

RUTH T. REED.
ABDOMINAL SUPPORTER.

No. 185,782.

Patented Dec. 26, 1876.

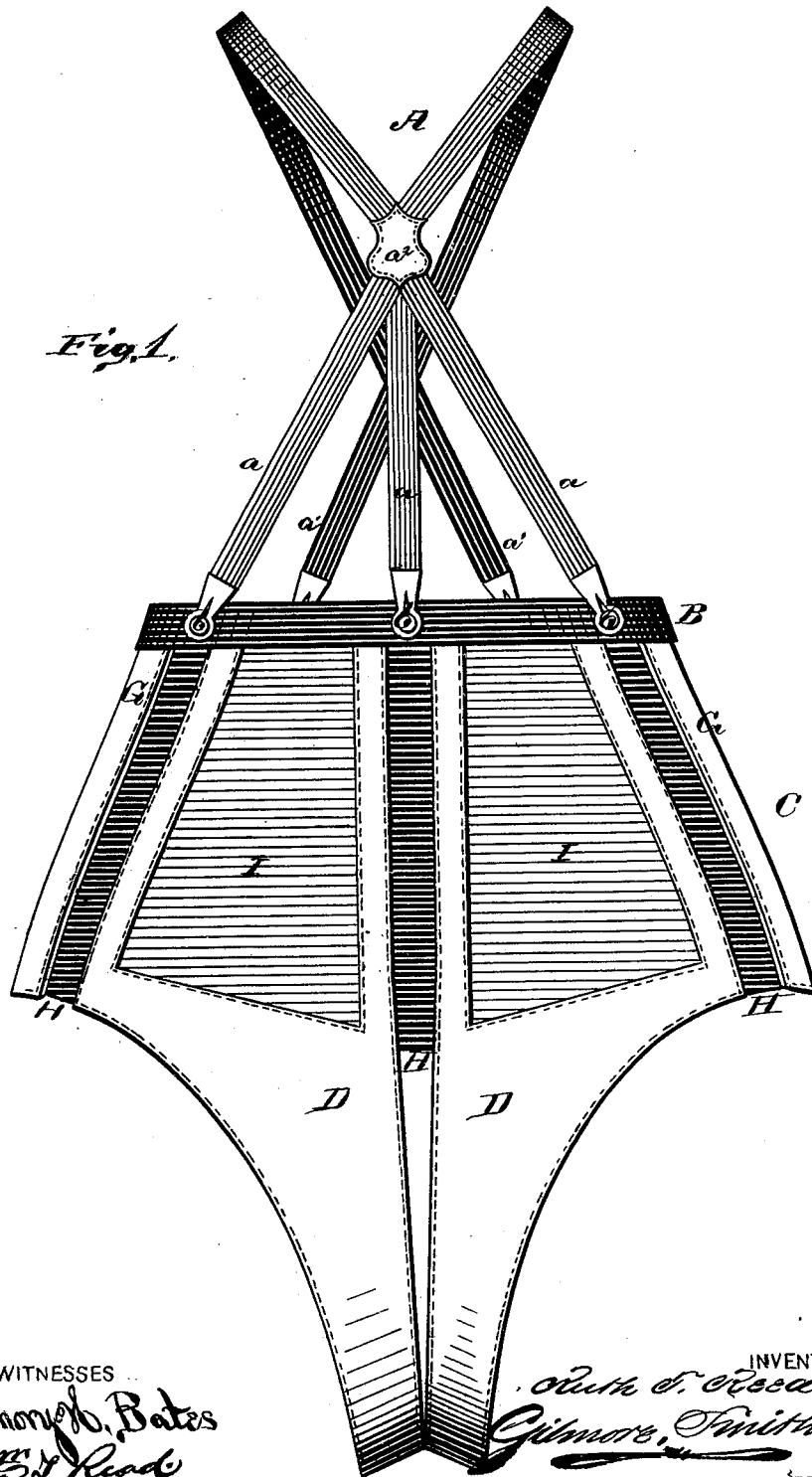


Fig. 1.

WITNESSES
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Gilmore, Smith & Co.
ATTORNEYS.

