

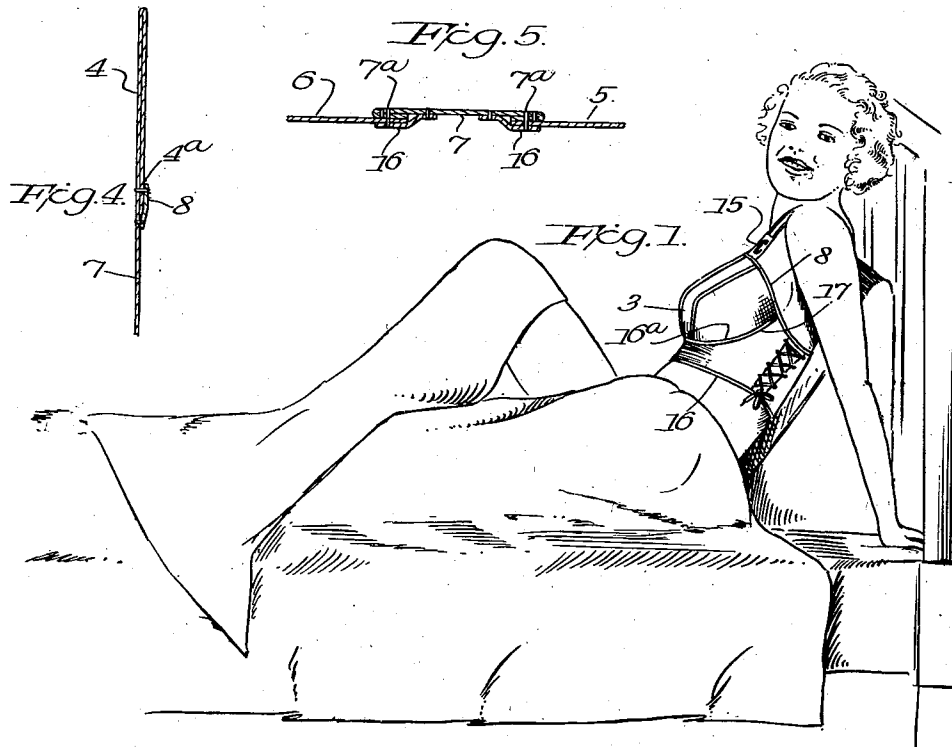
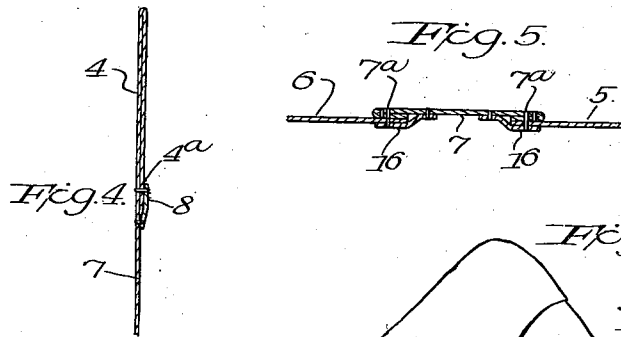
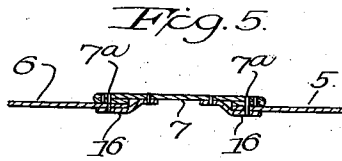
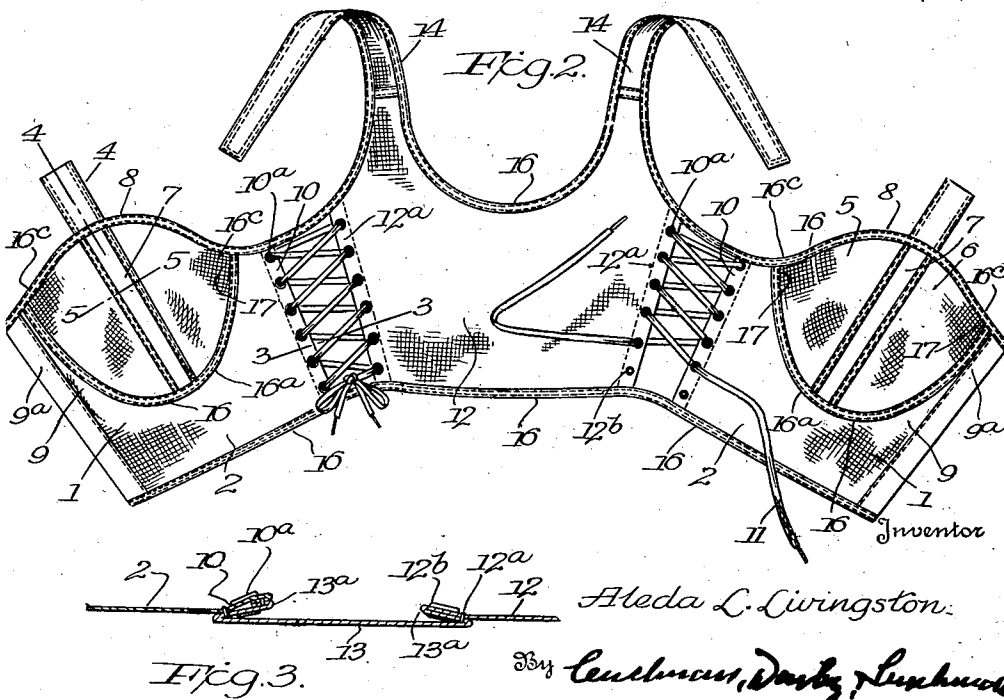
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HOSPITAL BRASSIÈRE

