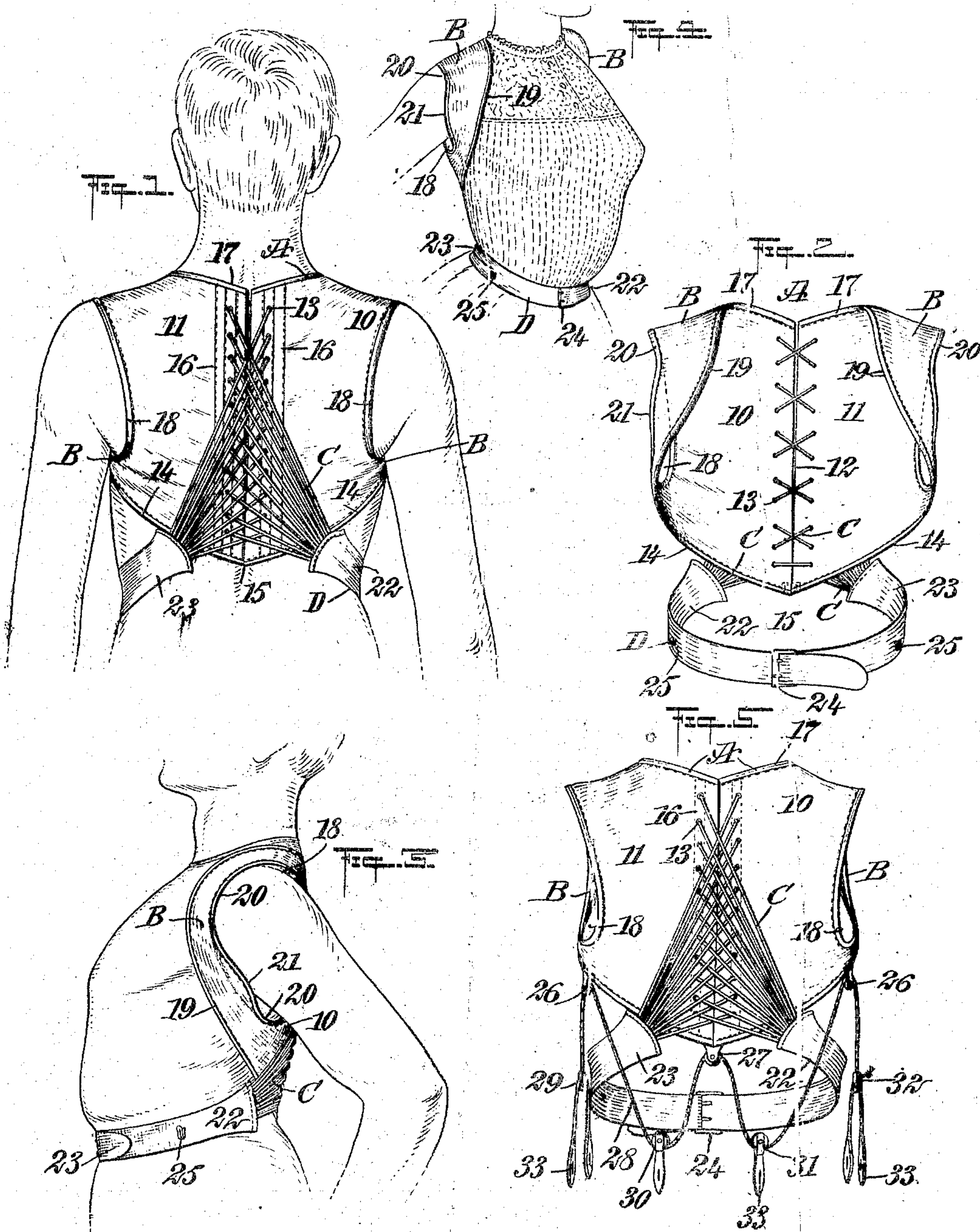


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C. MUNTER.
CONFORMER CORSET.
APPLICATION FILED APR. 5, 1905.



WITNESSES:

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CHARLES MUNTER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

CONFORMER-CORSET.

No. 811,428.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES MUNTER, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of New York, borough of Manhattan, in the county and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Conformer-Corset, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The purpose of the invention is to provide a conformer or health corset for men, women, and children, which is very simple and easily applied and which can be economically made and worn with comfort.

