

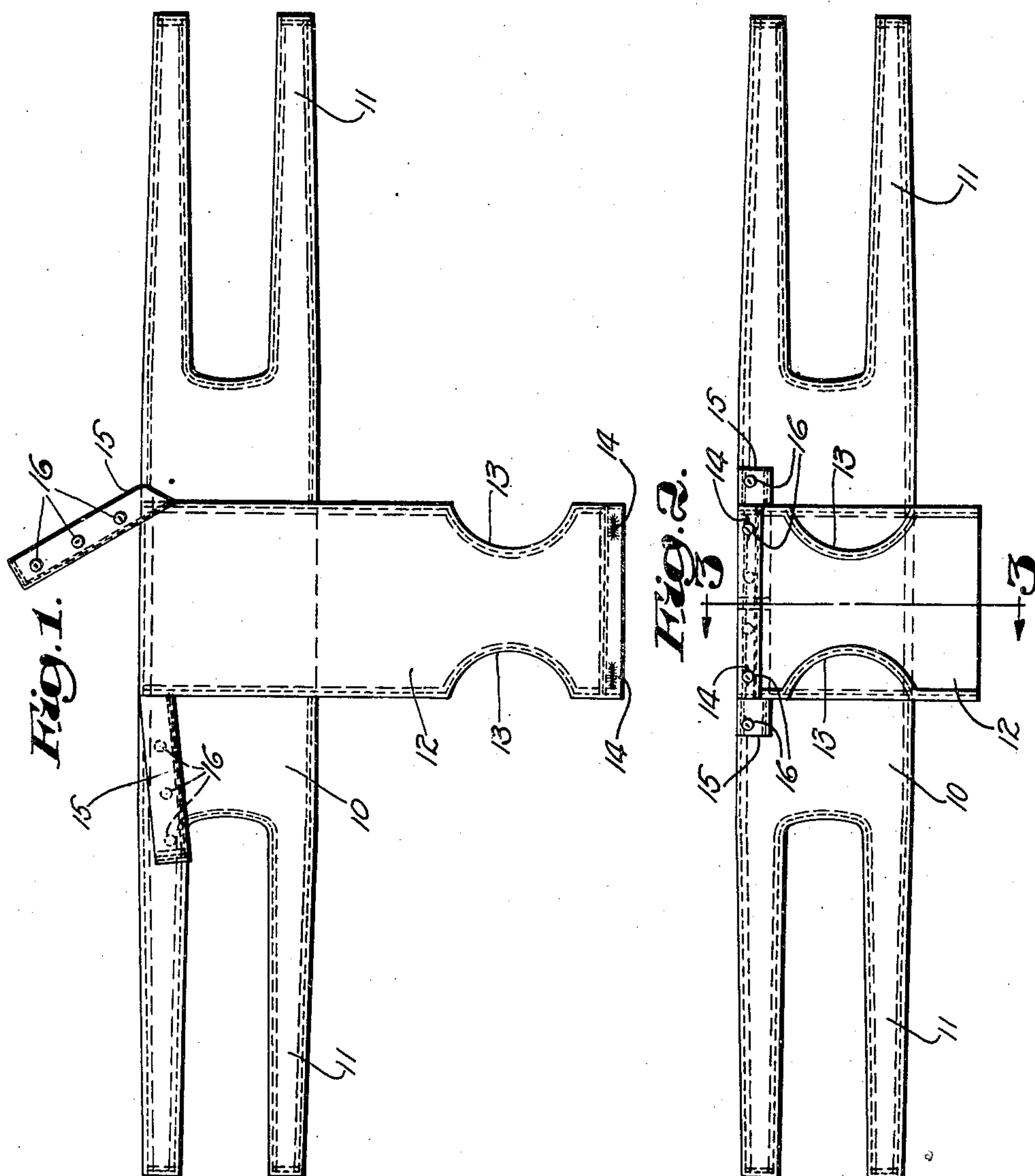
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SAFETY BELT FOR INFANTS

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SAFETY BELT FOR INFANTS

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1. Claim. (Cl. 128—134)

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This invention relates to safety belts for infants and has for its object to provide a safety belt by which infants may be tied in a crib or bed and prevented from getting twisted up in or covered by the bed clothes so as to be smothered thereby. At the same time the baby is prevented from crawling or falling out of the crib or bed.

Smothering accidents are altogether too common with small babies and are one of the greatest accident hazards with which parents have to contend. Attempts have been made previously to devise such safety belts, but they have not been successful and have met with disfavor, and have even been known to cause the very accident they have been designed to prevent when an infant has gotten tangled up in the belt. I have, however, designed a safety belt which overcomes the defects and disadvantages of previous devices of this nature, particularly in eliminating shoulder straps entirely and which has several additional advantages of its own.

