

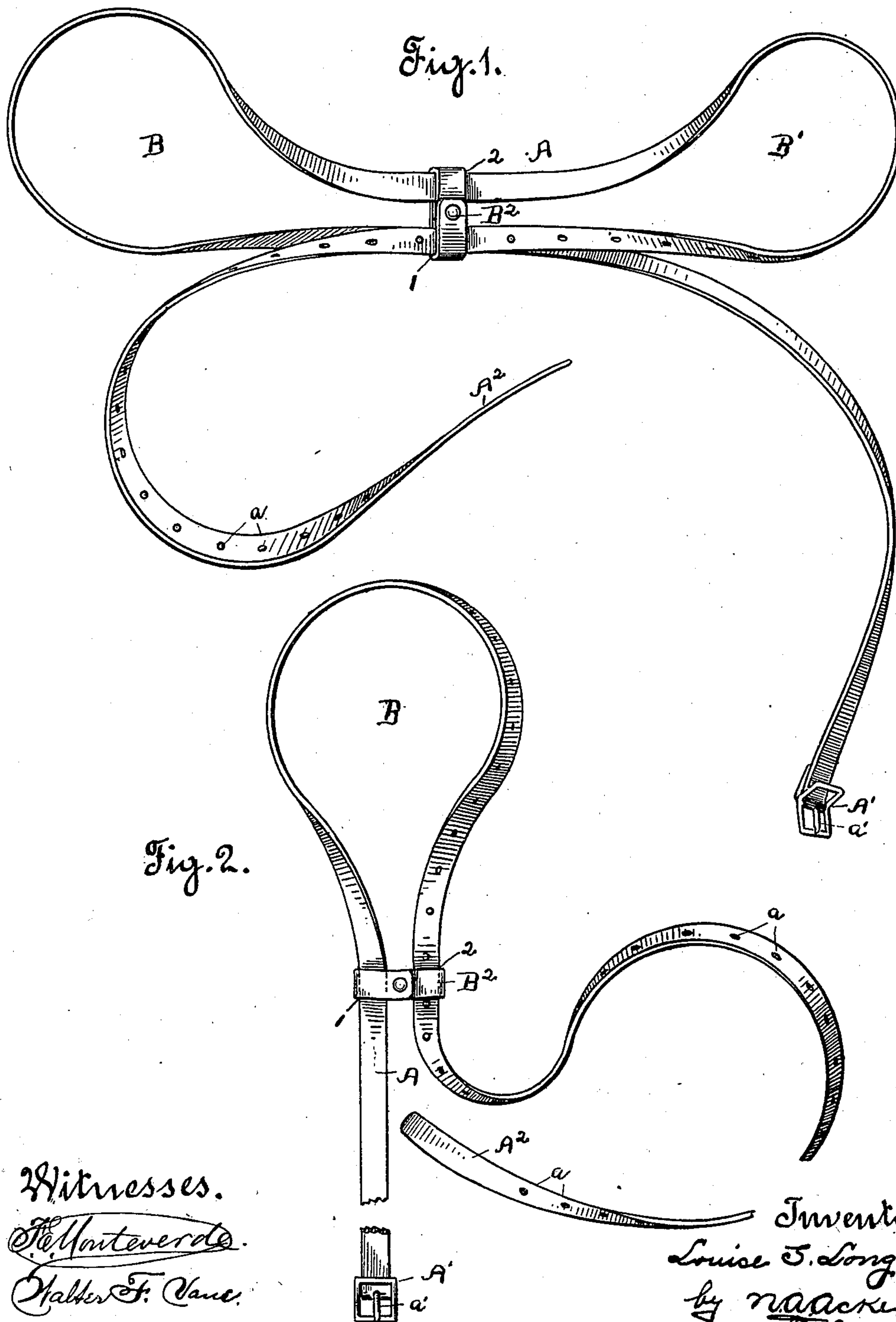
No. 658,III.

Patented Sept. 18, 1900.