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HOSPITAL BRASSIÈRE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 2—42)

This invention relates to a hospital brassière adapted to be worn by women who are compelled to lie prone for any length of time as in pre-natal and maternity cases or while undergoing or recovering from an operation.

An important object of the invention is to provide an improved brassière which may be easily and quickly put on; one which may be readily adjusted to conform to the shape of the individual wearer's bust and which shall give correct, anatomical support to heavy and pendulous breasts of women patients confined to bed.

Referring to the accompany drawing which illustrates a preferred embodiment of the invention—

Figure 1 illustrates the manner in which the brassière is secured to the body of the wearer.

Figure 2 is a front view of the complete article.

Figure 3 is a cross section taken along the line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a cross section of the shoulder strap taken along line 4—4 of Figure 2.

Figure 5 is a cross section taken along line 5—5 of Figure 2.

Referring in detail to the drawing, 1—1 indicates and includes the complementary breast portions of the brassière which in use, form two girdling members 2, 2 substantially surrounding the body of the wearer beneath the breasts. Each breast portion is provided, in the upper part thereof, with a fullness to conform to the contour of the breasts, as indicated at 3 in Figure 1 and a supporting tab 4 is secured substantially mid-way of the width of the breast portion and at the upper edge thereof. As shown in Figure 2, the fullness at the breast portion of the brassière is designed to form a cup-shaped breast supporting member; said cup-shaped member comprising an inner side piece 5, an outer side piece 6 and an intermediate strip member 7 extending centrally and vertically of said cup-shaped breast-supporting member. The intermediate strip member 7 is formed of a single thickness of fabric, serves to unite the inner side piece 5 and the outer side piece 6, is extended beyond the top edge 8 of the cup-shaped member, and doubled upon itself with the end 4a thereof secured to said top edge so as to form thereby a supporting tab of double thickness for supporting the weight of the breast from the wearer's shoulder. Each complementary breast portion is provided with a sternum piece 9 having a reinforced vertical edge 9a which is adapted to be secured to the vertical edge of the adjacent complementary sternum

piece by means of safety pins or other suitable securing means. The rear edge of each breast portion is reinforced as at 10 and provided with a plurality of eyelets 10a equally spaced along the vertical edge 10 thereof and adapted to receive a ribbon or lacing 11.

The back member of the brassière is indicated at 12 and consists of a continuous relatively unstretchable fabric provided at each side with reinforced vertical edges 12a each edge having a plurality of eyelets 12b equally spaced therealong. The foregoing construction, as described, permits the use of a lacing or ribbon to secure each breast portion in adjustable relationship with respect to the back of the brassière whereby the brassière may be quickly and easily fitted and adjusted to the shape and size of the individual wearer's breasts.