Briefly my device consists of a band of flexible material (preferably oil-treated fabric) having a pair of tie straps at the ends thereof, which band preferably lies cross-wise under the waist of the baby and is stretched flat across the crib or bed with its ends tied to the sides thereof. Stitched or otherwise connected to the top edge of the band at its mid-portion is a strip of flexible material extending downwardly at right angles to the band, under the buttocks of the baby, and having a free end which is turned up and back between the legs of the baby, and attached at its free end to a second set of straps constituting a belt having buttons or other suitable fastening means thereon and attached to the band adjacent their point of connection. The strip when turned back thus provides side openings through which the legs of the baby extend. Thus the baby is held down on the bed or crib at his waist, and cannot push himself down under the bedclothes, and any attempts to turn over on his abdomen are resisted by the strip which is held fixed at its top edge to the band, if the baby succeeds in turning over on its abdomen, there are no shoulder straps to become twisted about his neck and to choke him. A baby who has strength enough to turn over on its abdomen will ordinarily be strong enough to prevent himself from smothering while lying on his abdomen, if he does not get entangled in shoulder straps.

Before explaining in detail the present invention it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of

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construction and arrangement of parts illustrated in the accompanying drawings, since the invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced or carried out in various ways. Also it is to be understood that the phraseology or terminology employed herein is for the purpose of description and not of limitation, and it is not intended to limit the invention claimed herein beyond the requirements of the prior art, and the claim.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of my device in open position;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of my device in its closed position;

Fig. 3 is a vertical section on lines 3—3 of Fig. 2.

In the drawings 10 represents a broad flat band of flexible material, which is preferably oil-treated nylon fabric, extending laterally from the ends of which are a pair of ties 11, provided for tying the band flat across the mattress, crib or bed to the sides of the crib or bed. Stitched or otherwise marginally connected, to the band 10 preferably at the top edge thereof and at right angles thereto, is a rectangular strip 12 of similar flexible material. The free end of the strip 12 preferably has cut out portions indicated at 13 on each side thereof and buttonholes or other fastening means as shown at 14. A pair of straps 15 which constitute a belt are provided for fastening around the waist of the baby, with buttons 16 or other attaching means thereon are secured to the band 10 preferably at the top edge thereof at either side of the second strip 12 and where the latter joins the band 10. A series of buttons 16 or other attaching means is preferably provided on the straps 15 to provide adjustment in the circumference of the waist band provided by the straps 15.

In operation the band 10 is stretched flat across the crib or bed and the ends 11 tied to the sides thereof to hold the band 10 down. The baby is then laid on its buttocks on the strip 12, and the free end of the strip 12 is then pulled up in back between the legs of the baby and the free end is then attached to the straps 15. The strip 12 when turned back thus provides side openings through which the legs of the baby extend and the cut-out portions 13 of the strip 12 provide additional room therefor. Since the strip 12 is attached to the band 10, which in turn is tied down onto the bed, the baby, of course, likewise is tied to the bed, but is given a large degree of freedom of movement up and down and

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turning, but with no danger or possibility of getting entangled in the safety belt, all portions of which are located below the baby's waist.

It will be obvious that the button hole 14 or other fastening means at each corner of the end of the strip is connected to one of the buttons 16 on its complementary waist strap 15 to adjustably secure the waist straps in overlapped position on the infant.

It will be obvious, of course, that my safety belt may be used in other ways and for other purposes, such as on the bathinette to keep the infant from falling off. My device may similarly be used in an infant's bassinet or carriage.

It will thus be seen that I have provided a safety belt by which infants may be tied in a crib, bed or other object, but which has no shoulder straps in which the infant may get entangled around his neck, and is also prevented from getting under the bed clothes so as to be smothered thereby.

I claim:

An infant's safety belt, comprising a band of flexible material having a tie at each end thereof, a rectangular strip of flexible material having one end marginally attached to the mid-portion of said band and adapted to extend at right angles downwardly and under the buttocks of

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the infant with its free end adapted to be passed up between the legs of the infant, said strip being approximately the width of the hips of the infant and having cut out portions at the leg-engaging sides of the strip, a pair of waist straps each secured at one end to the band at opposite sides of the connection of the strip therewith and adapted to overlap across the waist of the infant, a series of fastening means on each waist strap, and means for attaching each corner of the free end of the strip to one of the series of fastening means on its complementary waist strap to adjustably secure the waist straps in position on the infant.

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