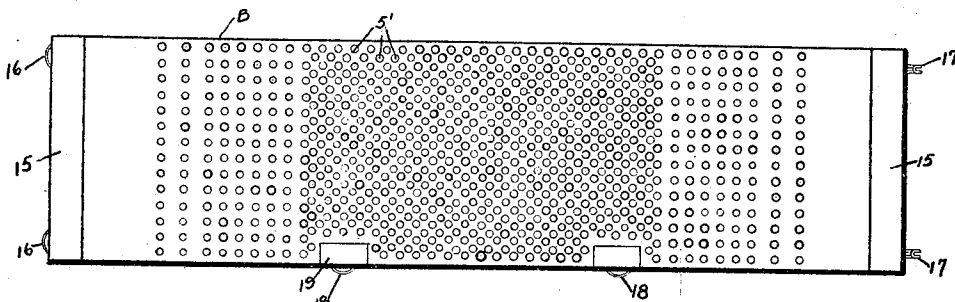


FIG. 3

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MASSAGING BELT.

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The present invention relates to massaging belts an object of which is to provide body encircling means constantly impinging against and massaging the flesh to relieve corpulent conditions.

Other objects of the invention are to provide belts which may be used around the chest or bust and abdomen and are suitably formed to adhere to the body and to flex with movements of the latter; to provide elastic belts equipped with elastic studs automatically movable over the surfaces of the body to constantly massage the flesh and retain the belt proper, spaced from the body to permit free circulation of air and free exudation of the diaphresis; to provide body encircling massaging means the effective area of which is predetermined in order to vigorously massage parts of the body in which the corpulence or adipose tissue is most prevalent and to gradually reduce the massaging effect on the less corpulent parts of the body; to provide massage belts which may be used advantageously by either sex and is so constructed that vital organs of the body will not be harmed by use of the belts; and to provide elastic belts which automatically conform to the contours of the body and are held in a predetermined position.

It is of course well known in the art to provide reducing belts, girdles, corsets, etc. but it has been found that in a great many instances these devices are impractical and very often injurious. This is principally due to the fact that elastic belts, which have proven the most practical, from a commercial standpoint, to relieve obesity or corpulence, are injurious because they adhere closely to the flesh and do not permit the body excretions to be carried away as they exude through the pores and hence the belt forms a habitat for the waste substances. Furthermore, the belts now commonly used for this purpose do not give a massaging effect and hence there is no mechanical agency to relieve adipose tissue. The present invention is, therefore, designed to provide a device which effectively massages the flesh, permits a free circulation of air beneath the belt and allows the pores to function in a normal manner.

Numerous other objects of this invention will be apparent from a consideration of the

following specification taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein:—

Fig. 1 is an inside elevation of an abdominal encircling massage belt constructed in accordance with this invention;

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of the same; and

Fig. 3 is an inside elevational view of a chest or bust encircling massage belt constructed in accordance with the present invention.

The present invention consists of a pair of belts generally designated A and B for use on the abdomen and chest or bust respectively.

The belt A consists of a substantially oblong body 4 which is preferably made of pure rubber and has a multiplicity of studs or teats 5 formed on one face thereof. These studs are densely grouped at a point midway the ends of the belt except for a clearance extending transversely across the belt which provides a channel 6 adapted to receive a reinforcing strip 7 which has a fabric strip 8 superimposed thereon. The fabric 8 is adapted to overlie the umbilicus so that the studs will not come in contact therewith. Moreover, the reinforcing strip 7 taken in connection with reinforcing means 9 mounted on the opposite face of the belt will serve to reinforce the latter and prevent buckling or distortion of the marginal edges thereof. The reinforcing means 9 may consist of a pair of superposed rubber or fabric plies having stiffening elements such as stays 10. It will be noted that the studs 5 gradually diminish in length toward the terminals of the belt and moreover becomes sparser toward said terminals so that a vigorous massaging action will be caused by the belt only at a point approximately midway the ends of the latter, the massaging action being relatively decreased toward the terminals of the belt. Consequently, the abdomen only is subjected to vigorous massaging.

The opposite terminals of the belt are equipped with stiffening strips generally designated 11 each of which may comprise superposed strips having one or more stays embedded therein, the strips being vulcanized or otherwise fixedly secured to the ends of the belt. These strips are adapted to be equipped with suitable means for securing

the same together, in the present instance lace eyelets 12 being shown.

It will be noted in Fig. 1 of the drawings that a substantially semi-circular depression 13 is formed in the lower marginal edge of the belt to prevent contact of the latter with the tubes. Consequently the belt is capable of a massaging action over the abdomen practically down to the thighs without danger of harmful results and without being uncomfortable.

The belt may be secured from upward movement in any manner, such, for instance, as by mounting tabs 14 on the lower portion of the belt which may be secured to a garment of the wearer or which may be equipped with garters for securement to the stockings in a manner well known in the art. The bust or chest impinging belt B is likewise shown in the present instance to be of oblong configuration and is made of pure rubber and equipped with studs or teats 5' which are densely grouped at a point midway the ends of the belt and become sparser toward the terminals. Moreover, these studs may gradually diminish in length toward the terminals of the belt the same as the studs 5 shown in Fig. 2. It is preferred, however, to omit the central reinforcing means from this form of belt, for manifest reasons. The possibility of the belt buckling or being distorted is not very likely because of its being relatively narrow in width. Furthermore, the ends of the belt are equipped with reinforcing strips 15. One of these strips is provided with eyes 16 and the other with hooks 18 providing means for securing these strips together. It is, of course, to be understood that the belt may be secured in other manners.

Although the studs or teats 5 and 5' are shown in the present instance to have the outer terminals thereof flat, nevertheless these can be otherwise shaped if so desired. However, experiments have shown that the flat studs are more beneficial in procuring the results herein set forth although in some cases rounded or pointed studs may be preferred. Moreover, the arrangement of the studs herein set forth permits vigorous massaging only on the front of the body with a relatively lighter massaging on the sides and no massaging action provided for in the back. It is, of course, understood that the

device is applicable likewise for massaging the back by very slight modification.

Where both the bust or chest and abdominal belts are used it is preferred to connect the two together to prevent relative movement thereof. These may be connected in any desired manner but in the present instance I have shown hooks 17 mounted to extend above the upper margin of the abdominal belt which are adapted to engage eyes 18 extended beyond the lower margin of the chest or bust belt B. The eyelets 18 may be secured to the belt B in any desired manner such, for instance, as by the employment of tabs 19.

In use it is understood also that the belts A and B may be used singly or together. In view of the inherent elasticity of these belts the possibility of their slipping up or down on the body is unlikely even without the use of means for securing the same such as herein shown. Notwithstanding that inherent elasticity, the studs keep the belt proper spaced from the body which, in addition to the therapeutical value thereof also renders the belt less inconvenient to wear.

What is claimed is:—

1. A massaging belt, consisting of a body encircling member, said member including protrusions densely grouped at a point between the ends of said member and gradually tapering toward said ends.

2. A massaging belt including a rubber belt equipped with studs densely grouped on an intermediate part of the belt, and reinforcing means dividing said studs.

3. A massaging belt including a rubber belt adapted to encircle the body and equipped with studs densely grouped on an intermediate part of the belt and gradually tapered toward the ends of the latter.

4. A device of the character described including an elastic belt equipped with outstanding elements on one face having relatively flat surfaces and gradually tapering in length toward the opposite ends of the belt and reinforcing means mounted on said belt a part of which extends through said studs midway the ends of the belt.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JOHN STEECE LEFEVRE.