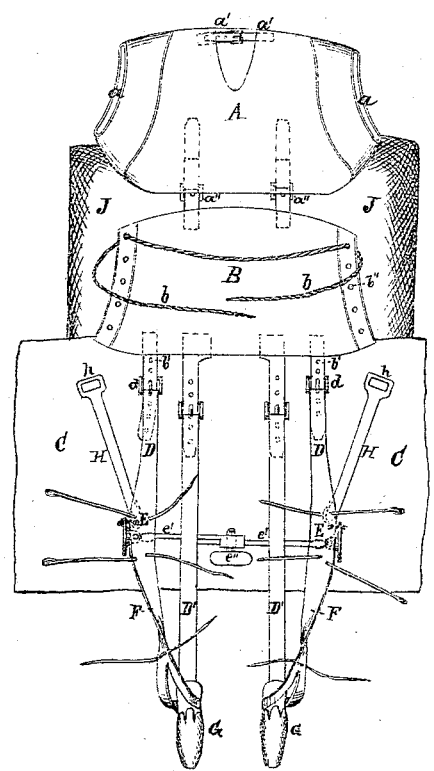


H. R. EASTERLING.

Improvement in Ladies Accouching Garment.

No. 123,249.

Patented Jan. 30, 1872.



Witnesses:
G. Matting.
Thos. D. Curran

Inventor:
H. R. Easterling.

PER
Kearney & Co.
Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARRIS R. EASTERLING, OF BENNETTSVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA.

IMPROVEMENT IN LADIES' ACCOUCHING GARMENTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 123,249, dated January 30, 1872.

Specification describing certain Improvements in Ladies' Accouching Garment, invented by Dr. HARRIS R. EASTERLING, of Bennettsville, in the county of Marlborough, and State of South Carolina.

The principal object of the invention is to construct a garment which will facilitate and alleviate the labors of parturition, and be also adapted to cases of stone, recto-vaginal, and vesico-vaginal fistulas. The invention consists in a central corset adjustably connected above and below to an upper corset and leg-supports; and it also consists in certain improvements connected with the knee-braces, all as hereinafter fully described and pointed out in the claim.

The drawing represents a front view of my invention.

A represents the upper corset, having arm-holes *a a*, straps *a¹ a¹*, by which it may be adjusted across the shoulders; and buckles *a²* at the lower end. B is the lower corset, having eyelets *b²*, bands *b¹ b¹*, and tapes or cords *b b*. C is the oil-cloth sheet, and D D the thigh parts, which are provided with buckles *d d* on their upper extensions, and which connect with bands *b¹ b¹* of the lower corset. D' D' are connecting-straps. E E are the knee-caps, having a support, *e¹ e¹*, between them, which is provided with thumb-screw or spring *e²*. F F are the leg-parts of the garment between knees E E and feet G G. H H are cords extending from knees, and having end-loops *h h*. J is the back-pad. All the constituent portions of the garment are thus securely or adjustably connected by tapes, straps, and buckles.

The upper corset prevents the female from raising her shoulders out of a common plane, and preserves a steady pressure upon the knees from above and below. These duties are usually discharged by an assistant, are important, and are performed very efficiently by this upper corset. After a labor shall have been terminated the upper corset is easily removed; and other portions attached to the lower corset, which is left upon the female, is easily adjusted, and thus becomes the proper and one of the best bandages. It can be adjusted after a labor, (being already applied,) and much more comfortably to the female than

any other bandage. It is susceptible of being readily tightened or slackened by the patient or nurse without any motion of the female's hips, and will not slip or roll up, and thus annoy the female, but will be comfortable and safe, supporting the parts weakened during the labor and effectually preserving the original symmetry of the female. The abdomen, shoulder, and sides of abdomen are well supported, while the necessary pressure is given to the back by a properly-constructed pad. Feet, knee, and hands are braced, and the female can actually do for herself that which many assistants are now required to do. She can do this, too, with greater satisfaction and more ease to herself than with her friends pressing and pulling this way and the other. Her mind is thus rendered calm and quiet, while she trusts her safety and that of her child into the hands of her chosen accoucher and nurse.

The construction is simple and economical—made of suitable cloth, buckles, and oil-silk sheets.

As these articles are made of different sizes a lady can always select one that properly fits previous to her accouchment, and readily apply it as soon as premonitory pains warn her of approaching child-birth.

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

1. The lower corset B, when connected adjustably with the upper corset A, knees E E, and the feet G G, as shown and described, and for the purposes set forth.

2. A rigid brace or support arranged between the knees of an accouching garment, as and for the purposes described.

3. A rigid brace between the knees, when consisting of two parts *e e¹* sliding upon one another, and thus rendered laterally adjustable, as described.

4. A rigid support or brace between the knees when made vertically adjustable by strap-connections, as and for the purpose described.

HARRIS R. EASTERLING, M. D.

Witnesses:

SOLON C. KEMON,
THOS. D. D. OURAND.