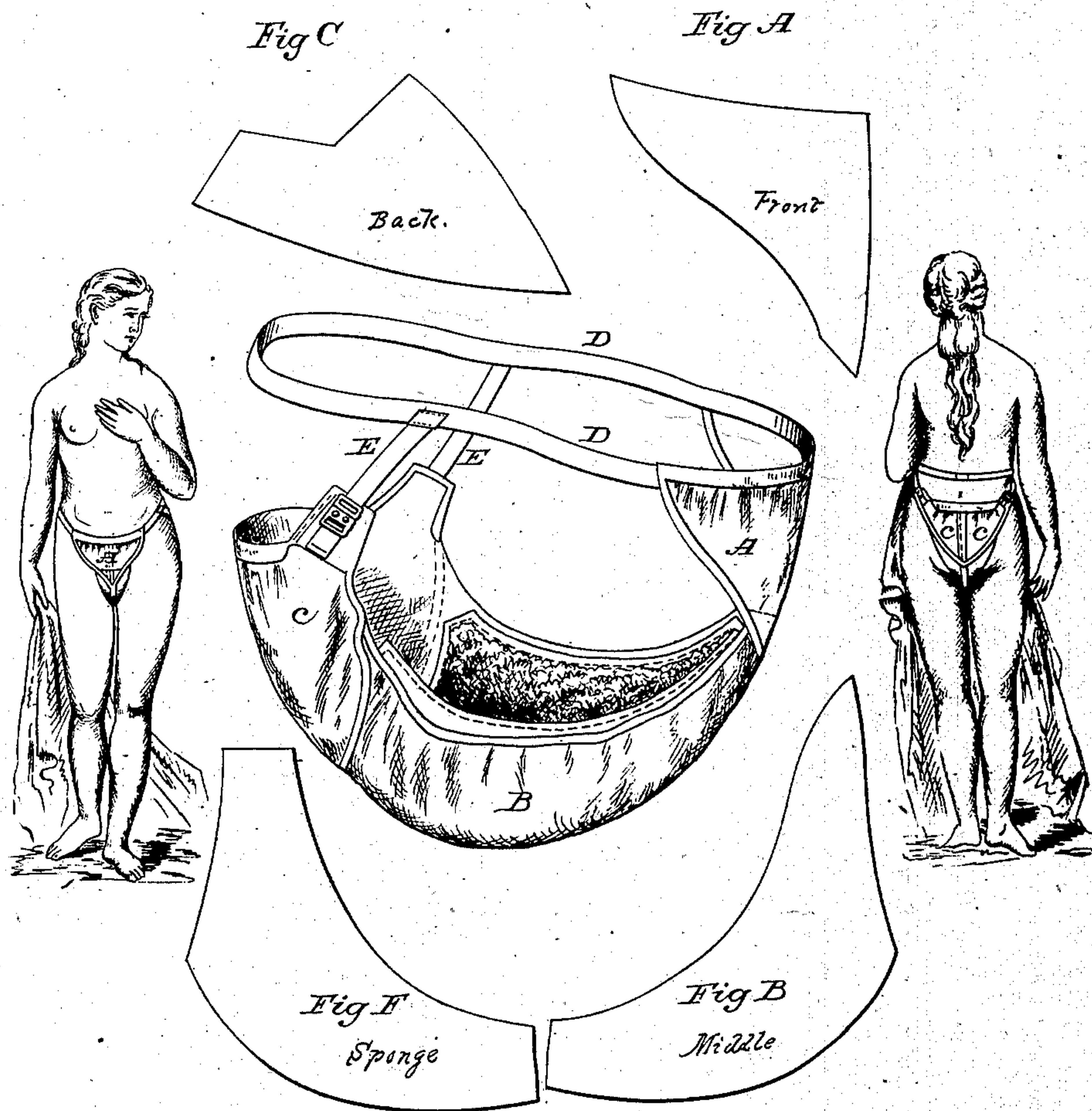


J. A. BELVIN, JR.
CATAMENIAL GUARD AND SUPPORTER.

No. 68,688.

Patented Sept. 10, 1867.



Witnesses:

George H. Clendenen
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Inventor:

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United States Patent Office.

JOHN AARON BELVIN, JR., OF BALTIMORE MARYLAND

Letters Patent No. 68,688, dated September 10, 1867.

CATAMENIAL GUARD AND SUPPORTER.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, JOHN AARON BELVIN, Jr., of the city of Baltimore, and State of Maryland, have invented a new and useful apparatus for the use of females during menstruation and weakness of the womb; and I do declare that the following is a full and exact description of the same.

The nature of my invention consists in providing a guard for the use of females during menstruation, and at the same time a support for the womb in its weakened state during that period. In order to demonstrate the usefulness of my invention, and to enable others to make use of it, I will proceed to describe it minutely.

A represents the front part, consisting of two pieces sewed together, having on the upper edge a piece of elastic which allows the part to conform to the body of the wearer. An elastic strap, D, is secured to the upper sides of the part A, and passes around the waist of the wearer. The part A forms properly the womb-supporter, and acts on the lower part of the abdomen, the elastic straps producing a gentle pressure, sufficient to hold up the womb in its natural position without incommoding the female. C is the back part, which is connected to the front part A by the middle piece B. The shape of the part C is such as to support the loins and lower part of the spine. It is suspended from the straps D by elastic straps E, which are provided with buckles or equivalent devices for attachment to or detachment from the body of the wearer. The top edge of the part C has a piece of elastic secured to it which causes that part to conform to the shape of the wearer. It will be noticed that the whole weight of the truss bears upon the hips, thereby relieving, in a considerable degree, the female of the pain experienced by her during the critical period. The middle piece has a strap extending along the middle of its bottom, which retains it in proper position and shape. This piece forms a receptacle for the sponge F, which constitutes the guard, and is a good substitute for cloth as an absorbent material. The sponge F consists of two flat pieces united together, forming a joint, and lies against the sides of the middle piece B; and conforms to the shape of the crotch without incommoding or causing inconvenience to the female. It is secured by small elastic loops to the piece B by buttons, and is easily removed, washed, and kept clean.

I construct the parts A, B, and C of boiled-oil silk, a light, soft, and impervious material, and which does not chafe or irritate the skin of the wearer.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination of the front, back, and middle parts A B C, the elastic straps D and E, and the sponge F, when constructed and arranged substantially as described for the purpose specified.
2. The absorbent, consisting of the flat pieces of sponge F, jointed together and conforming to the shape of the middle part B, in combination therewith, and with the front and back pieces A and C, substantially as described for the purpose specified.

JNO. A. BELVIN, JR.

Witnesses:

GEO. F. THOMPSON,
GUSTAVUS W. COON.