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LIMB (GUARD OR) PROTECTOR FOR THE SPORTSMAN
AGAINST STROKES OR THE LIKE
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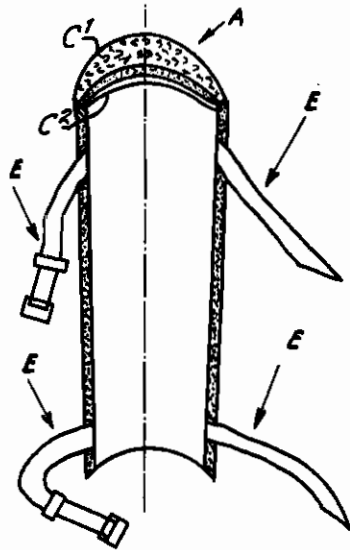


Fig. 1

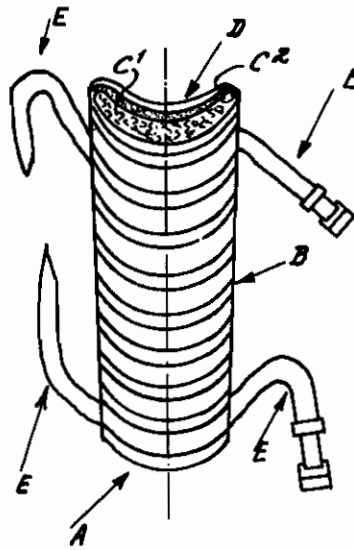


Fig. 2

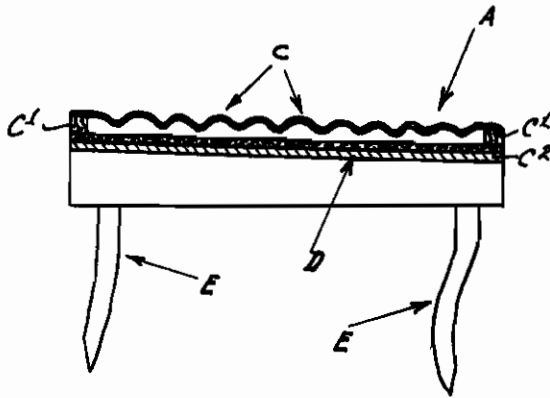


Fig. 3

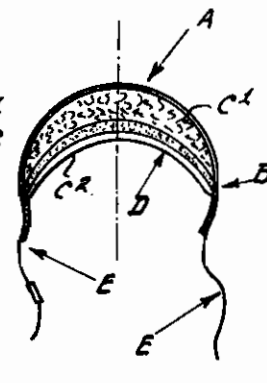


Fig. 4

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LIMB (GUARD OR) PROTECTOR FOR THE SPORTSMAN AGAINST STROKES OR THE LIKE

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During the sport games it is advisable or necessary for the players to wear a shield in order to avoid the consequence of strokes or shocks on the limbs. Such a shield may also be sometimes advisable for workers to prevent accidents or the like.

For the purpose were proposed different apparatuses to smother the effect of strokes or shocks, particularly on the shin-bone, among which are to be considered the pads of elastic material such as felt, rubber, stuffing or pneumatic cushion. Such pads cannot constitute a shield offering a sure protection, therefore stiffening inserts were used in such pads. With the stiffening inserts there is an improvement compared to the pads without inserts, nevertheless the pads with stiffening inserts do not offer the best solution on account of the fact that the affected surface of the limb is greater than that covered by a mere pad, where the effect of the stroke is distributed on a surface a little larger of that of the two stroking bodies. Anyhow the interested surface is always, more or less, restricted around the stroked zone.

In order to avoid the effect of the stroke only on a restricted surface, according to the invention, the limb protector makes use of a stiff gutter-shaped part, which do not contact directly with the limb. The limb is bandaged with a flexible and not yielding material, which constitutes a bridge between the lateral edges of the gutter so that a void space results between the bandage and the gutter.

It is a matter of course, therefore, that a stroke on the gutter will affect a large surface, which will comprehend at least a good part of the breadth and all the length of the bridge.

In order to make clearly understand the present invention, on the annexed drawing there is schematically presented one form of the invention in the shape of a shin-bone protector, that is in:

Fig. 1 a back view, in

Fig. 2 a front view, in

Fig. 3 a side section and in

Fig. 4 a view from the height of a shin-bone protector according to the present invention.

In all figures the same part is marked with the same reference.

The gutter *a* is constituted of a material suited for the purpose, that is of sufficient stiffness and resistance to strokes, such as f. inst. hard-rubberized or resin impregnated fabric, hard rubber incorporating textile fibres, metal sheet, fibre, or the like, and presents a noteworthy bend. The edges *b* are properly rounded in order to avoid the tearing of the bandage *d* on the jointing lines on which both contact. If the case requires the gutter may be provided with stiffening ribs *c*, of

suitable size and shape, which can show either a transverse or longitudinal or any other direction.

The bandage *d* is attached to the gutter *a* along the edges *b* and to the leg by means of the straps *e*. The material employed for the bandage has on the one hand to be flexible enough to fit properly to the leg and on the other to be enough in-extensible in order to resist to the strokes and to the flattening tendency of the gutter without stretching out and so let the gutter stroke the shin-bone.

On account of the fact that the limb protector has to guard the bones more than the fleshy part of the limb, it is a matter of course that the attaching means have to be such to correspond entirely to this requirement.

In the example is necessarily described only a given type of limb protector, that is a shin-bone protector. It is a matter of course that the basic idea of the present invention may be employed for the protection of other limbs as f. inst. the forearm and be so shaped as to protect either the cubital or the radial bone or both according to the probability of the one or the other to be struck or hurt.

On the illustrated example the limb protector is fixed to the leg by means of straps, but evidently the fixing means vary as f. inst. the shin-bone protector can be fixed to the stocking of the wearer or the material used for the bridge may extend so as to bandage the leg and be tightened by strings or by zipper fastening or by other means suitable for the purpose.

In some cases it may appear suitable to provide the side toward the wearer limb of the material of the bridge or of the whole bandage and the straps with a lining such as felt, sponge rubber, sheets of rubber coated hair, a. s. o. in order to further absorb the stroke and particularly to allow a free movement of the muscles. The space between the gutter and the bridge may be closed at the ends by means of the same material used for the bandage or for the lining or any other suitable material.

The shape of the gutter can vary according to the different requirements without leaving the basic idea of the invention. It may assume more or less the form of the limb so that f. inst. the shin-bone protector may be worn underneath the stocking without being too much noticed.

Should it be required a gutter of great stiffness, some well disposed stiffening ribs will do.

It results from the before said exposition that the basic idea can be further developed in order to suit the requirements of its employment in the different cases or in order to reach the shape which better suits the aimed scope.

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