Sept. 6, 1949. C. H. HUNTER 2,481,427

BEDPAN PAD

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Fig. 1

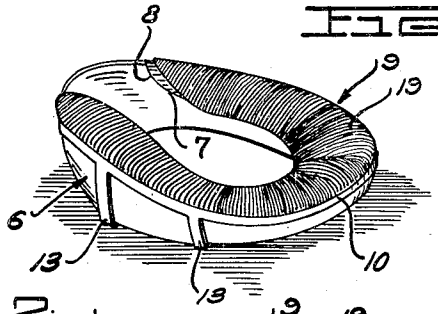


Fig. 2

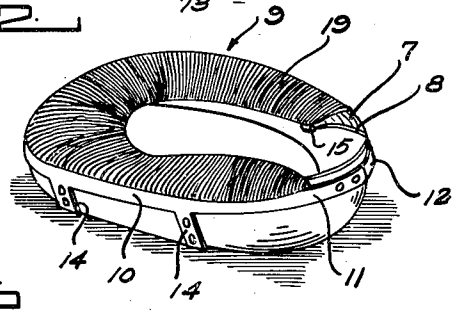


Fig. 5

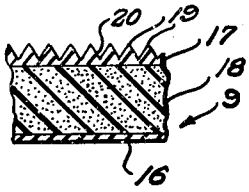


Fig. 3

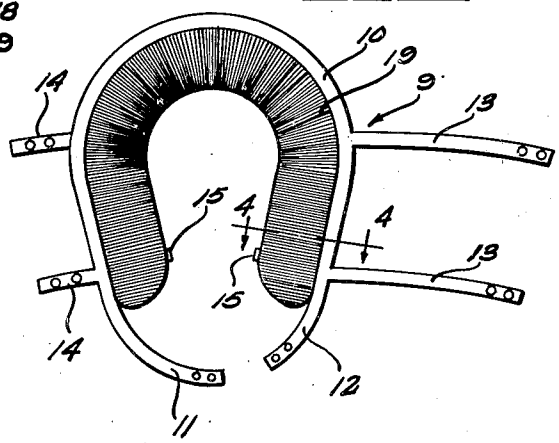
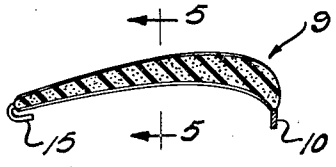


Fig. 4



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BEDPAN PAD

Cora Hanna Hunter, Lewiston, Idaho

Application October 30, 1946, Serial No. 706,541

2 Claims. (Cl. 4—113)

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The present invention relates to improvements in what is believed to be a structurally novel patient comforting pad which is expressly adapted for use in connection with a standard-type hospital or home bedpan.

As the opening statement of the invention suggests, optionally and temporarily usable pads and cushions for attachment to and use on bedpans are generally old and well known. Such pads are provided with various forms of cushioning facilities and differing structural means for fastening same in place on the usual seat rim of the pan.

In carrying out the principles of the instant invention I have found it expedient and practicable to achieve the ends sought through the adoption and use of a laminated pad in which the top or uppermost lamination embodys a special surface construction which is thought to be more aptly comformable to the requirements of the patient in that it not only promotes the utmost in adaptability and comfort but provides for ventilation and reduces the likelihood that the body will adhere thereto, this to an appreciable minimum.

Briefly, the preferred embodiment of the invention takes the form of a horseshoe-shaped pad laminated in cross-sectional form and characterized by a highly pliant inner filler and top and bottom laminations or plies enclosing same, the effective body contacting surface of the top ply being serrated in a manner to define transverse ribs and intervening air circulating channels, the ribs being V-shaped in cross-sectional form to provide the desired feather-edge formations, these conjointly coacting in promoting the desired conforming, non-sticking and aerating properties.

Other objects, features and advantages of the invention will become more readily apparent from the following description and the accompanying illustrative drawings.

In the drawings, wherein like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the same:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a conventional or so called standard-type bedpan and showing the improved comforting pad applied thereto.

Figure 2 is a perspective view, like Figure 1, but showing the ends of the pan reversed, this in order to bring out all of the structural details.

Figure 3 is a top plan view of the pad, the same shown removed from the bedpan.

Figure 4 is an exaggerated transverse or cross-sectional view taken approximately on the plane of the line 4—4 of Figure 3.

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Figure 5 is a still larger and fragmentary view, the same being sufficiently exaggerated in proportions substantially on the line 5—5 of Figure 4.

Referring now to the drawings by the distinguishing reference numerals, the bedpan is denoted by the numeral 6 and is of a conventional or standard form and includes, as is customary, a pan portion and an overhanging seat rim 7. The rim is of general horseshoe-shaped form in top plan view and adjacent ends 8 thereof are spaced apart in order to define the customary pan emptying and human body-parts accommodating opening.

The invention pertains to the improved protector and comforting pad with the latter being denoted, as a unit by the numeral 9.

