

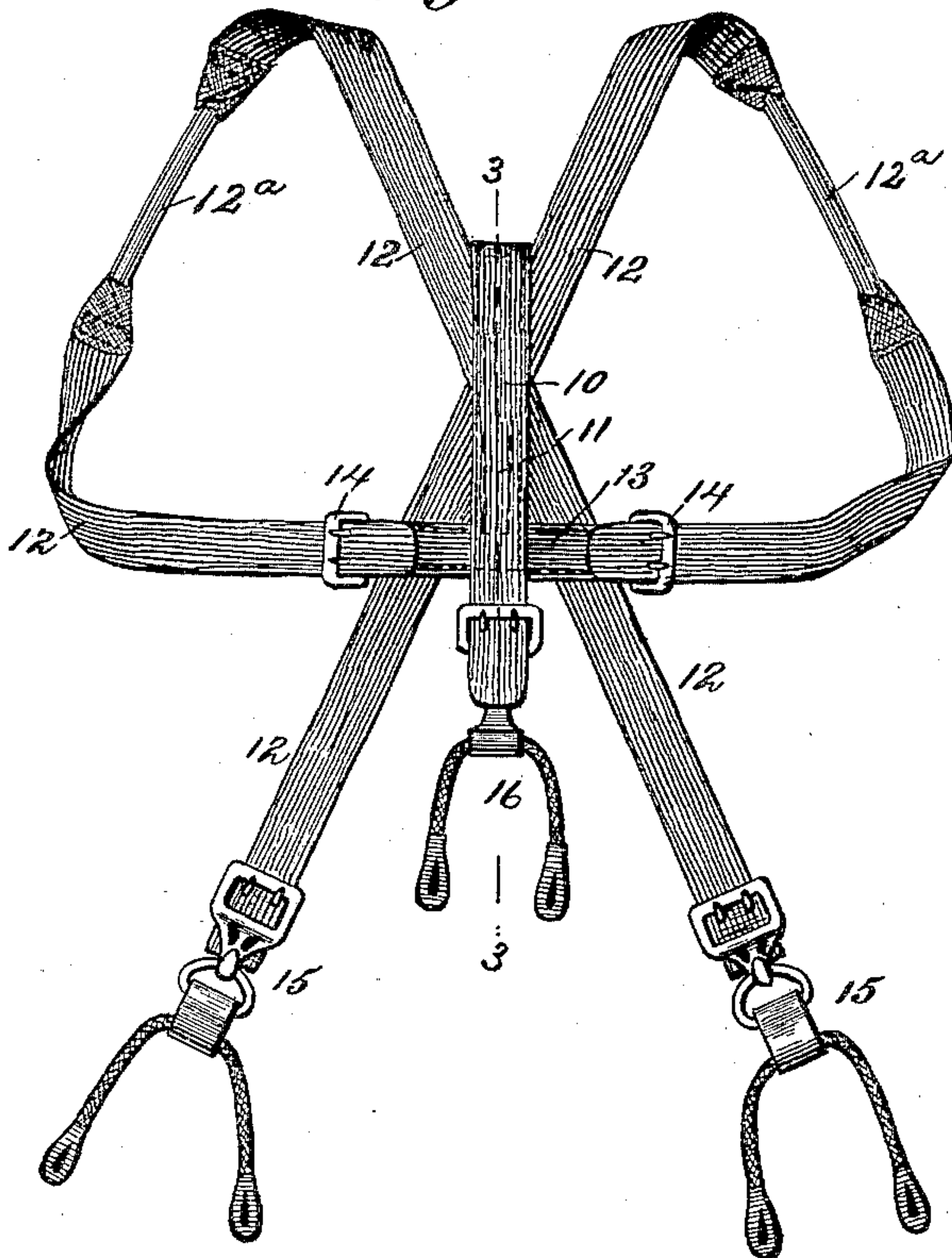
(No Model.)