L. S. LONG.  
SHOULDER BRACE.

(Application filed Mar. 12, 1900.)

(No Model.)





# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LOUISE S. LONG, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

## SHOULDER-BRACE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 658,111, dated September 18, 1900.

Application filed March 12, 1900. Serial No. 8,299. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, LOUISE S. LONG, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city and county of San Francisco, State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shoulder-Braces; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

Ordinarily shoulder-braces are constructed of a number of elements adjustably connected by means of buckles or otherwise, and it is required that a number of braces be employed to comply with the varying size of the wearers of this class of goods. The shoulder-braces at present in use permit of only a limited adjustment. Consequently a brace of a given size is only adapted for use of persons of approximately the same build. For instance, the brace designed for a child could not be used upon an adult.

The main object of the present invention is to enable me to dispense with the necessity of manufacturing braces of varying sizes and to provide a brace which may be used for children or adults.

The invention also has for its object to dispense with the complicated and expensive adjusting features at present employed in connection with articles of this class and to provide a brace simple of construction, inexpensive in its manufacture, and easily adjusted to the wearer thereof.

In order to comprehend the invention, reference should be had to the accompanying sheet of drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a view showing the brace ready to be applied to the wearer, and Fig. 2 is a plan view illustrating the manner of constructing the brace.

The brace may be said to consist of a single piece A, composed of leather, canvas, or other suitable material, having at one end a buckle or fastening device A', with which the opposite end A<sup>2</sup> of the strap engages. In the present case I have illustrated the fastening device as consisting of an ordinary buckle and the engaging end of the strap as being provided with a series of perforations or openings a, through which the tongue a' of the buckle passes. However, this feature is immaterial, as any form of connection may be employed for uniting the ends of the strap or

piece A. The strap or piece A is formed or so run as to form shoulder-openings B B', which openings are separated by the slide or loop B<sup>2</sup>. This slide or loop in the present case is provided with two openings 1 2, through which openings the strap or piece A' is passed.

The brace is formed or constructed as follows: The strap or piece is first inserted through opening 1 of the slide or loop and then passed through opening 2, so as to form a shoulder-opening B. The free end of the strap extending through opening 2 is then passed through opening 1 from an opposite side of the slide or loop, leaving a shoulder-opening B'. The brace is then ready to be placed upon the wearer, whose arms are inserted through the shoulder-openings B B'. When in position upon the shoulders, the free ends of the strap or piece A are drawn around the body and united together. By simply drawing upon the free ends the tension of the brace will be increased as desired.

The slide or loop B<sup>2</sup> being movable upon the strap or piece A its position may be adjusted so as to lie between the shoulder-blades. It will be understood that the loop B<sup>2</sup> may be rigidly united to the strap A by being sewed or otherwise at about the middle thereof, thus leaving ample length of strap at each side to be turned and passed through opening 1 of the loop, so as to form the shoulder-openings B and B'. However, by making the loop B<sup>2</sup> removable it may be easily replaced if damaged. To remove the brace, it is only required to disconnect the ends thereof, when the brace may be readily released from the wearer thereof.

It is obvious that as the brace is constructed from a single piece or strap the size of the brace is only dependent upon the length of the said strap. However, two or more pieces or straps A may be united so as to increase the strap A to any required length. When the expression a "single piece" is employed, I do not wish to be understood as excluding the uniting of two or more pieces A to obtain the requisite length.

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

1. A shoulder-brace comprising a single strap, a loop thereon, at or near the middle of

the strap, said strap being looped at opposite sides of said loop to form shoulder-openings and having its ends passed in opposite directions through said loop, and means for uniting the ends of the strap about the body of the wearer, substantially as described.

2. A shoulder-brace comprising a slide having separated openings, a single strap passed through one of said openings looped to form shoulder-openings and having its ends passed

in opposite directions through the other slide-opening, and means for uniting the ends of the strap about the body of the wearer, substantially as described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

LOUISE S. LONG.

Witnesses:

N. A. ACKER,

WALTER F. VANE.