

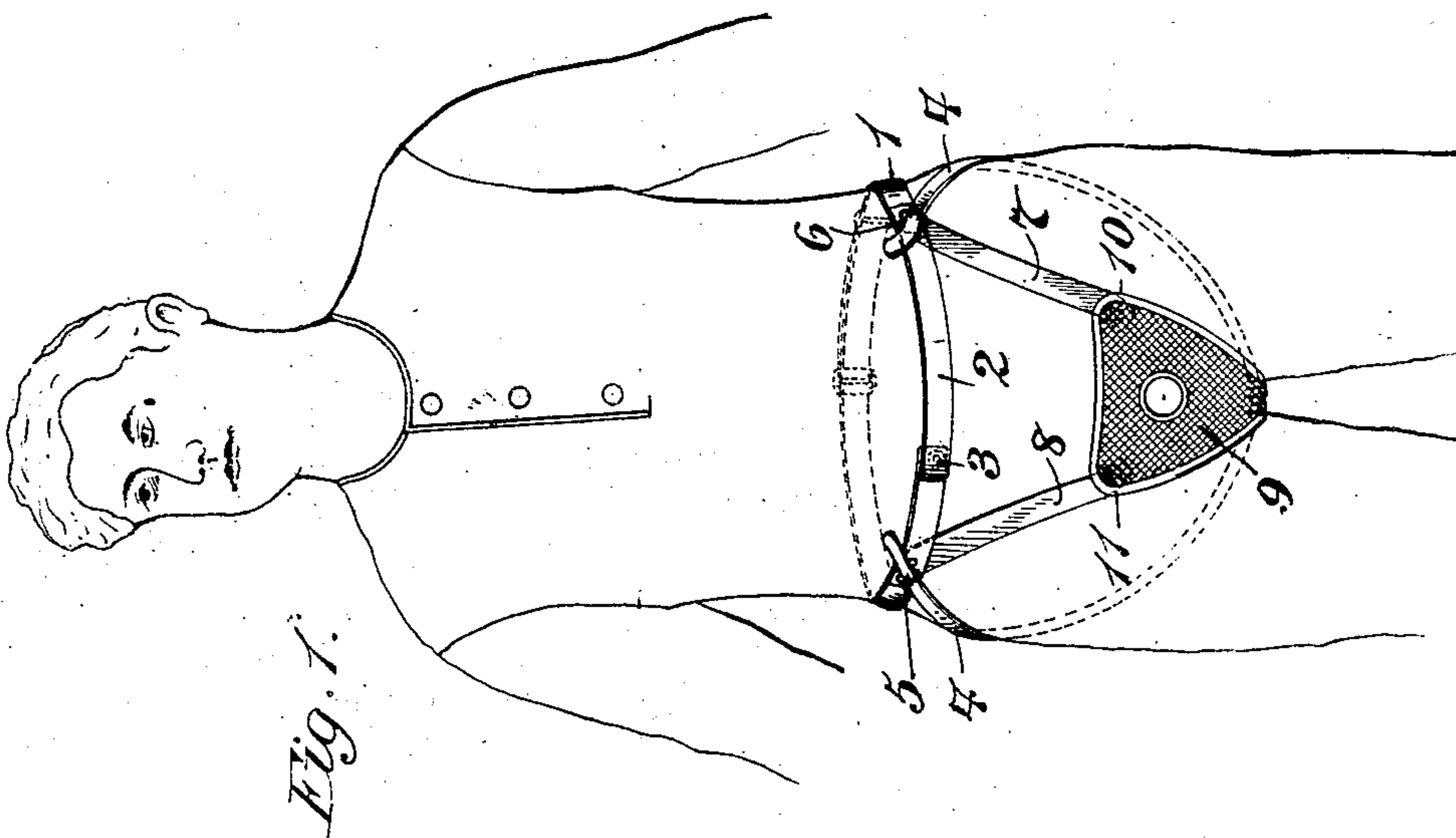