Observing the pad in either top or bottom plan view, it will be observed that it is, generally speaking, horseshoe-shaped in form and conforms in general respects to the aforementioned seat rim 7. In practice, it intimately conforms to and sits upon and covers the seating surface of said seat rim 7. Also, and as brought out in Figure 4 the portions which go to make up said pad are tapered in cross-sectional form as shown in Figure 4, to conform to the contours and sloping portions of said seat rim. The outer perimeter edge portion of said pad is bounded by an appropriately attached tape 10, said tape snugly surrounding the marginal rim portion of the pan and the end portions 11 and 12 being provided with snap fasteners or equivalent fastening devices, whereby said ends may be separably adjoined. The side portions of said tape 10, as shown in Figure 3, are provided with auxiliary cross-straps, that is long and short straps 13 and 14 located on diametrically opposite sides of the pad and such straps are likewise provided with suitable snap fasteners for purposes of separably adjoining the ends thereof. These several straps combine in providing a harness such as lends itself admirably well in providing suitable means for detachably mounting the pad on the seat rim.

It is to be noted that in addition to the harnessing straps or tapes, I deem it advisable to provide retaining hooks 15, these being provided on corner portions of the pad as at the points shown and being releasably engageable with the spaced end portions of said seat rim.

Reference being had to Figure 5 it will be observed that, as before indicated, the pad is of laminated form, the inner lamination or ply 16 being of plain rubber treated in such a manner as to minimize the likelihood that it will stick to

the seat rim when in contact therewith. The top or outer ply 17 is of special form and an intervening ply or filler 18 is of sponge rubber of appropriate texture. Referring again to the ply 17 this is one of the essential features of the invention and has its body receptive surface moulded or otherwise formed to define a multiplicity of transverse, longitudinally spaced ribs 19 and intervening channels 20. The ribs are V-shaped in cross-sectional form, this to provide the aforementioned feather-edged feature. Using a multiplicity of closely inter-related feather edges and spacing same apart by channels provides an ideal pad surface for the body of the user. That is to say, this special contactable surface affords an extremely resilient, readily compressible and conformable, aerated and non-sticking seat. It is soft and "nice feeling" to the sense of touch, minimizes undesirable pressure and friction and promotes a contributing factor of ease and comfort, considered so essential in a pad of this type.

Considering another inherent property and consequent feature of the pad, I direct attention to the factor of resiliency which promotes longevity, and resists "fatigue" and early failure of the pad. The use of a pad of this type will avoid shivering and chilling, it is easily harnessed in place, and is so retained as to avoid displacement by accidental slippage. It is attachable and removable with ease and facility and is washable to promote the desired sanitary needs.

A careful consideration of the foregoing description in conjunction with the invention as illustrated in the drawings will enable the reader to obtain a clear understanding and impression of the alleged features of merit and novelty sufficient to clarify the construction of the invention as hereinafter claimed.

Minor changes in shape, size, materials and rearrangement of parts may be resorted to in actual practice so long as no departure is made from the invention as claimed.

I claim:

1. A cushioned bedpan pad of a size to substantially cover the major portion of the usual seating flange on a conventional type bedpan, said pad being of general horseshoe-shaped form and constructed of rubber and being made up of a plurality of complemental laminations, a thin bottom lamination adapted to rest on said seating flange, a thin top lamination, said laminations being secured together around their inner and outer peripheral edges, and a comparatively thick intervening lamination between the first named laminations and functioning as a filler,

said intervening lamination being made from highly pliant and compressible air-foam rubber, the free end portions of the limbs of said pad being provided with hooks engageable with edge portions of said seating flange, a primary strapping tape secured to the outer marginal edge portions of said pad and substantially surrounding the latter, said tape having free end portions extending beyond corresponding end portions of the pad and provided with separable fasteners, said free end portions being adapted to embrace the forward end portion of the bedpan to partly hold the pad on the pan, and a plurality of auxiliary cross-tapes secured to longitudinally spaced portions of said first-named tape and being adapted to extend transversely across the bottom of the bedpan, the free ends of said auxiliary tapes having connectible separable fasteners, whereby said primary and auxiliary tapes serve to snugly and satisfactorily harness the pad on the bedpan.

2. A bedpan pad of general horseshoe-shaped form, said pad being of rubber and including a plurality of laminations, there being a bottom lamination, a top lamination, and an intervening lamination, the latter being of highly pliant and compressible air-foam rubber, a strapping tape secured to the outer marginal edge of said pad, the tape having free end portions having separable fasteners, said tape being provided with auxiliary tapes and said auxiliary tapes having connectible end portions provided with separable fasteners, the seating surface of said top lamination being serrated and providing a plurality of fine gage transverse, longitudinally spaced ribs and intervening air channels, the ribs being flaccid, V-shaped in cross-sectional form, fleecy-soft and fluffy to the extent that the surface thus provided is intimately adaptable and yieldably conformable to the requirements of sensitive users.

CORA HANNA HUNTER.

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