

TRUSSES.

Extract from Bryant's "Practice of Surgery :

"A truss is an instrument employed for the purpose of preventing the descent of a hernia. Any truss that will keep up the hernia under all circumstances, and does not cause pain or lasting discomfort, is probably beneficial. Every truss that fails to carry out that object should be condemned. An instrument with too feeble a spring is a delusion and a snare ; but one that is too powerful may tend to do more essential harm than present good, by causing absorption of the abdominal parietes upon which it presses, and, as a consequence, enlargement of the opening through which the hernia descends. For the same reason a pad that is unduly convex is also to be condemned. A truss that will keep one hernia may fail in the case of another. Every hernia, in fact, requires a special adaptation of the pad as well as a carefully regulated spring. Every subject of hernia, young or old, male or female, should wear a truss, and in a good proportion of cases particularly of the young, a cure may take place ; that is, the neck of the sac may close. But even after a cure or apparent cure has taken place, it is well, for the sake of safety, to wear the instrument."

When ordering Trusses state :

1. Sex of patient.
2. Occupation and weight of patient.
3. Circumference of body between the crest of ilium and trochanters major (on an adult two inches below the tips of the hips, avoiding the fullness of the abdomen).
4. Whether the hernia is on the right or left, or both sides.

5. If on both sides, which is the worse, if there is any difference. Also, state the distance between the centers of the two openings after the intestines are returned into the abdomen.

6. Comparative size of rupture or ruptures when out.

7. Whether it is inguinal, scrotal, or femoral hernia.

8. If the hernia is reducible or not.

SPECIAL NOTE.—Fitting and adjusting special cases given careful attention at our office by competent lady and gentlemen attendants.

