

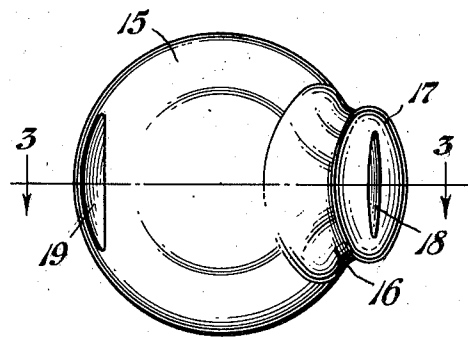
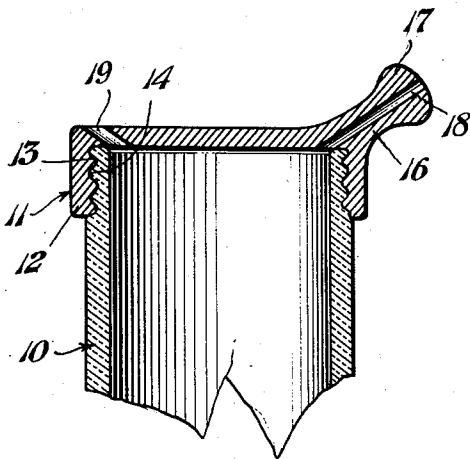
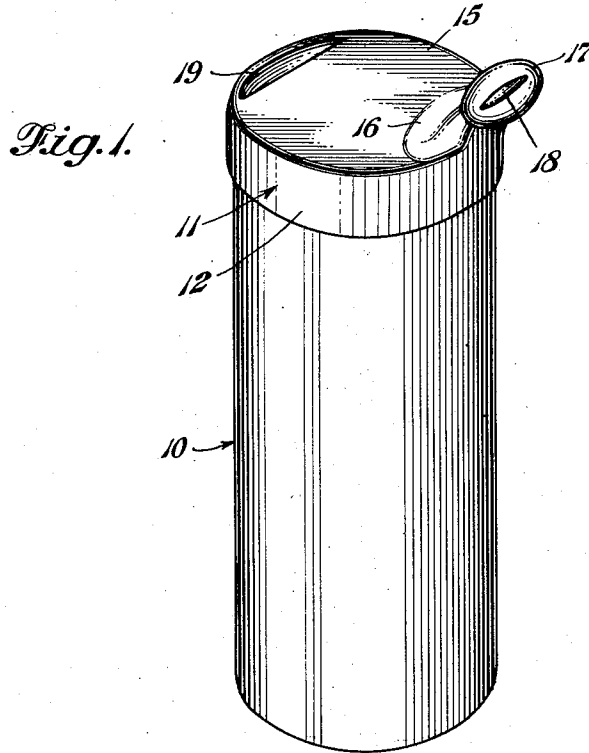
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WEANING CAP FOR NURSING BOTTLES

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*Fig. 3.*

*Fig. 2.*

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29

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## WEANING CAP FOR NURSING BOTTLES

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1 Claim. (Cl. 128—252)

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The present invention relates to a weaning cap for nursing bottles. More particularly the present invention relates to a novel cap nipple which may be easily assembled with a conventional type of nursing bottle and will facilitate the transition of the infant from a nursing stage in its development to a stage wherein it will be able to drink from a conventional glass or cup or the like.

As is well known the average infant is only with difficulty trained to drink from a conventional cup. During the transitional period it is difficult to train an infant to properly imbibe liquids and drink the same rather than suck said liquids from a nipple.

It is one of the objects of the present invention therefore to provide a novel weaning cap or the like which may be easily assembled with a conventional bottle and which will aid in weaning an infant.

A second general object of the present invention is to provide a novel cap having a plurality of drinking openings therein, one of said openings more closely resembling a nipple than the other of said openings so as to promote a gradual transition or weaning of an infant.

A third general object of the present invention is to provide a novel weaning cap which may be easily assembled with a conventional nursing bottle in place of the usual cap.

Other objects and the nature and advantages of the instant invention will be apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the weaning cap of the present invention assembled with a conventional baby bottle.

Figure 2 is a plan view of the weaning cap and bottle of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a section taken generally along the line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Referring to the figures of the drawing and particularly to Figure 1 thereof, a baby bottle which may be formed of glass or other suitable material, is indicated at 10. Suitably attached to the bottle 10 is the weaning cap of the present invention which is indicated generally at 11. The weaning cap is provided with an annular skirt 12 having threads 13 on its interior which are adapted to cooperate with the threads 14 of the baby bottle 10. The skirt 12 depends from a suitable cover member 15 and the entire weaning cap 11, i. e. the skirt and cover portions, is suitably molded as from a plastic material such as hard rubber, Bakelite, etc.

Extending from the cover portion 15 of the cap 11 is a primary weaning spout or drinking device 16 of a generally oval shape and provided with a bulbous oval lip 17 as best shown in Figure 2. The lip and spout are preferably so shaped that they fit comfortably into an infant's mouth and to some extent resemble a conventional nipple except that a rather large opening 18 is provided and a rather large flow of liquid may be delivered

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through the opening 18 in the absence of any sucking action on the part of the infant. The spout 16 is preferably integral with the body of the cap 11 and with the cover 15 thereof and may be similarly molded together with the cap in a single operation. The cap is also provided with a secondary drinking opening 19 which is formed in the cover 15 in diametrically opposed relation to the drinking device 16. The secondary drinking opening 19 is also elongated so as to permit drinking by the infant with a minimum of liquid being spilled. The opening 19 is intended to be used after the infant has achieved some measure of success in drinking from the bottle through the opening 18. The two openings 18 and 19, however, cooperate in that they each permit the entry of air into the bottle when the other respective opening is being used for drinking purposes.

The present device may be advantageously used to promote the weaning of an infant, the first stage of use involving the spout 16 and opening 18 and when the infant has successfully learned to drink, the opening 19 may be utilized. When either opening is being used it will be noted that the top of the bottle is largely covered and a minimum waste of liquid results.

It will be obviously to those skilled in the art that various changes may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention and therefore the invention is not limited to what is shown in the drawings and described in the specification but only as indicated in the appended claim.

What is claimed is:

In a weaning cap for nursing bottles or the like, a cover member, an annular skirt depending from said cover member, means on said skirt to removably retain said cover member on said bottle, and a pair of drinking members forming a part of said cover member, the first of said members having a portion shaped to extend into the mouth of an infant and being provided with an oval outlet portion terminating in a relatively bulbous lip portion with an elongated opening of oval shape therethrough, the second of said members being diametrically opposed to the first of said members and consisting of an elongated opening in the plane of said cover adjacent to and extending in generally parallel disposition to the periphery of said cover.

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