

Finch, Blaisdell & Babbit.
Obstetrical Supporter.
N^o 7,019.
Patented Jan. 15, 1850.

Fig 1

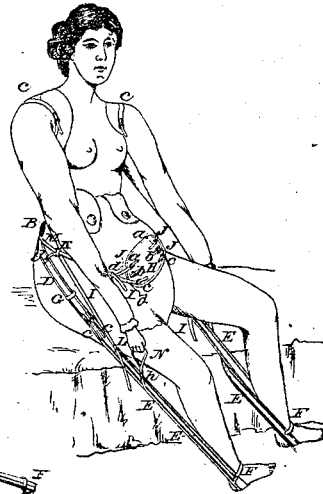


Fig 2

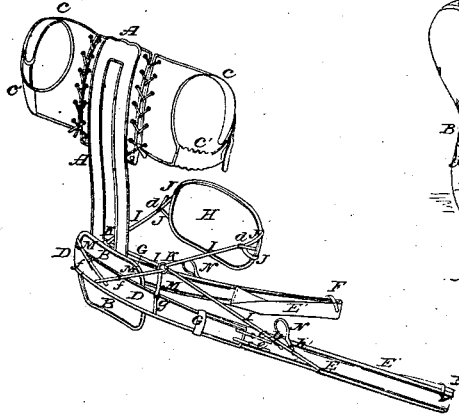


Fig 3

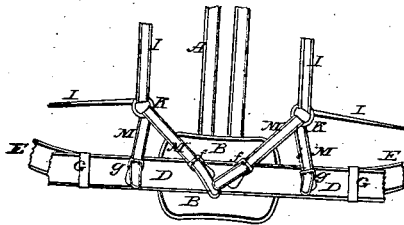
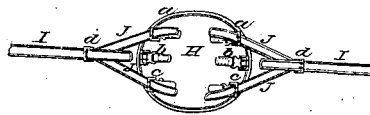


Fig 4



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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IMPROVEMENT IN OBSTETRICAL SUPPORTERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 7,019, dated January 15, 1850.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, WILLIAM W. FINCH, JACOB BLAISDELL, and LEANDER BABBIT, all of the county of Essex and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Obstetrical Supporters, which we denominate the "spine abdominal obstetrical supporter," for assisting in the delivery of parturient females in all natural and difficult labors, which is described as follows, reference being had to the annexed drawings of the same, making part of this specification.

Figure 1 represents a figure of a female and the application thereto of the above-named instrument. Fig. 2 represents a perspective view of the instrument, the relative parts being shown in proper connection with each other. Fig. 3 is an elevation of the spinal or back pad, connecting-straps, &c. Fig. 4 is an elevation of the abdominal or front pad.

Similar letters in the several figures refer to corresponding parts.

The nature of our invention and improvements consists in combining and arranging certain appendages in such a manner that the female is enabled to apply the necessary pressure to the back by the compound simultaneous action of certain straps and braces connected with the spinal pad, by which much of the delay and danger of parturition is removed and the intensity of the irritation and pain alleviated without the agency of assistants, the whole acting in an easy and natural manner, creating the pressure through the effort of the upper and lower extremities of the female, thus hastening the termination of labor and rendering the process of delivery much more safe and easy than by any other means or instruments heretofore used.

To enable others skilled in the art of making surgical instruments and others to make and use our invention, we will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

First. It consists of a spinal supporter A, composed of two steel or elastic plates joined together at their upper ends and accurately fitted to the spinal column, to the lower ends of which is secured a concave oval spinal pad B, also composed of a metallic plate, the whole being covered with leather and cushioned, designed to support the spine and press on the loins, so as to relieve parturient pains.

To the upper portion of the back-supporter A, and on either side thereof, are attached by lacing-strings two straps C C, provided with elastic sections C' C', &c., and made to fit over the shoulders and buckle around the arms, by which the spinal pad B is fixed in whatever position it is placed, and steadiness and force given to muscular effort made during parturition. The object of lacing these shoulder-straps to the body of the supporter is to render them capable of adaptation to different-sized females. To the outside and across the concave spinal pad is secured a broad strap D, which extends beyond either end thereof a suitable distance and connects with broad stirrup-straps E E by narrow straps *e e* and buckles, said broad stirrup-straps E E extending down to each foot and returned upward, as seen at E' E', and secured to the said straps E in such manner as to form resting-loops, in which the feet rest and are secured. To the looped extremities of these stirrup-straps are attached narrow straps F F, which pass over the insteps and buckle, and thus confine the feet securely in the loops. The upper ends of the stirrup-straps E E are made to underlap and extend above the ends of the broad straps D and connect therewith by sliding loops G G, which, by means of the short straps *e e*, allow the said stirrup-straps E E to be lengthened or shortened to suit the necessary flexion and extension of the legs.

