

**The true method of applying of trusses, for the cure of ruptures; in the groins and scrotum / [Robert Brand].**

**Contributors**

Brand, Robert.

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Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
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T H E  
M E T H O D  
O F

Applying of Truffles

Invented and Made by  
ROBERT BRAND, of Long-Acre.  
LONDON.







THE  
TRUE METHOD  
OF

Applying of Trusses,

FOR THE  
CURE OF RUPTURES;

In the GROINS and SCROTUM:

By Mr. BRAND;  
The Inventaer of the ELESTICK TRUSSES,  
And TRUSS-MAKER to his  
MAJESTY'S ROYAL HOSPITAL,  
AT  
GREENWICH.

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LONDON:

PRINTED for the AUTHOR, and Sold by  
him at his House (No. 31,) Long-Acre; where  
he gives Advice Gratis in all Cases of Ruptures,  
every Morning from Eight to Ten, Saturdays  
Excepted, as he then attends the Royal Hospital,

M DCC LXXI.

THE  
TRUE METHOD  
OF  
Applying of Trusses;  
For the  
CURE of RUPTURES;  
In the Groin and Scrotum:  
By MR. B. R. A. N. D.  
The Inventor of the Elastic Truss,  
and Truss-Maker to his  
Majesty's Royal Hospital,  
at  
GREENWICH.

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LONDON:  
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him at his House (No. 41, Long-Acre; where  
he gives Advice Gratis in all Cases of Ruptions,  
every Morning from Eight to Ten, Saturdays  
excepted, as he then attends the Royal Hospital.  
M DCC LXXI.



T O,

Dr. LIVINSTON;

S I R,

I Have always thought myself much obliged to you for your repeated advice to me in the early part of my Study for the Relief of myself and others, and in particular for the great variety of the differant *Pelveces* you always furnished me with, of Men, Women, and Children, wether I have profited by it or not, the advice was good, and my obligations to you the same: I therefore Desire the Favour of your acceptance of the following

B 2

Method



Method of applying of Truffles; not only  
as a Proof of my estimation of your Judge-  
ment, but as a mark of the Gratitude of

Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

ROBERT BRAND,

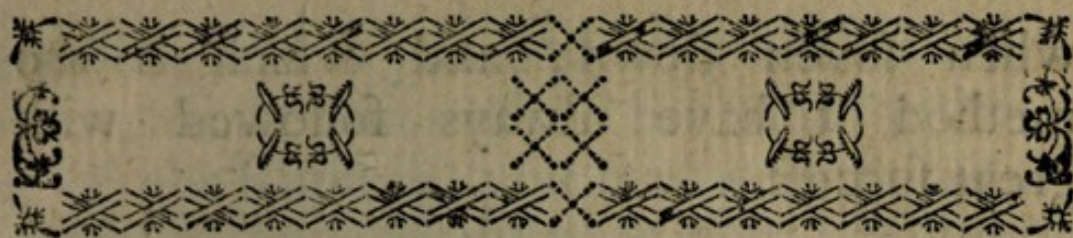
*Long-Acre,*

*January 1<sup>st</sup>*

1771.

THE





THE  
TRUE METHOD  
OF  
APPLYING OF TRUSSES.

MY Truss is only intended for the  
M benefit of such Ruptures in the  
Groin as there is a possibility of  
returning again into the Abdomin,  
tho' I make others of a different construc-  
tion according to the situation of the part  
from whence it proceeds, and other cir-  
cumstances that may attend it.

BEFORE I give any directions how to  
apply my Truss, it may be proper to say  
something with regard to the safest and  
easiest manner of reducing the Intestine,  
when



when fallen down; and which is the method I have always followed with great success.

IF the Rupture is at the time much enlarged, or painful, it will be of great service to the Patient, before the reduction is attempted. to take a gentle cooling purgative, such as a decoction of Tamarinds with Sena, or a solution of Salts and Manna; and if he is of a Plethoric or full habit of body, to let a moderate quantity of blood will be proper; and at the same time the parts should be fomented with a piece of flannel wrung out of a warm decoction of emolient herbs, such as Camomile Flowers, Mallows, &c.

