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L. J. GODDARD
VAGINAL RECEPTACLE
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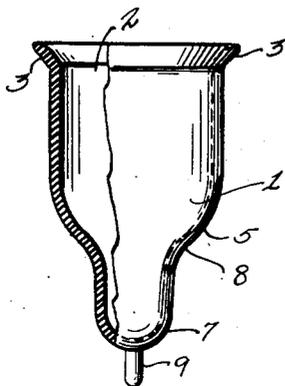


FIG.-1

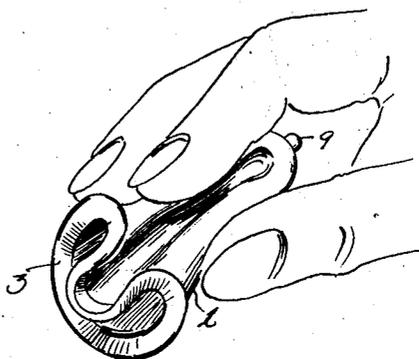


FIG.-2

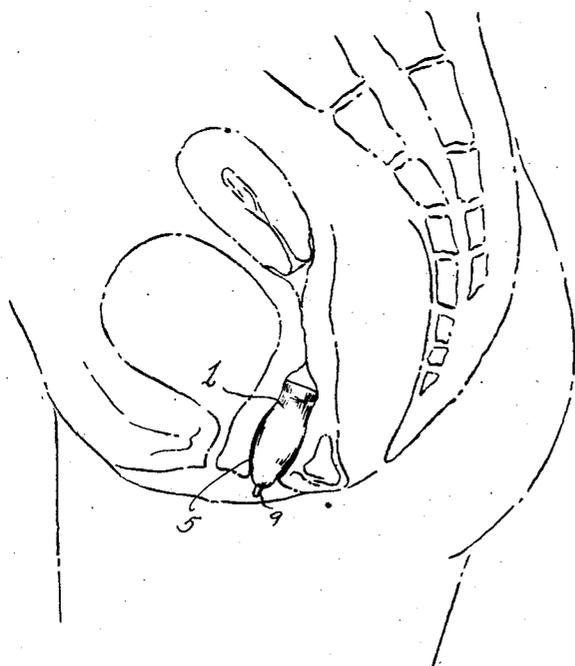


FIG.-3

BY

INVENTOR
Lester J. Goddard,
Soule & Leonard
his ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

LESTER J. GODDARD, OF MIAMI, FLORIDA, ASSIGNOR, BY MESNE ASSIGNMENTS, TO THE
CORZENE COMPANY, OF CLEVELAND, OHIO, A CORPORATION OF OHIO

VAGINAL RECEPTACLE

Application filed October 6, 1932. Serial No. 636,440.

This invention relates to a device for feminine hygiene and particularly to a new and improved means for the reception and hygienic disposition of the menstrual discharge.

5 An object of the present invention is to entrap the discharge in an effective sanitary manner so as to prevent the discharge from coming in contact with clothing or exterior portions of the genital organs or adjacent parts of the body, thus eliminating objectionable odors or a clotting of the discharge.

10 Another object is to provide a receptacle for this purpose which may be easily disposed in operating position and when so disposed will adjust itself for efficient operation and will cause neither irritation nor discomfort to the wearer.

15 Another object is to provide a receptacle of this character which will retain its proper operating position securely without the use of the usual belts or other external fastenings and appliances.

20 Still another object is to provide such a receptacle which is small, compact and durable so that it may be conveniently carried in readiness for use and which is of smooth contour and impervious material so as to be easily cleaned and sterilized.

25 Another important object is to provide a receptacle for accomplishing the above results, which receptacle may remain in operating position during and without interference with the natural discharge of urine or other excrement from the body.

30 Other objects and advantages will become apparent in the following specification wherein reference is made to the drawing.

In the drawing:

35 Fig. 1 is an elevation of a preferred embodiment of the present invention, part thereof being shown in section for clearness in illustration.

