

No. 741,521.

PATENTED OCT. 13, 1903.

W. U. G. MARTIN.  
BODY SUPPORT.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 28, 1902.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 1.

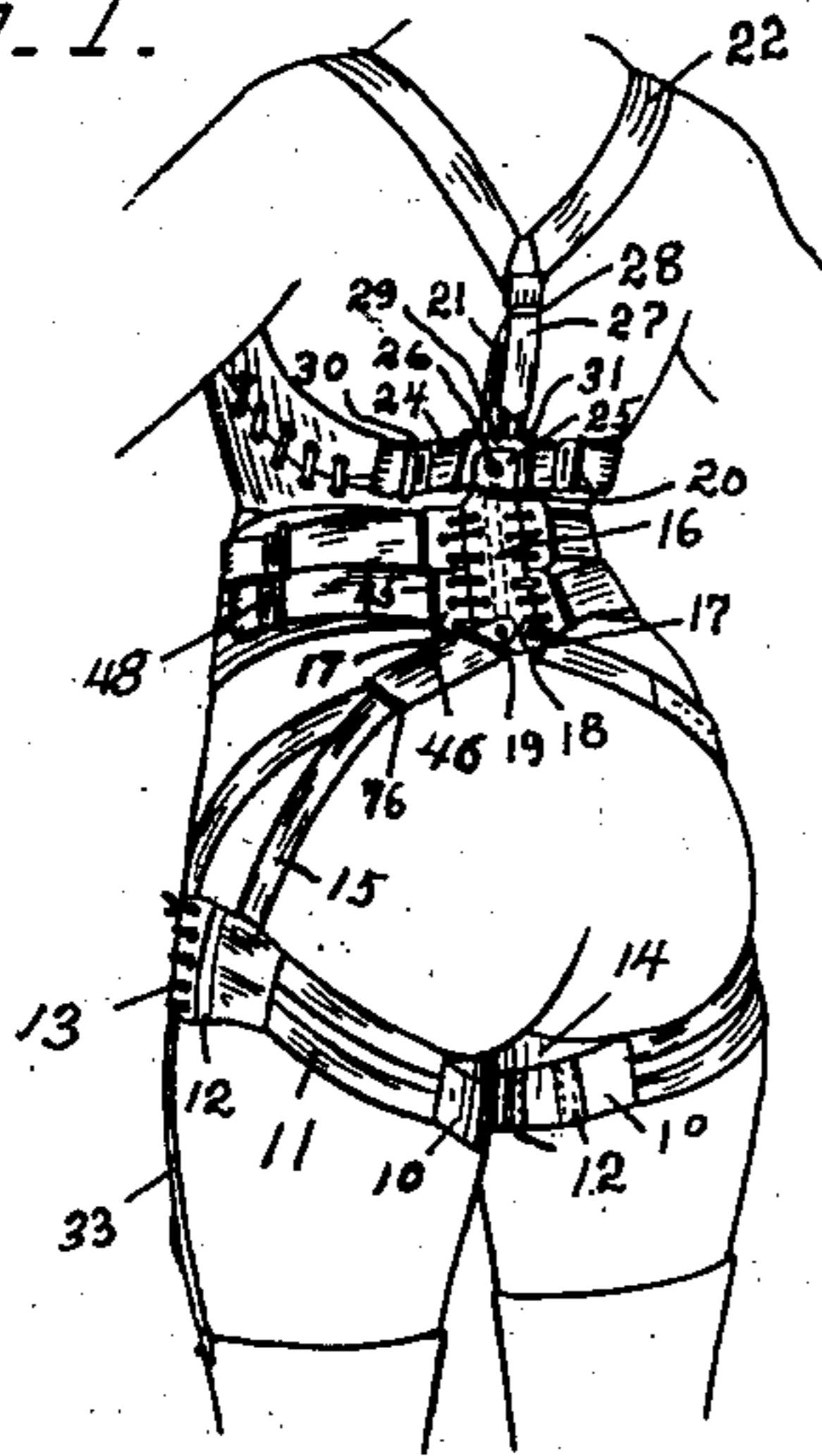


Fig. 2.