A. J. BOBBS.  
SUSPENDERS.

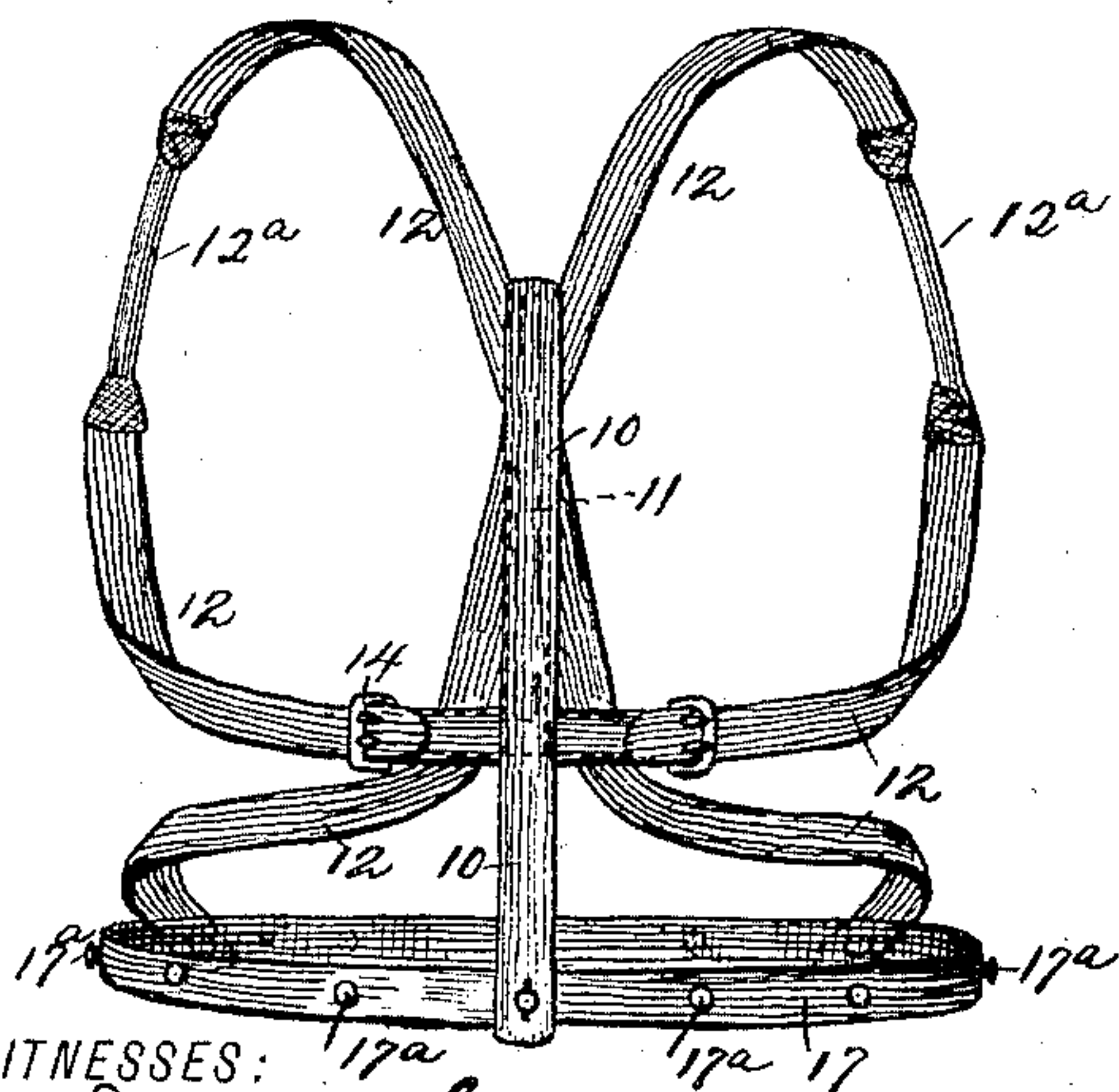
No. 453,074.

Patented May 26, 1891.

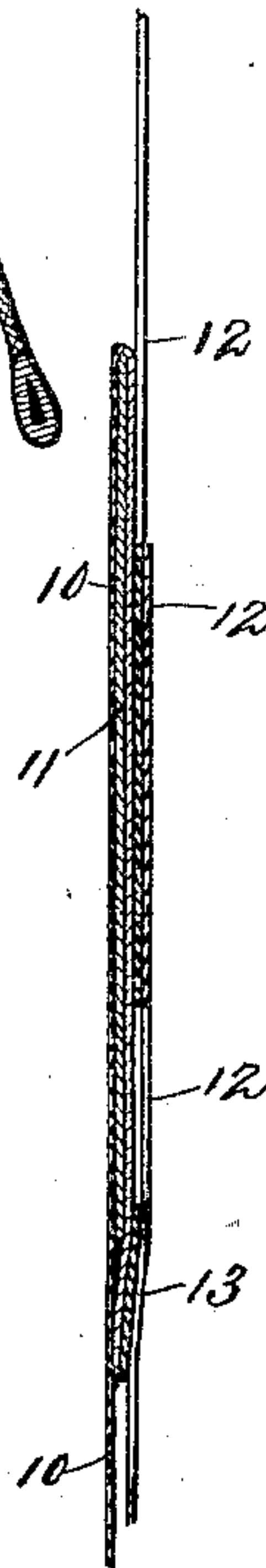
*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



WITNESSES:

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ANDREW J. BOBBS, OF MARION, INDIANA.

## SUSPENDERS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 453,074, dated May 26, 1891.

Application filed September 19, 1890. Serial No. 365,565. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ANDREW J. BOBBS, of Marion, in the county of Grant and State of Indiana, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Back-Brace and Support, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a combined back-brace and support adapted to give shape to the back and shoulders and at the same time support the garments of wearers.

The object of my invention is to provide an article of the above class that shall consist of very few light parts arranged and connected to form a neat and compact brace, which is particularly well adapted for warm weather.