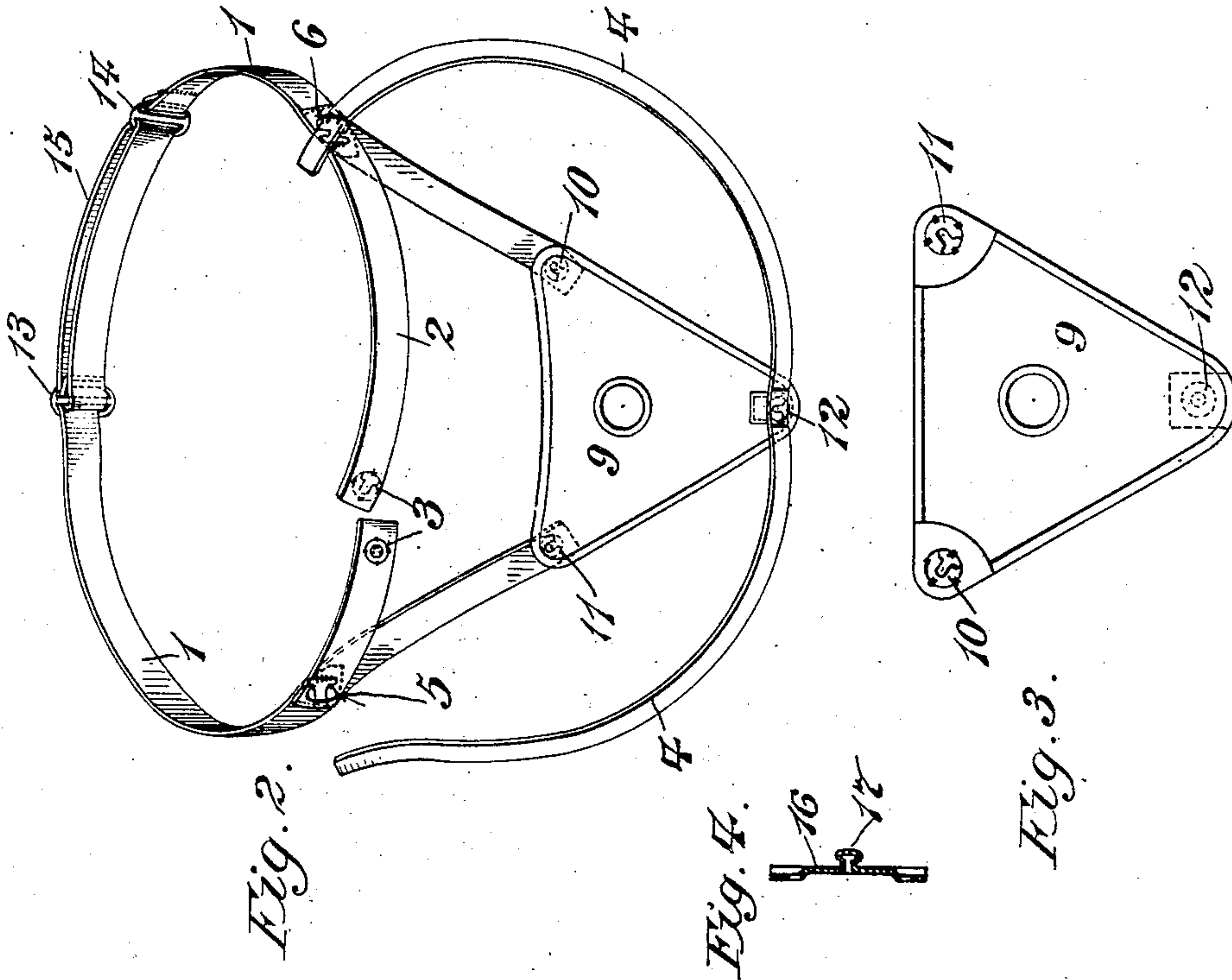
H. BIERHOFF.