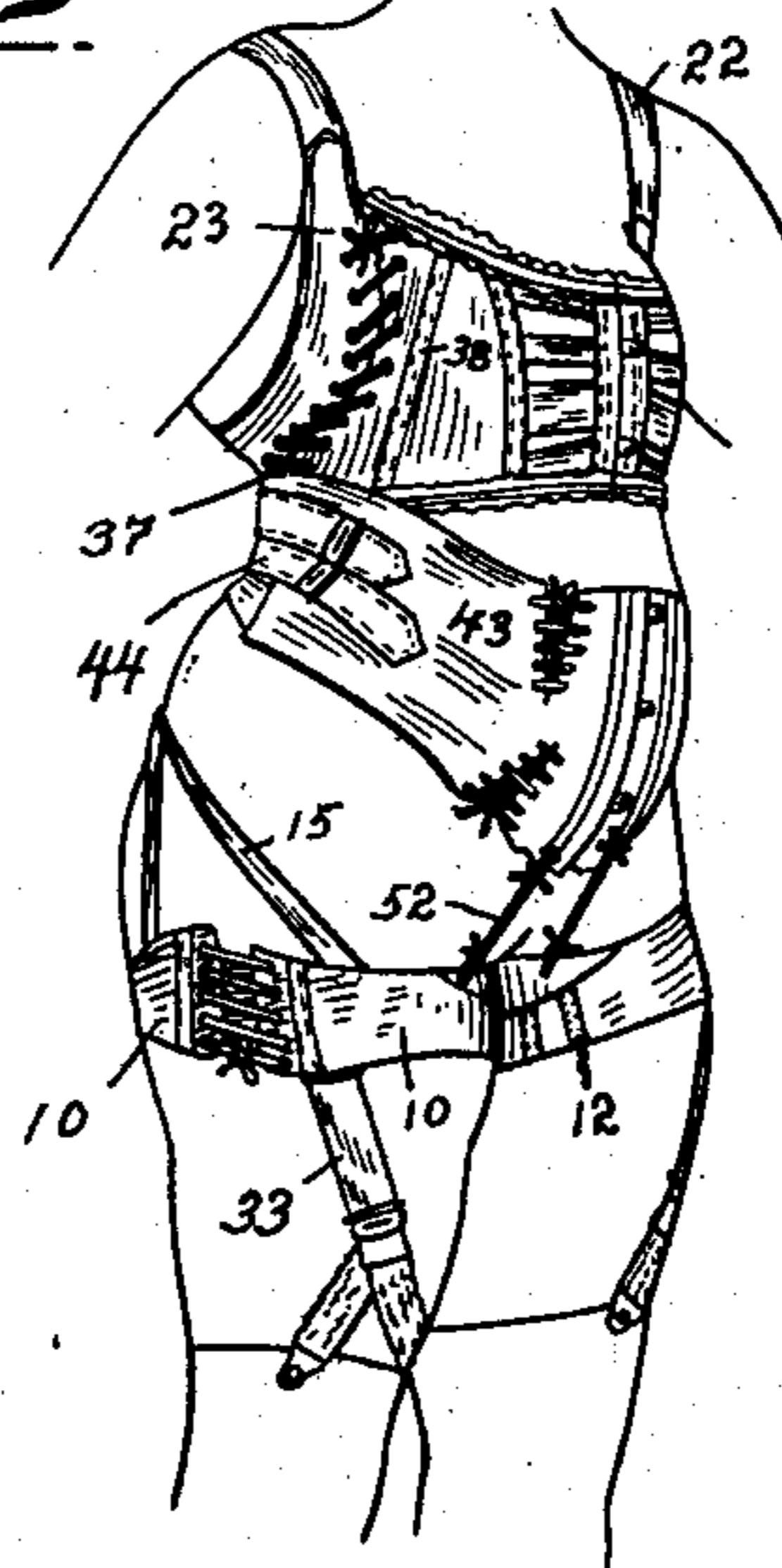


Fig. 3.