AFTER these preparations, you should proceed in the following manner: Lay the Patient upon his back in such a posture that his Buttocks may be considerably higher than his Head, as by that means the Bowels that are within the Belly, will fall more towards the Breast and not only give way to what is to be returned but be of some assistance to the reduction. Then you must examine carefully as to the situation of the Testicles;



Testicles; and if you find they are forced up towards the sides of the Scrotum by the size of the Rupture, you must be very cautious not to squeeze them in your attempt. If you find them compressed at the bottom of the Scrotum, you must with the fore-finger and thumb of one hand separate them from the Ruptured part, and with the same fingers of the other hand take hold of the upper part that is next the Ring of the Muscles or place from whence the Rupture comes out, and work it gently in, in the same manner as you observe Women do with a Cow's Teats when they milk her. By observing this method you will never be apt to strain the Rings of the Muscles nor hurt the Intestine so as to occasion an inflammation of any of these parts.

As to the application of the Truss, it will be more convenient to put it slack round the Patients Body before he is laid down, as by his getting up after the reduction there might be some risque of the Bowel falling down again. Take hold of each end of the spring and open it wide enough to receive his body side-ways, and after you have got the Bowel fairly reduced,  
 apply



apply the Cushion of the Truss upon the Rings or Orifice from whence the Bowel came out. It must have a gentle hold of the upper part of the Os pubis or Share-bone, but take care it is not placed too high or too low: The Spring will be a direction, which should come round the Os Ilium near the juncture of the Thigh-bones and touch the Rump just where the cleft of the Buttocks begin; which parts are called by the Anotomists, the Great Trochanter of the Thigh-bone, and the middle of the Os Sacrum.

ALWAYS keep under the Cushion, four fold of old coarse linnen, which will keep the part cool and easy and prevent the Cushion being spoiled by the moisture of the Skin. It will be a great addition to the Truss, if for Six or Seven weeks, or longer the parts are bathed with very cold Water every Night and Morning, which may be done conveniently in the following manner, take a piece of large linnen cloth, fold it up pretty thick so as to be about six or seven inches square, a few stiches may be put into it to keep the folds together; dip it into a Bason of cold Water, give it a squeeze



squeeze and apply it to the Scrotum and Groin, and as it loses it's coldness dip it in the Water again and again which should be continued for half an hour at a time: It is necessary that the Patients Breeches should be very long of the Thighs so as to allow the waistband to come well up on the Pelves above the Truss, for if it bear thereon it will add so much to the pressure which will make it very uneasy.

I must here advise my reader, that in examining any thing like a Rupture, he does not mistake a Swelling of the Spermatic Chord, or one in the Groin for one, as by handling any thing of that kind roughly, he may not only give the Patient an exquisite deal of pain, but do great mischief: If it is really a Rupture, gentle means, without being in too great a hurry will answer best. I have been frequently shocked at the barbarous treatment I have seen some Surgeons use their Patients with upon Swellings, I was certain were not caused by a Rupture, but as I was not bred a Surgeon, they treated my counsel with contempt, tho' they soon found their own mistake and their attempts in vain.

My



My experience in these matters took its first rise from my being subject to that complaint myself, having tryed all the different kind of Trusses that have been used and recommended by Authors for many Years back, but found the best of them subject to some inconveniency or other, however as I was originally a Mechanick, I fell to work myself with an intention to avoid the inconveniencies of those I had used, and after trying several different new forms, I at last fell upon that which I now offer to the Public, and has given so much satisfaction to all who have had of them. As to any further knowledge I have of Ruptures (besides what I had from my own experience) I am obliged to some Gentlemen of the Faculty, particularly Doctor Hunter, Doctor Livenston, and Doctor Barry, the Books he recommended to my perusal. When I put you in mind how ridiculous the Surgeons of former Times appear now a Days when they rejected *Frere Jaque's* new method of Cutting for the Stone, for no other reason but because he was not a regular bred Surgeon, I hope no impartial Gentleman of the Faculty will condemn my Truss till he can  
 prove



prove it's having any deficiency, and has compared it very narrowly with others that continue in use, The recommendation of those who have experienced it's benefit would be sufficient, but most People who are subject to any disorder of that kind are fond of concealing it and consequently will never mention any thing of my Truss. However the preference I have met with to others, who were strongly recommended by numbers of the Faculty, in being constituted Truss-Maker to his Majesty's Royal Hospital at Greenwich; may give the Public some Idea of it's Merit, even when a Surgeon in this Metropolis, and *W. B.* of the College of Surgeons at Parris, and a Bedstead-Maker with a Letter of recommending him, Signed with a list of Surgeons names to it as long as my Arm; it is well known that these Gentlemen did stand a fair Tryal with me every Day almost for two Months before the Physicians and Surgeons of the Royal Hospital made their Report of the Candidates different Merits; on which I was appointed Elestick Truss-Maker, by that Honourable Board of Directors of his Majesty's Royal Hospital.

