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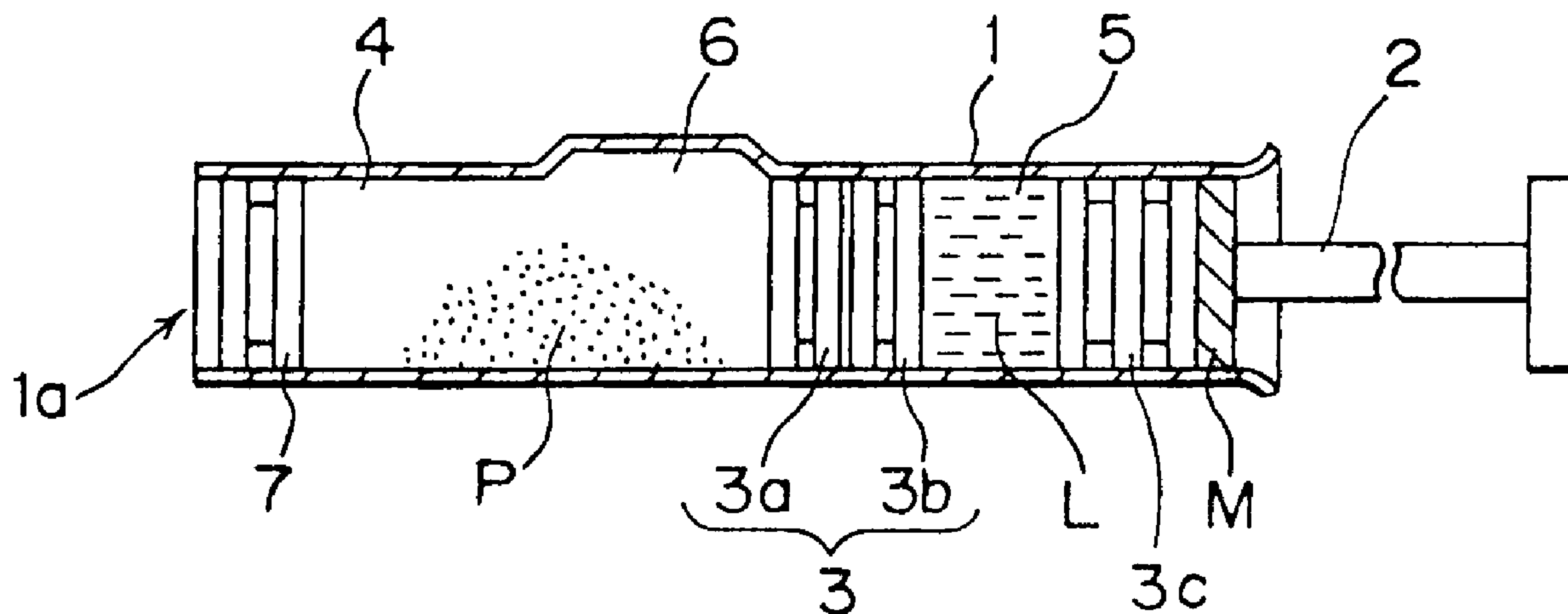
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(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

Behind a slidable end sealing member 3c, there is provided a liquid-absorbing element M which has a liquid-holding function so as to absorb and hold a liquid L flowing out from the end sealing member 3c when the end sealing member passes absolutely over a bypass portion 6. As this liquid-absorbent element M, such as a disk-like one D and a cylindrical one R are typically impregnated with a water-holding and liquid-absorbing accelerator to enhance a leak preventing effect and with an antimicrobial active agent to enhance hygiene.

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Behind a slidable end sealing member 3c, there is provided a liquid-absorbing element M which has a liquid-holding function so as to absorb and hold a liquid L flowing out from the end sealing member 3c when the end sealing member passes absolutely over a bypass portion 6. As this liquid-absorbent element M, such as a disk-like one D and a cylindrical one R are typically impregnated with a water-holding and liquid-absorbing accelerator to enhance a leak preventing effect and with an antimicrobial active agent to enhance hygiene.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTIONField of the Invention

The present invention relates to a syringe with a liquid leak preventing mechanism, and specifically to a mechanism for preventing liquid leaking from syringe.

Description of Related Art

In a two-ingredient type pre-filled syringe charged with a predetermined medicine and a liquid such as its dissolution liquid, its dispersing liquid or other medicinal liquids in the separated states, of the disposable type syringes previously filled with a medicine, so-called pre-filled syringes, conventionally as exemplified in Fig. 10, a syringe having such a construction that an end sealing member 32 is inserted through a rear end opening into a cylindrical receptacle or barrel 31 provided at its leading end portion with a mounting portion for a needle. The barrel 31 has an intermediate sealing member 33 arranged therein so as to be slidable in a longitudinal or axial direction and to have a first chamber 34 on the leading end side and a second chamber 35 on the rear end side divided therein to receive a medicine P and a dissolution liquid L within the respective chambers with its leading end portion closed by a cap 37.

This type one has such a construction that the first chamber 34 on the leading end side ahead of the intermediate slidable sealing member 33 has a bypass portion, usually an outward protruded bypass channel 36 arranged in the side wall of the barrel 31. At the time of use, the intermediate sealing member 33 is advanced together with the liquid L within the second chamber 35 by pushing the end sealing member 32 by means of a rod as shown in

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Fig. 11 and the liquid L within the second chamber 35 is made to flow into the first chamber 34 through the bypass channel 36 when the intermediate sealing member 33 reaches the channel 36. As shown in Fig. 12, subsequently thereto, the intermediate sealing member 33 is pushed by the leading end of the end sealing member 32 to perform the dissolution, the dispersion or the mixing within the first chamber 34 and then the liquid is pushed out of the leading end.

Thereupon, since the end sealing member passes over the bypass portion, the liquid remaining in the bypass portion leaks behind the end sealing member. Therefore, a mechanism for preventing a liquid leak outside the syringe by arranging a partition plate behind the end sealing member is proposed in U.S. Patent No. 4,613,326.

In such a method, however, a low-viscosity medicinal liquid, a small surface-tension liquid and the likes happen to pass through a gap between the partition plate provided in the plunger rod and the barrel inner wall, and it is apprehended that the medicinal liquid remaining in the partition plate is flowed out when the plunger rod is removed from the syringe for fractional scrapping.

Therefore, it is an object of an embodiment of the invention to provide a syringe with a liquid leak preventing mechanism which is capable of preventing a medicinal liquid from passing out through a gap between a receptacle or barrel inner wall and a partition plate and also from flowing out when a plunger rod is dismounted from the syringe for fractional scrapping.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a syringe comprising:

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a tubular barrel having distal and proximal end portions opposite to each other and also having an interior hollow defined therebetween, said distal end portion being sealed and engageable with a needle for injection of medical substances to be mixed in said hollow and said proximal end portion being sealed by a slidable end sealing member connectable with a rod for making said end sealing member slidable in an axial direction in said barrel;

at least one intermediate sealing member inserted into said barrel, said intermediate sealing member dividing the interior of said barrel in a sealed manner into a first chamber for receiving a first medical substance and a second chamber for receiving a second medical substance, said intermediate sealing member being slidable in said barrel in response to sliding of said end sealing member in said barrel;

at least one bypass portion formed axially along said barrel between said intermediate sealing member and said distal end portion, said bypass portion permitting said second medical substance to bypass said intermediate sealing member and be introduced into said first medical substance to be mixed therewith;

wherein said intermediate sealing member has an axial length or thickness shorter than that of said bypass portion;

at least one liquid-absorbent element capable of absorbing the liquid and holding it therein, said liquid-absorbent element positioned behind one of end faces of said end sealing member opposite to said second chamber in said barrel.

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In the present invention, the meaning of
"positioned behind one of end faces of said end sealing
member opposite to said second chamber in said barrel"
includes any cases that the liquid-absorbent element is
5 positioned behind said end sealing member with respect to a
longitudinal direction of the barrel. For

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example, in one case, said liquid-absorbent element may be positioned at no or some intervals from said end face of said end sealing member with respect to the longitudinal direction of the barrel. In the other case, said liquid-absorbent element may be positioned as an end stopper for closing an end opening of said
5 barrel.

Therefore, in a case of a two-chamber syringe including at least one intermediate slidable sealing member inserted into a cylindrical barrel having a leading end portion to which a needle is mounted and a rear end opening into which a plunger rod is inserted, said barrel is divided into a forward first chamber
10 and a backward second chamber by the intermediate sealing member, said first chamber receiving a certain medicine and said second chamber receiving a liquid to be mixed with the medicine. The rear end side of the backward second chamber which has received the liquid can be closed by inserting therein an end slidable sealing member adapted to be pushed by a leading end of said plunger rod. Said
15 intermediate slidable sealing member is displaced forwards to a region of the bypass portion by means of said plunger rod, so that the liquid within the second chamber can be made to flow into the first chamber through the bypass portion and is mixed with the medicine within the first chamber. Said liquid-absorbent mechanism or element is arranged behind said end slidable sealing member with
20 no or some intervals and is capable of absorbing and holding the liquid flowing out behind the end sealing member.

According to the present invention, when the end slidable sealing member passes absolutely over the bypass portion, the liquid flowing out behind the end slidable sealing member is absorbed and held by the liquid-absorbent
25 mechanism, so that it is possible to prevent the liquid leakage and dispersion out

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of the syringe barrel even when the plunger rod after use is removed at the time of fractional scrapping.

Generally, the syringe barrel is transparent so that the residual liquid can be seen from outside, and it is apprehended that the leak occurs because the syringe barrel is merely shielded. According to the present invention, the liquid
5 itself is securely held in the absorbed and held condition, so that it becomes possible to dissolve such a problem.

Especially, in a case that the liquid-absorbent material is impregnated with a water-holding and liquid-absorbing agent, it is possible to perfectly attain
10 a liquid-absorbent and holding effect even though a clearance exists between the liquid-absorbent element and the inner surface of the syringe.

Further, since microorganism tends to increase in the liquid-absorbent material owing to its material property, the material can contain an antimicrobial active agent together with the water-holding and liquid-absorbing
15 agent or separately. Therefore, it is possible to prevent the increasing of the microorganism which tends to grow in the liquid-absorbent material and thereby to enhance a safety at the time of fractional scrapping.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above and other objects and features of the present invention
20 will become more apparent from the following description of a preferred embodiment thereof with reference to the accompanying drawings, throughout which like parts are designated by like reference numerals, and wherein:

Fig. 1 is a sectional view showing a basic construction of an embodiment of the present invention;

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Figs. 2A and 2B are explanatory views of an assembling procedure of a syringe main body including the charging of medicine and the likes;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view showing a construction of a concrete embodiment of the present invention in the case that a movable type sealing member is employed at the leading end opening portion of a cylindrical barrel;

Fig. 4 is an explanatory view of a function during the use of the embodiment of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a sectional view showing another embodiment of the present invention in the case that an immovable type sealing member is employed at the leading end opening portion of the cylindrical barrel and a double-pointed needle is used as a needle;

Figs. 6A to 6C are explanatory views showing steps from the start to the end of injection mechanism according to the present invention;

Figs. 7A to 7F are explanatory view showing steps from the start to the end of injection mechanism according to the present invention;

Fig. 8 is a sectional view showing an embodiment to which a countermeasure for decreasing an injecting loss quantity of the injection is applied in a two-ingredient pre-filled syringe of the present invention;

Fig. 9 is a perspective view of outlooks of respective sealing members 3a, 3b, 3c;

Fig. 10 is a sectional view showing a construction of a conventional two-ingredient pre-filled syringe;

Fig. 11 is an explanatory view of a first working thereof;

Fig. 12 is an explanatory view of a second working thereof;

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Fig. 13 is a schematic view showing an arrangement of a first embodiment of a liquid leak preventing mechanism for use in the present invention;

5 Fig. 14 is a side view showing a first attaching mechanism of the first embodiment;

Fig. 15 is a front view showing the first attaching mechanism of the first embodiment;

Fig. 16 is a side view showing a second attaching mechanism of the first embodiment;

10 Fig. 17 is a front view showing the second attaching mechanism of the first embodiment;

Fig. 18 is a side view showing an attaching mechanism of the second embodiment;

15 Fig. 19 is a schematic view showing an arrangement of a second embodiment of the liquid leak preventing mechanism for use in the present invention;

Fig. 20 is a schematic view showing an arrangement of a third embodiment of the liquid leak preventing mechanism for use in the present invention;

20 Fig. 21 is a schematic view showing a variant example of the third embodiment of the liquid leak preventing mechanism for use in the present invention;

Fig. 22 is a perspective view showing a fourth embodiment of the liquid leak preventing mechanism for use in the present invention.

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Fig. 23 is a sectional side view showing a first mode pushing-in condition of the fourth embodiment of the liquid leak preventing mechanism for use in the present invention; and

5 Fig. 24 is a sectional side view showing a second mode pushing-in condition of the fourth embodiment of the liquid leak preventing mechanism for use in the present invention.

Fig. 25 is a sectional side view showing a first liquid-absorbent end stopper for use in the present invention; and

10 Fig. 26 is a sectional side view showing a second liquid-absorbent end stopper for use in the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The liquid absorbing mechanism or element M may be mounted in the barrel by three ways as follows.

1) The liquid absorbing element may be mounted integrally or
15 detachably on the backside of the end slidable sealing member which is mounted integrally or detachably on one end portion of the plunger rod inserted within the barrel. Accordingly, as shown in Fig. 13, it may be constructed by attaching to the leading end of the plunger rod 2 a slidable disk-shaped liquid-absorbent material D selected from the group consisting of a filter paper, a nylon felt, a
20 cotton non-woven fabric, fibers as yarn or fabric, or resin such as water absorbing polymer. As shown in Figs. 14 and 15, threads are formed at a leading protruded portion 2a of the rod 2 while a threaded hole H is formed in the disk-shaped liquid-absorbent material D at its center so as to be threadably engaged and fitted into a groove 2b. Further, as shown in Figs. 16 and 17, a twist lock is formed at
25 a leading end portion 2a' of the rod 2 while a twist hole H' is formed in the

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disk-shaped liquid-absorbent material D at its center so as to be engaged by the twisting and fitted into the groove 2b. Furthermore, the plurality of disk-shaped liquid-absorbent material D may be prepared and arranged in a stacked manner or in a spaced apart manner.

5 2) On the other hand, the liquid-absorbent element M may be positioned at one end of the barrel as an end stopper for closing an end opening in a separate manner from the end slidable sealing member. Accordingly, as shown in Fig. 25, a disk-shaped end stopper S similar to the liquid-absorbent material D has a through hole (h) for receiving the rod 2 at the center thereof and
10 is arranged in a non-slidable manner just behind the backside of the end sealing member 3c. Further, as shown in Fig. 26, the disk-shaped end stopper S has also a through hole (h) for receiving the rod 2 at the center and may be fitted in a receiving space within a fitting cap portion 100a of a finger grip 100 which is mounted on the end 1b of the barrel 1.

15 3) Further, the liquid-absorbent element M may be the disk-shaped material D mounted on the backside of the end sealing member in a slidable manner and additionally includes the end stopper S mounted at the end of the barrel in a non-slidable manner.

 The liquid-absorbent element M can be provided by winding the
20 filter paper or the fibers in the form of yarn, fabric, or non-woven fabric around a winding groove 2c formed at the leading end of the plunger rod 2 as shown in Fig. 18 (refer to Fig. 19). Though Fig. 19 shows the one which is mounted only to the leading end by the winding, it may be wound along the longitudinal direction of the plunger rod. By the way, since an external configuration of the
25 liquid-absorbent material defines a clearance relative to an inner wall of the

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syringe, in consideration of a surface tension and viscosity of the liquid, the clearance may be made small so as to become 0.2 - 1.0 mm in the case of the liquid having a small surface tension like an alcohol and may be made large so as to become 0.2 - 1.5 mm in the case of the one having a comparatively large surface tension like a water.

Though the above-mentioned liquid-absorbent element M is embodied by such a material as to have the liquid absorbing capability, it may be constructed by utilizing the capillary phenomenon provided by annular or spiral liquid absorbing grooves C formed at the leading end of the plunger rod 2 as shown in Fig. 20. Further, as shown in Fig. 21, the grooves may be provided by arranging a plurality of disks 2e side by side in a stacked state in addition to and behind the disk 2d at the leading end of the plunger rod 2 as shown in Fig. 21. Also in this case, it is preferable to define a groove width and its depth in consideration of the viscosity and the surface tension of the liquid.

Further, as shown in Fig. 22, the above-mentioned liquid-absorbent element M may have the cylindrical barrel formed of a slidable cylindrical liquid-absorbent material R which is detachably mounted to the leading end portion of the plunger rod 2. In detail, a threaded portion to which the end sealing member 3c is mounted with being fixedly secured by means of thread is projected from the leading end 20a of the plunger rod 2, and four shallow grooves as stoppers for preventing the rotating of the liquid-absorbent material R are formed in the surrounding thereof as well as four lugs are formed therebetween to prevent the removal of the liquid-absorbent material R. A radius of this leading end portion 20a is a little larger than a radius of a hole of the liquid-absorbent material R. Incidentally, 20b designates a pushing portion of the rod 2. In this case, as shown

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in Fig. 23, since an entire length of the cylindrical liquid-absorbent material R is longer than that of the disk-shaped liquid-absorbent material D as shown in Fig. 15 in a longitudinal direction of the barrel or the advancing direction of the plunger rod 2, even though a dropping timing of the residual liquid gets delayed at the timing of passing over the bypass portion of the syringe, the satisfactory liquid absorbing and holding effect becomes possible. Usually, it is preferable to set its total length to at least 10 mm. When this end slidable sealing member is fully pushed in, usually the cylindrical liquid-absorbent material R is pushed forward beyond the bypass portion. Thereupon, however, especially as shown in Fig. 24, when its rear end is adapted to block the bypass portion to make the liquid remain there, the residual liquid can be greatly effectively prevented from leaking.

The liquid-absorbent material is preferably at least one kind of material selected from the group consisting of polyvinylformal, polyester fiber, pulp, polyester fiber containing pulp or acetate fiber, cellulose sponge, polyvinylformal sponge (PVA sponge available from KANEBOU Co. Ltd. in Japan) and liquid absorbent resin. The liquid-absorbent material is preferably impregnated with a water-holding and liquid-absorbing accelerator for accelerating its liquid-absorbing effect. This water-holding and liquid-absorbing accelerator is selected from the group consisting of glycerine, propylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, D-sorbitol, polyoxyethylene cetyl ether, and benzyl alcohol, and the impregnation is performed by dipping the liquid-absorbent material into the medium such as a water containing 1 - 30 weight percent thereof. Thereupon, an interfacial active agent such as polysolvate 80 may be added thereto for use.

The liquid-absorbent material may contain an antimicrobial active agent. The antimicrobial active agent is at least one kind of material selected from the group consisting of benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride, dodecyldiamino-ethylglycine, dodecyldimethylbenzylammonium chloride, polyhexa-methylenebiguanide, cetylpyridium chloride and alkyldiaminoethylglycine hydrochloride, and its amount can be adjusted in accordance with a use condition.

