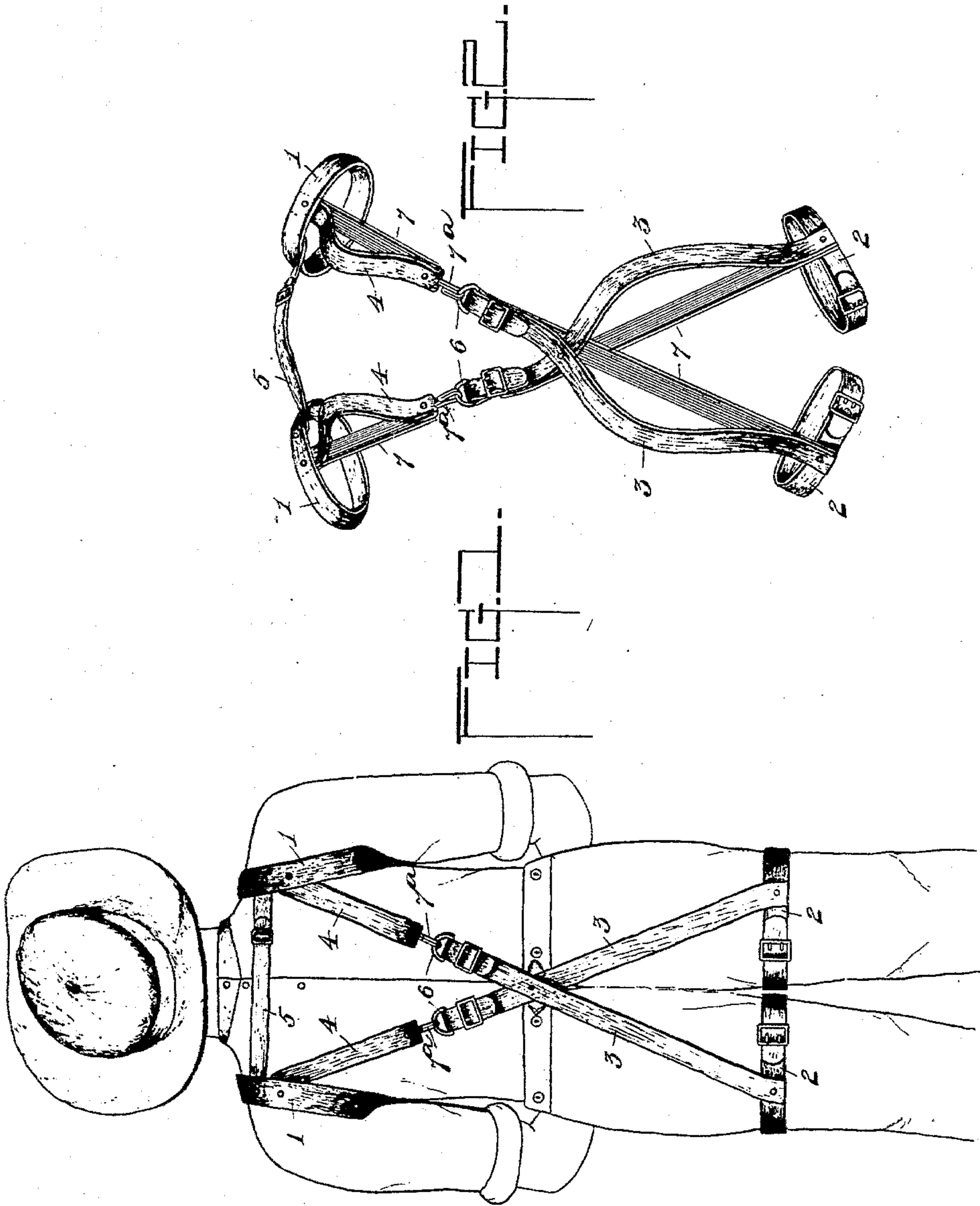


(No Model.)

J. A. BASSETT.
BACK AND SHOULDER BRACE.

No. 596,839.