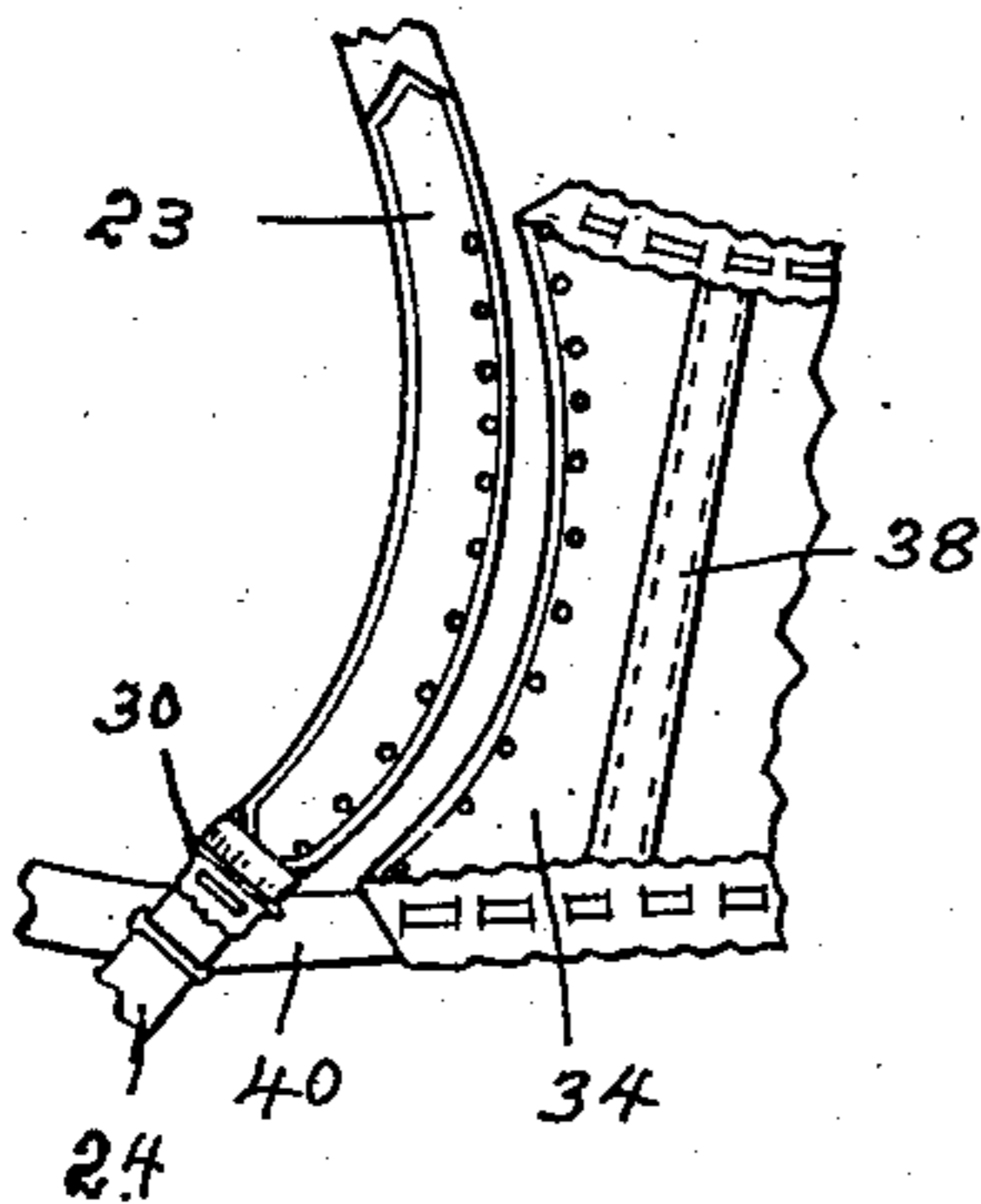


Fig. 4.