In a case of using a colored liquid mixed with the medicine or a colored mixture, the liquid-absorbent material may be colored to make it invisible through a transparent barrel a colored traces caused by the liquid or the mixture absorbed therein. Examples of the coloring agent are Powdered Catechutannic Acid, Indigocarmine, Turmeric Extract, Methylrosanilinium Chloride, Yellow Oxide of Iron, Yellow Ferric Oxide, Opalux AS-6178 (Trademark of NIHON Calacon Co. Ltd.), Carbon Black, Color Paste 1, Color Paste 2, Color Paste 3 (Trademark of NIHON Calacon Co. Ltd.), Caramel, Carmine, β -Carotene, Carotene Solution, Gold Leaf, Black Oxide of Iron, Kekketsu, Zinc Oxide, Titanium Oxide, Real Ferric Oxide, Dis Azo Yellow, Food Yellow No. 4, Food Yellow No. 5, Food Blue No. 1, Food Yellow No. 4 Aluminum Lake, Food Red No. 102, Food Red No. 2, Food Red No. 3, Zein, Taiyo Caramel, Sodium Copper Chlorophyllin, Copper Chlorophyll, Phenol Red, Powdered Tea, 2-Octyldodecyl Myristate, Methylene Blue, Medicinal Carbon, Riboflavin Butyrate, Riboflavin, Powdered Green Tea, Ammonium Manganese Phosphate, Riboflavin Sodium Phosphate, Rose Oil.

In a case that the liquid or mixture has a pharmacology activity, the liquid-absorbent material may contain a deactivating agent, which may be selected from the group consisting of Ethanol, Methanol, Hydrogen Peroxide,

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Sodium Hypochlorite, Sodium Hydroxide, Potassium Hydroxide, Magnesium Hydroxide, Sodium Hydrogencarbonate, Sodium Carbonate, Boric Acid, Sulfuric Acid, Phosphoric Acid, Tri-sodium Phosphate, Di-sodium Phosphate, Tri-potassium Phosphate, Di-potassium Phosphate Hydrochloric Acid, Lactic Acid,
5 Aqueous Ammonia, Hydrargyrum and so on.

According to the present invention, a larger effect for preventing the leakage can be obtained in an embodiment of having substantially no clearance between the outer circumference of the liquid-absorbent element and the inner wall of the syringe. However, the clearance can make it possible to improve the
10 slidability of the liquid-absorbent material and to simplify the fragmental scraping. In a case of the syringe provided at its rear end with a finger grip, it becomes necessary to provide the clearance depending on a configuration of the grip. In a case that the liquid-absorbent material has the clearance between its outer circumference and the inner wall of the syringe, a liquid absorbing rate
15 decreases a little. But, the liquid absorbing rate can be improved to 100 % by making the material contain the water-holding and liquid absorbing accelerator.

The two-chamber type syringe according to the present invention can be applied to the following mode. The liquid leak preventing element is designated by M in the respective drawings. As its function and construction are
20 the same as the above-mentioned ones, explanations thereof will be omitted.

Fig. 1 is a sectional view showing a basic construction of a practical mode of the present invention.

The cylindrical barrel 1 is uniformly cylindrical as a whole except a bypass channel 6 defining the bypass portion to be described later and has its
25 opposed ends fully opened.

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The end slidable sealing member 3C mounted to the rod 2 is inserted into this cylindrical barrel 1 from its rear end side as well as an intermediate slidable sealing member 3 is inserted therein so as to divide the interior of the barrel 1 into a first chamber 4 and a second chamber 5. This slidable sealing member 3 is divided into a forward slidable sealing member 3a and a backward slidable sealing member 3b. These forward slidable sealing member 3a and backward slidable sealing member 3b may be in contact with each other or have a predetermined space therebetween as illustrated. In order to provide such a space therebetween, a suitable lug may be formed in at least one of the opposed surfaces of the forward slidable sealing member 3a and the backward slidable sealing member 3b.

A sealing member 7 is mounted to the leading end opening portion 1a of the cylindrical barrel 1. Incidentally, for example a cap with a needle may be mounted to the leading end portion of this cylindrical barrel 1 when we need injection as described later, or the needle may be mounted thereto by such a known means as to attach a double-pointed needle to a holder member and make its rear end pierce through the sealing member 7.

The first chamber 4 is charged with powder medicine P and the second chamber 5 is charged with a dissolution liquid, a dispersion liquid or various kinds of medicinal liquids L respectively. The bypass channel 6 is formed in a side wall of the first chamber 4 of the cylindrical barrel 1 so as to have a predetermined width and to be swelled or protruded outward. A length of this bypass channel 6 in the axial direction of the cylindrical barrel 1 is set longer by a predetermined degree than a total length of both the forward slidable sealing member 3a and the backward slidable sealing member 3b. Further, a total length

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of the slidable sealing members 3a, 3b and the end portion sealing member 3c in the axial direction is set longer by a predetermined degree than an axial length of the bypass channel 6. This length adjustment can be made readily by regulating a length of the end slidable sealing member.

5 In the practical mode of the present invention having the above-mentioned construction, similarly to the conventional one, both the forward slidable sealing member 3a and the backward slidable sealing member 3b are advanced via a body of the liquid L within the second chamber 5 by pushing the end slidable sealing member 3c mounted on the rod 2 (referred to as a plunger
10 member hereinafter) toward its leading end side and these reach the formation position of the bypass channel 6 so that the first chamber 4 and the second chamber 5 are put in communication with each other. Thereupon, the liquid L within the second chamber 5 flows into the first chamber 4. After this flowing-in is completed and the leading end of the plunger member 3c is moved to the rear
15 end of the backward slidable sealing member 3b, this member 3b is directly pushed to advance the forward and backward slidable sealing members 3a, 3b and to stop the pushing at a position where at least a fore half portion of the forward slidable sealing member 3a reaches ahead of the leading end portion of the bypass channel 6 and at least a rear half portion of the sealing member 3c of the plunger
20 member does not reach the bypass channel 6 to hold the slidable condition relative to the inner wall of the cylindrical barrel 1. Then, after the mixing and so on are completed by shaking the cylindrical barrel 1, the injection liquid prepared by the dissolution, the dispersion or the mixing is injected through the needle mounted to the leading end of the barrel 1. Thereupon, the liquid leak preventing element
25 M absorbs and holds the residual liquid within the bypass channel.

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Next, the procedures of the assembling of the syringe main body including charging of the powder medicine, the dissolution liquid and so on in the above-mentioned practical mode of the present invention are shown in Figs. 2A and 2B.

5 First, as shown in Fig. 2A, the dissolution liquid, the dispersion liquid or the medicinal liquid L is charged into the second chamber 5 and the end portion sealing member 3c is inserted therein on condition that the backward slidable sealing member 3b is inserted into the cylindrical barrel 1. After sterilization for the dissolution liquid, the dispersion liquid or the medical liquid
10 L made by a steam heating on this condition, the inner surface of the first chamber 4 is dried up. At this steam heating sterilizing treatment, the dissolution liquid, the dispersion liquid or the medicinal liquid L within the second chamber 5 containing an activation substance is treated at such a temperature as not to destroy the substance, for example at most 50 - 60 °C.

15 After that, as shown in Fig. 2B, the forward slidable sealing member 3a is inserted into the cylindrical barrel 1 through its leading end opening portion 1a on the previously sufficiently dried-up condition to be brought into intimate contact with the backward slidable sealing member 3b or at a position near thereto spaced apart a very short distance. After the powder medicine P is charged into
20 the first chamber 4 through its leading end opening portion 1a on that condition, the two-ingredient pre-filled syringe shown in Fig. 1 can be obtained by mounting the stationary sealing member 7 to the leading end opening portion 1a. In this case, there may be employed either one of the rods 2 mounted originally or mounted later.

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In the above-mentioned assembling procedures, moisture tends to attach to or penetrate the backward slidable sealing member 3b at the time of steam heating sterilization of the dissolution liquid, the dispersion liquid or the medicinal liquid L within the second chamber 5, it is possible to prevent
5 transferring of the moisture to a side of the powder medicine P by inserting the dried-up forward slidable sealing member 3a and then charging the powder medicine P into the first chamber 4 after steps of this steam heating sterilization, a drying-up and a cooling-down.

In a case of such a construction as to provide a space between the
10 forward and the backward slidable sealing members 3a, 3b, a time required for moisture to enter the forward slidable sealing member 3a from a side of the second chamber 5 through the backward slidable sealing member 3b in a stored state after the assembly becomes longer, it becomes possible to elongate a period of time required for the moisture to reach the medicine on a side of the first
15 chamber 4.

Although it was already described that the above two-ingredient pre-filled syringe according to the present invention is used on a condition that the needle is mounted to the leading end of the cylindrical barrel 1, there will be explained hereinafter more concrete structure examples of the needle mounting
20 element, the sealing member 7 at the leading end opening portion 1a of the cylindrical barrel 1, the slidable sealing member 3a and so on.

[Examples]

Fig. 3 is a sectional view showing an example in which as the sealing member 7 to be inserted into the leading end opening portion of the
25 cylindrical barrel 1 is used the slidable type one.

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This example shows a barrel 1 wherein a cap 8 is mounted with the needle onto a distal end thereof. The cap 8 has a needle 82 mounted to a tip end of a cup-shaped cap main body 81 and has such a construction that a groove 81a communicating with the needle 82 is formed in the inner circumference of the main body 81. Further, the main body 81 has a void space 81b which projects toward the distal end side from the end opening portion 1a of the cylindrical barrel 1 by a predetermined distance and into which the sealing member 7 can be inserted.

Under such a condition, when flowing the dissolution liquid, the dispersion liquid or other kinds of medicine liquids within the second chamber 5 into the first chamber 4 through the bypass channel 6 by pushing the rod 2 and as shown in Fig. 4, the sealing member 7 is moved into the void space of the main body 81 of the cap 8 with the needle. When further pushing the rod 2 under this condition, the injection liquid within the first chamber 4 enters the needle 82 through the groove 81a formed in the main body 81 of the cap 8 and then is injected. The cap 8 with the needle may be prepared at the time of injection or may be already mounted before the injection.

Instead of the above-mentioned construction, the sealing member 7 may be so constructed as to be spaced apart a short distance from the leading end of the cylindrical barrel 1 when the sealing member 7 is arranged within the barrel 1 and stay at the leading end portion of the cylindrical barrel 1 when flowing of the liquid within the second chamber 5 into the first chamber 4 by the plunger 2 is completed. Since the fore and rear ends of the first chamber 4 are completely closed, even when the barrel 1 is shaken at the time of dissolving or dispersing, the liquid does not leak from anywhere.

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Fig. 5 is a sectional view showing an example in which as the sealing member 7 a stationary type one is used. In this type, a double-pointed needle 10 is put at its rear end portion through the sealing member 7 so as to project into the first chamber 4 by mounting the cap 9 serving also as a needle holding member to the leading end portion of the cylindrical barrel 1 and inserting the double-pointed needle 10 through this cap 9 to a predetermined position.

In this construction, since the needle is soon communicated with the first chamber 4 by mounting the double-pointed needle 10, it becomes possible to inject the injection liquid within the first chamber 4 directly through the interior of the double-pointed needle 10 similarly to the above-mentioned one.

In the type of employing the double-pointed needle 10, since the rear end portion of the needle 10 passes through the sealing member 7 to enter the first chamber 4, as shown in Fig. 5, it becomes possible to decrease a quantity (a loss quantity) of the residual injection within the cylindrical barrel 1 at the time of injection by previously forming in the end face of the sealing member 7 on the side of the first chamber 4 a concave portion 7a which is capable of receiving a projecting length of the needle.

In the two-ingredient pre-filled syringe, on a condition that the liquid L within the second chamber 5 is nearly completely flowed into the first chamber 4 by pushing the plunger rod 2 prior to an actual injection so that two-ingredients are dissolved, dispersed or mixed uniformly within the first chamber 4. On a condition that the liquid doesn't flow out yet from the distal end of the barrel 1, it is necessary to stop the plunger member once and shake the syringe well. At the time of shaking working, in order to prevent the flowing-out of the dissolution liquid or the dispersion liquid transferred to the first chamber 4 to the interior of

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the original second chamber 5, namely to the proximal or rear portion of the cylindrical barrel 1 beyond the sealing member 3c of the plunger member after the reverse flowing through the bypass channel 6, this plunger member should be stopped once at a suitable position.

5 After the above-mentioned working, when the plunger 3c is further advanced, the medicine liquid is injected through the needle 82. When the rear end of the end sealing member 3c passes the bypass channel 6, the residual liquid within the bypass channel 6 tends to leak backward. Therefore, according to the present invention, the liquid leak preventing element M is arranged at the rear end
10 of the end sealing member 3c.

Figs. 6 and 7 show an embodiment in which such operations are simplified.

In the example illustrated in Fig. 6, a convex portion 101 projecting circumferentially inward beyond the inner peripheral surface of the cylindrical
15 barrel 1 is formed in the inner peripheral surface of a finger grip 100 mounted to the proximal or rear end portion of the cylindrical barrel 1, and a plurality of lugs 201 are formed in the rod 2 along the same circumference at a predetermined position in the axial direction of the rod. The formation position of each lug 201 in the axial direction of the rod 2 is set to such a position that the lugs 201 are
20 brought into contact with the convex portion 101 of the finger grip 100 on a condition that the leading end face of the forward slidable sealing member 3a reaches ahead of the leading end portion of the bypass channel 6 as well as the rear end face of the backward slidable sealing member 3b is brought into contact with the leading end surface of the end sealing member 3c and further the rear
25 half portion of the end sealing member 3c doesn't enter the bypass channel 6 to

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keep the sliding state relative to the inner wall of the cylindrical barrel 1. A distance between the axis of the rod 2 and a point of each lug is a little larger than an inner diameter of the convex portion 101 of the finger grip 100. Further, a material of the finger grip 100 is a flexible one, for example like a synthetic resin.

5 According to the above construction, when the rod 2 is pushed in from a not-using condition illustrated in Fig. 6A, the forward slidable sealing member 3a is staying near the leading end of the bypass channel 6 during the transferring of the liquid as shown in Fig. 6B. When it is further pushed in, the rod 2 and the end sealing member 3c are stopped once due to a resistance
10 produced by the contact between the lugs 201 and the convex portion 101 as shown in Fig. 6C.

 On one hand, in an example shown in Figs. 7A to 7F, the convex portion 101 is similarly formed in the inner peripheral surface of the finger grip 100 mounted to the rear end portion of the cylindrical barrel 1. As shown in the
15 axial view of Fig. 7B, a plurality of cut-out grooves 102 are formed in this convex portion 101 as well as the same number of blades 202 are formed in the rod 2. A distance from the center of the rod 20 to the point of each blade 202 is larger than the inner diameter of the convex portion 101 of the finger grip 100 and shorter than a distance from the center of the finger grip 100 to the bottom of
20 each cut-out groove 102. A position of the leading end of each blade 202 is so set that the blades 202 are brought into contact with the rear end face of the finger grip 100 on a condition that the leading end face of the forward slidable sealing member 3a reaches ahead of the leading end portion of the bypass channel 6 owing to the pushing by the end sealing member 3c as well as the rear end face
25 of the backward sealing member 3b and the leading end face of the plunger 3c are

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in contact with each other and further the rear half portion of the end sealing member 3c doesn't enter the bypass channel 6 to keep the sliding condition relative to the inner wall of the barrel 1.

5 In the above-mentioned construction, in a pre-use condition illustrated in Fig. 7A, the rod 2 is inserted into the cylindrical barrel 1 in such a condition that each blade 202 doesn't take the same position as the formation position of the cut-out groove 102 of the finger grip 100 as shown in Fig. 7C. At the time of usage, first the plunger with the rod 2 is pushed with the state of Fig. 7C. Thereby, the forward slidable sealing member 3a stops at the leading end of
10 the bypass channel 6 during the transferring of the liquid as shown in Fig. 7D. When it is further pushed in, as shown in Fig. 7E, the blades 202 are brought into contact with the rear end face of the finger grip 100 to stop the plunger at that time. Since the liquid within the second chamber 5 is poured completely into the first chamber 4 as mentioned above under that condition as well as the reverse
15 flowing through the bypass channel 6 is prevented, the two ingredients are uniformly dissolved, dispersed or mixed by shaking the syringe on that condition. After that, when each blade 202 is made to take the formation position of each cut-out groove 102 by turning the rod 2, since the pushing-in of the whole rod becomes possible as shown in Fig. 7F, the injection liquid after the dissolution,
20 the dispersion or the mixing can be injected to a living body.

As shown in Fig. 7F, the injection liquid after the dissolution, the dispersion or the mixing can be injected to a living body.

By the way, instead of employing the above construction illustrated in Fig. 6 or Fig. 7, it is effective merely to provide a line marking in the outer
25 peripheral surface or the inner peripheral surface of the cylindrical barrel 1 along

its circumferential direction at a predetermined position in front of the leading end portion of the bypass channel 6, for example at a forward position by a distance of about 2 mm from the leading end portion of the bypass channel 6. That is, when the plunger is pushed in order that the leading end face of the forward
5 slidable sealing member 3a does not go beyond the marking, the liquid within the second chamber 5 is flowed nearly completely into the first chamber 4 and then the syringe may be shaken on that condition.

In each already described embodiment, the forward and the backward slidable sealing members 3a, 3b or the end slidable sealing member 3c
10 may be constructed by a plurality of ribs projecting circumferentially from the outer peripheral surface thereof respectively so as to hold a liquid-tightness between the first chamber 4 and the second chamber 5 or a liquid-tightness between the second chamber 5 and the outside of the barrel 1, and in addition, to keep their slidabilities within the barrel 1. In such a construction, when the
15 respective slidable sealing members 3a, 3b or the slidable sealing member 3c pass over the bypass channel 6 by pushing the rod 2, the liquid remaining within the bypass channel 6 enters an annular concave portion formed between the respective circular ribs of the respective sealing members 3a, 3b or the sealing member 3c of the plunger, resulting in loss of the injection liquid. In order to solve this
20 problem, those concave portions may be made shallower in such a degree as not to worsen the slidability of the sealing member. But, a countermeasure for further lessening the loss quantity will be described hereinafter.

Fig. 8 is a sectional view of an embodiment to which such a countermeasure is applied.

A plurality of circular ribs 300 are formed in the forward slidable sealing member 3a, the backward slidable sealing member 3b and the end sealing member 3c respectively and a plurality of longitudinal ribs 301 are formed between the respective circular ribs so as to have nearly the same height as those of these ribs. Void spaces formed between the respective circular ribs 300 are partitioned by these respective longitudinal ribs 301 to a plurality of smaller void spaces respectively.

In this embodiment, the four longitudinal ribs 301 are formed within the respective void spaces of the respective sealing members 3a, 3b, 3c at such positions as to divide the respective outer circumferences equally into four portions, so that the respective void spaces between the circular ribs 300 are divided equally into four portions (refer to Fig. 9).