Patented Jan. 4, 1898.



Inventor

James A. Bassett.

Witnesses

W. B. Hillyard.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES ANDREWS BASSETT, OF ALBANY, TEXAS.

BACK AND SHOULDER BRACE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 596,839, dated January 4, 1898.

Application filed February 24, 1897. Serial No. 624,815. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES ANDREWS BASSETT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Albany, in the county of Shackelford and State of Texas, have invented a new and useful Back-Support and Shoulder-Brace, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to means for strengthening and supporting the back and shoulders of persons engaged in occupations which require stooping, and is particularly adapted for persons picking cotton or berries or performing other work requiring them to bend forward.

The brace and supporter is constructed so as to be attached to the arms and legs of the wearer, and intermediate straps connect the arm and leg straps and are provided with elastic or spring connections which have a tendency to hold the person in an erect position and which give and support the back when stooping.

For a full understanding of the merits and advantages of the invention reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings and the following description.

The improvement is susceptible of various changes in the form, proportion, and the minor details of construction without departing from the principle or sacrificing any of the advantages thereof, and to a full disclosure of the invention an adaptation thereof is shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 shows the invention applied. Fig. 2 is a view of the supporter and brace.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and designated in the views of the accompanying drawings by the same reference-characters.

The supporter and brace comprises similar arm and leg straps 1 and 2, respectively, thigh-straps 3, back-straps 4, and a shoulder-stay 5, the latter connecting the arm-straps near their upper ends, so as to prevent them from slipping down upon the arms to the inconvenience of the wearer when the device is in service. The arm and leg straps are constructed so as to be adjusted to suit the form of the wearer, and the intermediate connecting-straps are adapted to be lengthened and shortened for a like purpose. The thigh-straps are attached at their lower ends to the leg-

straps and cross intermediate of their ends and have their upper extremities provided with eyes or links 6, which receive hooks 7^a, applied to the lower ends of the back-straps 4, thereby admitting of the thigh and back straps being separable at the will of the wearer. Each of the back and thigh straps is provided with an elastic 7, which is attached at its extremities to the terminal of the strap, and this elastic is shorter than the strap to which it is secured, so that under normal conditions the strap is caused to bulge intermediate of its ends, as clearly indicated in Fig. 2. When the supporter is applied, the elastics 7 normally support a person in an upright position and yield sufficiently to admit of stooping, the tendency of the distended elastic to contract acting as a means to support the back and obviate that tired feeling resulting from stooping. The straps 3 and 4 prevent the overstretching of the elastics, which would otherwise result in rendering them unserviceable after a comparatively short time of use, and when the elastics are stretched to the limit of straightening the straps the latter sustain the strain, while at the same time admitting of the contractile action of the elastics, tending to support and straighten the back.

The device can be worn by accountants, clerks, mechanics, and others whose calling require them to stoop, so as to support the back, brace the shoulders, and obviate the languid feeling resulting from performing work in a stooping position.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is—

1. In a back-support, the combination of connected arm-straps, back-straps secured at their upper ends to the arm-straps, crossing thigh-straps detachably connected at their upper ends with the lower extremities of the back-straps, and leg-straps applied to the lower terminals of the thigh-straps, substantially in the manner set forth for the purpose specified.

2. A back-support and shoulder-brace, comprising leg and arm straps, back-straps connected at their upper ends with the arm-straps, thigh-straps connected at their lower ends with the leg-straps and at their upper ends with the lower end of the back-strap,

and elastics connected at their ends with each of the back and thigh straps and causing the latter to bulge, substantially in the manner set forth for the purpose described.

- 5 3. A combined back-support and shoulder-brace, comprising arm and leg straps, a shoulder-stay connecting the arm-straps, back and thigh straps detachably connected together and having connection with the arm and leg
10 straps, and elastics applied to the back and

thigh straps and normally causing them to bulge, substantially as specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

^{his}
JAMES X ANDREWS BASSETT.
_{mark}

Witnesses:

J. A. KING,
W. A. WILLIAMS.