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SUSPENSORY

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My invention relates to the art of suspensors.

In general the means for supporting the genital organs of man may be divided into two classes as respects their use, namely, first, suspensors for said organs when the wearer is well or on occasions when engaged in athletic activities—this type of suspensor is usually called an athletic support or "jock strap," and second, when employed for bandage retaining purposes when the wearer is receiving medical treatments. Both present problems, but the latter use is much the more difficult—rendered so by the anatomical construction and nature of said organs, and by the nature of the injuries and diseases to which said organs are subject, particularly gonorrhea and chancre.

In providing a suspensor primarily for bandage retaining, it is generally preferable to have the testicles supported in a compartment of the suspensor apart from that in which the penis is placed. The movability of the testicles is such that this is difficult to attain and herein arises the first reason why the suspensor must be so constructed as to remain positively in the exact position as adjusted by the wearer. The position in such position can not be obtained by merely holding the suspensor in position by subjecting the supporting bands or straps to great tension. Not only does the comfort of the wearer forbid any such easy solution of the problem but such an apparatus would tend to excite the organ with the accompanying injurious effects hereinafter set forth. Hence the nature of the organ complicates the situation.

The most prevalent genital diseases, namely gonorrhea and chancre, are characterized by a discharge of the waste matter created by bacteria of said diseases. The nature of the diseases being of this running discharge character establishes as a fundamental paramount requirement that there must be no constriction of the parts in question under any circumstances; first, because any constriction of the penis will prevent the escape in gonorrhea of said discharge. The infected portion originally, is confined to the anterior portion of the urethra and comparatively easily cured. But constriction causes the dammed up discharge matter containing active infectious germs to extend backwardly along the mucous membrane of the urethra to the posterior urethra, and prostate, seminal vesicles, etc., and by infecting these organs, complicate the disease and lengthen the duration of the treatment.

Again, constriction also interferes with the blood supply to the parts in question, preventing the supplying of repairing elements as well as the removing of the waste products.

Manifestly, the suspensor must in all events prevent constriction and yet the dressings and bandages must be retained in position. At the same time, the suspensor must be so constructed as to permit of its being thoroughly cleaned and kept strictly sanitary. Furthermore, the suspensor must be readily adjustable to different sizes of dressings and parts in question. Moreover, it is important to combine the two uses of the device, that is, to include with the use of bandage retaining, the function of an athletic support, i.e., a support for the wearer in health and as such it is important to eliminate the inconvenience inherent in genital supporters (commonly called "jock straps") of common practice design, of disturbing the clothing or the supporter in order to urinate.

These conditions, further supplemented herein below, are not met by the devices of the class described of common practice design, and it is in general the object of my invention to provide a suspensor which will satisfy all these requirements as well as others hereinafter described and inherent in the construction and which will overcome the objections to the devices of common practice design.

A primary object of my invention is to provide a suspensor which will remain positively in its proper anatomical position when arranged by the wearer. Another primary object of my invention is to provide a suspensor which will not cause constriction of the parts in question and will keep the penis pendant. Again, a primary object of my invention is to provide a suspensor which is adjustable to different sizes of organs, to different sizes of dressings, either wet or dry, and which is sanitary and capable of being easily cleaned.

The above-mentioned objects of my invention together with others inherent in the same are attained by the device illustrated in the following drawings, the same being merely a preferred exemplary form of em-
bodiment of my invention, throughout which drawings like reference numerals indicate like parts:

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of a suspensory embodying my invention with the slit pocket portion in open position;

Fig. 2 is a view of the same in applied position, and with the slit pocket in closed position;

Fig. 3 is a view of the slit pocket disassociated from the suspensory; and

Fig. 4 is an enlarged view of the pubic shield and scrotum sack portions of the device.

The scrotum sack 5, preferably constructed of open and net-like material, is secured along its upper edge 6 to an abdominal and pubic shield 7 to which is secured an abdominal belt 8 having a buckle 9 by means of which the same may be releasably secured. Thigh straps 10, preferably of lint bands to prevent chafing, are secured to a posterior portion of the sack 5 and caused to extend to the abdominal and pubic shield 7 (or if preferred the same may extend to the belt 8); such a strap is provided on each side and each is provided with an elastic end portion 11 to provide sufficient play to prevent slipping of the support and yet prevent interference with the free movements of the limbs of the wearer. Purse strings 12 are provided to extend along the edge of said sack 5 and caused to extend through the shield at 13. An opening 14, preferably rectangular in shape is provided in part in said pubic shield 7 and in part in said sack 5.