Such a construction, when the forward slidable sealing member 3a, the backward slidable sealing member 3b and the end slidable sealing member 3c pass over the bypass channel 6 owing to the pushing of the rod 2, makes the injection liquid enter any one of the small void spaces partitioned by the longitudinal ribs 301 of the void spaces between the respective circular ribs 300 through this bypass channel 6. But, the injection liquid cannot enter the adjacent small void spaces because of the existing of the longitudinal ribs 301, so that the residual injection liquid within the void spaces of the respective sealing members decreases to about 1/4 in comparison with the case in which only the circular ribs 300 are provided.

The number of the longitudinal ribs 301 arranged within the respective void spaces between the circular ribs 300 is not limited to four but can be selected optionally to at least two. It becomes possible to decrease the loss

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quantity of the injection liquid as the number thereof increases more, but to the contrary, since the slidability of each sealing member lowers accordingly thereto, it is preferable to select the suitable number in consideration of both of them. The longitudinal ribs 301 may be formed only in the forward and the backward
5 slidable sealing members 3a, 3b.

In the respective circular ribs 300 and longitudinal ribs 301 of the forward and the backward slidable sealing members 3a, 3b and the sealing member 3c of the plunger, their axial configurations may be formed like so-called a crowing having a swell which is suitably curved axially to decrease a frictional
10 resistance relative to the cylindrical barrel 1 instead of linearly along the inner wall surface of the cylindrical barrel 1 as illustrated.

The above-mentioned liquid-absorbent element M may be formed from the cylindrical liquid-absorbent member R slidable relative to the cylindrical barrel and detachably mounted to the leading end portion of the plunger rod.
15 This liquid-absorbent material R is manufactured by stamping a liquid-absorbent material sheet in a predetermined configuration, which may be selected from the group consisting of polyvinylformal, polyester fiber, pulp, polyester fiber containing pulp, polyester fiber containing acetate fiber, acetate fiber, cellulose sponge, polyvinyl alcohol sponge and liquid-absorbent resin and may be
20 impregnated by dipping with a water-holding and liquid-absorbing accelerator, which may be selected from the group consisting of glycerine, propylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, D-sorbitol, polyoxyethylene cetyl ether, and benzyl alcohol. It may be made cylindrical by stacking the above-mentioned disk-shaped liquid-absorbent materials D as shown in Fig.15. The liquid-absorbent material may be
25 impregnated with an antimicrobial active agent selected from benzalkonium

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chloride, benzethonium chloride, dodecyldiamino-ethylglycine, dodecyldimethylbenzylammonium chloride, polyhexa-methylenebiguanide and alkyldiaminoethylglycine hydrochloride.

5 In this case, as shown in Fig. 23, since the cylindrical liquid-absorbent material R is longer in its total length in the advancing direction (usually at least 10 mm in the total length) in comparison with the disk-shaped liquid-absorbent material D as shown in Fig. 15, the sufficient liquid-absorbing and holding can be attained even when a dropping timing of the residual liquid gets delayed a little at the time of the passing of the cylinder over the bypass channel.

10 Further, when the end portion slidable sealing member is pushed completely, the cylindrical liquid-absorbent material R is usually pushed in forward beyond the bypass channel. But, especially as shown in Fig. 24, when its rear end can stay there so as to pass over the bypass channel, a function for preventing the leaking of the residual liquid is large. In the above embodiment, the same component

15 members as those in Fig. 6 are designated by the same numbers, and the explanations thereof are omitted.

Although the present invention has been fully described by way of examples with reference to the accompanying drawings, it is to be noted here that various changes and modifications will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

20 Therefore, unless such changes and modifications otherwise depart from the spirit and scope of the present invention, they should be construed as being included therein.

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CLAIMS:

1. A syringe comprising:

a tubular barrel having distal and proximal ends opposite to each other and also having an interior hollow defined therebetween, said distal end portion being sealed and engageable with a needle for injection of medical substances to be mixed in said interior and said proximal end portion being sealed by an end slidable sealing member connectable with a rod for making said end slidable sealing member slidable in an axial direction in said barrel;

at least one intermediate sealing member inserted into said barrel, said intermediate sealing member dividing the interior of said barrel in a sealed manner into a first chamber for receiving a first medical substance and a second chamber for receiving a second medical substance, said intermediate sealing member being slidable in said barrel in response to sliding of said end slidable sealing member in said barrel;

at least one bypass portion formed axially along said barrel between said intermediate slidable sealing member and said distal end portion, said bypass portion permitting said second medical substance to bypass said intermediate slidable sealing member and be introduced into said first medical substance to be mixed therewith;

wherein said intermediate slidable sealing member has an axial length or thickness shorter than that of said bypass portion;

at least one liquid-absorbent element capable of absorbing the liquid and holding it therein, said liquid-absorbent element positioned behind one of end faces of said

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end sealing member opposite to said second chamber in said barrel.

2. A syringe as set forth in claim 1, wherein said liquid-absorbent element is positioned at no or some
5 intervals from said end face of said end sealing member opposite to said second chamber in said barrel.

3. A syringe as set forth in claim 2, wherein said end sealing member is provided integrally with said one end of the rod and said liquid-absorbent element is connected
10 integrally or detachably with one of the end faces of said end sealing member opposite to said second chamber.

4. A syringe as set forth in claim 2, wherein said end sealing member is provided detachably with said one end of the rod and said liquid-absorbent element is connected
15 integrally or detachably with one of the end faces of said end sealing member opposite to said second chamber.

5. A syringe as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the liquid-absorbent element is made of a liquid-absorbent material selected from the group consisting of
20 papers, fibers and resins having a liquid-absorbent capability.

6. A syringe as set forth in claim 5, wherein at least one of said liquid-absorbent material is selected from the group of polyvinylformal, polyester fibers, pulps,
25 polyester fibers containing pulps and acetate fibers, acetate fibers, sponges and liquid-absorbent resins.

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7. A syringe as set forth in claim 5 or 6, wherein said liquid-absorbent material contains a water-holding and liquid-absorbing accelerator for accelerating its liquid-absorbing effect.

8. A syringe as set forth in claim 7, wherein said water-holding and liquid-absorbing accelerator comprises at least one kind of material selected from the group consisting of glycerine, propylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, D-sorbitol, polyoxyethylene cetyl ether, and benzyl alcohol.

9. A syringe as set forth in claim 5, wherein said liquid-absorbent material contains a water-holding and liquid-absorbing accelerator and an interfacial active agent.

10. A syringe as set forth in any one of claims 5 to 9, wherein said liquid-absorbent material contains an antimicrobial active agent.

11. A syringe as set forth in any one of claims 5 to 9, wherein said liquid-absorbent material contains a water-holding and liquid-absorbing accelerator and an antimicrobial active agent.

12. A syringe as set forth in claim 10 or 11, wherein said antimicrobial active agent comprises at least one kind of material selected from the group consisting of benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride, dodecyldiaminoethylglycine, dodecyldimethylbenzylammonium chloride,

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polyhexamethylenebiguanide, cetylpyridium chloride and alkyl-diaminoethylglycine hydrochloride.

13. A syringe as set forth in any one of claims 5 to 11, wherein said liquid-absorbent material contains a colouring agent.

14. A syringe as set forth in any one of claims 5 to 11, wherein said liquid-absorbent material contains a deactivating agent.

15. A syringe as set forth in any one of claims 5 to 11, wherein said liquid-absorbent material contains a deactivating and a colouring agent.

16. A syringe as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said liquid-absorbent element substantially has not a clearance between its outer circumference and an inner wall of the syringe.

17. A syringe as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said liquid-absorbent element has a clearance between its outer circumference and an inner wall of the syringe and contains a water-holding and liquid-absorbing accelerator.

18. A syringe as set forth in claim 1, wherein said liquid-absorbent element has a cylindrical shape having a central through hole adapted to be fitted into said one end of said rod, said rod being detachable from said end slidable sealing member.

19. A syringe as set forth in claim 18, wherein said cylindrical shaped absorbing element is made of a polyvinylformal sponge sheet containing glycerine as a liquid-absorbent acceralator and benzalkonium chloride as an antimicrobial active agent.
20. A syringe as set forth in claim 1, wherein said liquid-absorbent element comprises an annular or spiral groove capable of absorbing said liquid.
21. A syringe as set forth in claim 1, wherein said liquid-absorbent element is a liquid-absorbent material wound like a ring on at least a leading end portion of said rod.
22. A syringe as set forth in claim 1, wherein said liquid-absorbent element is an end stopper for closing a proximal one of end openings of said barrel and having a central through hole for inserting slidably said rod therein.
23. A syringe as set forth in claim 1, wherein said liquid-absorbent element is an end stopper fitted into a finger grip mounted onto a proximal one of opposite ends of said barrel.
24. A syringe as set forth in claim 1, wherein said liquid-absorbent element comprises a sealing material in a sliding manner with said end sealing member and an end stopper having a central through hole for inserting slidably said rod therein and positioned at a proximal one of end openings of said barrel in a non-slidable manner.

