M. C. BUCHANAN.

NIPPLE FOR NURSING BOTTLES.

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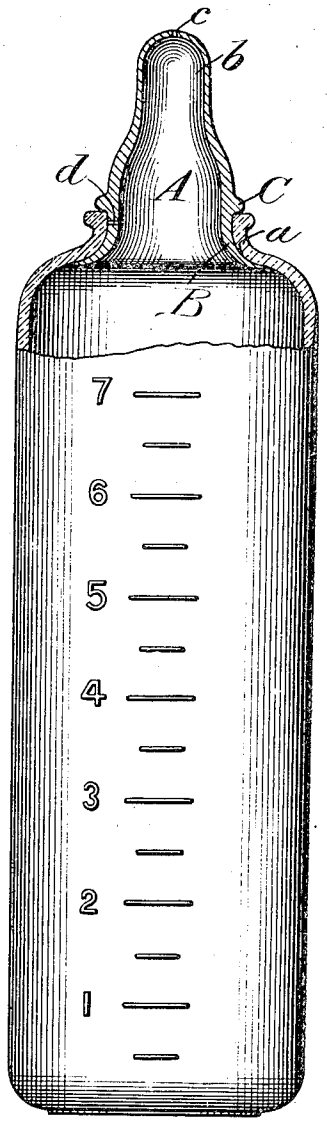
1,243,806. Patented Oct. 23, 1917.



INVENTOR.
Margaret Carter Buchanan
BY Church & Rich
Her ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARGARET CARTER BUCHANAN, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

NIPPLE FOR NURSING-BOTTLES.

1,243,806. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 23, 1917.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARGARET C. BUCHANAN, of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Nipples for Nursing-Bottles; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and to the reference-numerals marked thereon.

My invention has for its object to improve the construction of nursing bottle nipples by affording a device that can be reasonably manufactured, and which at the same time will perform the results to be accomplished in an efficient and satisfactory manner. One of the chief purposes of the arrangement is to afford a sanitary structure that will admit air to the bottle as the liquid contents are withdrawn, and in a manner that effectively prevents the walls of the nipple from collapsing. To these and other ends the invention consists in certain improvements and combinations of parts all as will be hereinafter more fully described, the novel features being pointed out in the claims at the end of the specification.

The drawing is a sectional view showing the application of the invention in its preferred embodiment.

According to the present embodiment of my invention, I employ a bottle or container formed with a neck portion substantially as shown in the drawing, affording a downwardly and outwardly curved interior surface *a* on the inside of the neck portion. The nipple may be formed of any flexible material such as rubber, and comprises a body portion A, having an upper or outlet portion *b* provided with the opening *c*. The nipple also comprises an outwardly projecting portion in the form of a base or lower portion B which is flared downwardly and outwardly for coöperation with the inner wall *a* of the bottle, the engagement being such as to afford a tight fit when the nipple is released after its insertion into the bottle, and the curved formation of the base together with the capillary action of the liquid contents causes it to be tightly gripped and held firmly against movement in either direction.

It is desirable and essential that provision be made for insuring against an infant forcing the nipple entirely within the bottle, and with this in view the body A is provided with means independent of the aforesaid base, and preferably embodying an outwardly projecting portion in the form of a shoulder, or flange, such as designated by C, and arranged immediately above the base B whereby to engage the upper edge of the bottle neck, as shown in the drawing. The projecting portion C rests upon the bottle neck so that the nipple cannot be forced any farther within the bottle, except by gripping its walls at a point near the base and compressing the body into a small compass. An opening *d* is provided in the base slightly beneath the flange C, and acts to admit air to the interior of the nipple, and to prevent the formation of a vacuum which would otherwise permit the permanent collapse of the body of the nipple.

I claim as my invention:

1. A flexible nipple for nursing bottles comprising a body portion, an annular external shoulder for engaging the end face of the bottle and preventing movement of the nipple into the bottle, and a portion beneath the shoulder for fitting the outlet of the bottle, said portion being provided with an air passage opening through its periphery and inner face and being normally closed by the inner face of the outlet of the bottle, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

2. A flexible nipple for nursing bottles comprising a body portion, an outwardly flaring base for engaging a correspondingly formed inner face of the outlet of a bottle and preventing outward movement of the nipple from the bottle, an annular external shoulder above the base for engaging the end face of the bottle and preventing movement of the nipple into the bottle, and an air passage opening through the periphery and inner face of the nipple beneath the shoulder and being normally closed by the inner face of the outlet of the bottle, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

MARGARET CARTER BUCHANAN.

Witnesses:
JOHN C. POORE,
RUSSELL B. GRIFFITH.