Sept. 15, 1936. J. E. TYNAN 2,054,491

BREAST SHIELD

Filed Nov. 12, 1934

Fig. 2.

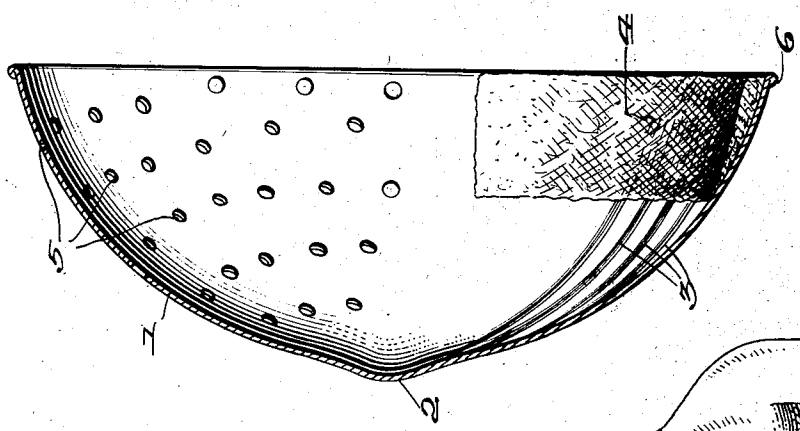



Fig. 3.

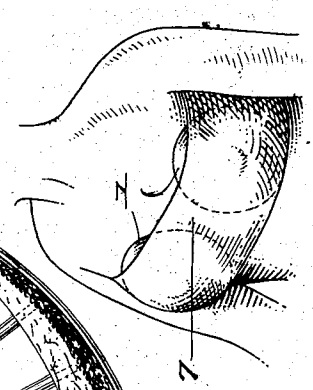
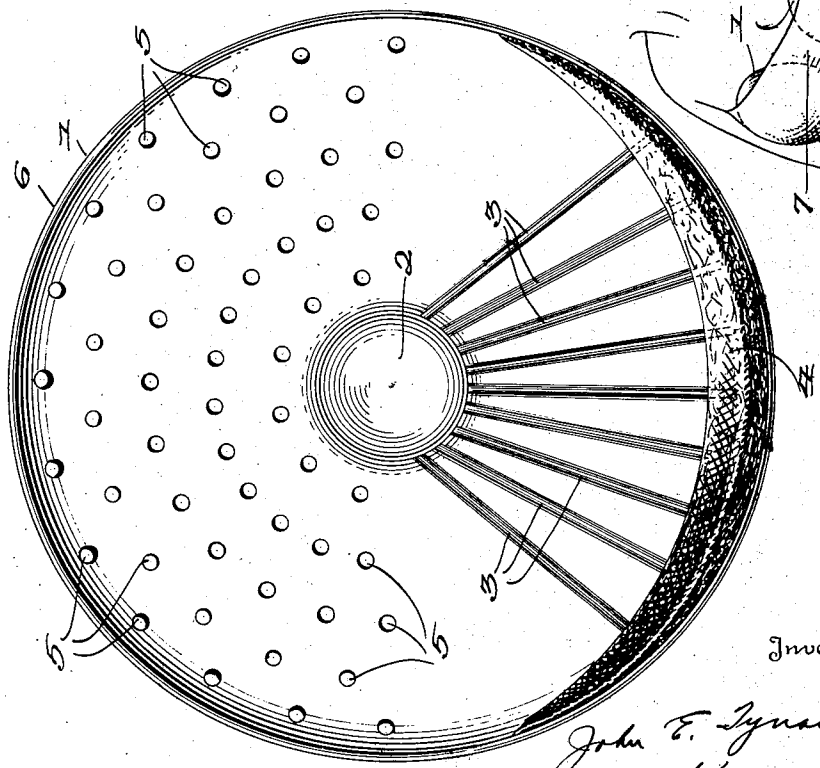



Fig. 1.




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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## BREAST SHIELD

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7 Claims. (Cl. 128—282)

This invention relates to an improvement in breast shields particularly for nursing mothers for absorbing any milk that may leak from the breasts.

The object of this invention is to provide a light, cool, and efficient shield which will receive and absorb the milk leaking from the breast, preventing the staining or saturation of the dress or other wearing apparel, and which is sufficiently inexpensive that it may be used once or twice and then destroyed.

While it has been proposed heretofore to use nursing vests, they are expensive articles of rubberized cloth sometimes equipped with openings for the breasts, and with elastic bands, buckles, pouches, etc., rendering them uncomfortable and unsatisfactory. My improved breast shields are light in weight and cool. They may be worn within the ordinary band or brassière.