Fig. 1

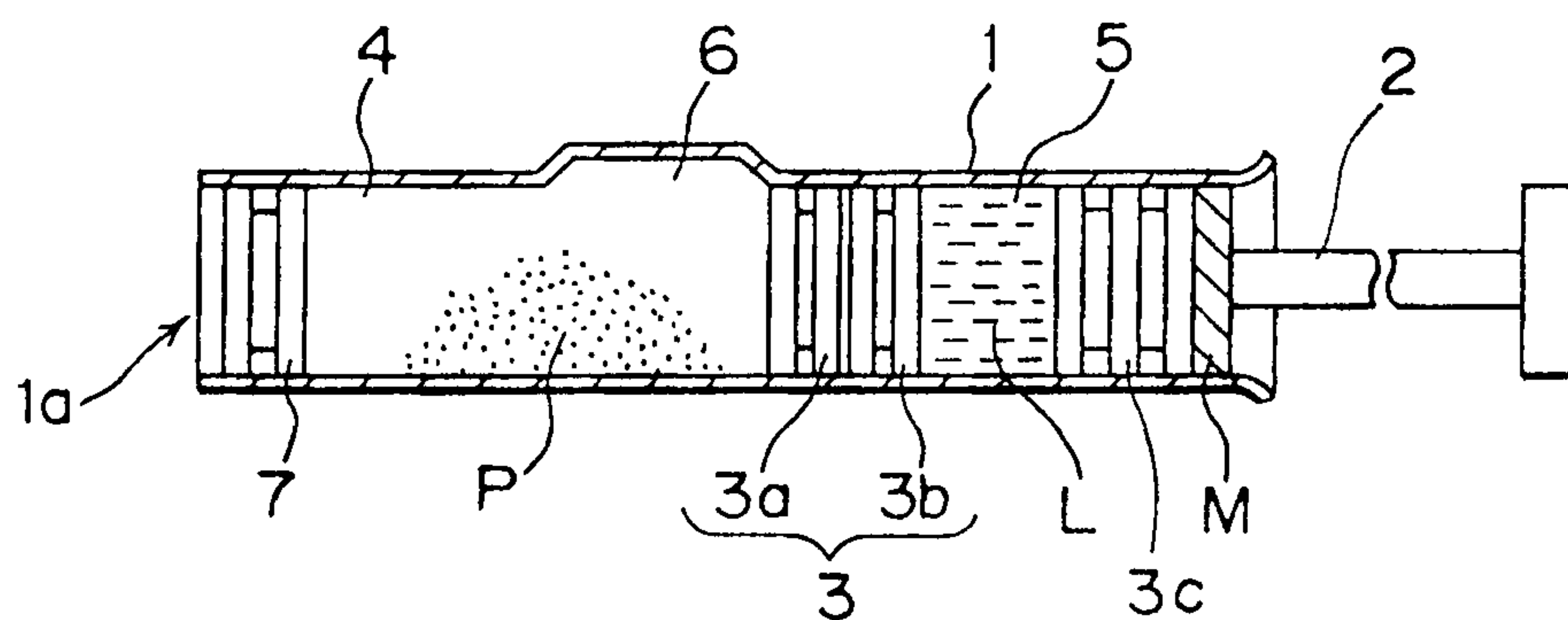


Fig. 2A

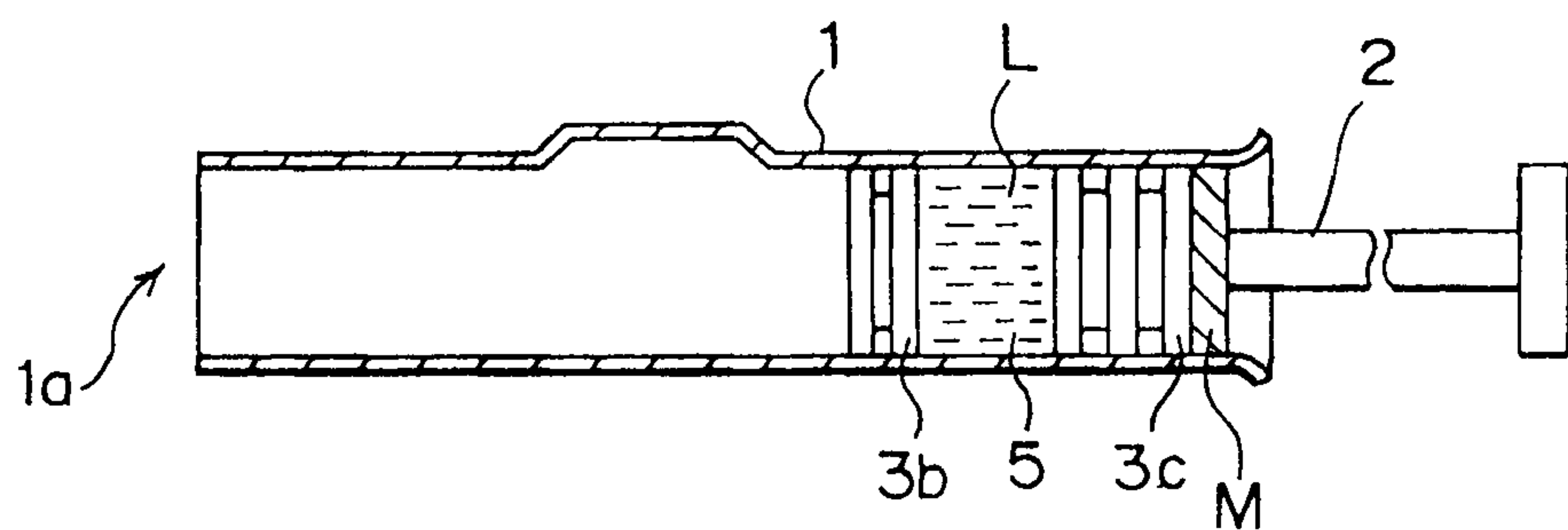


Fig. 2B

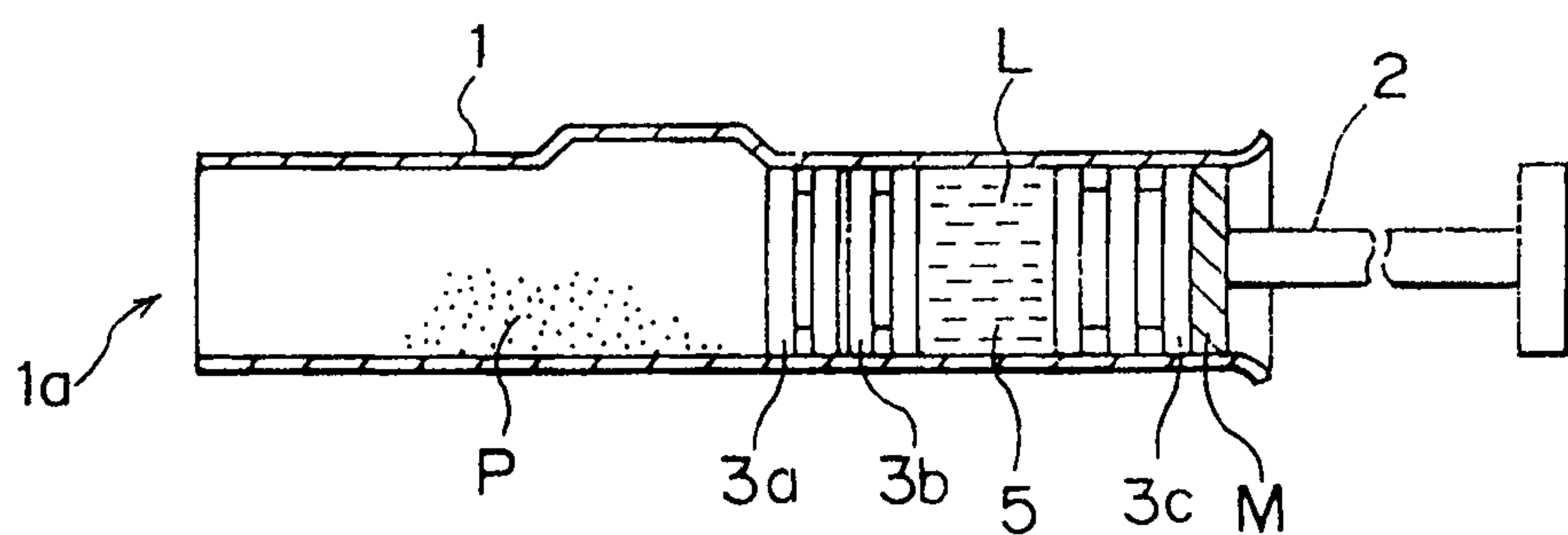


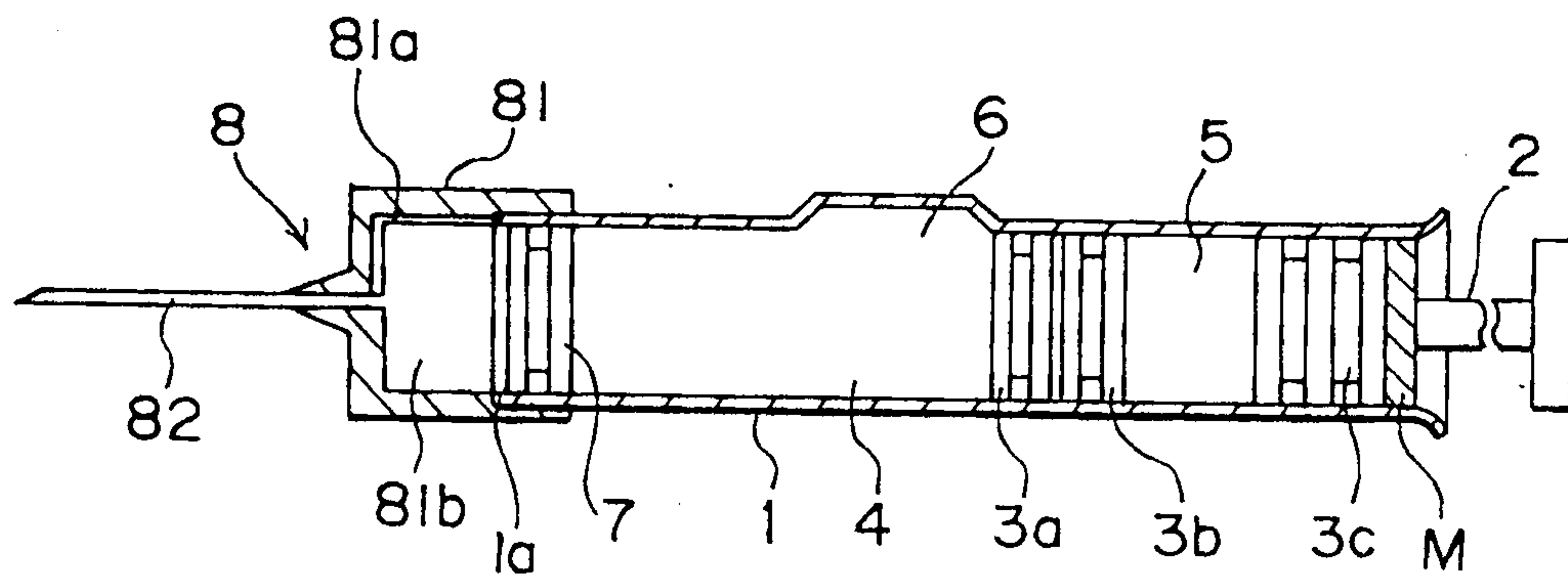
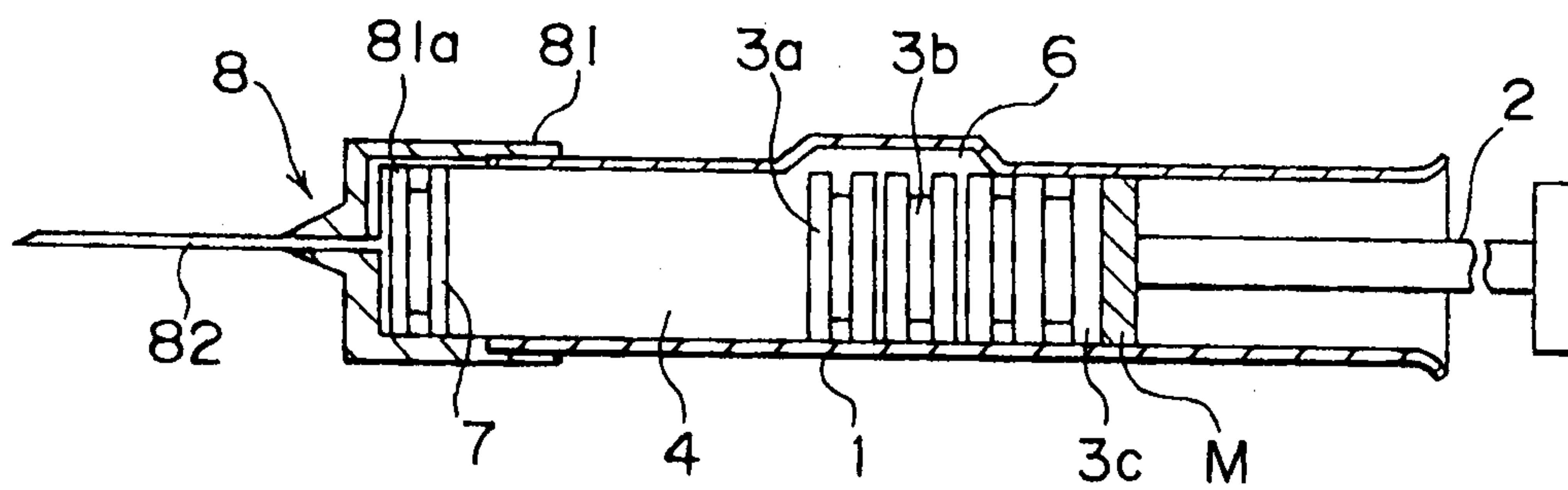
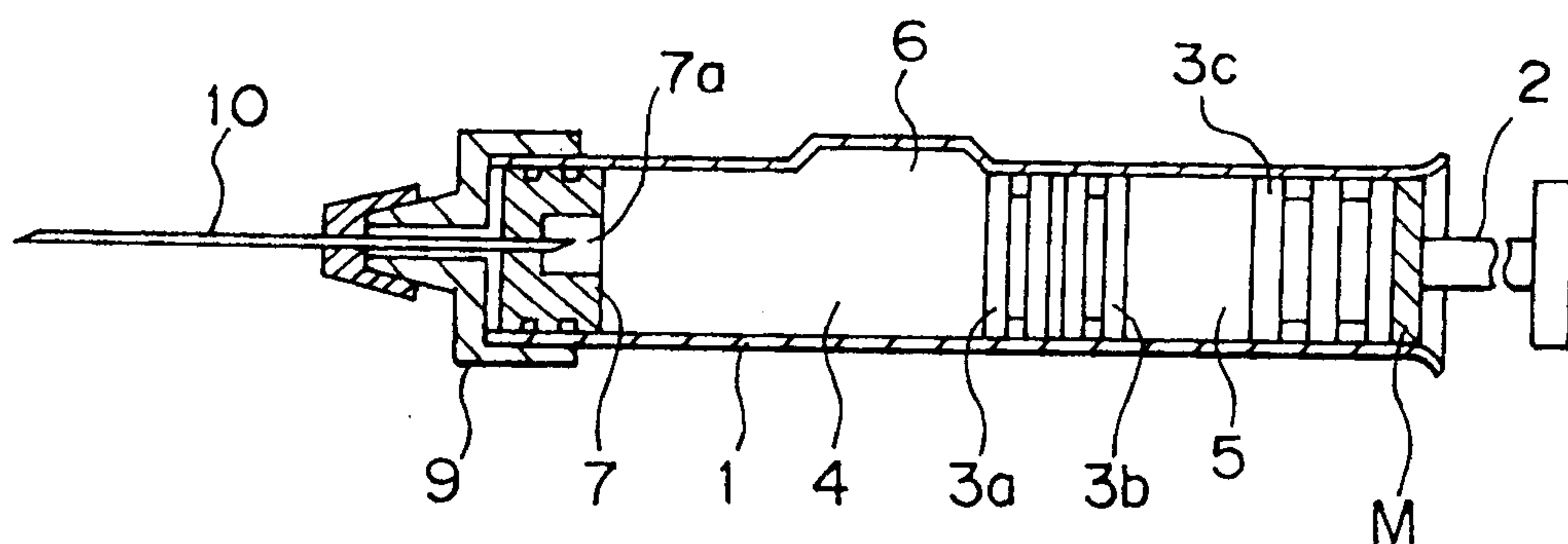
Fig. 3*Fig. 4**Fig. 5*

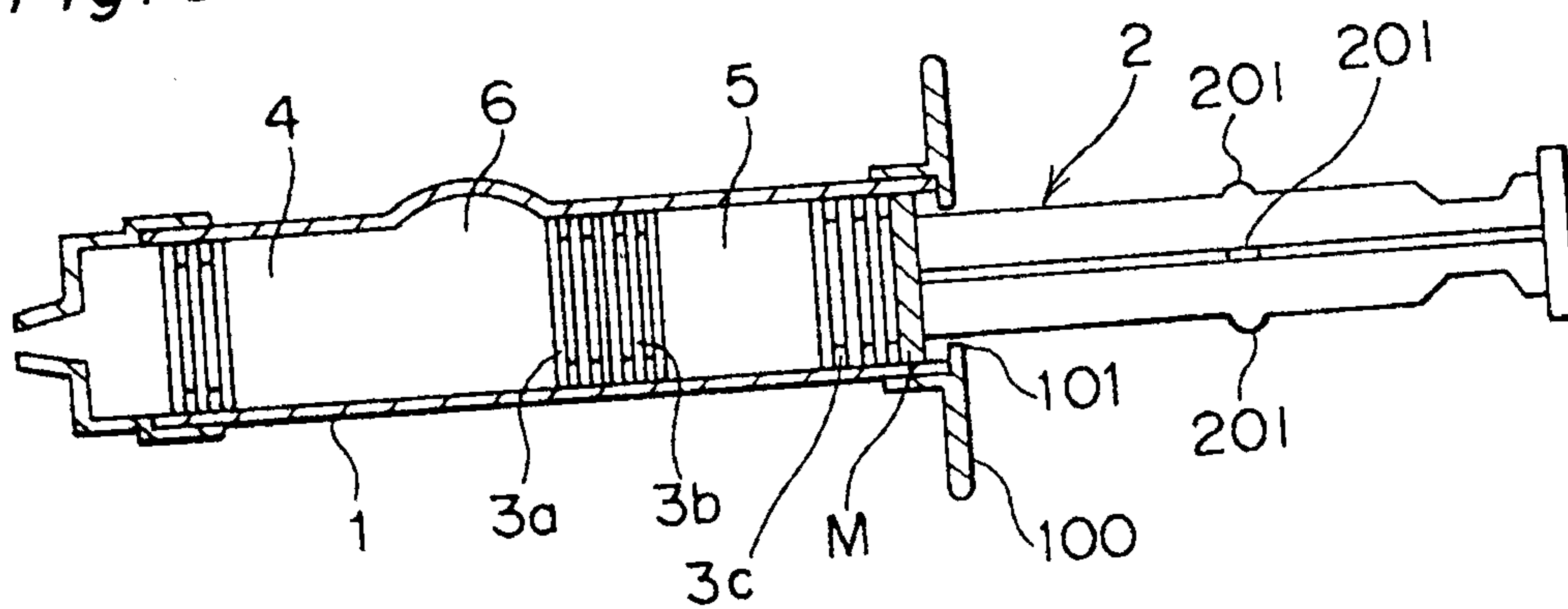
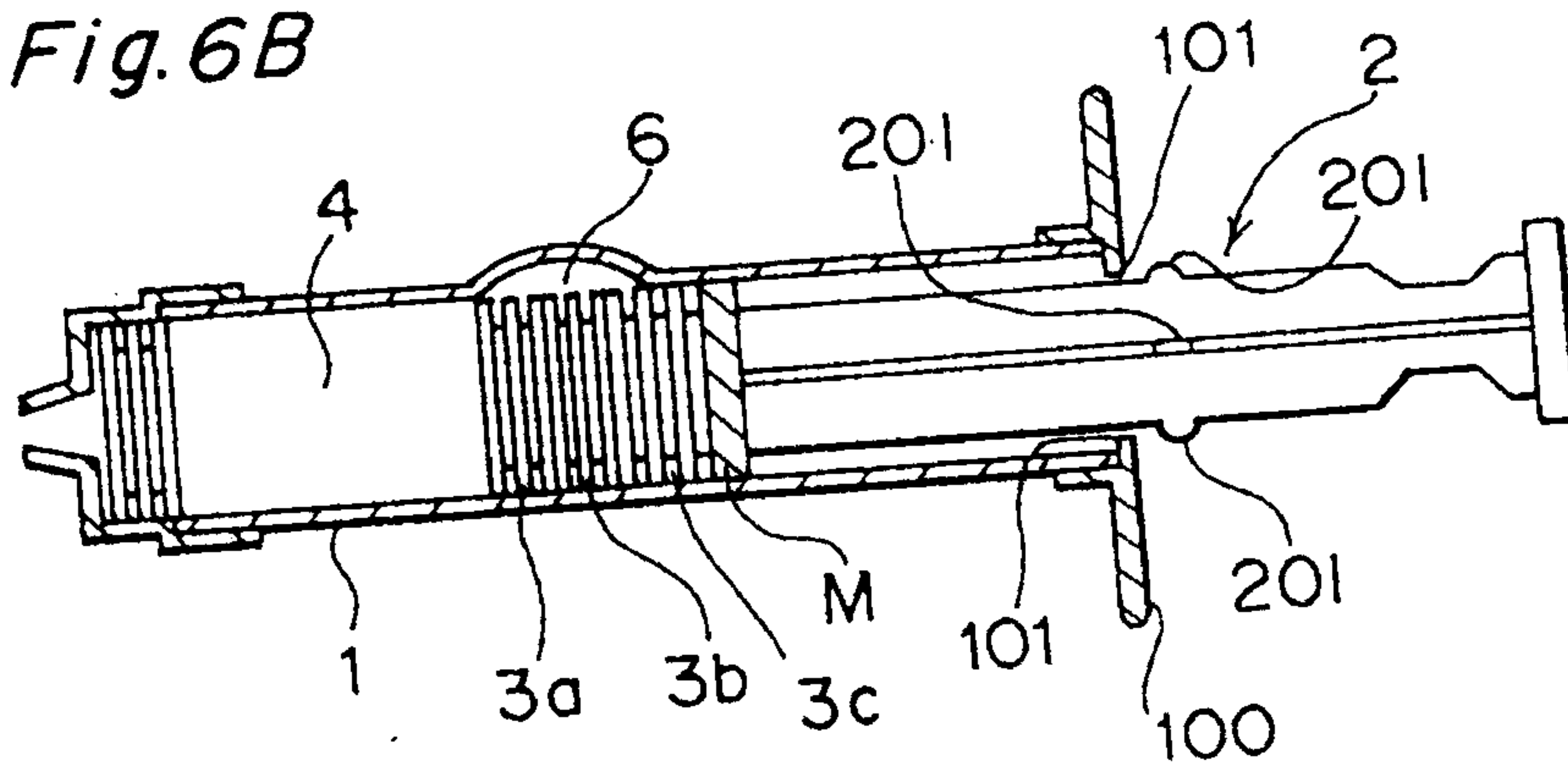
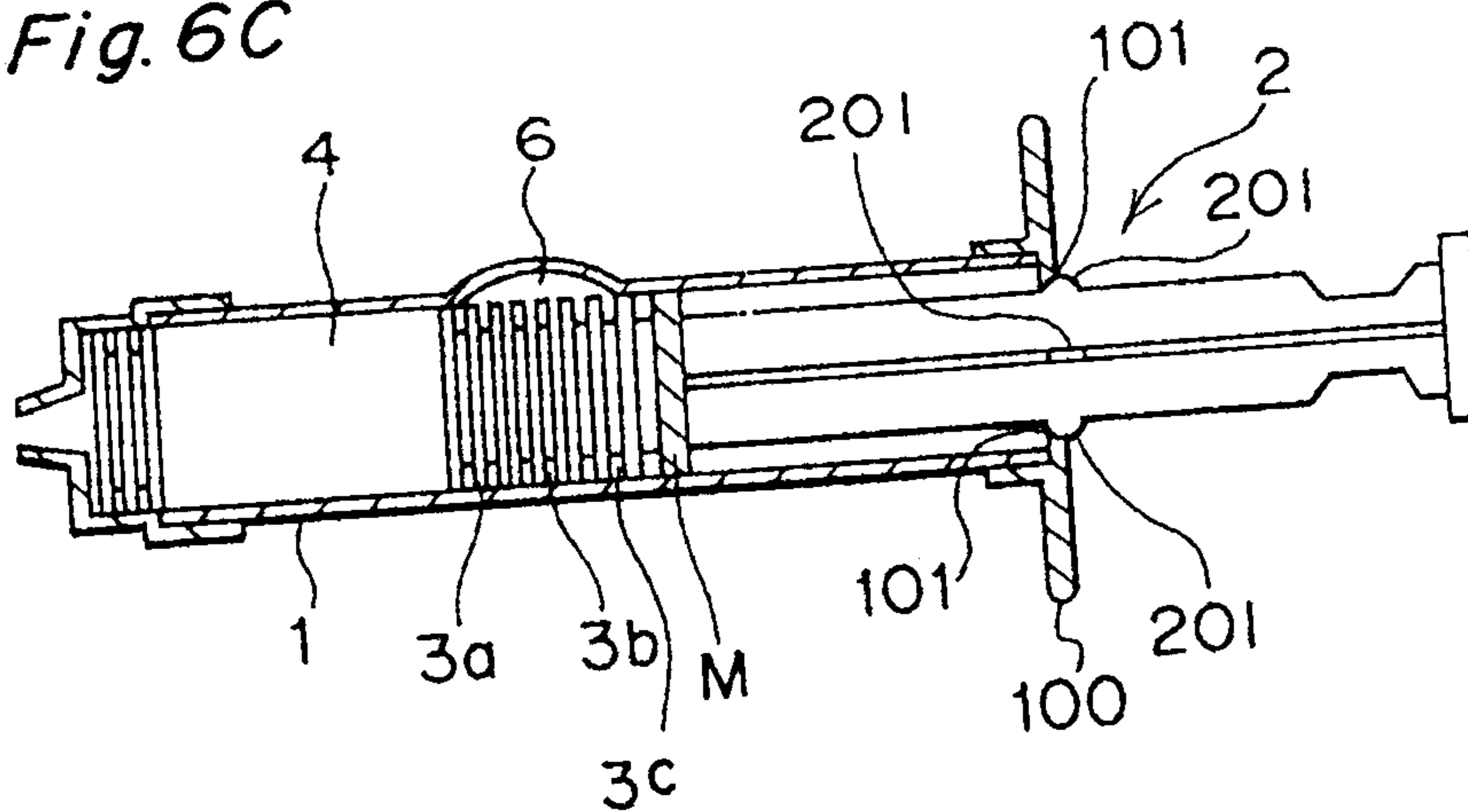
Fig. 6A*Fig. 6B**Fig. 6C*

