

## **Specification of Robert Gillespie : trusses.**

### **Contributors**

Gillespie, Robert.

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A.D. 1835 . . . . . N<sup>o</sup> 6805.

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S P E C I F I C A T I O N

OF

ROBERT GILLESPIE.

—  
TRUSSES.  
—

LONDON:

PRINTED BY GEORGE E. EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,

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1857.









A.D. 1835 . . . . . N 6805.

**Trusses.**

**GILLESPIE'S SPECIFICATION.**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, I, ROBERT GILLESPIE, of Piccadilly, in the County of Middlesex, Merchant, send greeting.

WHEREAS His present most Excellent Majesty King William the Fourth, by His Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Great Britain, bearing date at Westminster, the Third day of April, in the fifth year of His reign, did, for Himself, His heirs and successors, give and grant unto me, the said Robert Gillespie, His especial licence, full power, sole privilege and authority, that I, the said Robert Gillespie, my exors, admors, and assigns, or such others as I, the said Robert Gillespie, my exors, admors, or assigns, should at any time agree with, and no others, from time to time and at all times during the term of years therein expressed, should and lawfully might make, use, exercise, and vend, within England, Wales, and the Town of Berwick-upon-Tweed, the Invention of "CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS ON TRUSSES OR INSTRUMENTS FOR THE CURE OF HERNIA OR RUPTURE;" communi- cated to me by a certain Foreigner residing abroad, in which said Letters Patent is contained a proviso, that I, the said Robert Gillespie, shall cause a particular description of the nature of the said Invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be inrolled in His said Majesty's High Court of Chancery within six calendar months next and immediately after the date of the said in part recited Letters Patent, as in and by the same, reference being thereunto had, will more fully and at large appear.

NOW KNOW YE, that in compliance with the said proviso, I, the said Robert Gillespie, do hereby declare the nature of the said Invention, and



*Gillespie's Improvements in Trusses.*

the manner in which the same is to be performed, are fully described and ascertained in and by the following description thereof, reference being had to the Drawings hereunto annexed, and to the figures and letters marked thereon (that is to say):—

The improved instrument consists of a strong curved and elastic spring *a* 5 terminating at one end in a neck *b* deviating slightly from the general course of the spring, which neck terminates in a broad expansion, having holes through it. Rising from the outer surface of this expansion is a hook or button *c*; from the extremity of the spring, terminating in a neck to its opposite extremity, the spring lessens slightly in width; this spring has a covering of 10 strong thin leather, and is lined and padded on its concave surface to prevent abrasion of the skin. To the end of this covering there is attached a strong leather strap *d*, having holes near one of its extremities. Accompanying the above described instrument is a strap of leather, called the thigh strap. On the expanded neck of the spring there is attached by screws to its plane surface 15 a block of wood, preferring the wood of the poplar, having one plane surface of a triangular shape, and tapering to an obtuse irregular cone, having in some instances a groove in one side for the reception of the spermatic cord; this block or rupture head is polished smooth. The parts and effects of this instrument claimed to be new is, the wooden pad block or rupture head differing 20 from all others heretofore in use, in its shape, economy, and firmness by which we are enabled to concentrate the force of the spring on a small compass. The instrument may be varied in size, so as to suit every subject; and the blocks or rupture heads may be rendered more or less obtuse according to the age and constitution of the subject, and the shape and size of the rupture. 25 The spring should be weaker or stronger as the system of the subject is the more excitable, or the reverse; but it is intended that the spring should be sufficiently strong to produce inflammation, which is reversing the object of former trusses. In applying this instrument the rupture head is placed its point immediately in the opening through which the abdominal contents 30 have protruded, and the point looking backwards and slightly upwards, avoiding pressure on the pubic bone (which is the more easy from the peculiar shape of the rupture head), and freeing the spermatic cord from pressure by receiving it into the groove formed on the edge of the rupture head. The body of the spring, passing round and closely embracing two thirds of the 35 pelvis, is held firmly on by the leather strap attached to the end of the covering which invests the spring, this completes the circle round the pelvis and attaches to the button or hook in front. The strip of leather or thigh strap is confined around the spring and its covering; near the anterior superior



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*Gillespie's Improvements in Trusses.*

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spinous process of the ilium, and, passing on the back of the thigh, returns in front and attaches near the same place; thus holds the instrument down and prevents a displacement upwards. When the parts about the abdominal rings have become sore from the pressure of the instrument, it sometimes  
5 becomes necessary to interpose a piece of soft linen between the rupture and the skin; and in case the skin becomes irritated by the pressure of the rupture head, the irritated part should be bathed with cold water or a cold and slightly astringent solution of alum.

10 In witness whereof, I, the said Robert Gillespie, have hereunto set my hand and seal, this Third day of April, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and thirty-five.

ROBERT (L.S.) GILLESPIE.