With this object in view my invention consists of a narrow back-piece adapted to be worn between the shoulders and along the spine, said back-piece being stiffened by a central longitudinal stay of steel or whalebone, the supporting and bracing straps connected with the back-piece crossing each other diagonally thereon, the cross-strap arranged at right angles to the back-piece and connected near the lower end of the same and with the supporting-straps, and the fastening and supporting devices secured to the ends of the cross and supporting straps, respectively.

My invention consists, further, in certain peculiarities of construction and combination of parts, as will be more fully explained hereinafter.

In the drawings forming a part of the specification, Figure 1 is a rear view of my improved back-brace and support, the parts being connected the same as when used by an adult male. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the device modified for use upon women and children. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section taken on the line 3 3 of Fig. 1.

In the practical embodiment of my invention I employ a back-piece 10, which back-piece consists of a narrow strip of webbing, preferably inelastic, which is formed with a pocket to receive the central longitudinal stay 11, of steel or whalebone, as desired. The pocket for this stay is usually constructed by folding the thin strip of webbing transversely upon itself at a point near the middle, placing the stay between the folds and

securing the same by stitching, as clearly shown, the end of the longer fold projecting downwardly, the purpose of which will be set forth farther on.

Supporting and bracing straps 12 12 are secured to the back-piece 10 by stitching, said straps crossing each other diagonally thereon, and it will be seen that these straps are secured to the back-piece 10 and to each other by the same stitching that confines the stay 11 within the folds of the back-piece. A short cross-strap 13 is secured near the lower end of the back-piece at right angles to the same, extending on each side of the same a distance sufficient to meet the supporting-straps 12, to which it is also secured by stitching. The cross-strap has fastening devices 14 secured at each end of same, which devices are adapted to engage and hold the upper ends of the supporting-straps 12 after they have been passed over the shoulders and under the arms. The lower portions of the straps 12 extend a considerable distance below the cross-strap, and are provided with the adjustable fastening devices 15, adapted to be secured to the trousers, the lower ends of said straps 12 being passed diagonally across the adjacent loins, whereby the fastening devices 15 are adapted to engage the trousers at the side and front. An adjustable fastening device 16 is secured to the projecting fold of the back-piece 10, which device 16 is adapted to engage and support the trousers at the back. The upper portions of the straps 12, which pass beneath the arms, are formed of water-proof elastic rubber tubing 12<sup>a</sup>, arranged and connected as shown and described in my previous patent, No. 432,363, dated July 15, 1890, whereby the straps are prevented curling and rotating where they pass beneath the arms. The back-piece 10 conforms to the shape of the back, bracing the same, and rests entirely above the waist-line. The upper ends of supporting and bracing straps 12, passing over the shoulders and under the arms back to the ends of the cross-strap, keep the back-piece well up between the shoulders and also closely confined to the body. The lower ends of the straps 12 being passed diagonally across the adjacent loins to engage the trousers, also keep the back-piece in proper position and



brace the shoulders, taking off a great deal of the supporting strain, which is so disagreeable in warm weather.

The back-piece 10, straps 12, and cross-strap 13 are all of the same width, and the straps 12 may be of elastic or inelastic webbing, as desired.

For children and women I employ a waist-belt 17, which is attached to the lower ends of the straps 12 and the lower end of the projecting fold of the back-piece 10, said belt having buttons or other fastening device 17<sup>a</sup>, to which the child's breeches or women's skirts may be attached.

From the above it will be seen that I provide a combined back-brace and support which consists of very few and simple parts, which are easily applied, and on account of its peculiarity of construction and arrangement is particularly adapted for warm weather, holding the shoulders back, supporting the garments without any unnecessary strain upon the wearer, and preventing any rubbing or chafing that commonly takes place in this class of article.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new is—

1. An improved back-brace and support consisting of the supporting-straps crossing each other diagonally, the cross-strap attached to the supporting-straps below the juncture of said straps, the depending portion secured to the supporting-straps at their junct-

ure and adapted to be connected with and support the rear portion of the garment, the lower end of each supporting-strap adapted to be passed under the arm, connected with and support the forward portion of the garment, the upper ends of the supporting-straps adapted to be passed around the shoulders and connected with the cross-strap, substantially as shown and described.

2. An improved back-brace and support consisting of the back-piece having a depending portion, the supporting-straps secured to the back-piece and crossing each other diagonally thereon, the cross-strap secured to the lower end of the back-piece and connected with the lower portions of the supporting-straps, fastening devices secured to the ends of the cross-strap, and adjustable supporting devices secured to the lower ends of the supporting-straps, which are adapted to be passed around the sides and connected with the forward side of the garment, the upper ends of said straps being passed over the shoulder, under the arm, and secured to the ends of the cross-straps, and adjustable supporting devices secured to the lower end of the back-piece, adapted to be connected to and support the rear portion of the garments, substantially as shown and described.

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