Another purpose of the invention is to so construct the health brace-corset that it will conform to and fit the body practically as smoothly as the natural skin, the shaping of the various parts of the corset being directed to that end, especially at the armholes and the shoulders, so that as the health brace-corset is tightened up upon the person it will gradually restore the bones and muscles at the chest, shoulders, and back to what should be their normal position, smooth the skin, and cause the lungs and bronchial tubes to be unobstructed, thus permitting regular and easy breathing.

A further purpose of the invention is to so construct the improved health brace-corset that it will lift the body from the diaphragm, imparting buoyancy thereto, and by causing the vertebræ to be straightened out and held so to promote the active circulation of the blood, and also to so construct the conformer-corset at the armholes that the more the corset is tightened at the front to raise the diaphragm friction will be proportionately reduced at the arm-pits of the wearer; but the rectifying tension on the shoulder-blades will be increased, and consequently the expansion at the breast-bone also increased.

The invention consists in the novel construction and combination of the several parts, as will be hereinafter fully set forth, and pointed out in the claim.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a rear view of the body portion of a figure and a rear view of the conformer-corset applied thereto. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the improved conformer-corset. Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the body portion of a figure and a side elevation of the improved conformer-corset applied. Fig. 4 is a

perspective view of the body portion of a figure viewed from the front and illustrating the application of the conformer-corset as viewed from said position of the figure; and Fig. 5 is a rear elevation of the improved conformer-corset, illustrating the suspender attachment applied thereto.

The shoulder-blades of the human body from the fact of working and the head leaning forward through continuous habit and occupation cause the fleshy fastenings or supports called "shoulder-muscles," with their covering of skin, to eventually stretch away from their normal position, whereupon the combined weight of the upper portion of the bony structure of the body is brought to bear heavily upon the breast-bone and top ribs, causing practically the entire weight of the body to hang from the armpits. Consequently the downward working of the body forces the lungs to sag and allows the shoulder-bones at the front to lap over upon the breast-bone, and eventually the bones of the shoulders are forced out of place, crowding both lungs toward the narrowest portion of the diaphragm, interfering with other vital organs; and these latter vital organs are then of necessity compelled to sag also out of place and find their way to their only source of escape—namely, the lower portion of the body—thereby not only limiting their scope of action, but also leaving them without the protection of the ribs, as nature designed.

The lower vital organs from the above-named reasons are compelled to occupy a position at that portion of the body between the lower portion of the diaphragm and the pelvis, and as the body constantly moves at this portion as on a hinge the lower vitals are continually doubled up, and, dropping in one mass, give a false impression of stoutness to the individual.

It is my aim by means of my device to correct the aforesaid conditions gradually and surely by means of a light yet strong conformer-corset, which when worn, as it may be with comparative ease, will tend to straighten the back and shoulder bones, expand the chest-bones from their contracted position, restore and firmly replace the muscles and skin at the shoulders and chest, and restore the vital organs to their normal position and hold them in such position by lifting the body at the diaphragm and forcing the shoulder-blades upward and rearward, the muscles and skin at such points being simultaneously

carried in the same direction. In such position of the body the lungs are unobstructed and respiration is rendered perfect, the members of the vertebræ are normally spaced, permitting the free circulation of the blood, and the entire body experiences a sensation of lightness in consequence.

The conformer-corset consists, primarily, of a back A, shoulder-straps B, a belt D, and lacings C, which connect the back with the belt. The back is in two sections 10 and 11, of corresponding shape and proportions, the opposing vertical edges 12 being straight and parallel, and each back section 10 and 11 is provided with eyelets 13, adjacent to its straight edges 12, as is shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 5. The back sections 10 and 11 are of sufficient depth to extend from the base of the neck and the shoulders to a point near the waist-line, as is illustrated in Figs. 1 and 3, and from a point just below the armpits the said back sections are inclined or curved downwardly and rearwardly, as illustrated at 14 in the drawings, forming jointly at their lower abutting sections a central downwardly-pointed section 15, which when the article is worn engages with the spine above the waist, as is clearly shown in Fig. 1.

Stays 16 are located adjacent to the rear edges 12 of the back sections 10 and 11, extending from top to bottom of the article; but otherwise the article is constructed of a pliable fabric, preferably as light as possible consistent with strength, and the upper edges 17 of the back sections are shaped to conform to the contour of the base of the neck at the back and partially at the sides.