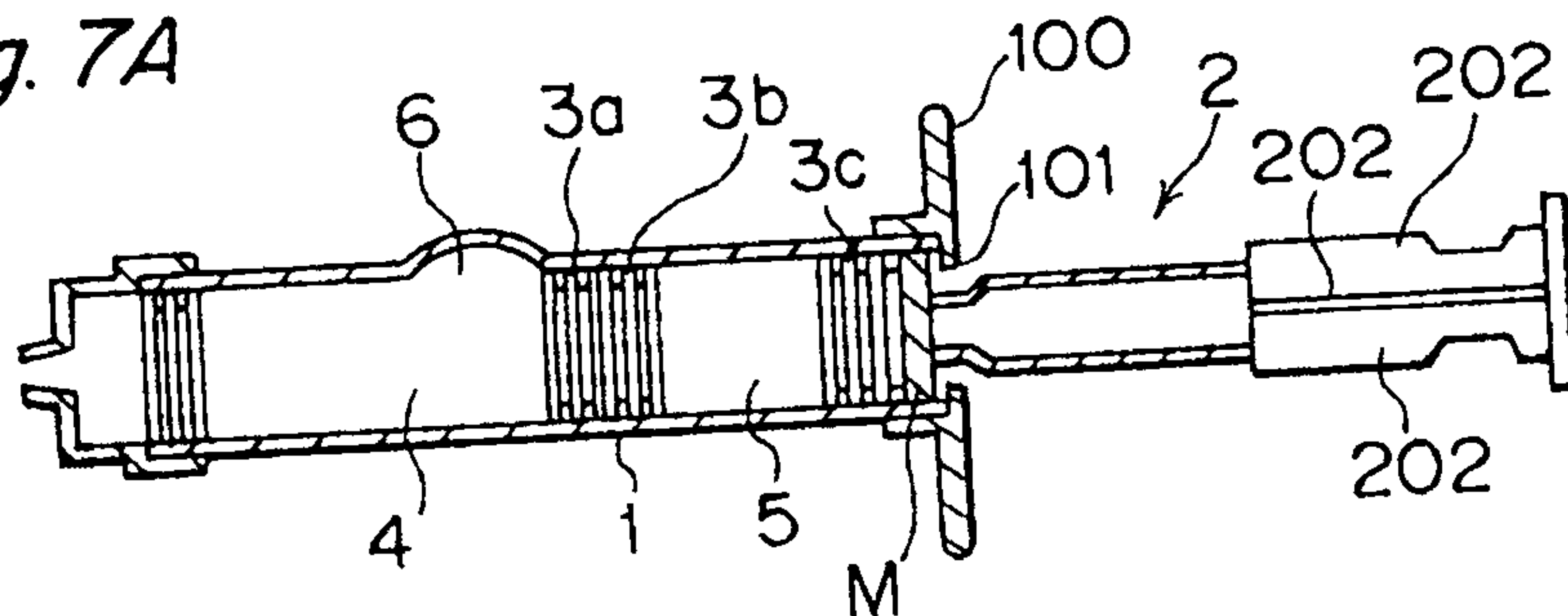
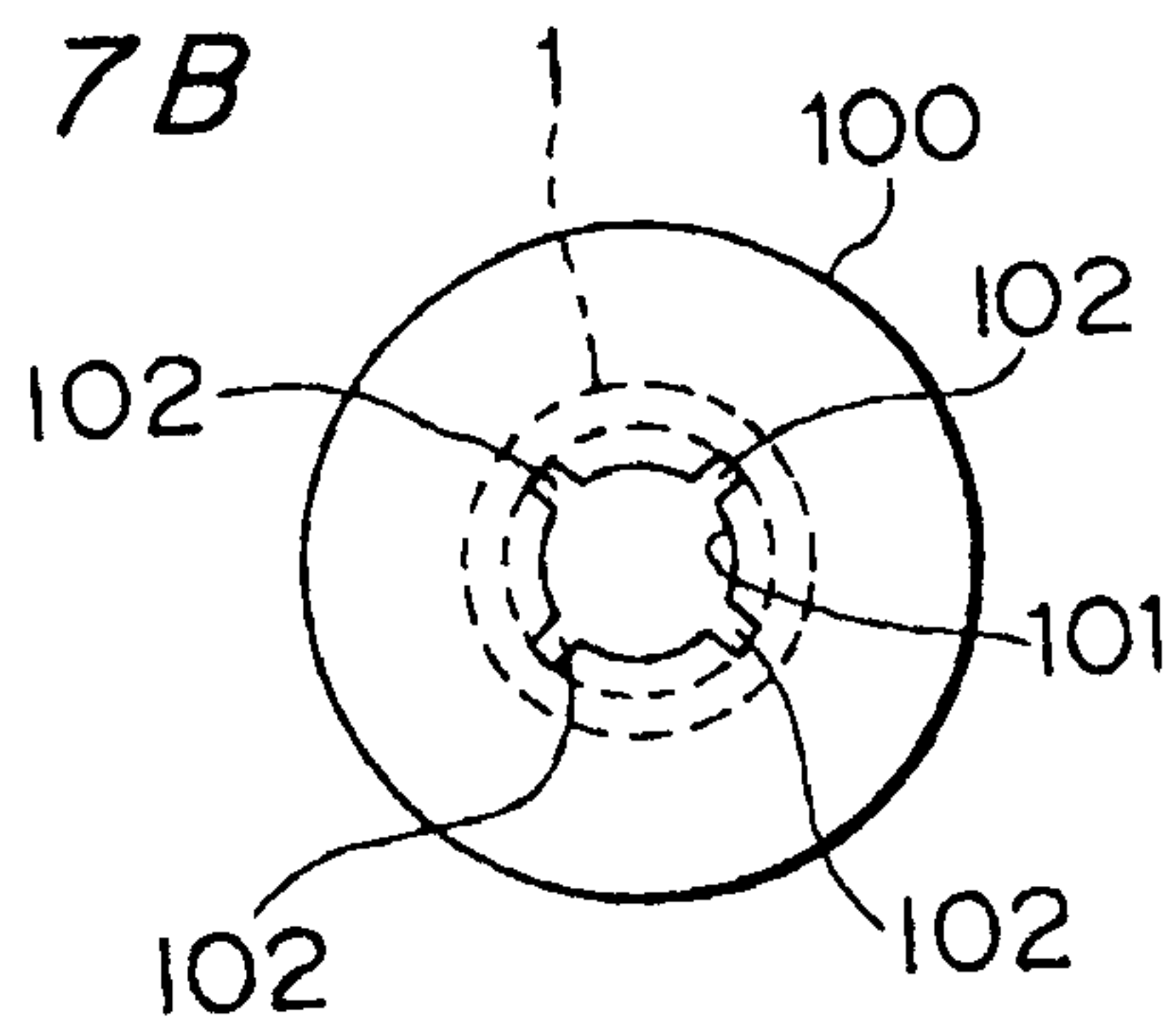
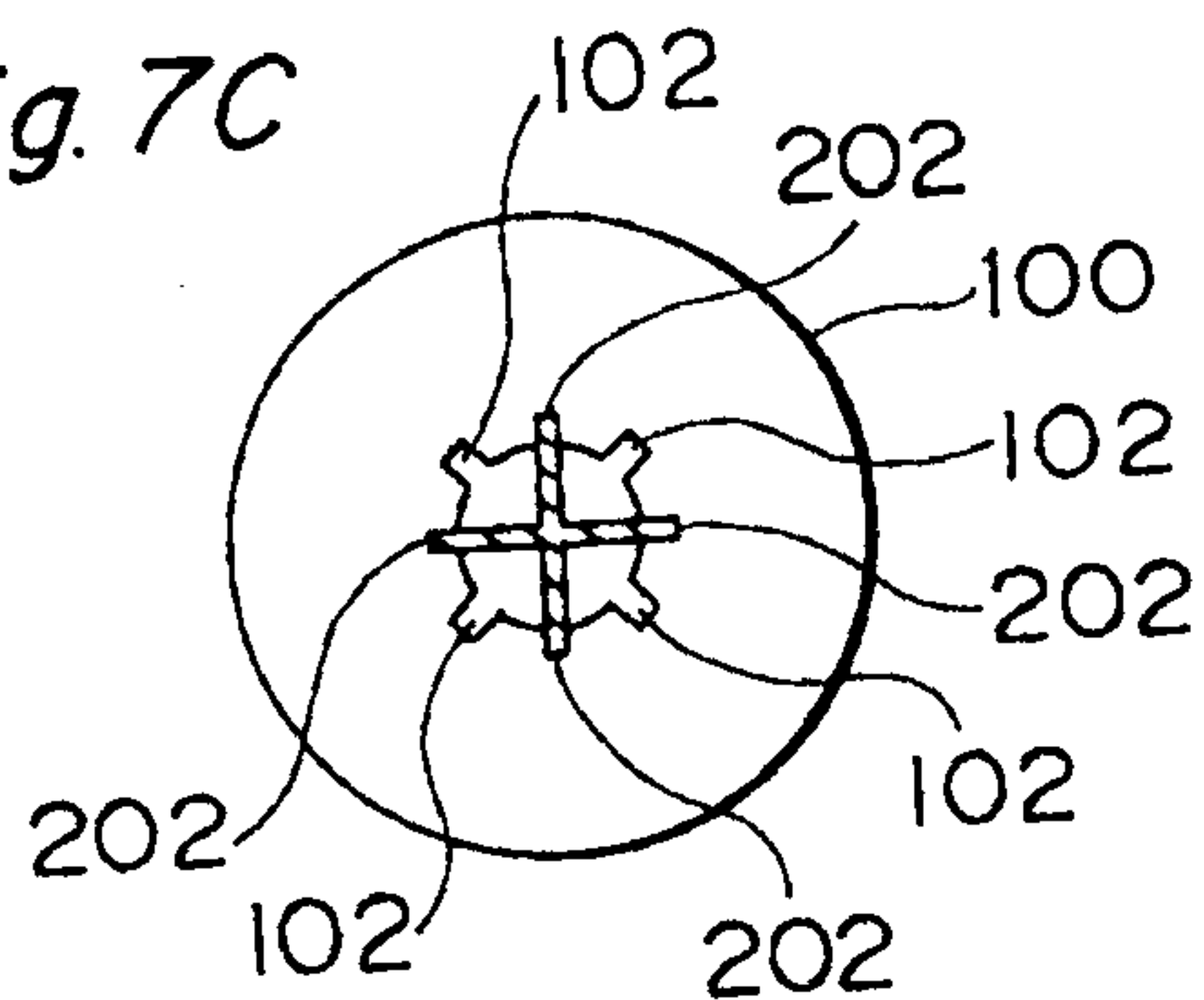
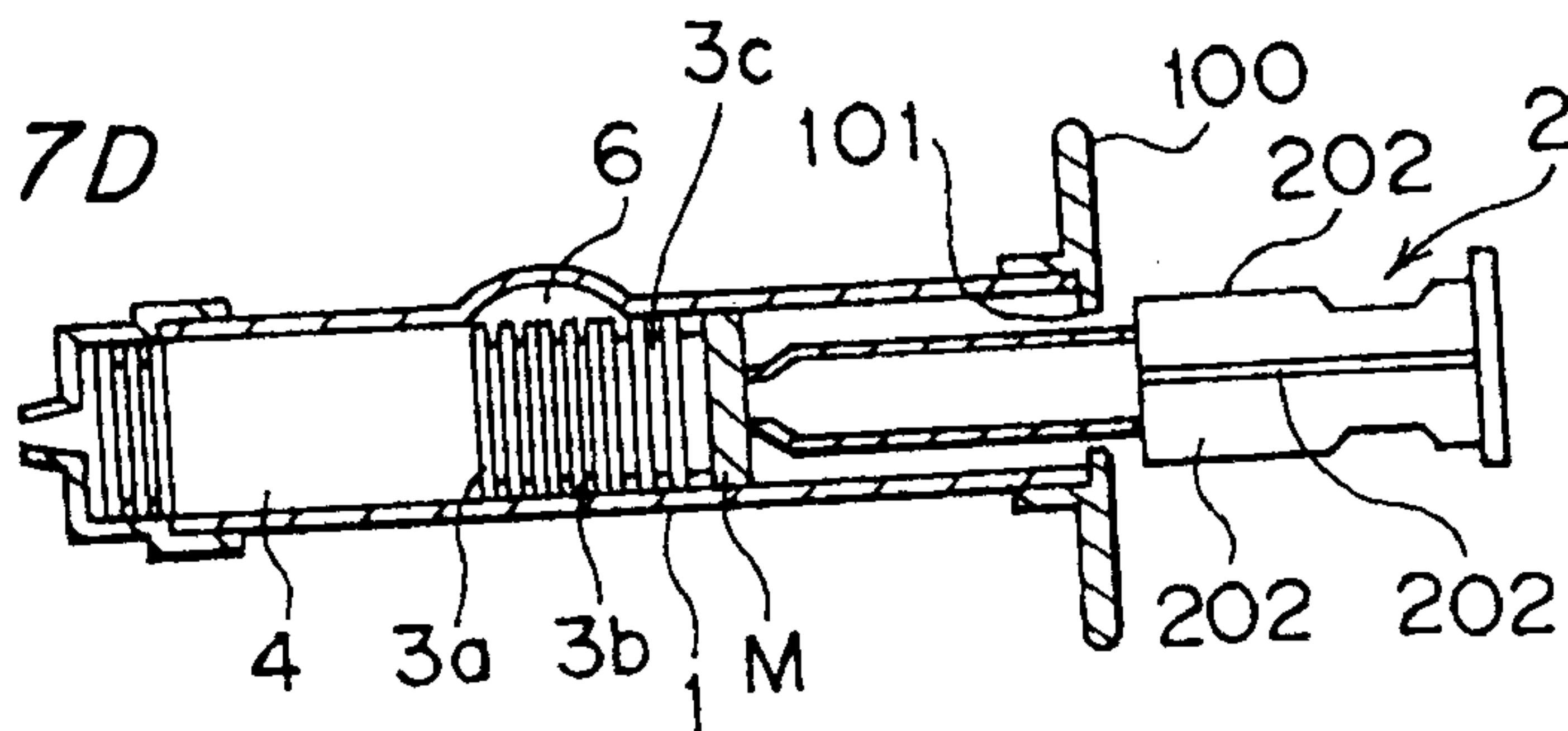
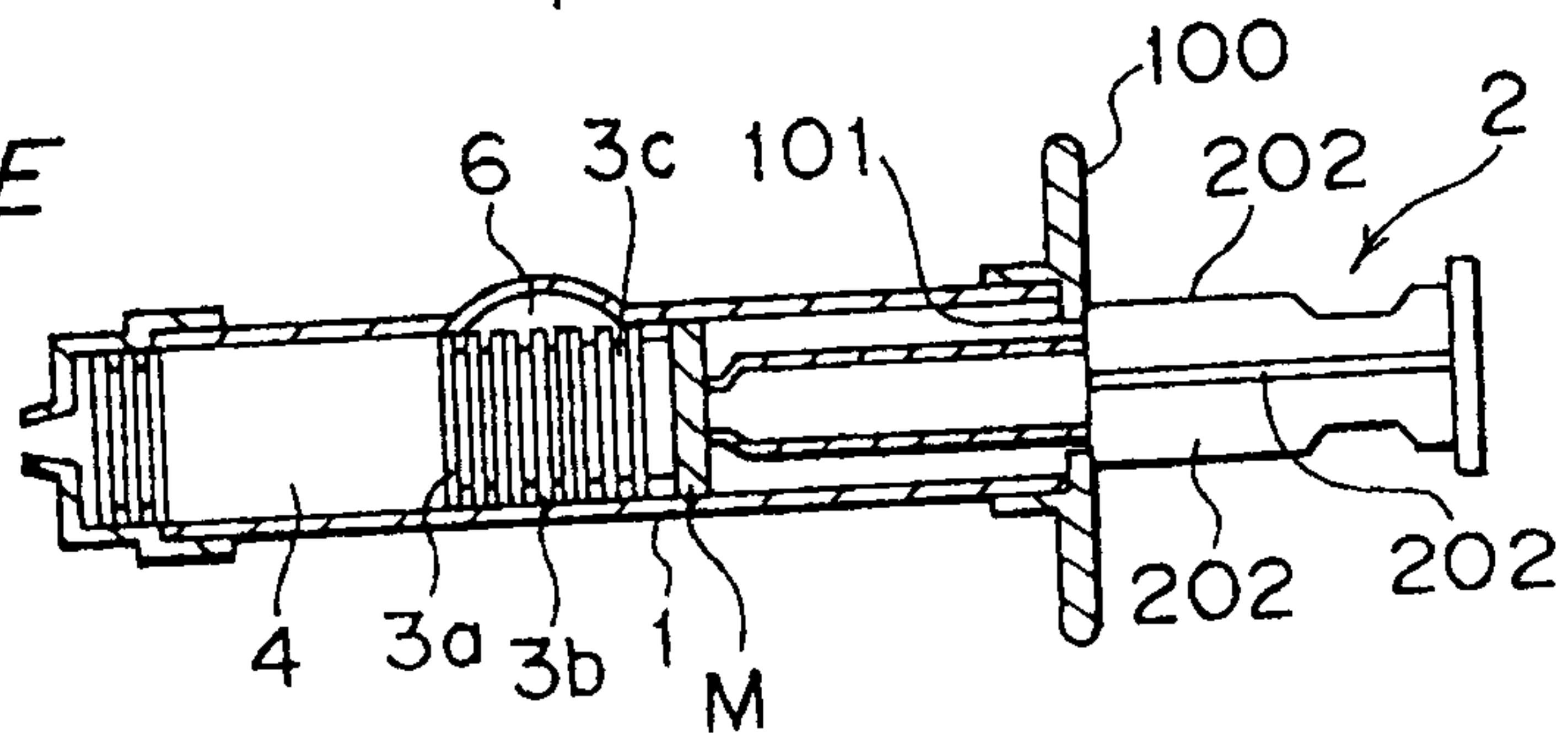
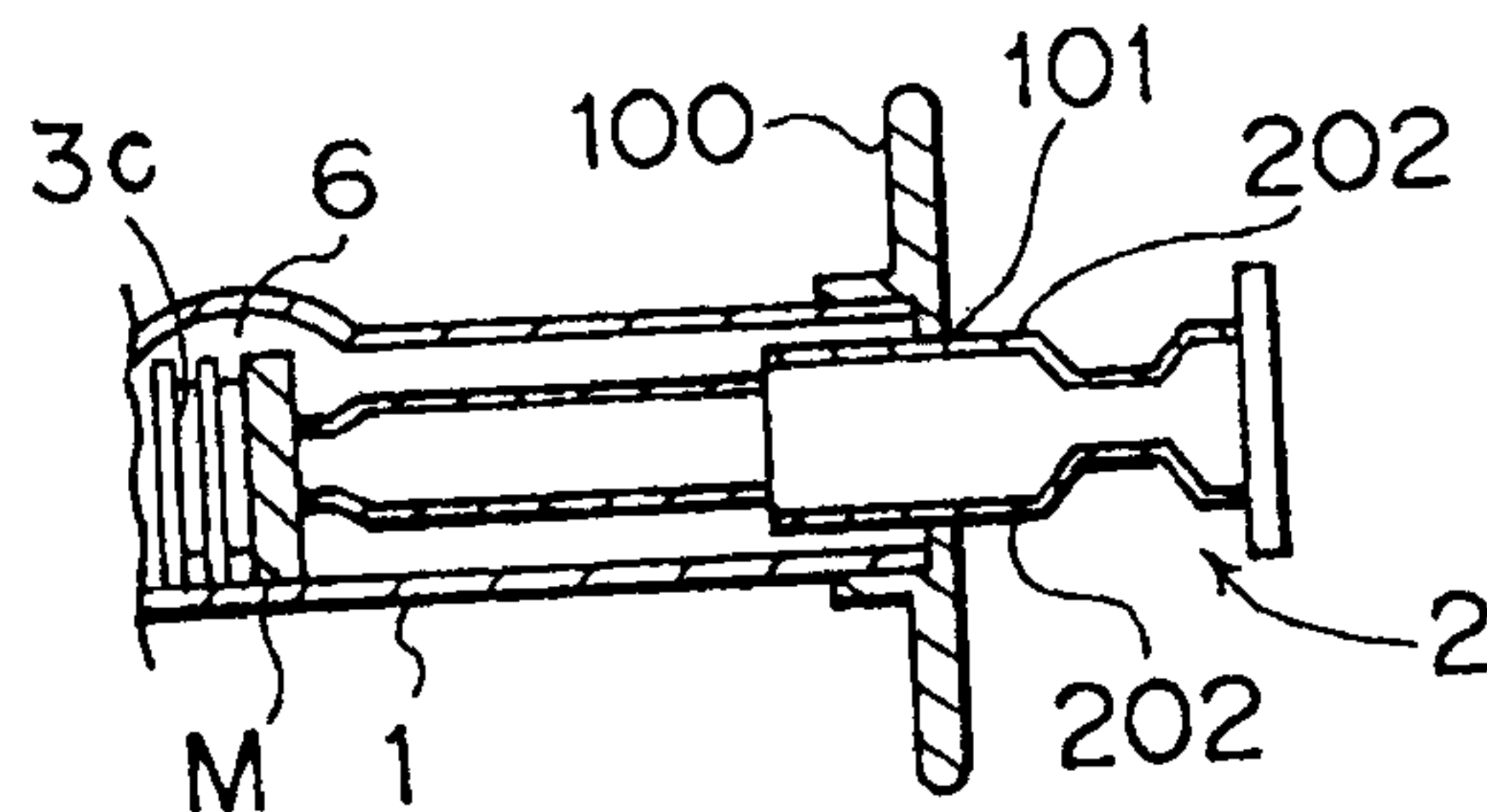
Fig. 7A*Fig. 7B**Fig. 7C**Fig. 7D**Fig. 7E**Fig. 7F*