A slit pocket 15 is composed of an inner "V"-shaped member or flap 16, and a triangular member or outer flap 17. Said "V"-shaped flap has its upper extremities 18 and 19 secured to the upper portions of the abdominal and pubic shield 7 and has the portion 20 which lies on the base or bottom portion of the opening 14 secured by sewing or otherwise to the said bottom portion of said opening 14. When the pocket is formed out of a single blank of material, a small triangular piece is preferably cut out to form a slight pucker and hence the triangular member 17 may be sewed along the lateral edge portion 21 to the similar edge of the inner "V"-shaped flap 16. The free corner of the outer flap is preferably provided with a strap 22 having a plurality of button holes 23 whereby it may be secured to the shield 7 by means of a button 24 or by other well known fastening means. If desired a snap or safety pin means 25 may be provided intermediate the length of the edge 26 to hold and retain the dressing in place. A snap 27 or like well known fastening means is preferably provided in the scrotum sack to engage with a cooperating member carried by the inner "V"-shaped flap 16 whereby the lower part of the slit pocket may be held in extended position, particularly when employed as an athletic support.

The operation of my invention is as follows:

Abdominal and pubic shield 7 is relatively of large size extending from the pubic bone region up to the spine of the crest of the ilium and has diverging lateral edges to coincide with the inguinal creases. This shield is made thus extensive and of said form in order that it will maintain itself positively in position as originally located and adjusted, the spherical form, together with other anatomical features of this portion of the body assisting in accomplishing this end. The testicles are supported in the sack 5 and the purse strings 12 are drawn or tightened to such degree that the sack 5 is adjusted to proper position and comfort of the wearer. The penis is caused to extend through the opening 14 which is made of large size particularly vertically so as to permit of adjustment of the device to the wearer of different proportions and also to positively be free of causing any constriction and irritation of the organ. In maintaining the device in position, reliance is placed particularly upon the size and shape of the pubic shield and not upon the penis shaft operating in conjunction with a small penis opening as occurs in devices of common practice. The importance of thus freeing this organ of functioning to keep the device positioned resides in the avoiding of irritating the same or any parts that may have been operated upon or in the avoiding of causing erections. The latter in all events must be carefully avoided because they increase congestion of the inflamed urethra in case of gonorrhea or urethral infection. They also aggravate and complicate the disease by stooling the inflamed membrane, causing it to crack and thus permitting the infecting bacteria to enter the deeper structures and possibly the circulation. By "congestion" is meant retention of blood, that is, prevention of outflow of blood from an infected area,—interference with free circulation. This interference prevents the fighting forces of the body, the white blood cells, etc., which attack and destroy the bacteria, from not only coming to the attack, but prevent the blood from carrying away waste products and bringing up material for repair.

The providing of a large size penis opening 14 in conjunction with a large size abdominal and pubic shield 7 operates to avoid constriction, a result which must positively be achieved in a properly designed device of the class in question. Constriction causes congestion and stagnation of the blood in the penis, and hence increases inflammation and prevents healing. The opening 14, un-
less held firmly in place, will cause constriction by slipping from one side to the other or up and down since the penis at its base, that is, at the pubes, is stationary. The relatively large sized opening guards against such result and it evidences that reliance is not herein had upon the penis shaft to maintain the device in position. However, the large size of this opening renders it possible for one of the testicles to slip out of the sack and through said opening thereby causing constriction of the blood vessels of the testicles and swelling of this organ, unless the device is held tightly against the pubes. It is essential, therefore, that the opening be held in place when once adjusted and the means herein employed to accomplish this result is the size and form of the abdominal and pubic shield which fits snugly over the pubes and also extends so high upon the abdomen that the abdominal belt is just above the spine and crest of the ilium which prevents the slipping down of the abdominal belt. This region covered by the abdominal and pubic shield is herein referred to as the pubic region. The anatomical structures of the portion of the body in question cooperate with the belt, the size and form of the abdominal and pubic shield and the thigh straps in preventing the opening from moving from the proper position.

