A. F. Jennings,

Truss.

No. 81,510. Patented Aug. 25, 1868.

Fig: 1

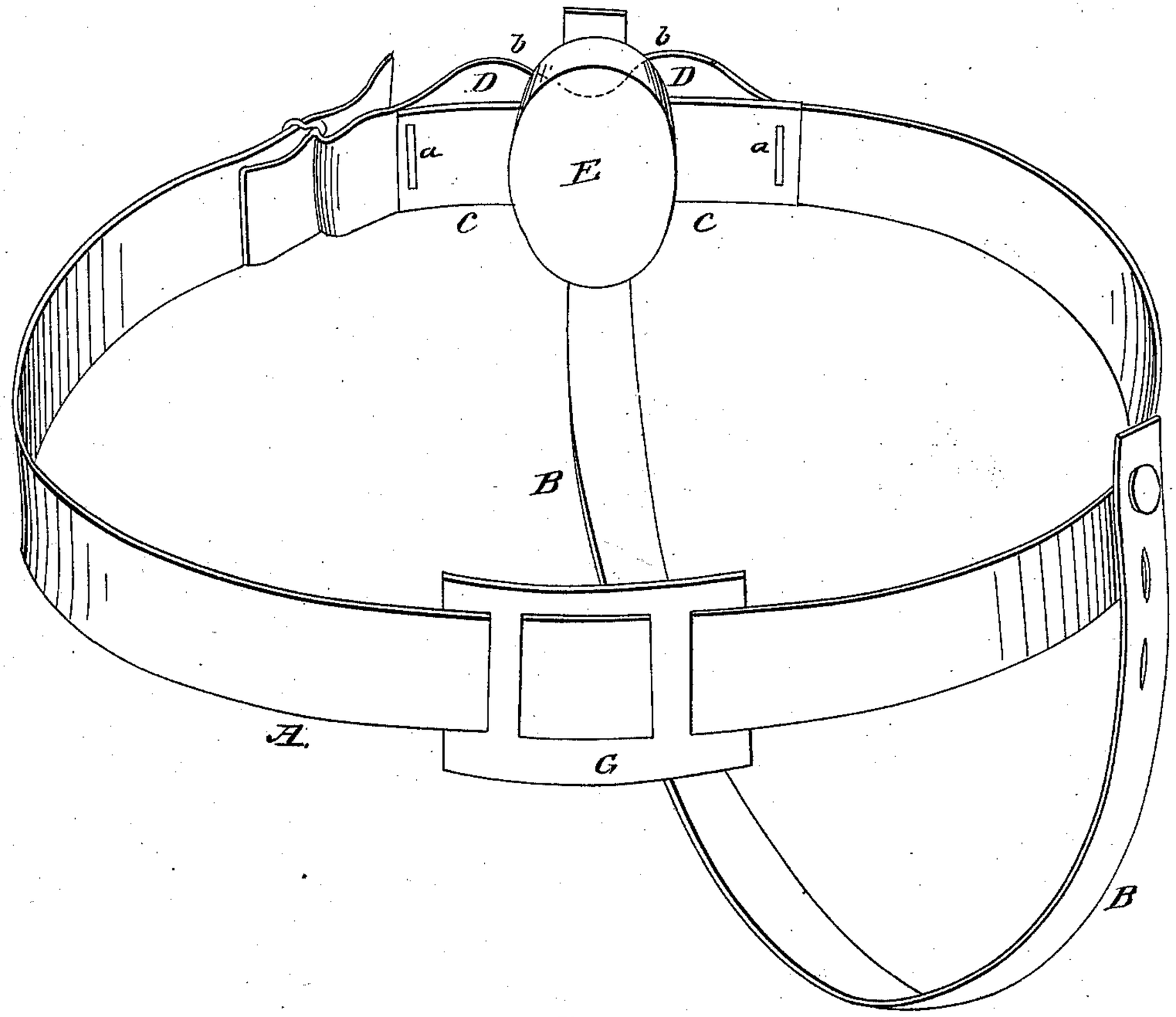


Fig: 2.

