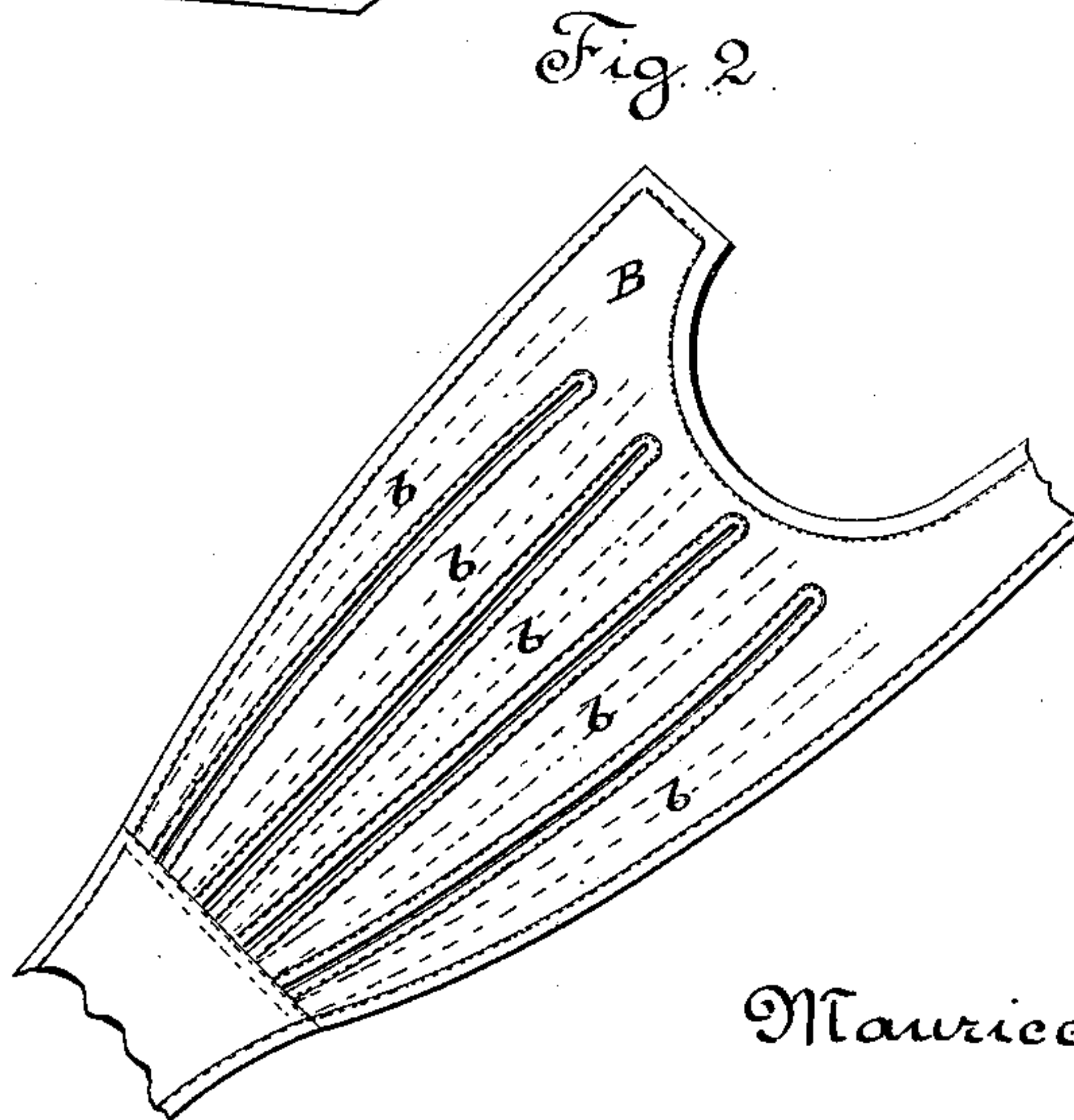
