July 5, 1938. W. M. FINDLEY 2,123,148

PESSARY

Filed Dec. 27, 1935

Fig. 1.

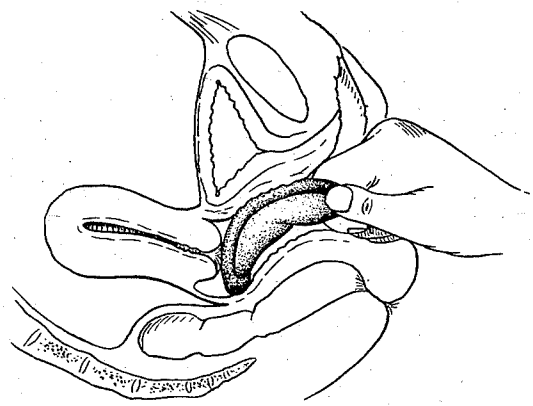


Fig. 2.

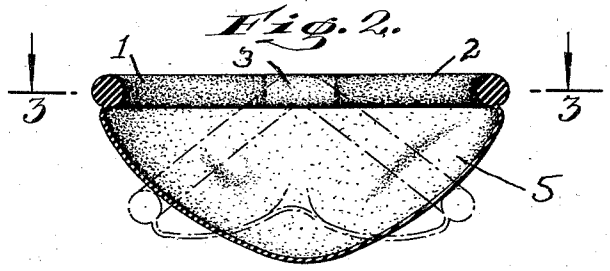
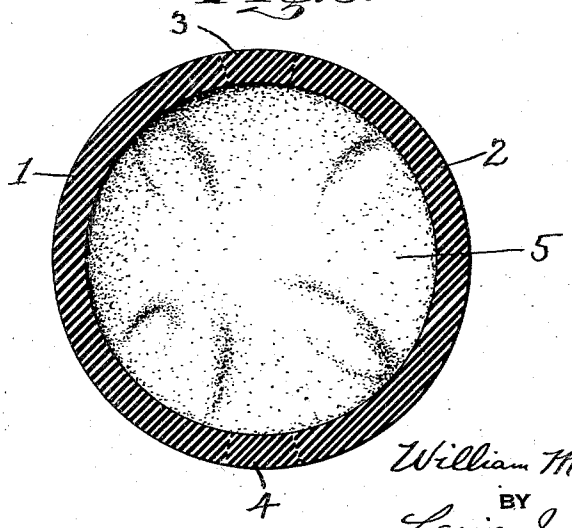


Fig. 3.



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PESSARY

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5 Claims. (Cl. 128—127)

The object of my invention is to provide in a single, simple structure an efficient form of pessary device, for use by gynecologists and obstetricians in the vagina to prevent or correct a downward or backward displacement of the uterus and support against retroversion of the walls of the vagina.

The principal object of my invention is to avoid the necessity of using separate devices and inserters for accomplishing the desired results and also avoid the difficulties of inserting the same in correct anatomical position behind the cervix.

Because of the novel features of construction of my invention, the device may be readily inserted or removed by the patient, for cleansing, etc., as often as desired, its insertion and placement is as easy and simple as the introduction of a douche nozzle and it acts as its own introducer and guide in entering the vaginal canal and automatically takes the proper position after insertion.

In carrying out the objects of my invention, I provide a circular or other suitable form of frame of hard rubber or other suitable material. This frame is in two parts which are of rigid construction and are joined by two short sections of soft rubber or other suitable yielding material which form hinge joints between the two rigid side sections of the frame and permit these side sections to be folded together. A soft rubber diaphragm is vulcanized or otherwise secured to the frame and is of such size as to permit it to depend from one side thereof in a cup-shape or dome shape, as will be shown and explained more fully hereinafter in connection with the description of the device shown in the accompanying drawings as illustrative of one form or embodiment of my invention in a simple device which has been found to be very effective for the purposes stated.

In the drawing, like parts in the several views have been given the same reference numeral.

Fig. 1 is a general view showing the correct method of inserting the device in the vagina, the side sections of the frame are shown as folded together for insertion.

Fig. 2 is a sectional view, substantially in full size, showing the device in its opened or normal position. The outline shown in "dot-and-dash" lines illustrates the position of the parts when partly folded together.

Fig. 3 is a sectional plan view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2, showing the device in its open or normal position.