It has been customary heretofore to use squares of rubber cloth, cotton pads, surgical gauze or other inefficient and bulky contrivances to prevent the leakage of milk or to absorb it, but they are not satisfactory nor successful in preventing the soiling of wearing apparel. My shields eliminate possible embarrassment, and enable nursing mothers to wear fashionable frocks without fear of staining, and without bulkiness.

In carrying out my invention, I shape the shield from suitable absorbent or other material approximately to fit the breast and provide a pad of absorbent material at the bottom with grooves extending downwardly thereto from the region of the center. Provision is also made for ventilating the shield to keep it cool.

This invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is an elevation of the open side of the shield embodying my invention;

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view therethrough; and

Fig. 3 is a perspective view showing the shields applied.

The shield preferably is formed approximately of breast-shape. It is made, stamped, pressed or molded of absorbent material such as paper, wood fibre, compressed tissues, cellucotton, rag pulp or other cellulose products, or the like, and is treated to conform to sanitary standards.

The shield is designated generally by the numeral 1, and has a waterproof central area 2 somewhat nipple-shaped and designed to fit over the nipple. Radiating downwardly from the central area 2 are several water-proof grooves 3, which are pressed into the material of the shield during the formation or shaping thereof. These grooves 3 direct the milk from the area 2 downwardly to a pad 4 of absorbent material, such as cotton, gauze, or the like. The pad 4 is segmental in shape and extends at least part way around the lower portion of the shield, at least throughout the grooved portion. The pad 4 preferably is permanently fastened in the shield where the latter is intended for use only once or twice and then destroyed, but where the shield is more permanent, the pad should be removable so that another may be substituted after each use. The pad 4 may be formed as a thickened ridge portion in the absorbent material of the shield 1, if desired.

The upper portion of the shield 1 may be perforated as at 5, for ventilation, coolness, and lightness of the shield. The outer edge of the shield 1 should be slightly rounded to form a bead 6 to prevent chaffing and add to the comfort of the article.

The shields may be constructed in various sizes and of different materials as may be required for different conditions.

The shields should be fitted over the breasts with the pads or ridge 4 at the bottom. They may be held in place as shown in Fig. 3, by a band or brassière designated 7, or by adhesive tape, or in any other desired manner.

I claim:

1. A breast shield constructed of semi-rigid cellulose material shaped to fit over the breast and having a nipple-receiving central portion and an absorbent portion beneath said central portion and extending forwardly along the inside face of the shield and in intimate contact therewith throughout their adjacent surfaces in position to receive fluid from said central portion.

2. A breast shield constructed of semi-rigid cellulose material shaped to fit over the breast and having a waterproof nipple-receiving central portion, an absorbent pad secured in said shield beneath said central portion, and a plurality of grooves formed in the shield and extending downwardly from the central portion to the pad for directing fluid thereto.

3. A breast shield constructed of semi-rigid cellulose material shaped to fit over the breast and having a waterproof nipple-receiving central portion, an arcuate absorbent pad secured along the lower edge of said shield beneath said central portion, and a plurality of grooves formed in the shield and extending downwardly from the central portion to the pad for directing fluid

thereto, said shield having a plurality of ventilating openings in the upper portion thereof.

4. A breast shield having a waterproof nipple-receiving portion, a strip of absorbent material arranged below said portion, and a plurality of waterproof grooves extending downwardly from said nipple-receiving portion to the pad for directing fluid thereto.

5. A breast shield constructed of semi-rigid cellulose material shaped to fit over the breast with the entire back open from edge to edge to receive the breast, and with an absorbent portion on the lower inside portion of the shield in position to receive fluid directed thereto by the inside surface of the shield.

6. A breast shield constructed of semi-rigid cellulose material, constructed of a single wall shaped to fit the breast with the entire back open from edge to edge to receive the breast, and an arcuate pad of absorbent material fitted to the lower inside portion of the shield in position to receive fluid directed thereto by the inside surface of the shield.

7. A breast shield constructed of a single sheet of semi-rigid absorbent cellulose material shaped to fit the breast with the entire back open from edge to edge to receive the breast, said shield having a waterproof nipple-receiving central portion with waterproof grooves extending downwardly therefrom to the lower portion of the shield, and an absorbent pad on the lower inside portion of the shield communicating with the grooves to receive fluid therethrough from the central portion.

JOHN E. TYNAN.