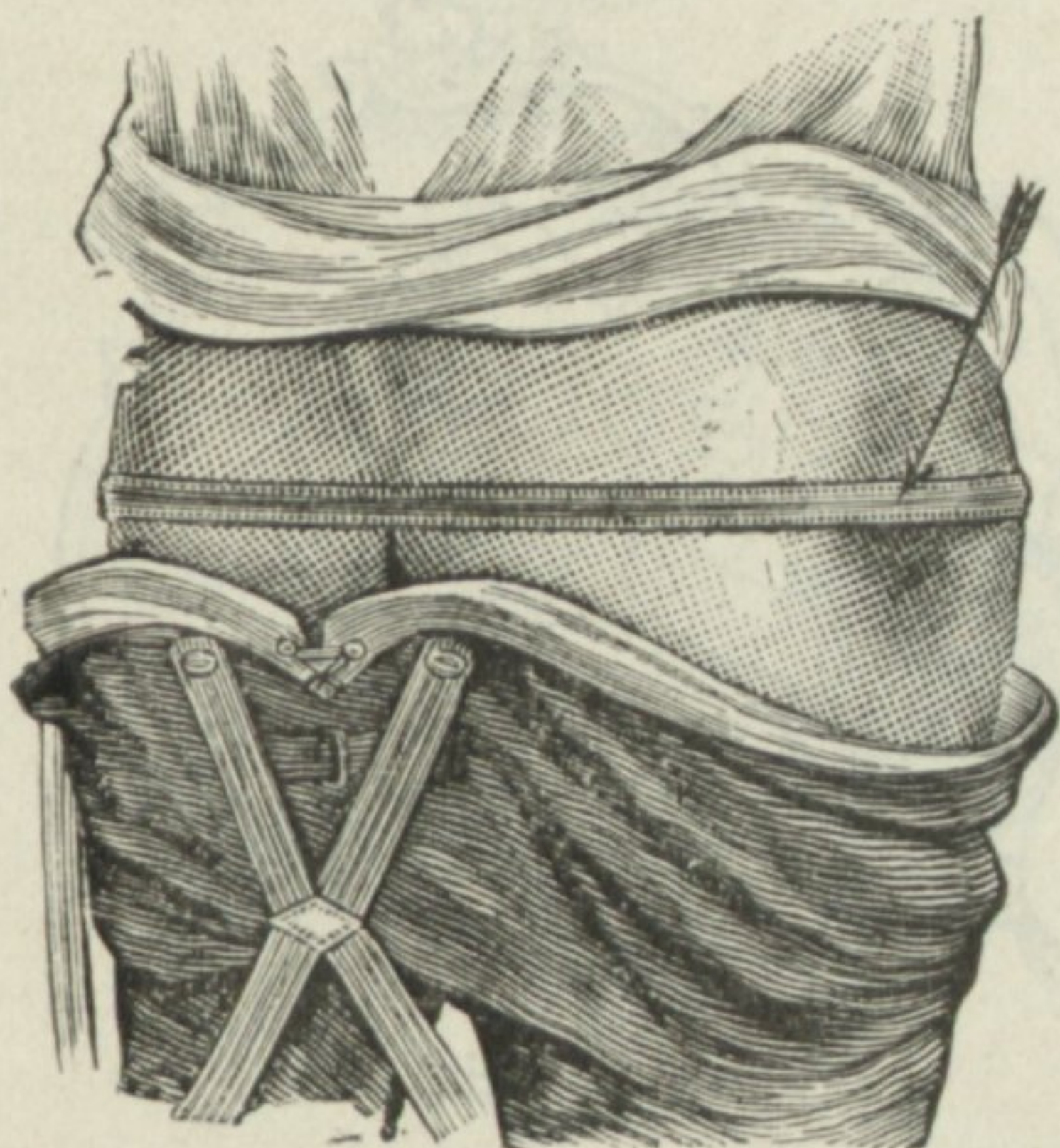


Fig. 1

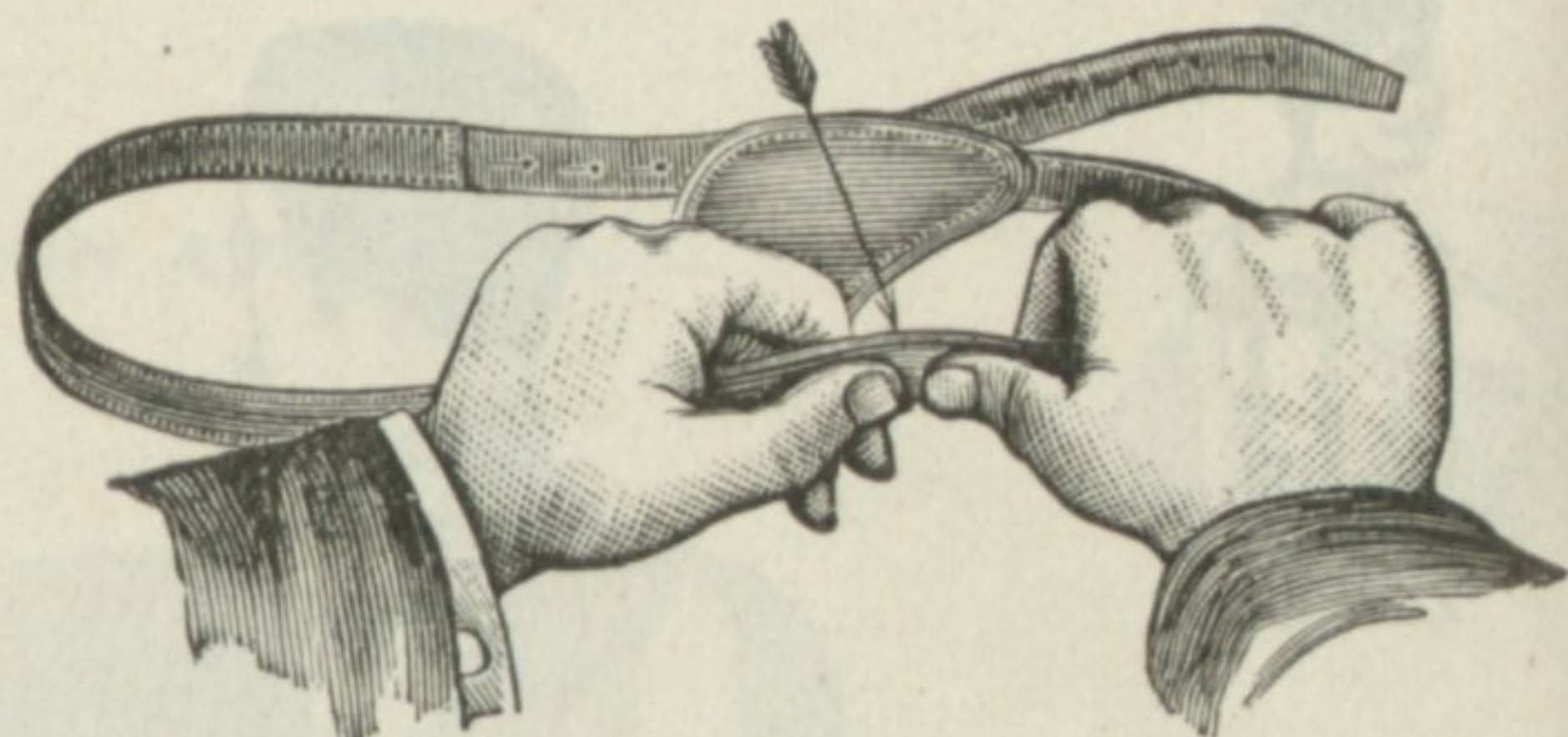


Fig. 2

Directions for Fitting and Shaping Leather Covered Trusses.

After selecting the truss, see that the spring is properly fitted to shape of person, at all points, by manipulating as illustrated, using all fingers, the thumbs doing the bend-

ing, while the fingers hold and brace the spring, and spread the strain, thus lessening chances of breaking in shaping ; never give the spring a sharp bend or force shape too rapidly, but humor carefully, and as it is important to hold the strength required in the spring as long as possible remember that closing a spring together will not give *permanent* additional strength, except to a hard rubber covered spring, which by closing more, after thoroughly warming, we can secure an additional strength from the rubber covering (see below) ; if much shaping is required, always choose a stronger spring than needed for the case, as the shaping will open and weaken the spring some ; if a spring is too strong it can be weakened by opening it.

Our springs for over fifty years have been made of a very fine bar spring steel produced specially for our use, and after carefully shaping, we give them a peculiar, but flexible and elastic temper, that is capable of standing the shaping required in fitting, as indicated above ; shaping to some extent is almost always necessary, as there are seldom two persons alike in form