AND BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the Third day of April, in the year of our Lord 1835, the aforesaid Robert Gillespie came before our said  
15 Lord the King in His Chancery, and acknowledged the Specification aforesaid, and all and every thing therein contained and specified, in form above written. And also the Specification aforesaid was stamped according to the tenor of the Statute made for that purpose.

TROWER.

20 Inrolled the Second day of October, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and thirty-five.

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against pressure of the fluid, and passing on the back of the right tibia in front and attaches near the same place; thus holds the instrument down and prevents a displacement upwards. When the parts about the abdominal rings have become sore from the pressure of the instrument, it sometimes becomes necessary to introduce a piece of soft linen between the right tibia and the skin, and in such the skin becomes irritated by the pressure of the rupture head, the irritated part should be bathed with cold water or a cold and slightly astringent solution of alum.

In witness whereof, I, the said Robert Gillespie, have hereunto set my hand and seal, this third day of April, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and thirty-five.

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Inwitness the second day of October, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and thirty-five.

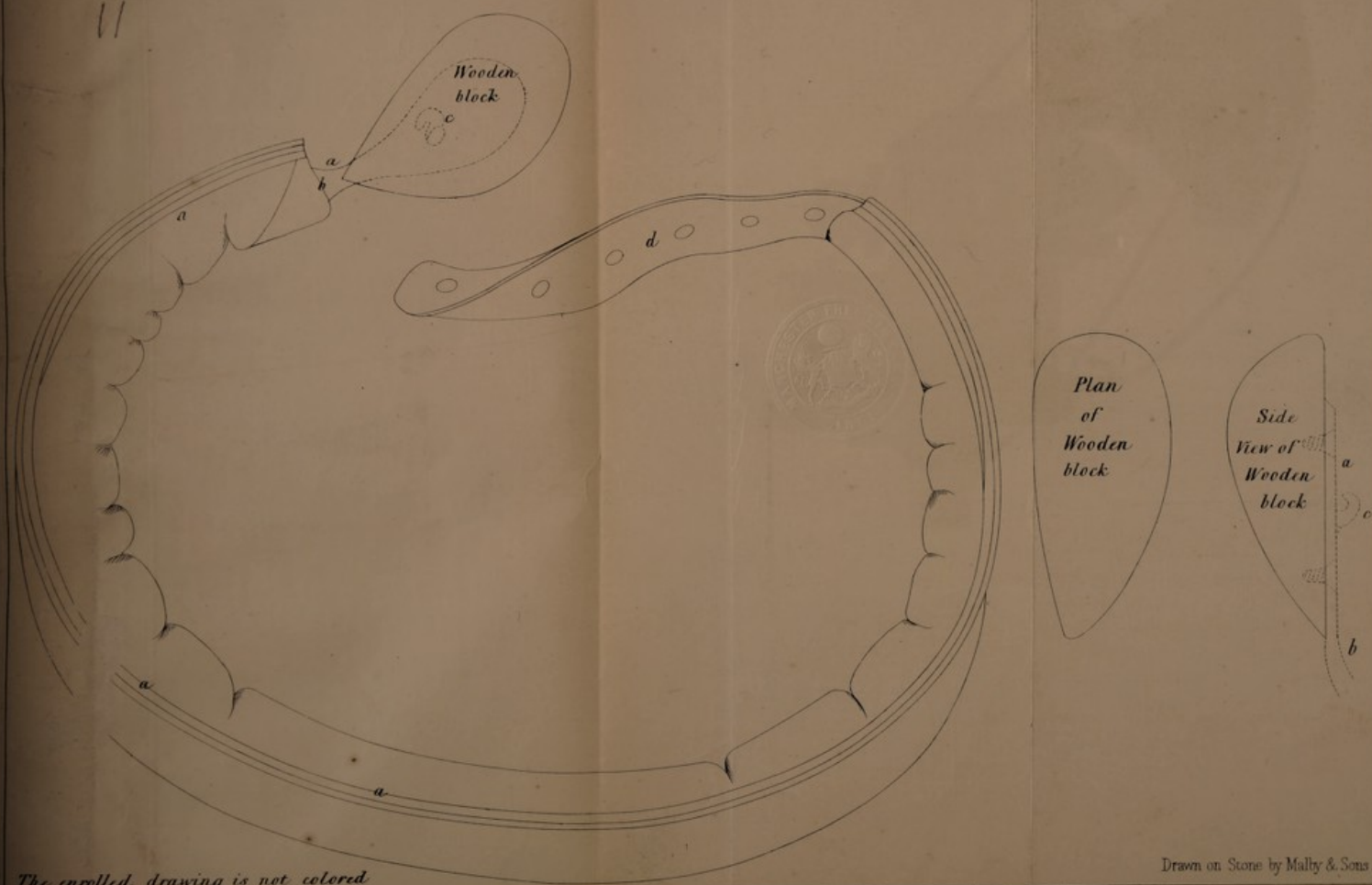
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A. D. 1835. APRIL. 3. N° 6805.  
GILLESPIE'S SPECIFICATION.

(1 SHEET)



The enrolled drawing is not colored

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