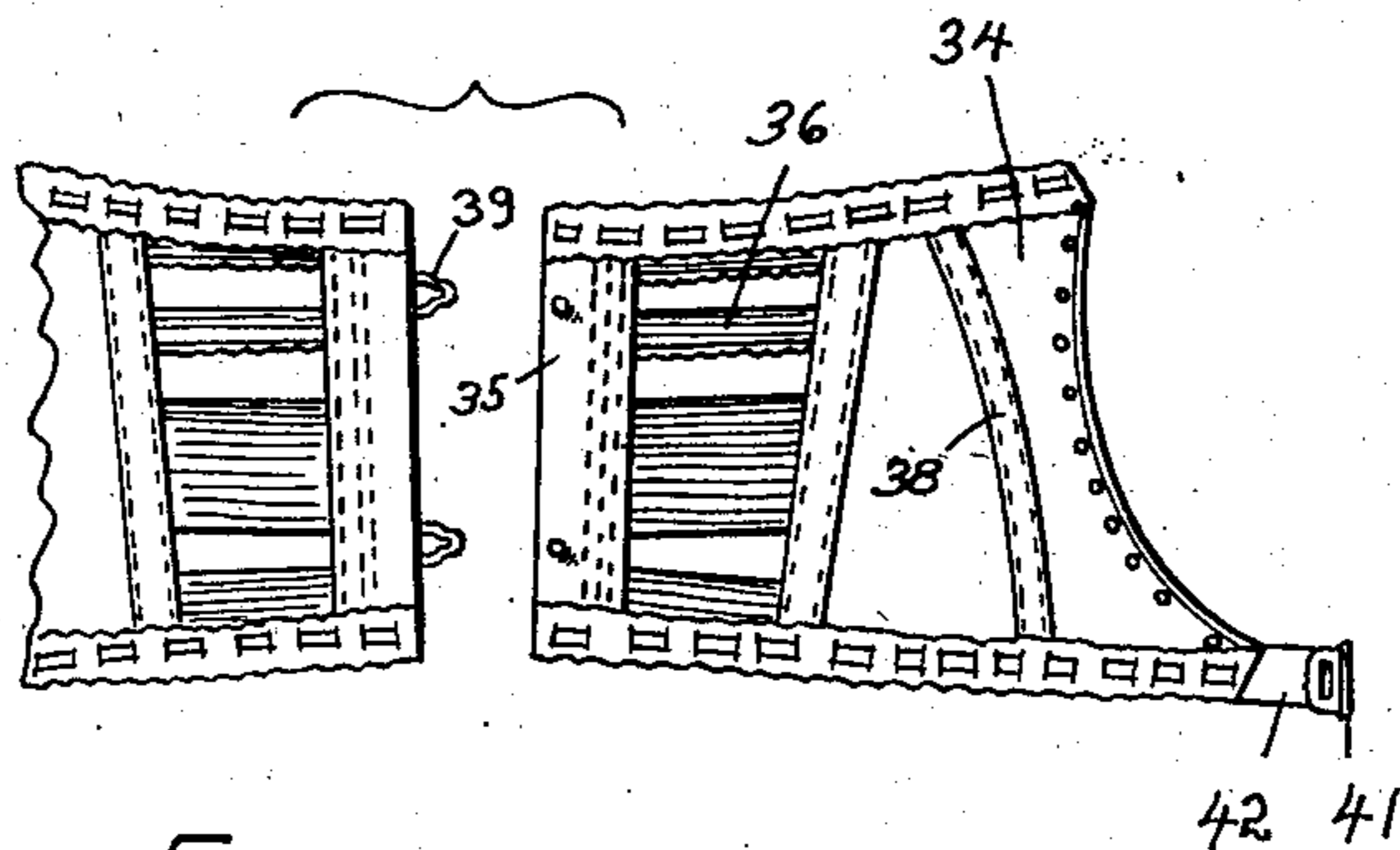