The shoulder-straps B are in one piece or integral with the back sections 10 and 11, and in producing said shoulder-straps they are so shaped that in conjunction with the back sections 10 and 11 they conform to the proper contour of the shoulder-blades at the back and at the top of the shoulders and individually conform to the front of the shoulder-blades and that portion of the chest below and adjacent thereto and likewise to that portion of the body below and adjacent to the under portion of the arms. In fact, the shoulder-straps are in construction as near as possible a duplication of the skin covering the parts mentioned when said parts are in proper normal position, or approximately so.

The shoulder-straps B diverge in width as they approach the under portion of the arm-hole 18, as shown in Figs. 2 and 4, and their inner edges 19 are curved downwardly and outwardly from the upper edges of the back sections 10 and 11, the curves being on convex lines, while the outer or rear edges 20 of the shoulder-straps B are curved at top and bottom on concaved lines; but between the concaved sections at said outer or rear edges of the shoulder-straps rearwardly-extending convex projections 21 are formed, which

when the brace is worn extend over the armpits at the front, as is shown in Figs. 3 and 4, and serve practically as hinges for the shoulder-straps under the armpits, since when the arms are moved in a forward direction the shoulder-straps will crease at the projections 21 on a line continuous with the concaved curvature of the rear edges of the said straps, and the said convex projection 21 will slide upon the arm, and thereby prevent the material of the shoulder-straps from bunching or closely folding and irritating the skin of the wearer under the armpits, as the entire weight of the upper portion of the body rests upon the shoulder-straps at these points.

With reference to the lacings C, said laces are in pairs crossed at the inside of the back sections 10 and 11 and are passed through corresponding pairs of eyelets 13 and are then crossed or interlaced and carried downward at the outside of the back sections, as is shown in Figs. 1 and 5, the said laces being carried in series in opposite directions, and one series of laces—that to the right, for example—is secured to a section 22 of the belt D, while the other series of laces at the left is secured to a second section 23 of the said belt D, which latter section of the belt is provided with a buckle 24 or its equivalent.

When the health brace-corset is worn, the belt is drawn tight and fastened at the front, the belt being carried below the fifth ribs, so that upon tightening the belt the body of the wearer is lifted up from the diaphragm, the shoulders are drawn upward and rearward, the chest is expanded, and the organs of digestion are supported and sustained in the position they were intended to occupy.

In order to prevent the possibility of the belt D slipping upward during the initial treatment, hooks 25 may be secured to the sections of the belt D to be engaged by the loops upon the drawers of the wearer of the garments. I also sometimes employ the suspender attachment shown in Fig. 5, in which pulleys 26 are secured to the lower edges of the back sections 10 and 11 near the front, and a third pulley 27 is secured to the central lower portion of the said back sections. A cord 28 is passed over said pulleys. Suspender-ends 33 are connected in any suitable or approved manner with the supports for pulleys 29, 30, 31, and 32, and the said cord 28 is attached at one end to the support for the pulley 29 and is then passed over the pulley 30. It is then passed over the pulley 27, and from the pulley 27 the cord 28 is passed over the pulley 31, thence over the pulley 26 at the right-hand side of the brace, and through the support for the right-hand pulley 32, the said cord at its right-hand end terminating in a knot or enlargement, so that the slack of the cord may be taken up readily at any time by simply drawing out its right-hand end and knotting or enlarging it, so that

it cannot pass through the support for the said right-hand pulley 32.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters
5 Patent—

A conformer-corset, comprising a back formed of two sections, having their upper edges shaped to conform to the contour of the neck at the back and partly at the sides, 10 the sections being formed with armholes, the front portions thereof forming integral and unbroken shoulder-straps adapted to the true formation of the shoulder-blades, adjacent portions of the breast, and the armpits 15 of the wearer, the front edges of the straps being curved downwardly and outwardly, the curves being on convex lines, and their outer or rear edges being curved at top and

bottom on concave lines and curved on convex lines intermediate of the said curved 20 portions forming projections which fold outwardly and prevent chafing under the armpits, a series of lacings connecting the sections of the back, each series being carried downward at the outer face of the said sec- 25 tions in opposite directions, and a sectional belt, to the rear ends of the sections of which the lacings are secured, substantially as herein shown and described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my 30 name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHARLES MUNTER.

Witnesses:

JNO. M. RITTER,
A. H. DAVIS.