I think



I THINK it would be here an unpardonable offence to posterity, not to inform my readers without fear or favour to mankind, that to this day a Surgeon of the greatest eminence recommends a Shoemaker to all his Ruptured Patients, for to make the Trusses for them, and I am very certain that he does not know Iron from Steel, when it is made out of the common sizes of the bars thereof. This I have from jobbing Smiths some of those the feller has employed ever since he was converted from a Sutter into a Truss Maker, it is this eminent Surgeon and Sutter, that Councillor Brand, at Mays Hill. Greenwich, means in his letter therefrom to me, which is hereafter inserted amongst more sent me, and Certificates of the Efficacy of my Trusses above all others they had made use of. Of which is first Dr. Monro's report to the Society at Edinburgh, which Society laid my new invented Trusses and Memorial before Dr. Monro, for him to pass his judgement on them, and very soon after I had invented these Trusses, I had an opportunity of sending some of them to Sarjeant Ranby, which brought his letter to me here inserted.

To



To Robert Brand, Cutler, in Aberdeen.

S I R,

SOME time ago, I believe about the time you mention, a Soldier left two Truffles at my house, and in a day or two afterwards took them away, and I understood from my servant that he was the maker of them, they appeared to me to vary a little from the common ones : However, when you come up in June, bring some with you, which, if upon trial answer better than those used now, you will certainly meet with encouragement,

I am,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. R A N B Y.

*Chelsea College,  
April 10, 1764.*

That



That I bought one of these Truffles from the bearer, Robert Brand Cutler, and that it has done better with me than one I had from England, or one I had made in this place; is in justice and gratitude to his merit.

Attested at Aberdeen, May 30th,  
1764. By

J. OGLEBY,

Minister, at Aberdeen.

The bearer desires me to add (which is indeed truth) that this Truss is so very convenient, that I can walk and do every thing else as freely with it as if I had no ailment at all.

J. O.

In justice and gratitude to Robert Brand, Truss Maker, in Aberdeen, I acknowledge that I have had a Rupture for these five years, that about that time, I was an invalid,



lid, doing garrison duty at the Island of Guernsey, I had a Truss purchased at London for me by Mr. Rose, the King's receiver in the island ; which I wore, but with great pain for the space of four years ; I then got a Truss which came from Chelsea Hospital, but with no better success ; untill about a month ago, I purchased one from Mr. Brand, being a single Truss and fitted for the right side, which has answered the intent, by giving me no pain in my walking, keeps up the Rupture, and without the incumbrance of a Thigh strap : Is attested to be truth by me, this 30th Day of May, 1764.

ALEXANDER FORBES.

*Aberdeen.*

The above declaration is attested by me John Dye, of Tilligrieg, one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Aberdeen,

JOHN DYE, J. P.

*Aberdeen,*

*May 30, 1764.*

I Doc-



I Doctor Thomas Livingston, Phyfician to the Infirmary at Aberdeen, do hereby certify that Robert Brand, Cutler, in this City, has beftowed great pains and attention in contriving a new construction of Rupture Truffes, which for eafe, as well as prevention of the difeafe, feems to anfwer better than the ordinary Truffes formerly in ufe, and it confifts with my particular knowledge that many People have ufed them with great benefit and fatisfaction..

Attefted by THOMAS LIVINGTON,

*Aberdeen June 2d,*

1764.