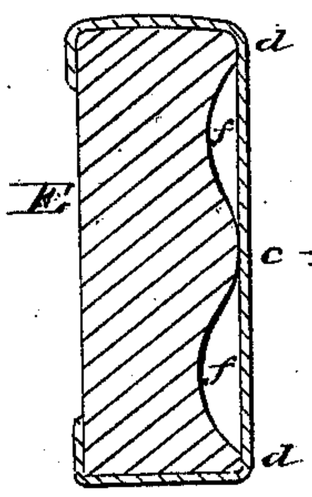
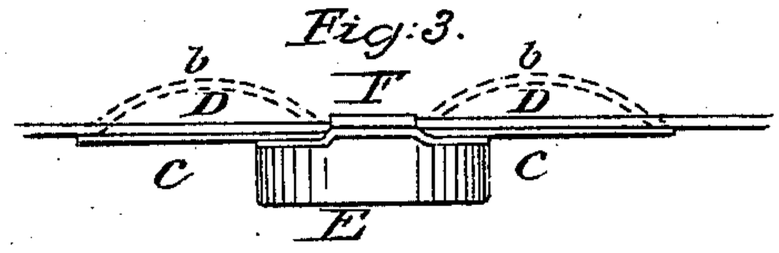


Fig: 3.



Witnesses:

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A. F. JENNINGS, OF SHERMAN, NEW YORK.

Letters Patent No. 81,510, *dated August* 25, 1868; *antedated August* 15, 1868.

IMPROVEMENT IN ABDOMINAL SUPPORTERS.

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, A. F. JENNINGS, of Sherman, Chautauqua county, New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Hernial and Abdominal Supporters; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved supporter.

Figure 2 is a vertical section of the pad.

Figure 3 is an edge view of the pad and elastic portion of the strap.

Like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

My invention consists in the combination of an elastic band and a check-strap with a body-belt, so arranged that while the elastic strap allows a free distension or expansion to the proper degree, the check-strap limits such expansion to prevent overstrain; it also consists in a peculiar form of the pad, as hereinafter set forth.

In the drawings, A represents a belt, to be worn around the body, made of leather, or any suitable material. B is a small elastic strap, running from the belt down between the legs, and brought up and fastened to the back or side of the body-belt by a button, or otherwise, to keep it in place. C is an elastic band, attached by its centre to the pad, its ends being securely fastened by fastenings *a a*, in any suitable manner, to the body-belt A. D is the check-strap, and is formed either separate, or of that portion of the body-belt intervening between the attachments of the elastic band. It bows over the elastic band loosely, as shown at *b b*, so that when the said elastic band expands, it takes up the slack of this check-strap, which thus serves as the check or stop.

E is the pad, preferably oval in shape, made of wood or any other suitable material, and generally covered with some soft substance, such as porous leather. The inner portion, *c*, of the pad that touches the rupture, rises in its centre to a level with the outer rim, *d*, of said pad, the part between the outer rim and centre being hollowed, as shown at *f* in fig. 2.

F is a small leather strap, passing over the check-strap D and elastic band C, and back of the pad, and fastened at the top and bottom of the pad. Its object is to hold down the bowing part of the check-strap D, to keep it out of the way of the wearer. G is a leather pad, through which the body-belt passes. It is intended to ease the pressure of the belt on the back of the wearer.

Most trusses and supporters are inelastic in a longitudinal direction, which is a very great inconvenience to the wearer in many positions, besides being painful. It is my object in this invention to remedy this defect.

The interposition of the elastic band C allows the necessary distension of the abdomen either in breathing or in working. At the same time the check-strap D prevents any overstrain, by straightening as the band expands.

The fastenings *a* allow the adjustment of the elastic band and check-strap to just the desired degree, to adapt them to the wants of the person, and they also allow compensation as the band permanently stretches. The supporter is thus fitted in a few moments' time to any person by simply taking up or letting out the belt and the check-strap, an effect, so far as I am aware, never before accomplished in any other device of the kind. By this means I am enabled to avoid the manufacture of a great variety of sizes, as in other trusses.

The peculiar formation of the pad, with the central elevation *c* and the outer rim *d*, is of much importance in drawing the walls of the rupture together, and producing a tendency to close and heal the breach. The central elevation bears upon the protruding parts from the opening until the outer rim, fitting outside the walls, draws them together in the depression *f*. The pad thus formed fits easily and accurately, and causes but little inconvenience to the wearer.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination of the interposed elastic band C and the check-strap D with the body-belt A and pad E, arranged and operating in manner and for the purposes herein set forth.

2. The formation of the pad with the central elevation *c*, raised rim *d*, and intermediate annular depression *f*, in the manner and for the purpose specified.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

A. F. JENNINGS.

Witnesses:

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