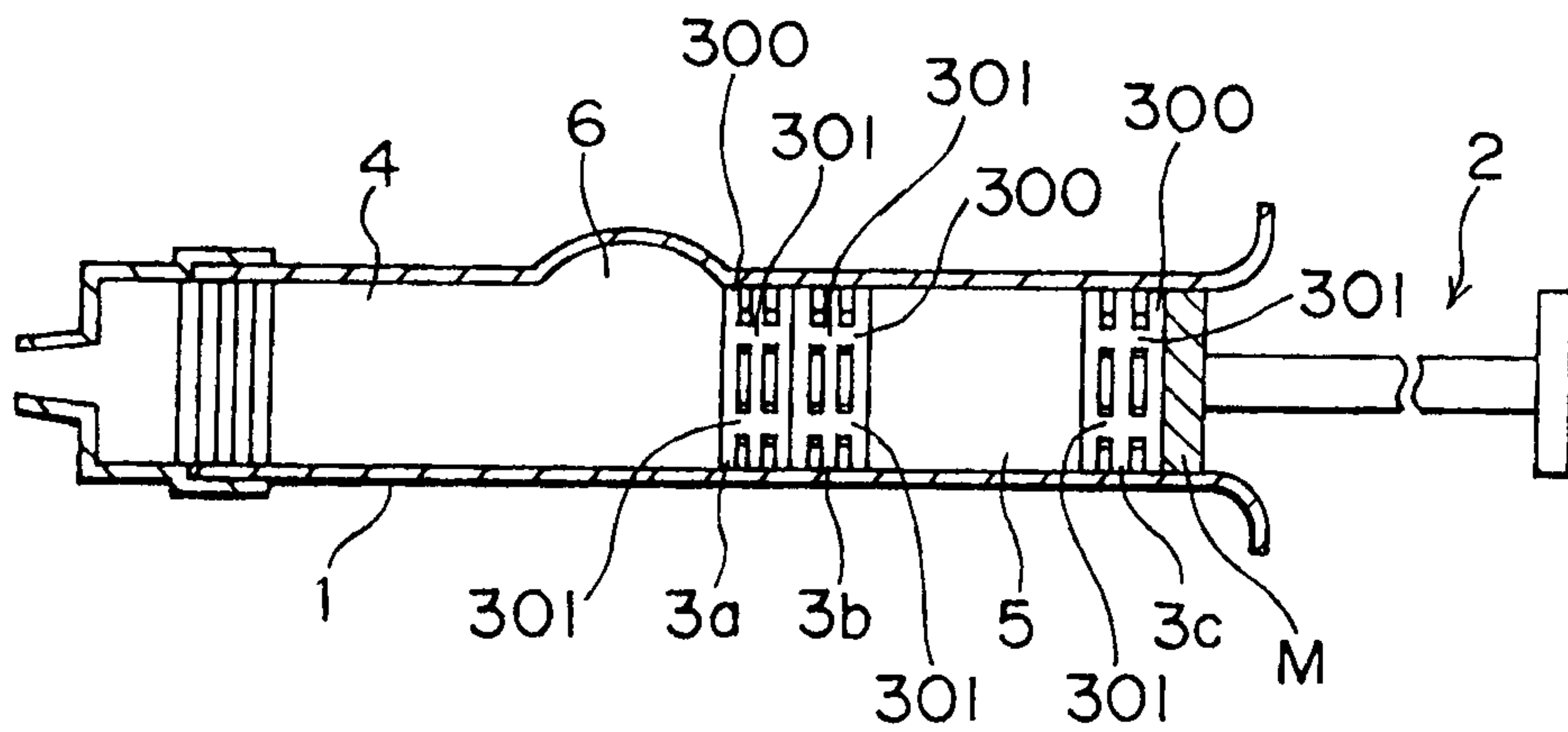
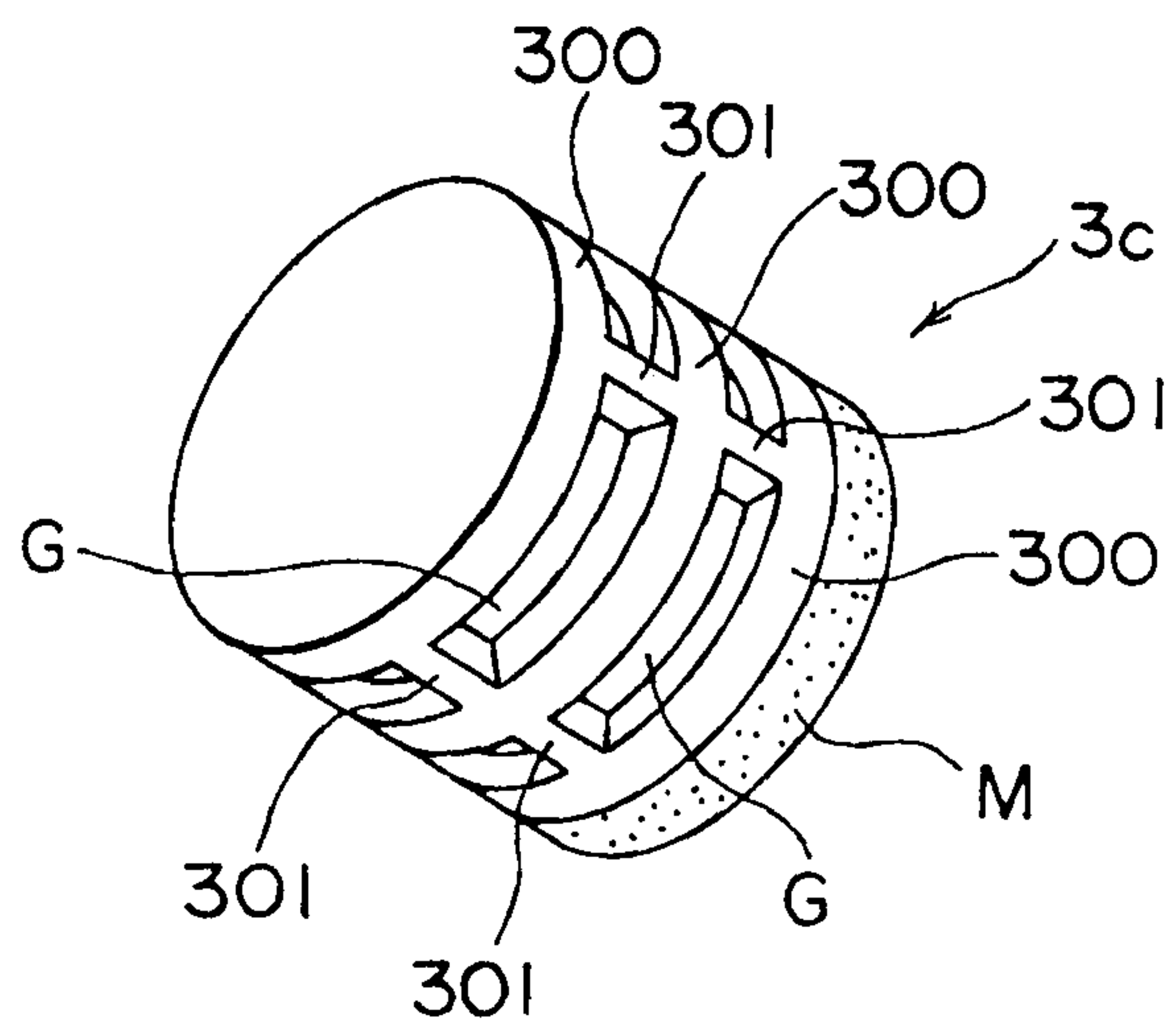
Fig. 8*Fig. 9*