TO ROBERT BRAND,  
CUTLER, and TRUSS-MAKER,  
In *Aberdeen* :

S I R,

You have the Report Dr. Monro gives the Society of Arts, on the back of your Memorial, which I returned this Day to Mr. Barckley, who said it would make nothing as to Premium: after his respectful Compliments to the Honourable Society: Says the Trusses Mr. Brand presents is no new Invention, as there is of the same kind and same materials used by most Surgeons in Europe for many Years past, the only essential circumstance is the Circular Steel Spring is more strict than those in common use, which makes them fit easier on the Patient, and better fit Persons of different Sizes; and adds that this last is scarce worth observation, as each Person ought to have his measure taken on the most Accurate manner. *March 6th 1765.*

*Edenbrough,*  
*March 7th 1765.*

JOHN PARRIE.  
C I shall



I shall here only observe that there is a Contradiction in this Report, with Intention to give Merit, where I never found a great deal thereof in Trusses, and as it is intirely out of their Power, because it is impossible for a Surgeon, were he the greatest ingenious in the World, to cause ever so ingenious a Workman to Work directly on the principle laid before him by the Inventor thereof, however I shall here refer the whole to the Canded Reader.

To Mr. BRAND, in Great-Peter's-Street,  
*Westminster.*

S I R,

THE Machine you last left with me, does its office very well, and fits easy.

Your humble Servant,

J. B.

*Greenwich*

*August 7th 1765.*

Mr.



Mr. B R A N D,

AFTER a Variety of Trusses I have made use of from different Persons recommended to me by a Surgeon of great character in Town, which did not do their Office; yours that I have now on, and have worn constantly nine or ten Weeks, not only fully answers it's purpose of keeping the Gut up, but fits very easy, and is attended with little or no trouble.

J. BRAND.

*Greenwich*

*Sept. 11th 1765.*

ON the recommendation of Dr. Hunter, I made use of Mr. Brand's Elestick Truss, to a Youth about Seven Years of Age who had been afflicted with a Scrotal Rupture for two or three Years; I had used in the course of that time several ineffectual



means without success: Yours he wore with great ease and intirely prevented any return of the Disorder.

Witness my Hand this 27th Day of

*Feb. 1766.*

W. TAYLER,

Surgeon of the Dock-Yard, at  
*Woolwich.*

THESE are to Certify that I have seen Mr. Brand's Bandages for Ruptures, and that from the several opportunities I have had for them, find they answer better than any other I have had occasion to use.

W. NORTON,

Navy Surgeon.

*Strand*

*June 2d 1766.*

This



THIS is to Certify that I have frequently Recommended Mr. Robert Brand, Truss-Maker, whose Bandages always gave great Satisfaction to my Patients, and to me.

R. BROMFIELD.

*Gerard-Street*

*July 18th 1766.*

THESE are to Certify that I have seen and carefully examined the Elestick Bandages for Ruptures, made by Mr. Robert Brand, of Peter-Street Westminster, Truss-Maker; and am of opinion that they are neat and strong in their Construction, very Ingenious in their Contrivance, and more peculiarly adapted to several purposes of a Truss, than any other Bandage I have ever seen.

Given under my Hand, this 18th Day of  
*July 1766.*

*St. Martin's-Lane.*

C. KELLY.

C 3

HAVING



HAVING made use of the Trusses made by Mr. Brand; on some Patients afflicted with Ruptures, I think it no more than a piece of Justice due to his Ingenuity, to acknowledge, that they have succeeded very well in fulfilling the intention for which they were applied; nor have I ever seen any Trusses which I should prefer to them.

W. HEWSON.

*Tichfield-Street*  
*July 17th 1766.*

THESE are humbly to Certify the Governours of the Royal Hospital at Greenwich, that I have seen several instances of Ruptures, where the Patients have unsuccessfully made use of several Oppersors Trusses, which were Painful and Uneasy to them; and afterwards being advised to use Mr. Brands Elestick ones; they found speedy Ease, and no Pain therefrom; and for that reason, in my opinion, His deserves the Preference of all other Trusses.

T. POOLE.

Surgeon of the Royal Navy.

*Savoy Augst. 29 1766.*

I have



I have seen some Instances where Mr. Brand's Elestick Truffles have been Successful where others have failed.

E. BARRY.

*George-Street Hanover-Square*

*August 20th 1766.*

I have seen some Instances where Mr. Brand's Elastick Truffles have been Successful, where others have failed, therefore I think they deserve peculiar notice.