The frame or supporting portion of the device is shown in circular form but in some cases other forms may be found to be more suitable. The frame is formed of two rigid side members, 1 and 2, respectively, and are joined at their opposite ends by two short sections of a yielding material, such as soft rubber, as shown at 3 and 4, respectively. These several sections are vulcanized together at the abutting ends thereof and are finished with a smooth, continuous outer surface. The side members 1 and 2 of the frame may be made of hard rubber, in order to provide the necessary rigidity, and the short sections 3 and 4 may be of soft rubber, to provide the hinged connection between the ends of the side members. The diaphragm or cup-shaped portion of the device, shown at 5 in the drawings, may be of soft sheet rubber and vulcanized around its upper edge to the frame, or otherwise secured thereto.

To insert the device into the vaginal canal, the operator folds the two side members together, holding the same in folded position between the thumb and forefinger of one hand, and inserts one of the folded ends thereof, sliding the same along the lower floor of the vaginal canal until it finds its position, as illustrated in Fig. 1, the diaphragm 5 being folded or collapsed while the side members 1 and 2 are held.

The edge portion of said diaphragm 5 is held tightly between the frame members, 1 and 2, when folded together, as shown in Fig. 1, and form an enclosure or closed envelope in which a medicated or anti-septic jelly is held and is prevented from being brushed off as the pessary is inserted and when unfolded or opened upon being released the whole amount of the jelly is brought into contact with the cervix and vaginal vault, which is an imporant feature in the treatments and use of the device in order to insure an effective and efficient result therefrom.

On releasing the grip of the thumb and forefinger, the device unfolds and takes the proper position automatically behind the cervix, thus eliminating painful manipulation after insertion which otherwise becomes necessary. The hinged arrangement of the two rigid side members of the frame and the collapsible construction of the diaphragm carried thereby, thus provide a construction which is not only easily and painlessly positioned but also provides an effective support, as will be understood by the medical profession and practitioners in this specialty.

The sudden reduction of the uterine contents at confinement with the accompanying excessive mobility due to the laxity of supporting structures, predisposes the uterus to retrodisplacement during the postpartum involutionary period. The

dorsal posture during convalescence and the tendency to overdistension of the bladder, commonly occurring in the bedridden, are further contributing factors. It is generally accepted that retrodisplacement of the uterus during involution may have many deleterious effects.

My combined pessary device herein described has been the result of many years of experience in treatment of these cases and the features of construction embodied in the device have been found to provide a device which not only overcomes many difficulties heretofore encountered with devices on the market but provides a device which while extremely simple in construction has been found very efficient in treatments to avoid the deleterious effects in cases under treatment.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. In a device of the class described, rigid side frame members joined by resilient portions normally holding said side members in extended position to provide a rigid support in a longitudinal direction while permitting the said side members to be manipulated and folded together, and a diaphragm secured to said frame and collapsibly depending therefrom to form a cup-shaped portion, the edge portion of said diaphragm being held tightly between said rigid side members when folded together and forms a closed envelope.

2. In a device of the class described, rigid side frame members joined by a resilient hinge portion at both ends thereof, forming a continuous supporting frame which is rigid in a longitudinal direction but which may be folded together, and a diaphragm secured to said frame depending to one side thereof and forming a cup-shaped collapsible portion, the edge portion of said diaphragm being held tightly between said rigid side members when folded together and forms a closed envelope.

3. In a device of the class described, rigid side frame members of hard rubber joined by short portions of soft rubber forming a continuous supporting frame having a smooth outer surface and which may be folded together, and a diaphragm of soft sheet rubber secured to said frame depending to one side thereof and forming a cup-shaped collapsible portion, the edge portion of said diaphragm being held tightly between said rigid side members when folded together and forms a closed envelope.

4. A pessary device comprising a unitary structure provided with rigid side frame members hinged together and a collapsible diaphragm attached thereto and forming a depending cup-shaped portion of flexible material, the edge portion of said diaphragm being held tightly between said rigid side members when folded together and forms a closed envelope.

5. A device of the class described comprising a unitary structure constructed entirely of rubber and having rigid side frame members of hard rubber joined by short portions of soft rubber and a soft rubber diaphragm joined to and depending from said frame and forming a cup-shaped portion when said frame is in its extended position, the edge portion of said diaphragm being held tightly between said rigid side frame members when folded together to form a closed envelope.

WILLIAM M. FINDLEY.