40 Fig. 2 is a view illustrating the manner of folding the receptacle for insertion into operating position.

45 Fig. 3 is a fragmentary sectional view of a female body showing the receptacle in operating position.

50 Referring to Fig. 1, a preferred form of the present invention is shown for purposes

of illustration and comprises a receptacle having a body 1 open at one end as indicated at 2 and closed at the opposite end. About the open end 2 of the body is an annular flange 3 which is formed integral with the body and is preferably flared outwardly at an angle of 45° thereto. The body 1 may be cylindrical in form, the portion adjacent to the closed end being contracted, as illustrated, to form a rounded exterior shoulder 5. The contracted end portion, indicated at 7, may likewise be substantially cylindrical, the lower end being rounded and the upper end being flared slightly to define a gradual curve between the shoulder 5 and the end portion 7, as indicated at 8. The walls of the entire receptacle are imperforate and free from abrupt shoulders or stiff edges. At the extreme lower end of the body is a small nib 9 for purposes later to be described.

Heretofore, devices of this general character have been made in whole or part of hard, unyielding material, or material which, though somewhat resilient, tended to resist distortion to a high degree.

70 Again, as to these devices, the contour of the wall surfaces exposed to the vaginal walls is irregular, having abrupt changes forming sharp shoulders and edges and having perforations or protuberances.

75 While these devices are designed for like purposes and as womb supports, they are adapted to engage the cervix directly or to hold an absorbent material in direct contact therewith. All such devices are unsatisfactory in that they cause irritation of the cervix or vaginal walls, with resultant malignancy and cancer.

80 It is necessary, therefore, that the receptacle normally assume a position out of contact with the cervix, that all exposed surfaces of the receptacle be very smooth, soft, pliant and free from stiff edges, shoulders, or undue bulges of any character tending to cause concentration of the pressure on the vaginal walls, and that no undue pressure for maintaining a proper operating position be required.

85 The body should be of a resiliency such that, when creased or folded and the pres- 100

sure relieved, it will tend to assume its normal shape but, in doing so, will exert an outward pressure equal to the normal muscular resistance of the vaginal walls.

5 The best material meeting these requirements is a good grade of soft rubber. The entire receptacle may be formed of a single piece of such rubber with all parts integral. Referring now to Figs. 2 and 3, the manner of applying and using the device is illustrated. The receptacle, after having been carefully cleansed and serilized, and, if desired, lubricated about the flange 3 and the upper body portion with a suitable lubricant, is creased or folded along a longitudinal fold, as illustrated in Fig. 2, by gripping the same between the fingers and thumb. By so folding the receptacle the air therein is partially expelled. While held in the folded condition it is inserted in the vagina, with the flange and open end innermost, a sufficient distance to dispose the shoulder 5 inwardly and just to the rear of the wall defining the vulva.

25 As stated, the receptacle is inserted while in folded condition, partially expelling air from the vagina. Upon releasing the receptacle the walls and flange, due to their normal resiliency, tend to return to their original unfolded condition and shape, the flange 30 snugly engaging the inner wall of the vagina and forming therewith an effective seal, the remainder of the walls of the receptacle engaging the adjacent wall of the vagina and, at the same time, creating within the vagina, inwardly from the receptacle, a reduced air pressure. Consequently, the receptacle will retain its position readily and upon slight movement of the wearer will adjust itself 40 in a comfortable and effective position, supported by engagement of the flange, body, and the shoulder 5 with the vaginal walls.

To insure proper fitting, the receptacle may be made in various sizes, an intermediate size 45 being shown for purposes of illustration. In the illustrative example, the walls are substantially $\frac{3}{64}$ of an inch in thickness and the external diameter of the body 1 about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, the overall length less the nib 9 being 2 and $\frac{3}{8}$ inches and the other parts being in the proportion illustrated. With such proportions, the contracted end of the receptacle does not protrude outside of the vagina 55 but retains the position illustrated, in which position it is out of contact with clothing and interferes in no way with urination.

When constructed and arranged in operating position, there is no relative movement between the vaginal walls and the receptacle, the latter readily yielding to conform to changes in the contour thereof. Abrasion is therefore eliminated. Again, the receptacle rests with its lower end against 65 the inner wall surfaces of the vulva and is of

such length that its upper end is spaced below and out of contact with the cervix.

Experience have proven that such a receptacle will retain its position during muscular activity of the wearer without leakage 70 and in fact without the wearer being conscious of its presence.