A suspensory constructed in accordance with my invention utilizes the force of gravity by letting the penis hang down fully pendant, thereby allowing free drainage of the waste products from the infected area. This slit pocket for holding the penis is made with the inner and outer flaps 16 and 17, hereinabove described, and it will be noted since the said construction involves the absence of closed corners, (see Fig. 3), permits complete exposure of the interior and allows it to be kept thoroughly clean by making it extremely easy to frequently and completely remove the cotton dressings infected with the discharge and so forth, and this without contaminating the fingers which can not be avoided if the fingers must be pushed down into a closed pocket in the act of removing such dressings. The length and breadth of the slit pocket is such that it will hold dressings loosely in place, permit drainage, and yet prevent the dressings slipping out of place and so allowing the discharge to soil suspensory and clothing.

With the slit pocket of the relatively large size as herein indicated and shape, the outlet or mouth of the penis is not obstructed by wearing dry cotton close up to the meatus. By attaching the flap to the slit portion with a safety pin instead of a button, the safety pin will hold a moist dressing loosely in place, yet far enough from the meatus not to prevent the discharge from escaping from the same to the dressing.

This safety pin permits adjustment of the flaps so that dressings containing antiseptics that kill the germs and prevent contamination can be held in position, irrespective of the amount and character of dressings and the size of the organ.

Support is given to the penis and testicles by tightening the purse strings so that the same are held in place. These will snugly pull the testicles in position, but by the counterpull of the thigh straps 10 and the firmly fitting abdominal and pubic shield 7 will at the same time prevent the purse strings from constricting the base of the scrotum and interfering with the blood supply to the testicles. These purse strings permit adjustment of the suspensory to all size scrotums, pull the testicles well up in place, hold them securely and prevent congestion, especially when varicocele is present, thus lessening the possibility of infecting germs, especially the germ of gonorrhea, in the canal, going to the testicle.

In cases of circumcision or genital sores the use of the suspensory as a bandage retainer will on account of size of slit pocket permit not only moist dressings to be used in sufficient quantity, but will permit them to be used without constricting the organ. Moreover, it will permit them to be readily changed when soiled by the act of urination. The snap 25 along with the other features of construction renders this suspensory useful as an ordinary support or "jock strap" since it eliminates the inconvenience of disturbing the clothing or the suspensory in order to urinate.

Obviously changes may be made in the forms, dimensions and the arrangement of parts of my invention, except as indicated in the above, without departing from the principle thereof, the above setting forth only a preferred form of embodiment.

I claim:

1. In combination with a suspensory having a scrotum supporting sack, a slit pocket consisting of an inner flap and an outer flap, the outer flap being triangular in contour and the inner flap having substantially the same contour and having its upper edge cut along a downwardly extending semicircle, the two flaps being integral along one lateral edge whereby when said outer flap is in open position, corners in said pocket are eliminated, and means disposed along the other lateral edge to releasably secure said flaps.

2. A suspensory embodying a pubic shield the same being of relatively large size and having converging lateral edges whereby the same covers, conforms to and lies flat upon the pubic region, a scrotum sack secured along one portion of its edge to said shield having a relatively large sized penis opening of rectangular shape formed partly...
therein and partly in the shield, said opening having its longitudinal axis disposed vertically; an abdominal belt attached to said shield; purse strings extending about said sack's edges; thigh straps connected to said sack having elastic end portions; a slit pocket consisting of an inner V-shaped flap and an outer triangularly shaped flap the two being integral along one lateral edge and means to releasably secure said flaps along the other lateral edge, that portion of said inner flap lying opposite the bottom edge of said penis opening in the sack being secured to said sack and the upper portions of said inner flap being secured to said public shield, the lower corner of said pocket extending well below said penis opening; and means to connect said bottom portion of said pocket to said sack.

In witness whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name this 28th day of February, A. D. 1922.

GUY SHEAR MAN PETER KIN.