Fig. 10

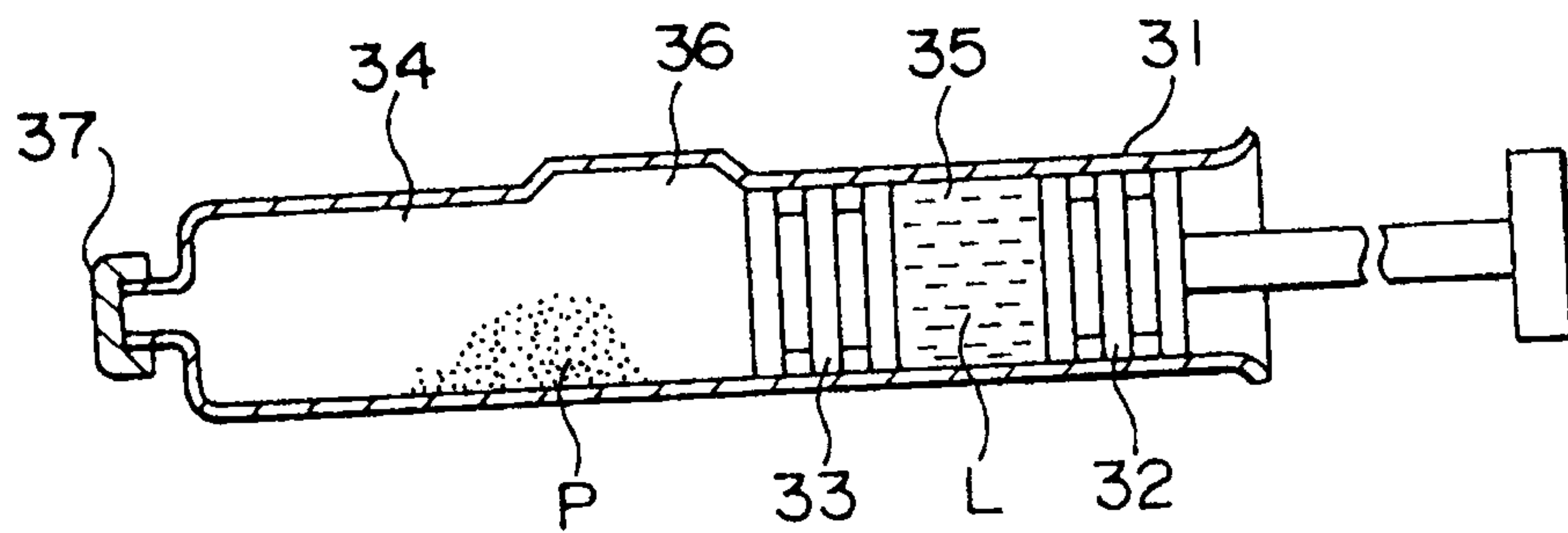


Fig. 11

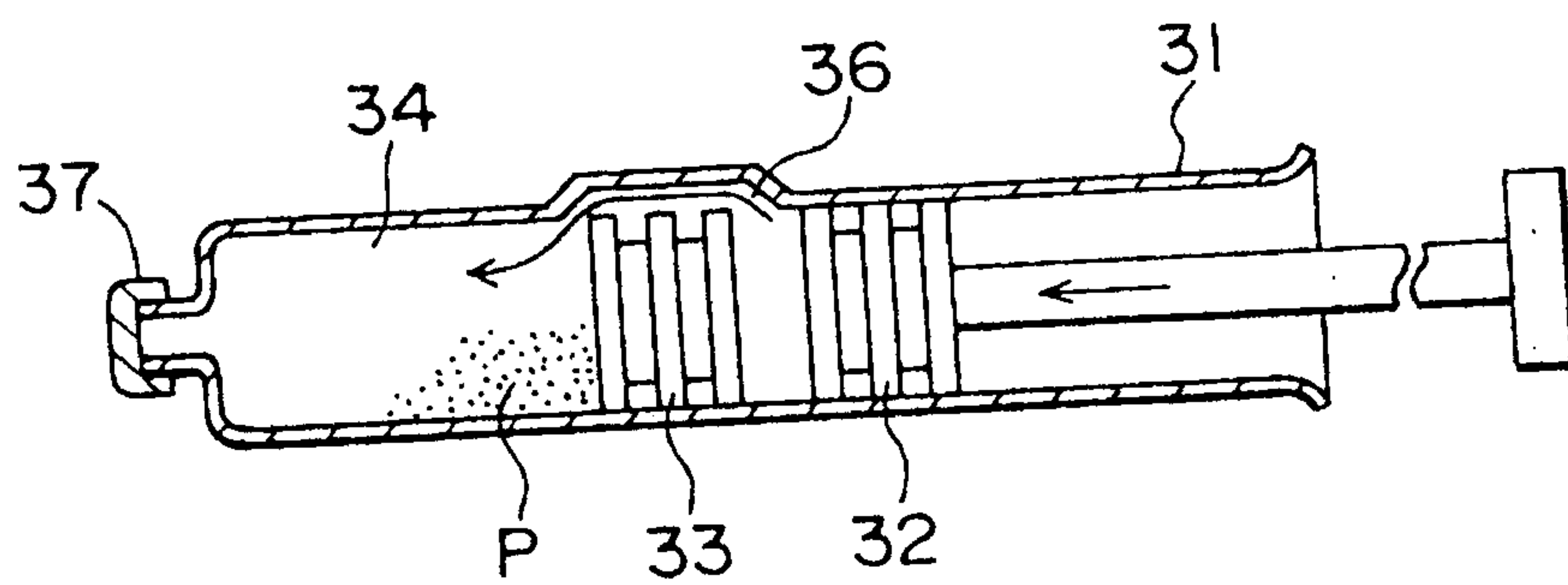


Fig. 12

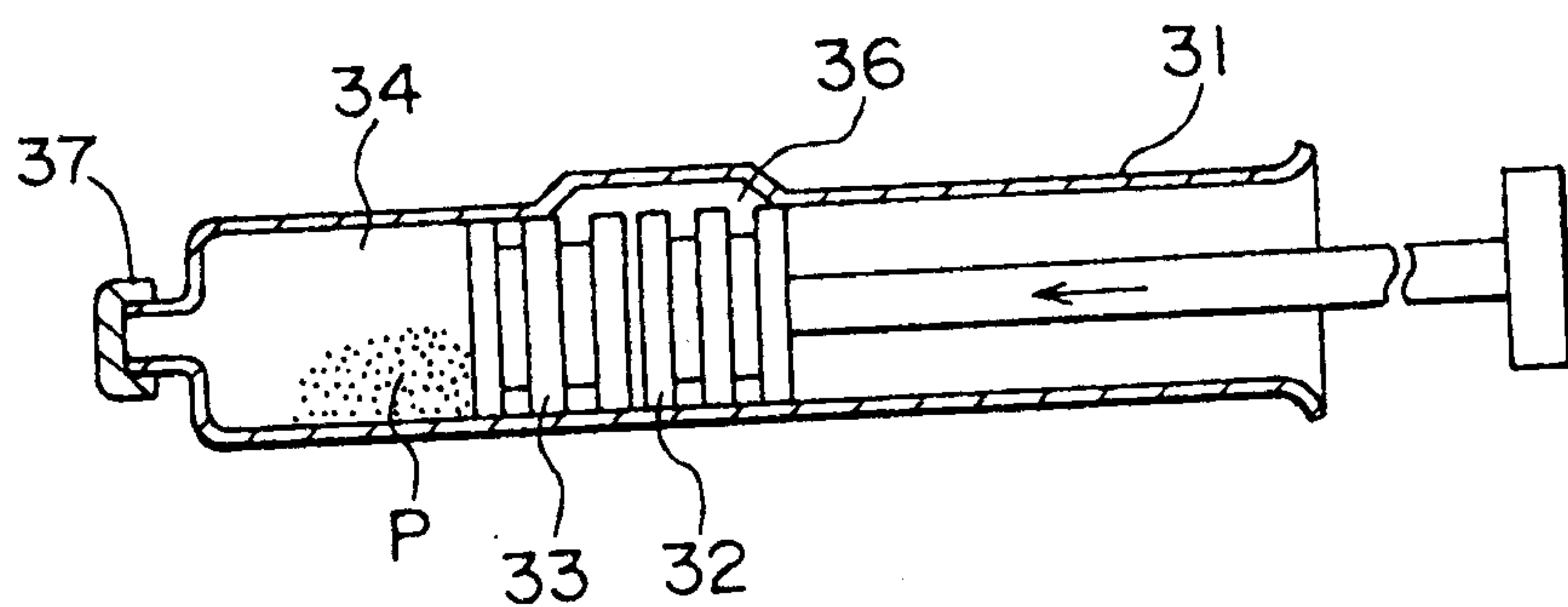


Fig. 13

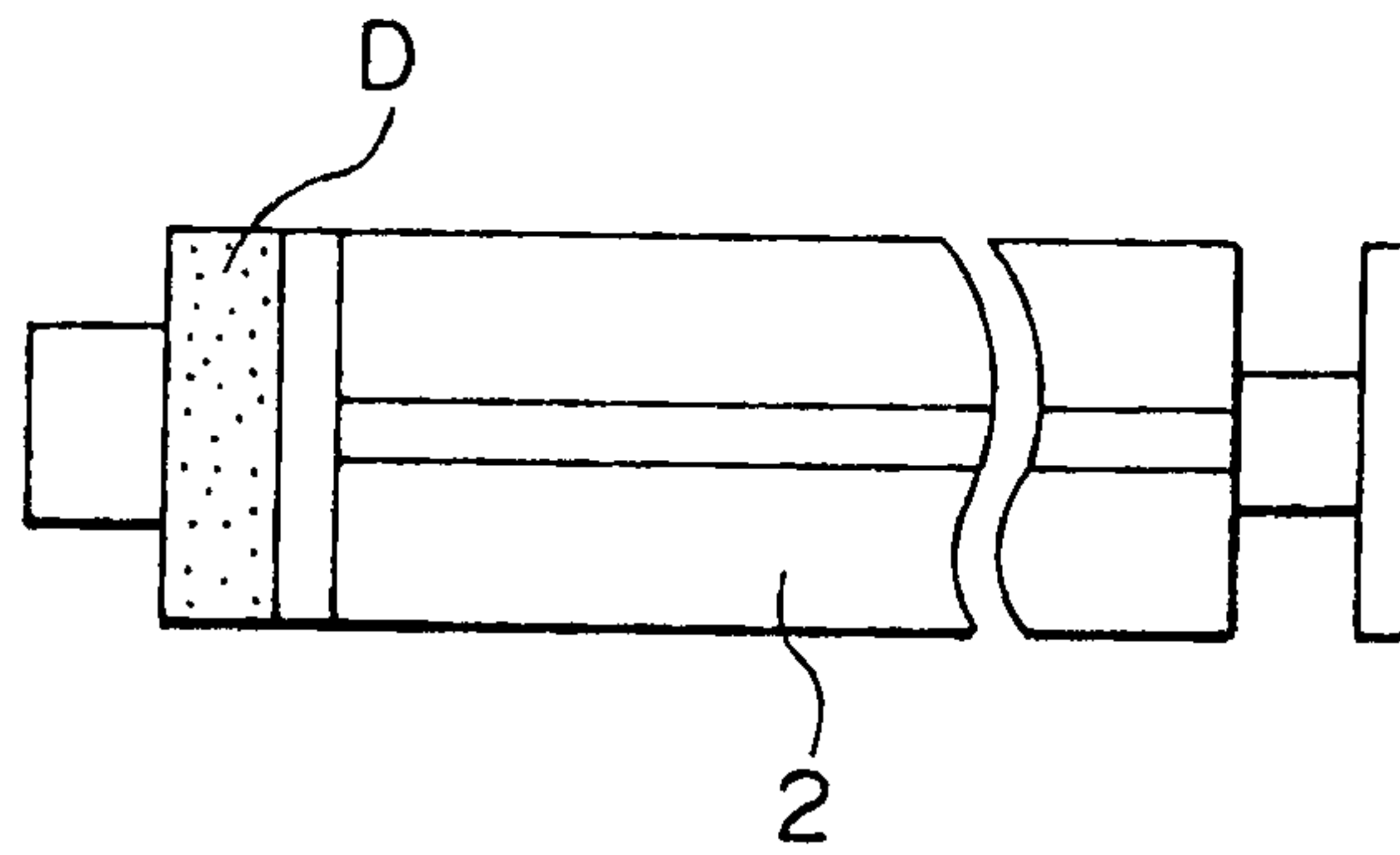


Fig. 14

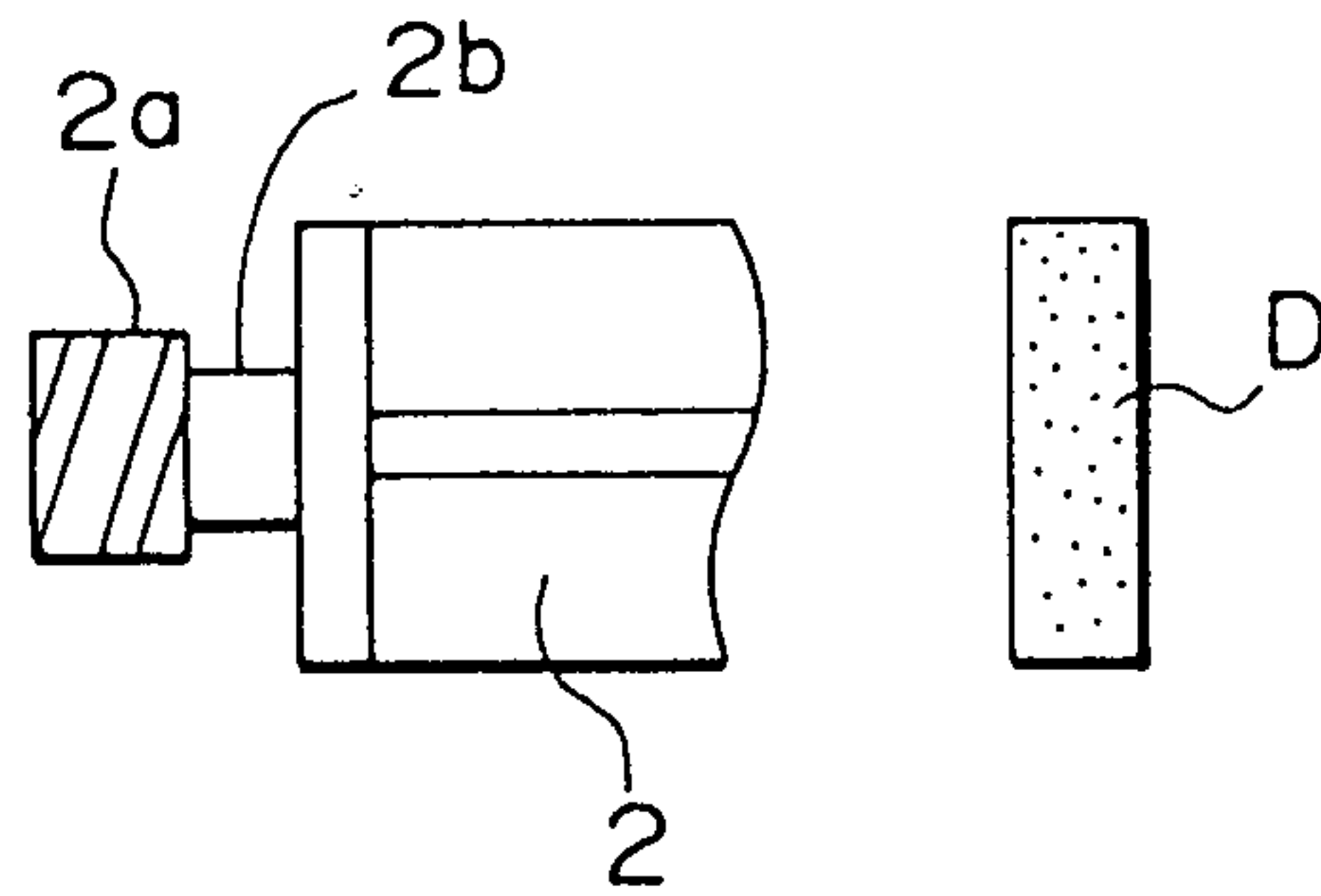


Fig. 15

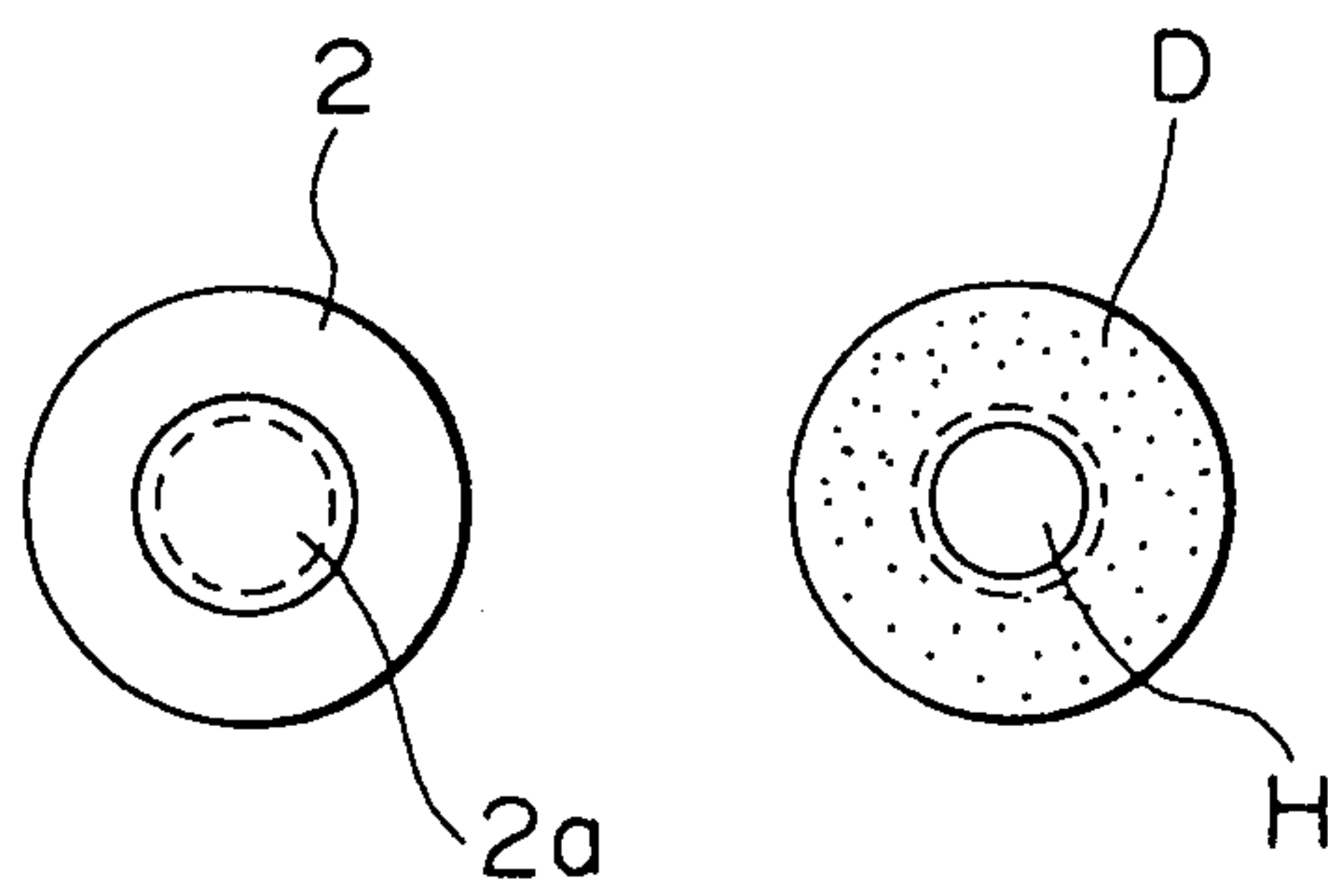


Fig. 16

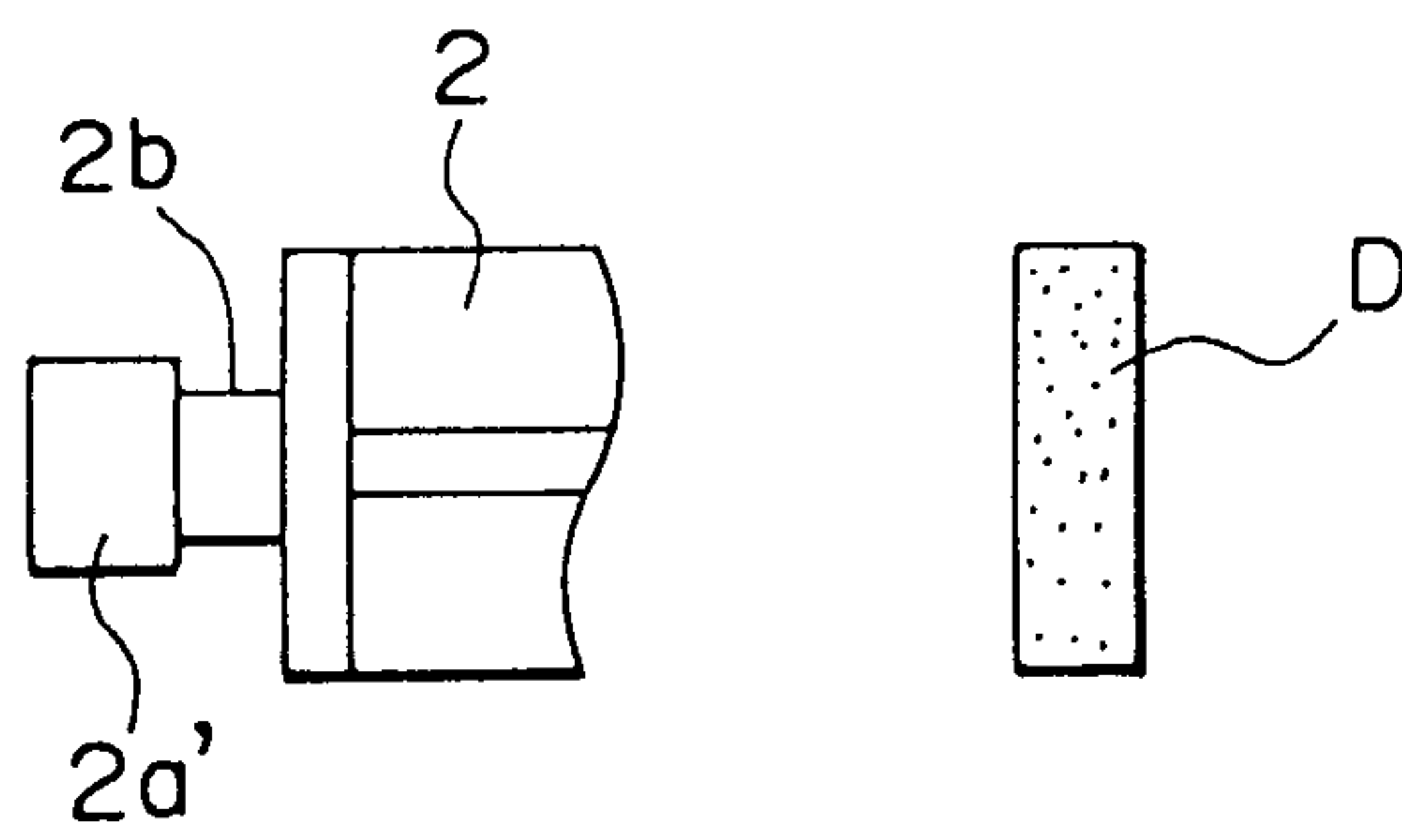