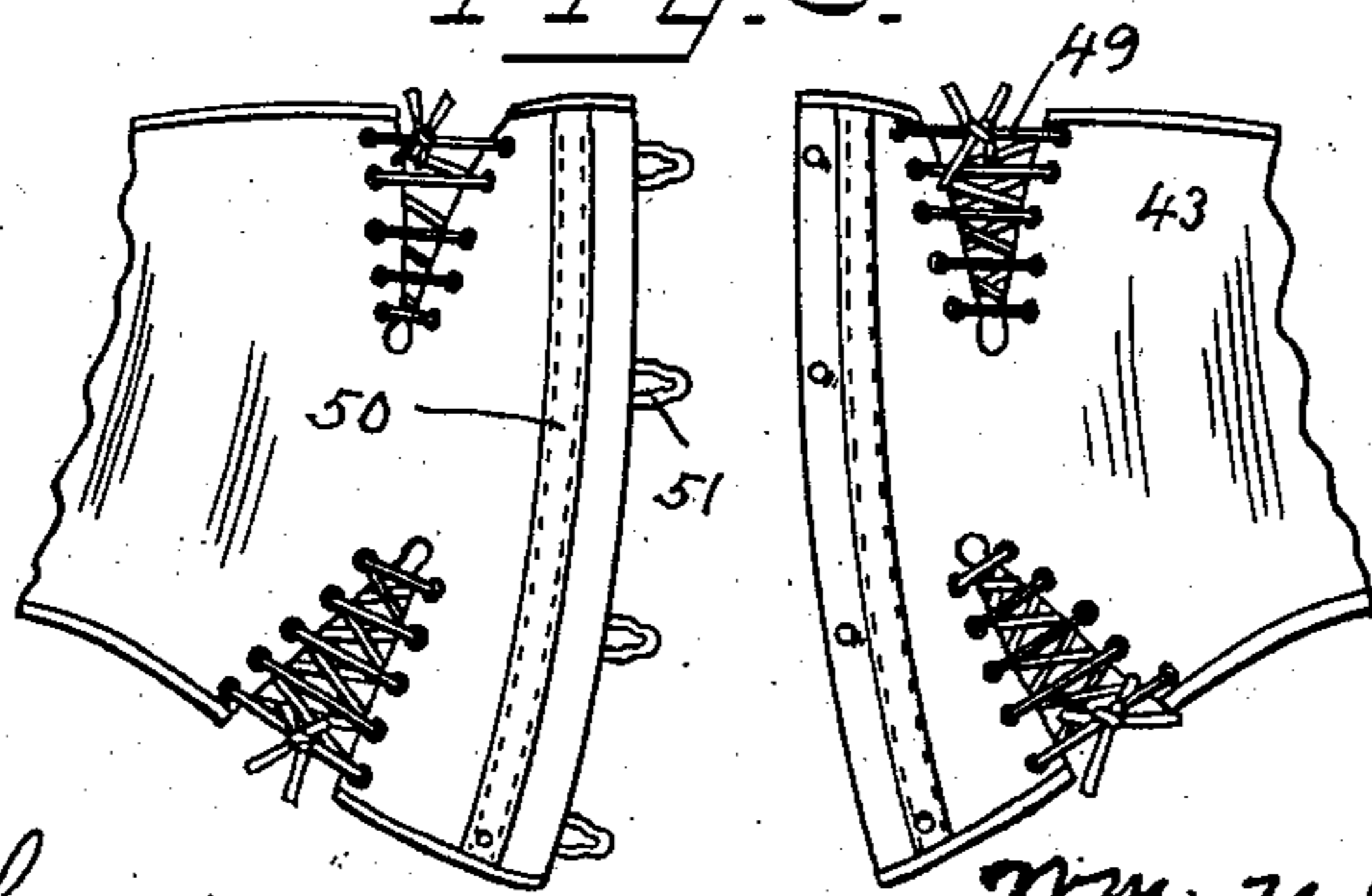