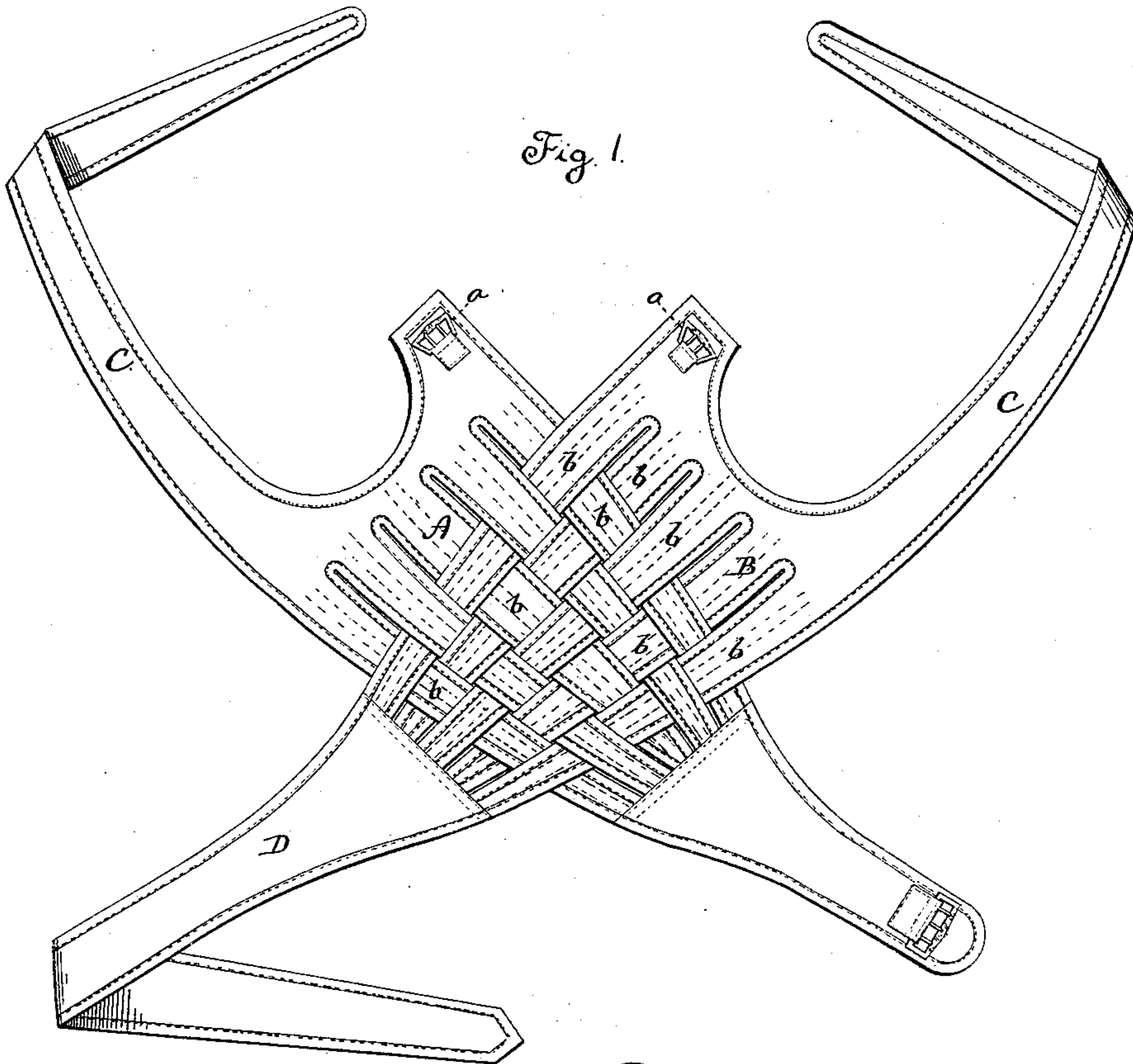