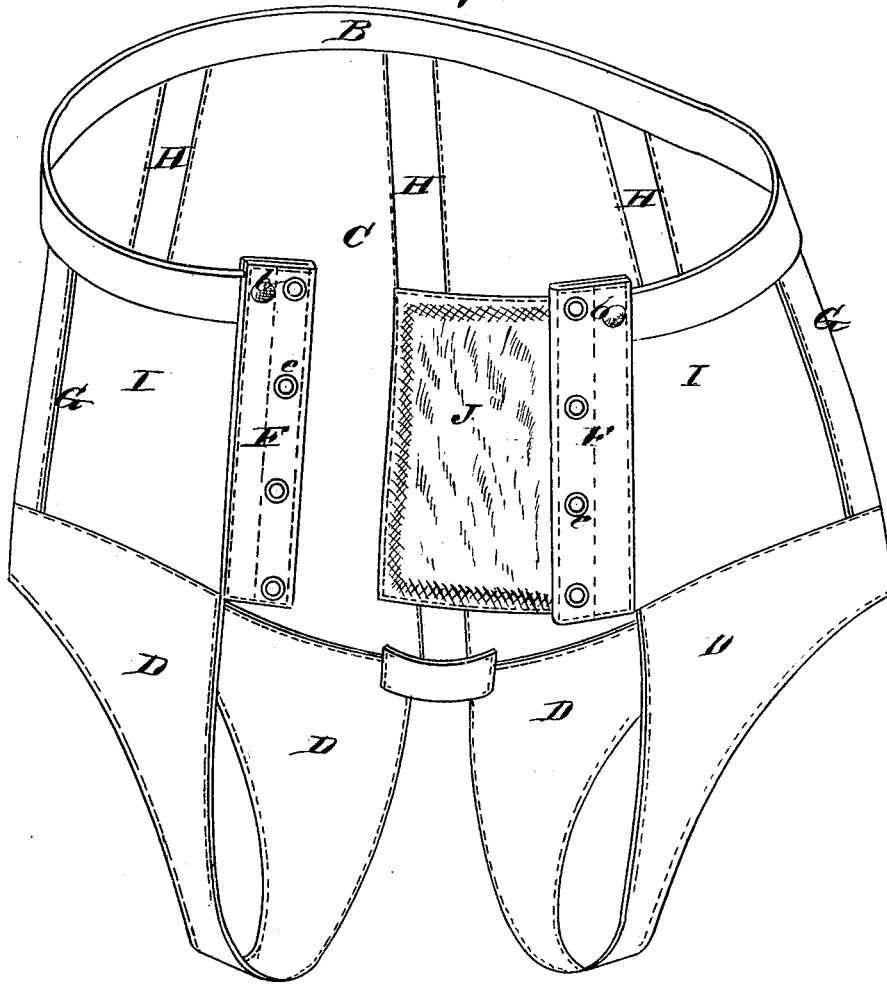
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Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

RUTH T. REED, OF ROCHESTER, INDIANA.

IMPROVEMENT IN ABDOMINAL SUPPORTERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 185,782, dated December 26, 1876; application filed October 21, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RUTH T. REED, of Rochester, in the county of Fulton and State of Indiana, have invented a new and valuable Improvement in Abdominal Supporters; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a representation of a front view of my abdominal supporter. Fig. 2 is a rear view thereof.

This invention relates to abdominal supporters; and consists in the construction and arrangement of the parts hereinafter described.

A designates a system of suspenders for my abdominal supporter, consisting of three front straps, *a a a*, and two back straps, *a¹ a¹*, all of which are united in front at a point, *a²*, a little below the wearer's breast. If preferred, two of said front straps may be continued, so as to form said back straps, which cross behind and are secured together like pantaloon-suspenders. The said back straps are extended over the wearer's shoulders, converging to said point of front attachment *a²*, where they meet said front straps. This construction leaves the wearer's breast free, and not liable to be irritated by the rubbing of said straps. This latter annoyance is further guarded against by covering said straps at their points of meeting or crossing with chamois-leather.

Said suspending-straps *a a¹* are connected by means of five buttons, *b*, to an elastic belt, B, which encircles the wearer's waist, and forms the extreme upper portion of the supporter proper.

If preferred, the hereinbefore-described suspenders may in many cases be dispensed with, said belt being alone relied upon for sustaining the weight and strain.

The main portion or body C of said abdom-

inal supporter is shaped like a pair of pantaloons, the legs of which have been removed at the crotch; and from the middle of the lower part thereof two stuffed strap-shaped pads, D D, of chamois-leather, extend downward, so as to pass between the thighs and close under the body. Said pads are in the form of continuous bands, extending from front to rear, leaving on both sides holes for the passage of the wearer's thighs.

When not in use, said pads stand apart, as shown in Fig. 2, but when worn, they are forced close together, as shown in Fig. 1.

The said abdominal supporter is divided at the back, where the sides are brought together, and laced by cord passing through eyelets *e e*, in chamois-leather strips F F. In front and at the sides thinner strips G, of the same material, extend from belt B to pads D D.

H designates three elastic strips, of rubber or similar material, which are inserted in the main part C of said supporter, at the front and sides thereof, for the purpose of allowing the said supporter to accommodate itself to any incidental enlargement of the wearer's body.

I designates several broad thin pieces of silk, or other light material, which are interposed between the above-described strips of chamois-leather, to make the supporter lighter and cooler.

J designates a pad, which is secured to the inside of said supporter, so as to cover lacing E *e*, and to fit into the hollow of the wearer's back. All parts of said supporter are attached together by sewing.

The supporter above described sustains and braces all parts of the abdomen, and will be found especially useful in cases of prolapsus uteri and pregnancy.

Various modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention, but I prefer the device as shown and described.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. An abdominal supporter, provided with two back straps and three front straps for suspending the same, said straps being arranged and attached, as shown and described.

2. The abdominal supporters herein described, consisting of the strap-pads D, body C, provided with elastic strips G, elastic belt B, and straps a^1 , united in front at a^2 , substantially as described, and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony that I claim the above I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

RUTH T. REED.

Witnesses:

JNO. W. SMITH,
D. McCONNELLY.