Fig. 5.



WITNESSES.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM U. G. MARTIN, OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

## BODY-SUPPORT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 741,521, dated October 13, 1903.

Application filed April 28, 1902. Serial No. 105,017. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM U. G. MARTIN, of Indianapolis, county of Marion, and State of Indiana, have invented a certain new and  
5 useful Body-Support; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which like numerals refer to like parts.

10 The object of this invention is to provide an improved body-support, a leading feature of which consists of a support for the upper part of the legs and a connection between that and a support for the upper part of the body,  
15 especially the shoulders, whereby they will hold each other in place and also hold in proper place intermediate body-supports, such as hip-supports, abdominal supports, and bust-supports.

20 The novel features of said improved body-support will be understood from the accompanying drawings and following description and claims.

25 In the drawings, Figure 1 is a rear elevation of the body-support in place on a human figure, which is partly shown in outline. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a detail view of a portion of the shoulder-support and adjacent portion of the bust-support with the lacing omitted. Fig. 4 is a detailed view of the front portion of the bust-support, showing the sides separated slightly.  
30 Fig. 5 is a front elevation of a portion of the abdominal support, showing the two sides separated somewhat.

35 In describing said body-support attention will first be given to the leg-support portion thereof. The leg-supports are two bands—one surrounding each leg immediately below  
40 the hip and consisting of a non-elastic portion 10, that extends around the sides and front of the leg, and an elastic portion 11, which extends across the rear of the leg. The elastic portion 11 is preferably formed of two  
45 parallel elastic strips connected, respectively, to the upper and lower margins of the adjacent ends of the non-elastic portion of said support. The purpose of the elastic portion 11 is to cause the leg-supports to yield to the  
50 bend of the body and to support comfortably the portion of the body immediately above said elastic support, and the comfort of such

elastic portion is increased by forming it of two parallel elastic strips, so that they may independently yield in supporting the body. 55

The non-elastic portions of the leg-supports are provided with stays 12 on both the outside and inside of the legs to maintain the proper width and shape of the leg-support. At the outside of the legs said support is separable, the ends being united by the lacings 13. The chief function of this lacing is to adjust the support to the size and shape of the upper part of the leg. The portions of the supports on the inside of the leg are covered  
60 with leather 14 along their upper margins in order to make the support smooth and comfortable and to cover the stays and strengthen the supports.

Hip-supports 15 extend from each side of said leg-supports upward diagonally across the hips to a saddle 16 in the middle of the back. Said hip-supports are elastic, the lower portion being divided into two elastic strips that diverge from the buckle 76 and are considerably separated at the lower ends and secured by stitching or otherwise to the non-elastic portions of the leg-supports, one of said strips being on each side of the lacing 13. By dividing the hip-supports the two strips  
75 become independently elastic and yield better to the portions of the body which they support during the various movements of the body, and they also give a more extended support to the exterior sides of the leg-supports. The upper ends of the hip-supports consist of single elastic strips extending from the buckle 16 to the buckle 17, whereby the length of the hip-supports is adjusted. The buckle 17 is carried in the loop or flap 18 at  
80 the lower end of the saddle 16.