As shown in Figure 3, 13 represents a flap or cover for the lacing and consists of a narrow piece of relatively unstretchable fabric, each vertical edge of which, as indicated at 13a, is sewn to the inside of the vertical reinforced eyelet edge of the breast portion 1 and of the back member 12 respectively. Said flap thereby joins the back piece and breast portions inseparably and also limits the separation of the relatively adjustable breast portions and back member to the extent of its width which may be said to be a measure of the largest size of the brassière; for smaller sizes the flap readily collapses when the lacing is used to draw the breast portions and back piece together. The flap also serves as a cover for the lacing to prevent frictional contact thereof with the body of the patient, as illustrated in Figure 1.

Integral with the back member are two shoulder strap pieces 14—14 which extend from the top and outer edges of the body of the back member. Said shoulder pieces are adapted to extend over the shoulders of the wearer and to be secured by a safety pin 15 or other fastening means to the shoulder tabs 4 on the cup-shaped breast supporting members. The shoulder straps, when used, are taken up quite tightly as this is the means of supporting the breasts from the side.

As shown in the drawing, the back member and the two breast portions are reinforced with a suitable tape or hemming 16 secured to both the top and bottom edges thereof, said tapes performing an important part in giving correct anatomical support to heavy and pendulous breasts of women patients confined to bed.

Turning now to the specific means for sup-

porting and covering the breasts, the two sections 5 and 6 of the breast covering web are connected by the strap or intermediate member 7 and each seam 7a joining said intermediate member with the respective inner and outer side pieces or sections 5 and 6 extends vertically and centrally of said cup-shaped member 3 and is covered by a tape 16 secured on the outside of said cup-shaped member. However, this intermediate member 7 and the reinforcing tapes do not take any strain but are merely used to connect the two sections 5 and 6 together. This means that no matter how much strain is exerted on the shoulder strap 14, there will be practically no pressure exerted on the bust or nipple. This freedom from strain or pressure, at the nipple, is accomplished by sewing a catenary-shaped supporting tape or binding 16 along the seam 16a joining the body girdling member 2 of the breast portion and the cup-shaped breast supporting member 3, and, as shown in Figure 2, the upwardly extending ends 16b—16b of said binding are joined at substantially right angles to the down-turned ends 16c—16c of the arcuate upper binding 8. As indicated at 17—17, the sections of the breast covering web immediately adjacent and within the right angles formed by the intersection of said bindings are cut "on the square," that is to say, the fabric is not "on the bias" but it is "square" with reference to the two intersecting tapes 8 and 16 so that one course of threads of each section of the breast covering web is substantially at right angles to one of the bindings. The effect of this arrangement of the bindings with respect to the weave of the breast covering web is such that the strain in the lower catenary shaped binding 16, due to the weight of the breasts, is all taken in the upper arcuate binding 8 and in the sections 17—17 of the breast covering web "cut on the square" immediately adjacent and within the right angle formed by the intersection of the bindings.

In this manner, the breast is supported around the edges where the natural gravity spreading action caused by the patient lying on her back occurs. With the use of this method of suspension, the patient's breast is re-shaped or held in position while she is on her back just as if she were standing up.

The brassière is applied by stretching it out on a bed or stretcher and then laying the patient on top of it. Next the sternum sections 9—9 of the breast portions are folded over and pinned with safety pins at the points marked x, x, x on the reinforced vertical edges 9a—9a. The amount of overlap of the sternum sections, and the position of the two laces in the side is then sufficient to adjust the brassière tightly to the particular patient. The shoulder straps 14—14 are then pulled down over the patient's shoulders and pinned to the shoulder tabs 4—4. The shoulder straps are taken up quite tightly as this is the means of supporting the breasts from the side whereby sagging of pendulous or heavy breasts is prevented.

Such changes as are within the skill of the fabricators can, of course, be made without departing from the invention as herein disclosed.

I claim:

A hospital brassière comprising a back portion and a pair of front portions connected to the back portion by lacings so that the brassière is adjustable as to girth, the front portions having reinforced but pliable free margins free of attached fastening means and adapted to be adjustably lapped in front and pinned together by safety pins, each of said front portions including a pocket and an upwardly extending tab, and shoulder straps extending upwardly from said back portion, the free ends of said straps being adjustably disposable in lapped relation to said tabs at the front of the garment to be pinned to the tabs by safety pins.

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