F. PINKSTON.

*St. Alban's-Street*

*August 29th 1766.*

These



THESE are to Certify that I recommended a Patient to Mr. Brand, who had been afflicted from his Infancy with an Inguenall Rupture, and had tryed all means for a Cure, with the different sort of Trusses without Success, giving him great Pain in wearing them, so that he was often obliged to leave them off, and his Rupture would as often come down; but after applying Mr. Brand's Truss, he found to his great satisfaction, that he could wear it with great ease, and declared himself much obliged to the Ingenious Author of such a Truss, from which he had found so much relief.

As witness my Hand,

HUGH CRAWFORD.

*Leicester-Fields*

*August 25th 1766.*

THIS



THIS is to Certify that I have often examined and seen applied, Mr. Brand's Steel Trusses, and that I do imagine that they are better adapted for the Cure of Ruptures than any that I have seen.

JOHN HUNTER.

*Golden-Square*

*August 24 1766.*

I hereby Certify, that after having recommended various sorts of Trusses to my Patients, I can find none so Easy to the Wearers, or so well adapted to the Relief of their Disorders, as the Elastick Trusses, made by Mr. Brand of Peter-Street, Westminster.

C. HALE,

*Parliament-Street*

*August 25 1766.*

D

TO



TO Mr. ROBERT BRAND,  
 TRUSS-MAKRR to his Majesty's Royal Haspital  
 at Greenwich: At his House in St. Martin's-  
 Lane, near Charing-Cross, London.

S I R,

THE Generosity and Humanity with which you treated me, demand the most Grateful Acknowledgments, and nothing gives me more Concern than to think that necessity should oblige me to leave London without being able to Pay you, as my Friend was not in Town, and the Ship going away. Therefore I must intreat you to be patient for a short time, and you shall have no cause to complain. In the intrim I send you my Note for 2l. 10s. Payable in Six Months after Date, tho' the Sum I owe you is only 2l. 2s. And as I shall make a Remittance by the return of the Ship from South Carolina, to Mr. Edward Upton, in Paternoster-Row, I shall desire him at the same time to take up the Note. Permit me to assure you, Sir, that I shall spare no pains to recommend your  
 Trusses



Trusses in South Carolina: And in the mean time please to pay my Compliments to your good Spouse and Son,

S I R,

I am with the greatest Respect,

Your much obliged humble Servant,

G. SPENCER.

*Deal*

*July 30th 1767.*

IT is to be observed that Mr. Spencer was a Gentleman of the Clergy, and had a living in North America; and he being afflicted with a very large Femmenal Rupture, and had applied to several for relief without any success, among whom was the Ingenious Mr. Blackey, of Paris, for about that time his Trusses were sold some where in London; accordingly Mr. Spencer applied there for relief, but Mr. Blackey applied a Truss that was adapted



for a Groin Rupture on his Fammenal Rupture; however I made a proper Truss for his Rupture, and applied thereon, which I had no sooner done, and he finding that it would do its Office, he then desired me to take it off, I asked him why, he said because he had not Money sufficient about him to Pay for it, and that his Friend was not in town, on which I told him I did not fear the Money, for as a Gentleman he would not wrong me. on which we parted and I never saw, nor heard from him till I received the Letter inserted.

He remitted the Money, and I received it.

I shall here Conclude with some observations, which much surprize me, that in reading those learned Authors who has hitherto treated on Ruptures, and not finding any among them that has laid down proper Rules either for applying of Trusses or reducing of Ruptures; even the great Monro hath neglected it, and also some of a later date, who have received more Gain therefrom than any that ever attempted it before.

I shall



I shall only add, that provided I had been regularly bred a Surgeon, I doubt not but my Merit in Truss-Making, would have been by this time as well known to all the World, as the Works of that Ingenious Sir Issac Newton.

There are some Eminent Surgeons who endeavour to bury my Trusses in Obscurity; and others I hope which will Expatiate as much on their real Merits, and make them shine forth through the Dark Cloud, for the Utillity of the Public in general,

F I N I S.



I shall only add, that I have  
been regularly, since a young age, I doubt  
not but my Name is well known to all  
have been by the name as well known to all  
the World, as the Works of the great  
Sir Isaac Newton.

There are some Eminent Persons who  
endeavour to buy my Treatises in Obscurity;  
and others I hope will explain  
as much on their real Merits, and make  
them shine forth through the Dark Clouds  
for the Utility of the Public in general.

T I N 1 2