SUPPORTER.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HUGO BIERHOFF, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

SUPPORTER.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HUGO BIERHOFF, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Supporters, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to supporters for personal wear and the object thereof is to improve the waist band adjustment and connection, to provide a detachable apron which may be detached entirely from the supporter for cleaning and other purposes and which may be detached readily from the leg straps without necessitating a readjustment of the latter when the apron is reattached. Furthermore, I have used connections for the apron of a swiveling nature, placed on the corners of the apron and because of the swiveling character of the connections the apron properly adjusts itself to the wearer without any discomfort.

I am aware that supporters have been made with detachable aprons, but in every case of such use the leg straps have to be detached either partly or wholly from the waist band in order to remove the apron and when the apron is reattached the adjustment of the leg straps must be made anew. This takes time, causes annoyance and the adjustment is not uniform at all times. In my improved supporter the apron may be partly or wholly removed by being disconnected from the leg straps without the latter being disconnected from the waist band so that the adjustment of the leg straps may remain the same, when the apron is reconnected or even a new one connected. By forming the connection between the apron and front straps near the extremities of the former and making a swivel connection the apron fits properly to the person and will not draw unevenly.

In the drawings forming a part of this application, Figure 1 is a front elevation of my invention showing its application, Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the same detached, Fig. 3 is a rear elevation of the apron and, Fig. 4 is a cross section through one of the attaching buttons.

I have provided a band 1, which is adapted to entirely surround the waist of the wearer and hold up the other parts of the supporter; and there is connected to the waist band a leg strap 4, which I prefer to form long enough to form a leg strap for

both legs and it is connected to the waist band by the buckles 5 and 6 at the same point as the front straps so that both will pull from the same places. There is connected to the waist band front straps 7, and 8, which are connected diagonally thereon and preferably by a permanent connection. By the connection here shown the front straps continue the line of the waist band, following the lines of the body.

The apron 9 is preferably triangular as shown and has two connections 10 and 11 on two of its corners which are connected respectively to the lower ends of the front straps 7 and 8, by swivel connections. The other corner of the apron has a connection 12 with the leg strap 4, which, though it swivels, has no sliding action on the leg strap during use.

There is a connecting means 3, by which the front ends 2 of the waist band may be connected without altering the length of the waist band in the front between the points where the leg straps are connected. I prefer to make this means a swivel connection like the apron connections. The means for adjusting the waist band to make it the proper size for the wearer is provided at the rear of the leg strap connections, so that when the adjustment of the waist band is made, it will not change the position of the front straps on the wearer by altering the waist band in the front between the front straps. I have provided a loop 14 on the waist band and a slide buckle 13 between which the part 15 of the waist band is looped. By sliding the buckle 13 the waist band may be increased or decreased in size.

For forming the swivel connections, I prefer an ordinary double slide button connection such as is shown in the drawings. It consists of a female member having a slot (see Fig. 3) in which the headed projection 17 on the plate 16 of a male member engages. By slipping the projection 17 into the open side of the slot of the female member the parts hold together, but may swivel. The male and female members are secured to the straps and apron as by sewing, in the places indicated.

Whenever it is desired the apron may be disconnected from the leg strap by slipping the head 17 of the male member out of the slot of the female member and it may be connected again by reversing the operation, but in disconnecting it the leg strap need not

be disconnected from the waist band so that when the apron is again connected the adjustment is not changed. The apron may also be removed from the front straps by slipping the male members from the female members and the apron may be washed or replaced without removing each time the rest of the supporter. If the apron is washed it is not necessary to wash any other part of the supporter and there is very little metal connected with it.

By connecting the apron by swivel connections the same adjusts itself to the wearer and there is no uneven tension of the apron.

By separating the connecting means of the waist band from the adjusting means, the supporter may be put on any number of times without changing the adjustment thereof and by placing the connecting means in the front it is handy, while placing the adjusting means behind the leg strap connections the adjustment does not alter the position of the front straps.

Aside from the convenience and comfort my improved supporter is very readily put on or taken off, or the apron removed.

Having described my invention what I claim is;

A supporter comprising a waist band, depending and converging front straps, connected to the waist band, a leg strap having its ends connected with the waist band near the front strap connections, a removable apron having swivel connections with the front straps and with the leg strap, means for connecting the ends of the waist band in front of the connections of the front straps with the waist band and means to the rear of said leg strap connections by which the waist band may be adjusted.

Signed at the city, county and State of New York, this 9th day of July, 1908.

HUGO BIERHOFF.

Witnesses:

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