(No Model.)

M. F. LINQUIST.
SHOULDER BRACE.

No. 329,659.

Patented Nov. 3, 1885.



Witnesses
J. P. Humway
Fred C. Cook

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MAURICE F. LINQUIST, OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT.

SHOULDER-BRACE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 329,659, dated November 3, 1885.

Application filed August 31, 1885. Serial No. 175,697. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MAURICE F. LINQUIST, of New Haven, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented a new
5 Improvement in Shoulder-Braces; and I do hereby declare the following, when taken in connection with accompanying drawings and the letters of reference marked thereon, to be a full, clear, exact description of the same,
10 and which said drawings constitute part of this specification, and represent, in--

Figure 1, a rear view of the brace complete; Fig. 2, one of the parts detached.

This invention relates to an improvement
15 in a device to be applied to the person to support the shoulders; and it consists in two straps arranged to cross each other in the back, the upper ends provided with straps around the respective shoulders, the lower
20 ends with straps to pass around the waist, the two straps at their crossing constructed each with a series of longitudinal slits, forming a corresponding series of narrow strips, the strips of the two straps interlaced through
25 the respective slits, the several strips provided with a stay arranged longitudinally therein, and whereby the crossing portion of the straps becomes self-adjusting to the shape of the person or movements of the body, all
30 as more fully hereinafter described.

The brace is composed of two parts or straps, A B, the two parts being substantially alike, except that they are cut right and left. One of the parts is shown detached in Fig.
35 2. At the upper end each part is provided with a strap, C, to surround the shoulder, and preferably with an adjusting device, as a buckle, *a*. The lower end is constructed with a strap, D, adapted to surround the waist and
40 meet the corresponding end of the other part. The two parts cross in the back, as indicated in Fig. 1. At the crossing the parts are made broad, and in them several longitudinal slits are cut, forming a series of strips, *b b*,
45 more or less in number, both cut substantially alike. These slits in each part are in length greater than the width of the other part. The several strips of the one part are interlaced with the strips of the other part
50 through their respective slits, and so that one part crosses the other; but they are held in position by the interlacing of the strips. The slits permit the separation of the strips—that is, permit the spreading of each part—so that

the crossed or supporting portion of the back 55 will readily adapt itself by expansion or contraction to the shape of the back. This feature is a very great advantage in case of curvature of the spine or other deformity of the back or shoulders. The interlacing of the
60 two parts permits the working of the one part in the other, to adapt itself to the movements of the body, yet without displacing either of the parts, they resuming their normal position whenever the body is upright. 65 The interlacing permits the straps to adjust themselves to different inclinations for different size or form of the person, the two straps working as freely in this respect as if detached. 70

The particular devices for securing the straps around the shoulders or around the waist are immaterial to the invention, it only being necessary that the respective parts shall be provided with some connection around the
75 shoulders and waist to give the required support. Each of the parts, at least over the slitted portion, is best made of two thicknesses, and between the thicknesses of each strip a stay of bone, steel, or other suitable
80 material is introduced, to give a certain degree of stiffness and elasticity to the strips as an aid to the support of the back, as well as to maintain the several strips in their proper relation to each other. The stays are in- 85 dicated in broken lines. The method of applying the stays to the strips, however, is not material, it only being essential that the strips shall be provided with stays to give them the requisite stiffness and elasticity. 90

I claim—

The herein-described shoulder-brace, consisting of the two straps A B, each constructed at its upper end to be secured around the respective shoulders, and at the opposite end 95 for engagement at the waist, the straps crossing each other at the back, each strap constructed with a series of longitudinal slits, forming a corresponding series of strips, *b*, the strips of the two parts interlaced through 100 the slits in the respective parts, and the several strips provided with a stay arranged longitudinally therein, substantially as described.

MAURICE F. LINQUIST.

Witnesses:

JOHN E. EARLE,

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