As above set forth, these desirable results are obtained without the use of any external fastenings or appliances. 75

Since the discharge passes quickly into the receptacle and since a minimum of air remains in the vagina in contact with the discharge clotting thereof is greatly reduced or eliminated. Partial filling of the receptacle 80 effects an even tighter seal and an increase in the weight sufficient to become noticeable serves to inform the wearer that the receptacle is filled to such a degree that it should be removed and cleansed and re-inserted, the 85 nib 9 above described begin provided to facilitate removal at such times.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A vaginal receptacle for the purposes 90 described, comprising a cup having a soft, imperforate, impervious, resilient side wall, said cup having a portion open at one end and a portion closed at the opposite end, said closed end portion being of smaller cross sectional area throughout than the open end 95 portion, and a smooth, external annular shoulder extending inwardly from the side wall of the larger portion and overhanging the closed end portion, and merging therewith the closed end portion being of sufficient size to lie in the vaginal entrance passage and engage the wall thereof for a material distance beyond the shoulder and being of sufficient yieldability to be distorted by normal muscular contraction of the entrance passage wall, the wall of the cup and the shoulder being sufficiently resilient to be folded by pressure of human fingers and to tend to return toward their normal unfolded condition for engaging the vaginal walls consequent upon release of said pressure, said shoulder being positioned longitudinally of the cup to lie upon the interior wall surface 110 of the wall defining the vaginal entrance when the receptacle is positioned in the vagina with the open end in spaced relation to the cervix.

2. A vaginal receptacle for the purposes 120 described comprising a cup composed entirely of soft, imperforate, impervious, resilient material foldable by pressure of human fingers, said cup having a hollow body portion open at one end and of substantially uniform cross sectional shape throughout its entire 125 length, and a depending portion of smaller diameter throughout its length than the body portion and adapted to lie in the vaginal entrance passage, said depending portion being of such yieldability at all points of contact 130

with the wall of said entrance passage that it can be distorted by slight contractive pressure of said wall, an intermediate convexly curved annular portion joining said body portion and depending portion and forming a smooth, continuous exterior annular wall therewith, said wall providing in operative effect an external shoulder overhanging said depending portion and adapted to lie upon the interior wall surface of the wall defining the vaginal entrance when the open end of the cup is in spaced relation to the cervix.

portion of the smaller shell and defining an external annular overhanging shoulder adapted to lie upon the interior wall surfaces of the walls defining the vaginal entrance passage when the open end of the cup is spaced below the cervix, the entire cup being composed of soft, smooth, imperforate, impervious, resilient material foldable by pressure of human fingers and of substantially uniform thickness.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto affix my signature.

LESTER J. GODDARD.

3. A vaginal receptacle for the purposes described, comprising a cup having a soft, imperforate, impervious, resilient side wall, said cup having a portion open at one end and a portion closed at the opposite end, a soft, external annular flange about said open end, said closed end portion being of smaller cross sectional area throughout than the open end portion, and a smooth, external, annular shoulder extending inwardly from the side wall of the larger portion and overhanging the closed end portion and merging therewith, said closed end portion having a highly yieldable cylindrical portion intermediate its outer extremity and said shoulder the wall of the cup and the shoulder being sufficiently resilient to be folded by pressure of human fingers and to tend to return toward their normal unfolded condition for engaging the vaginal walls consequent upon release of said pressure, said shoulder being positioned longitudinally of the cup to lie upon the interior wall surface of the wall defining the vaginal entrance when the receptacle is positioned in the vagina with the open end in spaced relation to the cervix.

4. A vaginal cup comprising a shell body of sufficient diameter to fit snugly against the side walls of the vagina, said body being open at the upper end, a smaller shell adapted to lie within the vaginal entrance passage, the smaller shell being closed at the lower end, and of substantially uniform yieldability at all points of contact with the entrance passage wall the lower wall of the said body extending inwardly and terminating in the upper wall portion of the smaller shell and defining an external annular overhanging shoulder adapted to lie upon the interior wall surfaces of the walls defining the vaginal entrance passage when the open end of the cup is spaced below the cervix, the entire cup being composed of soft, smooth, imperforate, impervious, resilient material foldable by pressure of human fingers.

5. A vaginal cup comprising a shell body of sufficient diameter to fit snugly against the side walls of the vagina, said body being open at the upper end, a smaller shell adapted to lie within the vaginal entrance passage, the smaller shell being closed at the lower end, the lower wall of the said body extending inwardly and terminating in the upper wall

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