The saddle 16 is made preferably of two layers of leather with a vertical stay between them, said stay being shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1. The loops 18 are integral ears at the lower end of the saddle that are extended through the buckles 17 and turned upward and back and secured to the saddle by means of a ball-and-socket fastening at 19. 95

The lower rear portion of the shoulder support or brace is connected to the upper end of said saddle 16 by a metallic loop at 20. Said metallic loop is held between the two layers of the saddle, the strip of leather form- 100

ing said saddle being inserted through the loop before the leather strips are stitched together to form the saddle. The shoulder-support consists of the following portions: the  
 5 vertical elastic portion 21, the elastic portion 22, that extends over each shoulder, the non-elastic portion 23, that extends in front and under each arm, and the elastic portions 24, extending horizontally across the back. The  
 10 elastic vertical portion 21 has a leather lower end 25, that extends through the metal loop 20 and is turned up and is connected with the upper portion of the latter by a ball-and-socket fastening 26. A strip of leather 27 is  
 15 secured to the upper end of the vertical portion 21, that extends through a metal loop 28, secured to the lower united ends of the shoulder-pieces 22 and whereby the length of the shoulder support or brace may be in-  
 20 creased or diminished. The elastic horizontal portion 24 of the shoulder-support is stitched or secured to the lower end of the portion 23. The two horizontal portions 24 are connected by the intermediate leather piece 29. It has  
 25 an eye in it that fits over the ball in the ball-and-socket fastening 26, whereby the lower rear ends of the non-elastic portions 23 of the shoulders-support are united, and the length of the connection between them is  
 30 rendered adjustable by the buckles 30, which secure the free ends of the elastic portions 24 after they have been extended through the metal loops 31, that are secured in the intermediate leather pieces 29.

35 From the foregoing description it is seen that the shoulders-support holds the leg-supports and hip-supports in their proper position and, on the contrary, the leg-supports and hip-supports hold the shoulders-support in  
 40 the proper position, the support for the lower portion of the body and the support for the upper portion of the body acting against each other to hold each other in proper position, and yet the supports are so made as to yield  
 45 comfortably to the various movements of the body and be readily adjustable in length. The leg-supports, combined with the hip-supports, held in the position indicated are of great value to corpulent people. Combined  
 50 with the foregoing are elastic hose-supports 33, which are secured at their upper ends to the non-elastic portion of the leg-supports and preferably at a point about opposite the lower end of one of the strips of the hip-supports  
 55 on each leg.

The bust-support consists of a side non-elastic portion 34, (see Fig. 4,) a central non-elastic portion 35, and an intermediate elastic portion 36. The bust-support is connect-  
 60 ed with the non-elastic portion 23 of the shoulders-support on each side by laces 37 and is provided with vertical stays 38 to hold the bust-support in the proper size and shape. The elastic portion 36 is preferably formed of  
 65 horizontal elastic strips of varying widths, the narrow one being preferably above and the wider ones below, whereby the bust-sup-

port will conform more comfortably and accurately to the varying sizes of busts and especially accommodate the bust in its various  
 70 movements during breathing and movements of the shoulders. The lower elastic strips are preferably wider than the others to furnish a sufficient and comfortable support to the weight of the bust above. The front portions  
 75 35 of the bust-support are provided with fasteners 39, of a common type, whereby the support may readily be put on and taken off. In order to support properly the weight of the bust, the lower border of the bust-support  
 80 is held and drawn into place by a horizontal strap 40, which is non-elastic and connected to one side of the bust-support at its lower margin and passes under the lower part of the shoulders-support at the center of the back  
 85 and is connected by a buckle 41 to an elastic strap 42, that is secured to the other side of the bust-support. This latter is a means for adjusting and tightening and loosening the lower part of the bust-support independently  
 90 of the portions 23 and 24 of the shoulders-support that extend horizontally across the back and by which the bust-support as a whole may be tightened.

The abdominal support consists of the main  
 95 non-elastic portion 43 and elastic strips 44, which connect the non-elastic portions 43 with the saddle 16. The elastic strips 44 extend through metallic loops 45, held by leather pieces 46, secured by laces to the saddle, and  
 100 the strips 44 are connected at their free ends to buckles 48, whereby the strips are rendered adjustable. There are two of these strips 44 for each side of the abdominal support, one secured to the upper margin and  
 105 one at the lower margin, and by being independently adjustable the upper and lower margins of the abdominal support are divided to accommodate the various sizes and forms of abdomens. This means of adjustment is  
 110 aided materially also by gores in the upper and lower margins of the abdominal support that are provided with lacings 49, whereby the upper and lower margins are further adjusted. The abdominal support is provided  
 115 in front with vertical stays 50 for maintaining its proper shape and fasteners 51 for readily putting said abdominal support on and off the body. Where needed or desired, the abdominal support is held down in position  
 120 by the cords 52, running through eyes in the lower part of the abdominal support and the upper part of the leg-supports, as shown in Fig. 2. The cords 52 permit the adjustment of these two supports with relation to each  
 125 other.