Secondly. In connection with the spinal pad B there is a concave oval pad H, covered and cushioned in the manner of the pad B, or otherwise, if preferred. This concave pad H is placed upon the abdomen and held in the proper position by two connecting drawing-straps I I, and is provided with three buckles *a b c* at each end, through two of which are buckled the extremities of the straps J J, which are alike provided with buckles *d d*, through which buckles the upper ends of the connecting drawing-straps I I pass. Said concave pad, in connection with its straps, &c., is designed to support the abdominal muscles and correct irregular positions of the uterus. These connecting and drawing straps I I are of sufficient length to allow them to extend from the buckles *d d* through rings K K, attached to the strap D near the hips, and then down through buckles L L, fastened to the

broad straps E E near the knees. By increasing or decreasing the length of these straps I I between the rings K K and buckles L, the force applied to the abdominal pad will be consequently increased or decreased, as may be required, or the connecting and drawing straps I I may be returned from the rings K K and passed through the central buckles b b, attached to the abdominal pad H, when the accoucheur prefers that method of applying it. The aforesaid rings K K, through which the drawing-straps I I pass, are secured to the straps M M, one of whose ends are attached by buckles f f to that portion of the broad strap D secured over the spinal pad near its center, and the other extremities attached by buckles g g to the same beyond either end of the spinal pad, the whole being so arranged and joined together that the position of the rings K K can be varied to suit the circumstances of each particular case. To each of the broad straps E there is secured by buckles h h two loops N N, in a proper and convenient position to be grasped by the hands of the female during a paroxysm of pain.

Manner of applying the instrument.—The several parts of the instrument being properly connected, the back-supporter A is buckled around the arms by the strap C C, and the spinal pad is then adjusted over the loins or small of the back. The concave pad H is then placed over and against the abdomen in such manner and position, as the circumstances may require and adjusted to produce the necessary pressure by means of the straps J M, which connect the spinal with the abdominal pad. The feet are then inserted and confined in the looped ends of the broad stirrup-straps E, and, the connecting-straps I secured to the buckles L L, the instrument is then ready for use. This combination and arrangement of pads, straps, &c., by applying the power at the sole of the foot and from the shoulders and arms, allows all the muscles of the upper and lower extremities to act freely, enables the accoucheur to place and retain the limbs of the female in a proper position, when by simply

extending her legs and pressing on the loops in which the feet rest she can make all the pressure on her back through the pad B that is desirable, to alleviate the excruciating pains of labor. She can also in the most natural and easy manner possible, sustain herself in a proper position so as to give force and energy to all the muscles in their parturient efforts, and thus hasten delivery. The front pad H should be so applied that by firm and gentle pressure the weakened and relaxed abdominal muscles may be supported and aided in their efforts to assist the uterus in expelling the fetus, which is too often disproportioned to the pelvic strait through which it must pass. In rectifying malpositions of the uterus, if it is inclined to either side the pad should be placed on the corresponding side and gentle pressure made till the right position is obtained. If the head of the child rests on the sacrum or pubis, it is easily rectified by making proper pressure. In case of flooding, the front pad should be placed over the uterus and firm pressure applied till the uterus contracts permanently.

Having described the construction and use of our improved spine abdominal obstetrical supporter, what we claim therein as new, and for which we solicit Letters Patent, is—

The combination of the back-supporter A, feet-straps E E, and adjustive shoulder-braces C, constructed as described, with the back-pad B, by which the female is enabled to apply the necessary pressure to the back by the simultaneous or alternate action of the shoulders and feet on the straps connected with the back-pad for relieving the labors and irritation of parturition without the assistance of any other person, as herein fully set forth.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto signed our names, before two subscribing witnesses, this 4th day of October, A. D. 1849.

WM. W. FINCH.
JACOB BLAISDELL.
LEANDER BABBIT.

Witnesses:

T. C. FELT,
HARVEY CARTER.