The body-support herein described is readily put on the body or removed by merely fastening or unfastening the fasteners for the front of the bust and abdominal supports.  
 130 The legs are first inserted through the leg-supports in placing the support on the body. Then the arms are inserted through the shoulders-support and the bust and abdominal sup-

ports fastened in front, the entire sides of the body-support being separated from each other by releasing the fasteners for the bust and abdominal supports in front.

5 What I claim as my invention is—

1. In an article of the class described, supports surrounding the legs, each consisting of a non-elastic portion on the sides and front of the leg and an elastic portion across the rear of the leg, vertical stays in the non-elastic portion on the inside and outside of each leg, hip-supports extending upward from said leg-supports, and means on the body above the hips with which the hip-supports are connected.

2. In an article of the class described, supports surrounding the legs, each consisting of a non-elastic portion on the sides and front of the leg and an elastic portion across the rear of the leg, said non-elastic portion being separated on the outside of the leg and the separate portions thereof connected by laces, hip-supports extending upward from said leg-supports, and means on the body above the hips with which the hip-supports are connected.

3. In an article of the class described, supports surrounding the legs, elastic supports for the hips with the lower ends spread and separately secured to said leg-supports, and means on the body above the hips with which the hip-supports are connected at their upper ends.

4. In an article of the class described, supports surrounding the legs, hip-supports extending upward therefrom, each hip-support consisting of a single upper portion and a divided lower portion secured at the lower end to said leg-supports, a support on the body above the hips, and a connection between said upper support and the hip-supports.

5. In an article of the class described, supports surrounding the legs, hip-supports extending upward therefrom, a support for the shoulders, a saddle connecting the hip-supports and shoulders-support, a bust-support detachably connected with said shoulders-support, and an independent means across the back for tightening the lower margin of the two sides of the bust-supports.

6. In an article of the class described, supports surrounding the legs, hip-supports extending upward therefrom, a support for the shoulders, a saddle connecting the hip-supports and the shoulders-support, a bust-support detachably connected with said shoulders-support, said bust-support consisting of non-elastic portions and elastic portions, said elastic portions being formed of horizontal elastic strips.

7. In an article of the class described, supports surrounding the legs, hip-supports extending upward therefrom, a support for the shoulders, a saddle connecting the shoulders-support and the hip-supports, an abdominal support connected at the rear with said saddle, and means for connecting the lower front portion of the abdominal support to said leg-supports.

8. In an article of the class described, supports surrounding the legs, hip-supports extending upward therefrom, a support for the shoulders, a saddle connecting the shoulders-support and the hip-supports, an abdominal support with an adjustable connection at the rear of both its upper and lower margins with said saddle, and laced gores in both the upper and lower margins in the front portion of the abdominal support.

9. In an article of the class described, supports surrounding the legs, hip-supports extending upward therefrom, a support for the shoulders, a saddle connecting the shoulders-support at the back with said hip-supports, a bust-support with the two sides connected with the shoulders-support, an abdominal support with the sides thereof connected with the saddle at the back, said abdominal and bust supports being each separated vertically in the front, and means for detachably uniting said separated portions of said abdominal and bust supports for holding the article as a whole on the body or removing the same.

In witness whereof I have hereunto affixed my signature in the presence of the witnesses herein named.

WILLIAM U. G. MARTIN.

Witnesses:

FLORENCE E. BRYANT,  
V. H. LOCKWOOD.