Fig.17

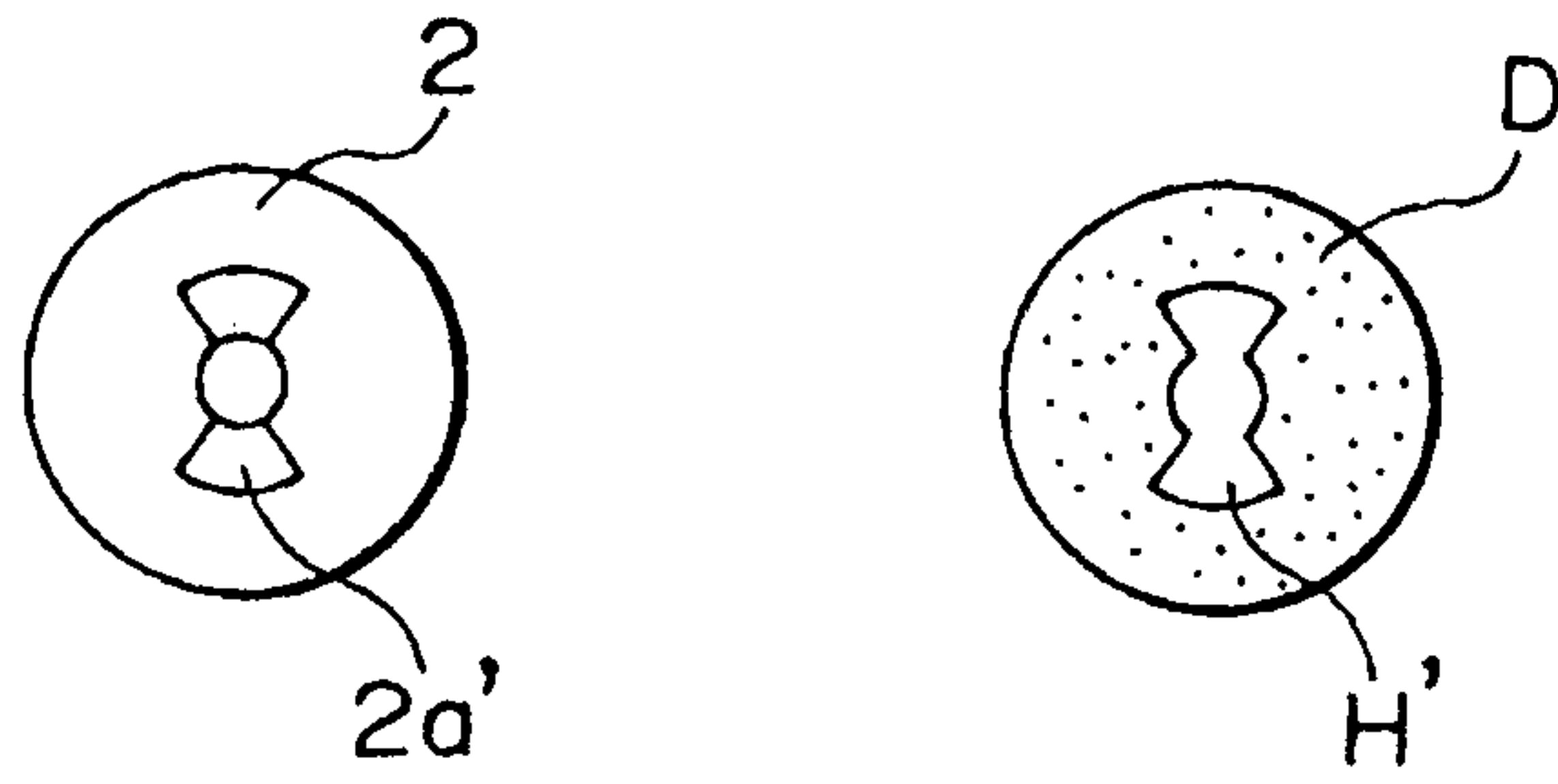


Fig.18

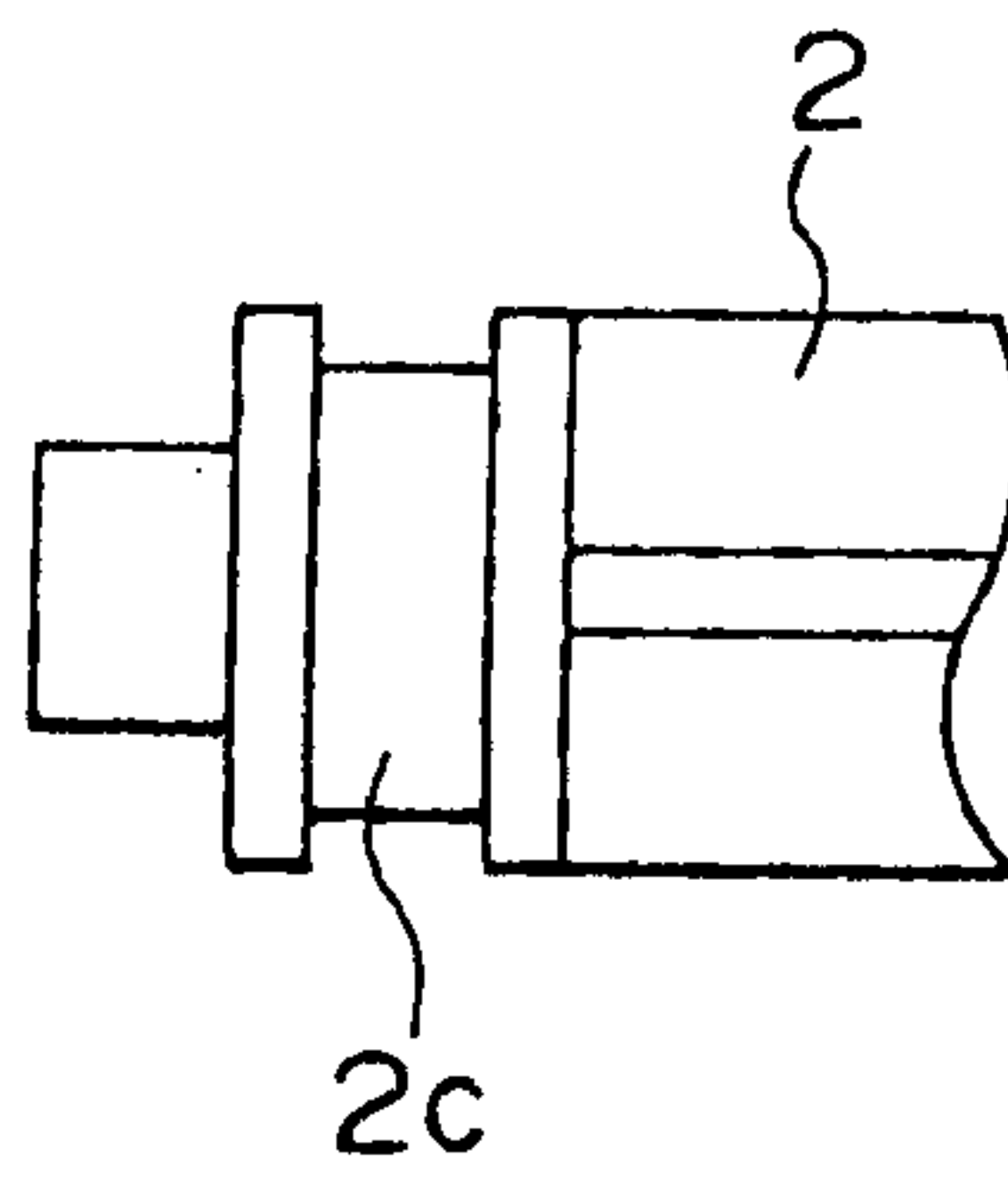


Fig.19

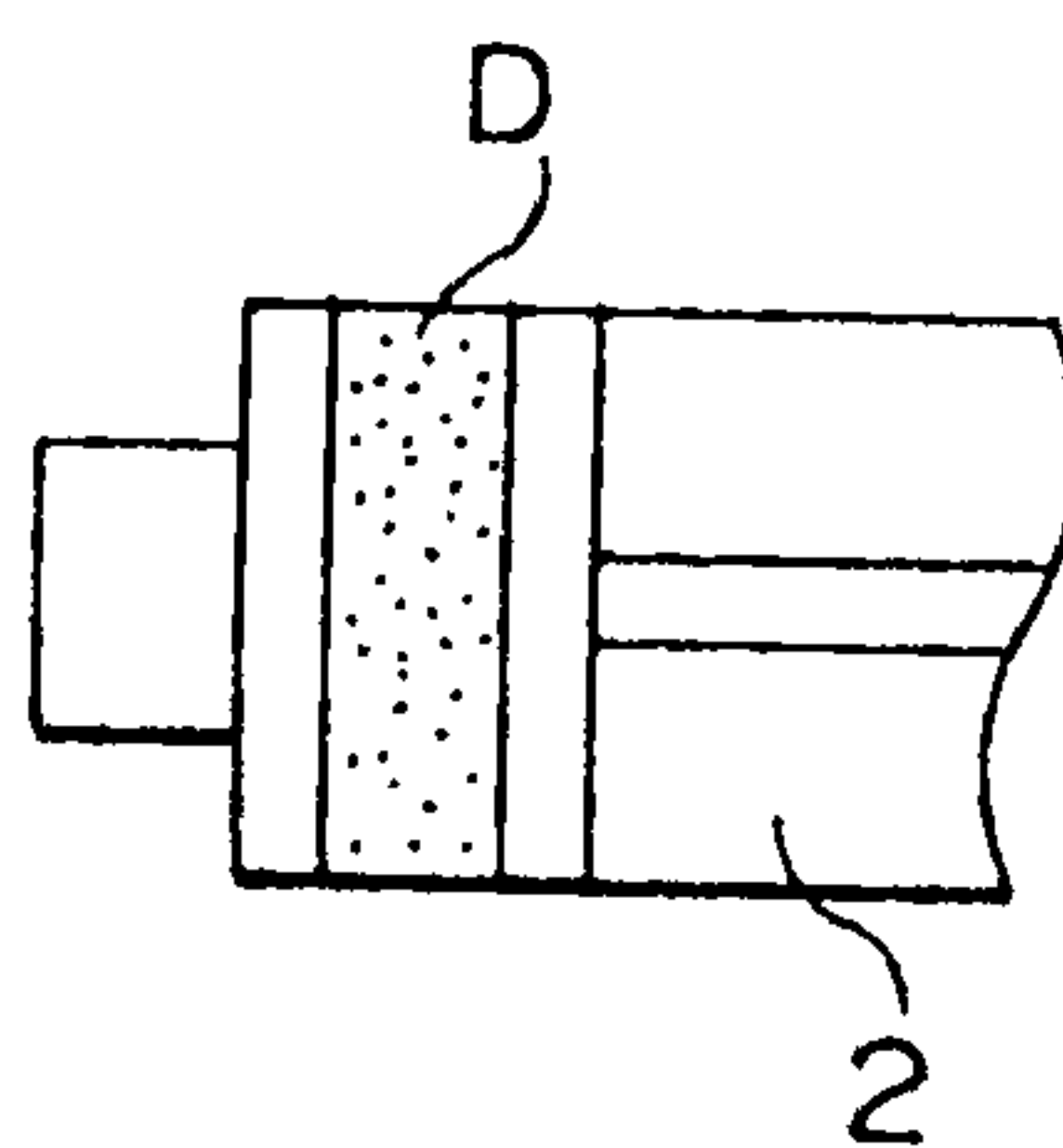


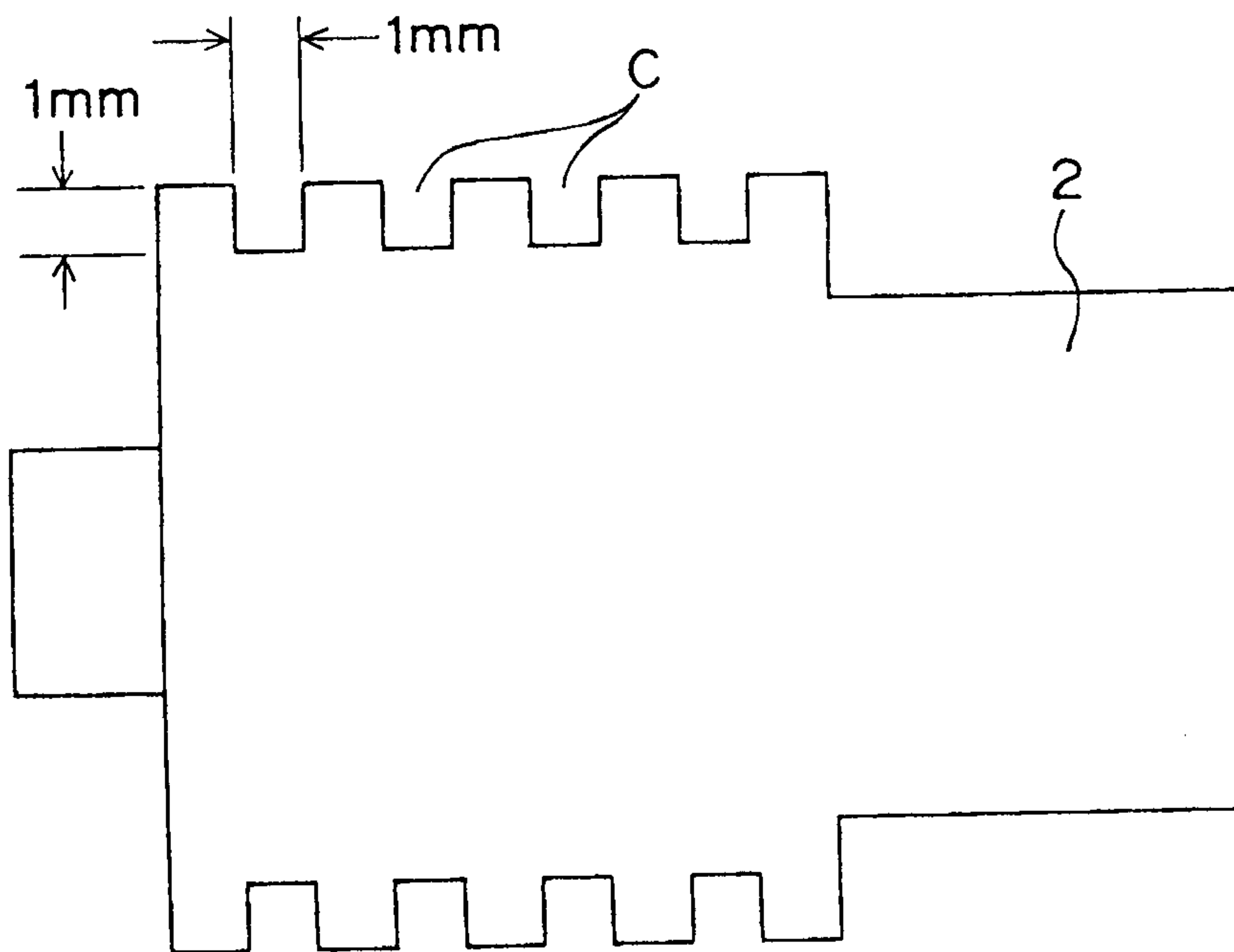
Fig. 20

Fig. 21

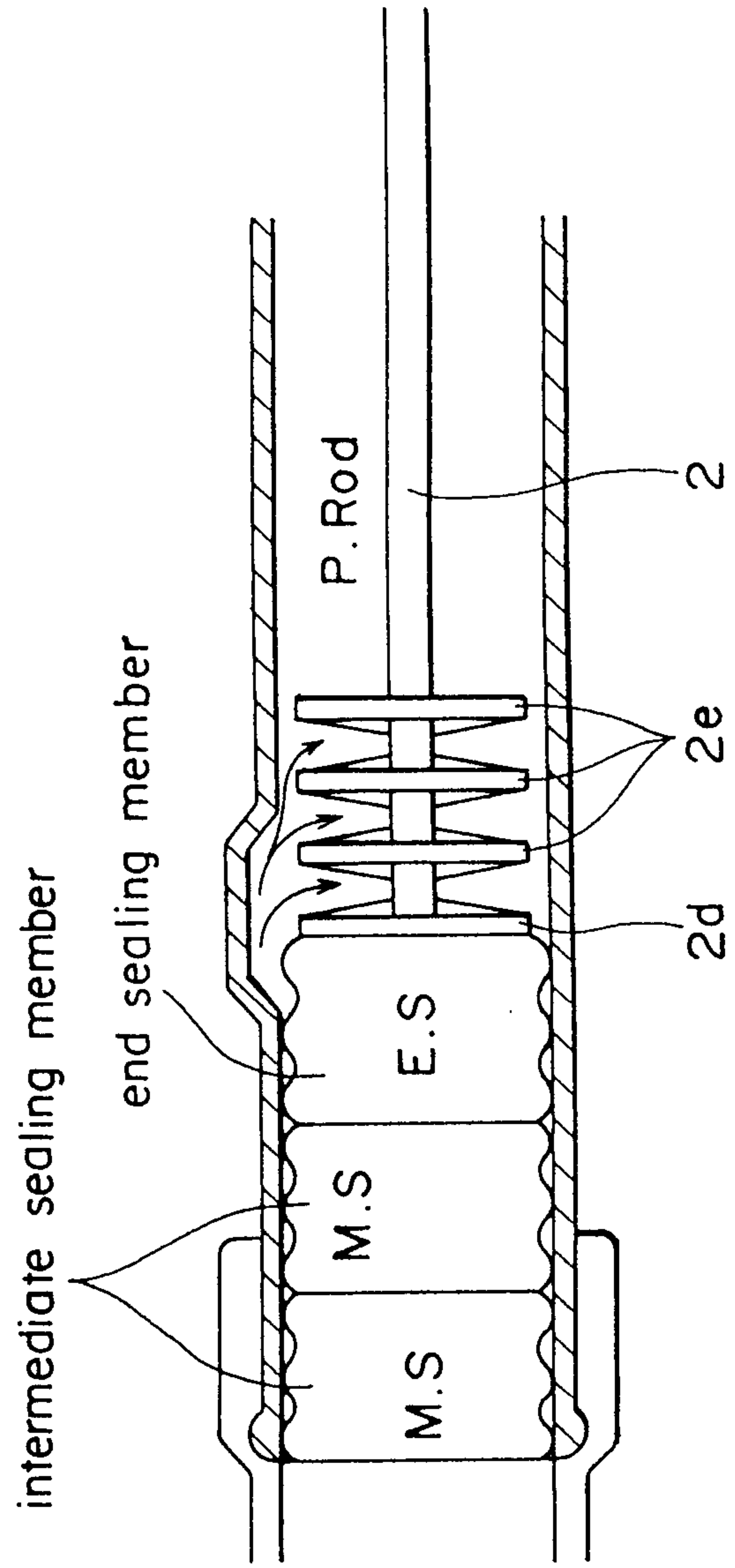


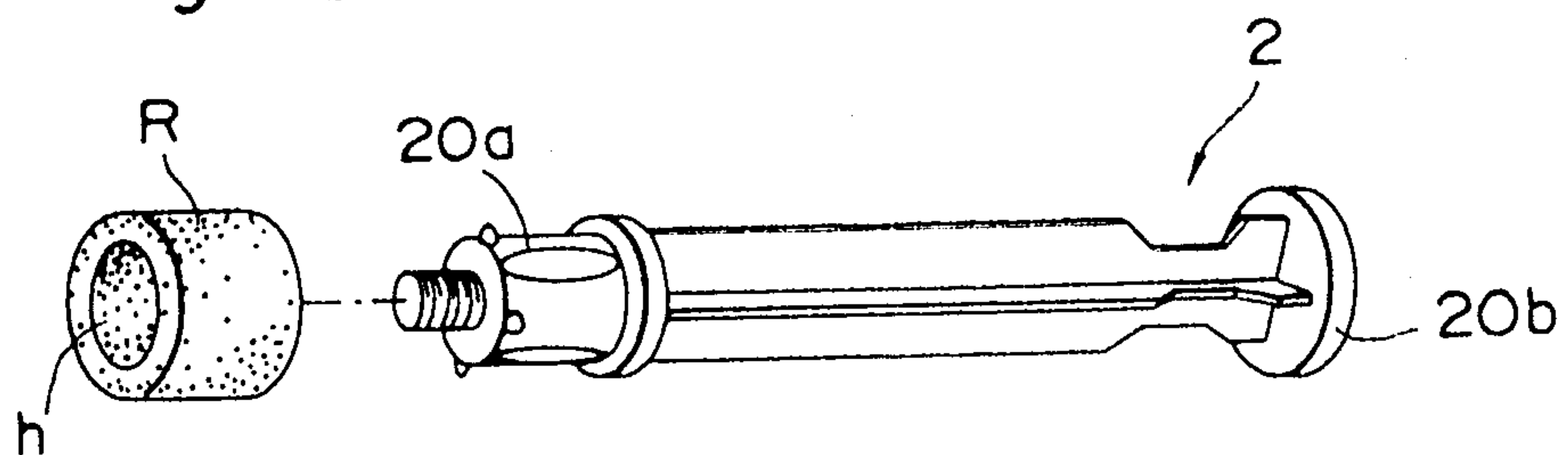
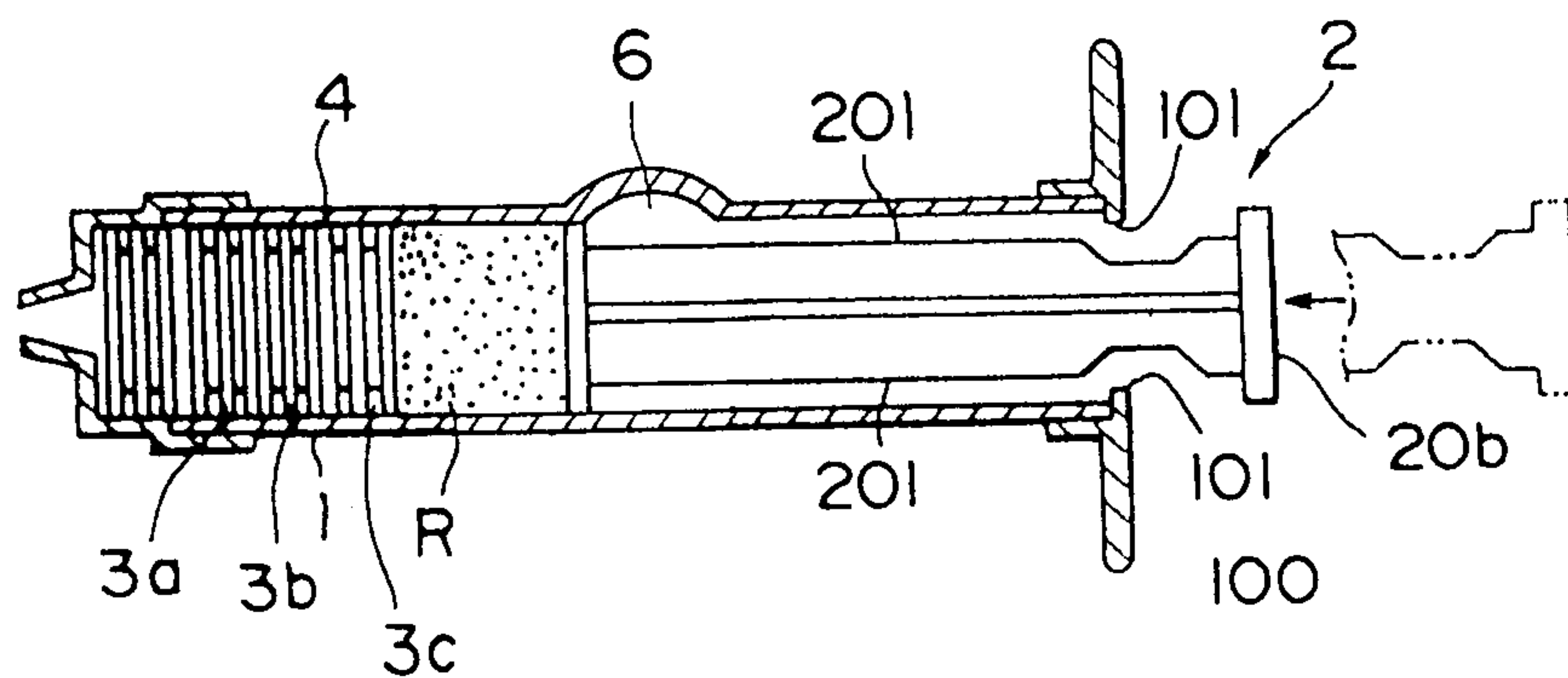
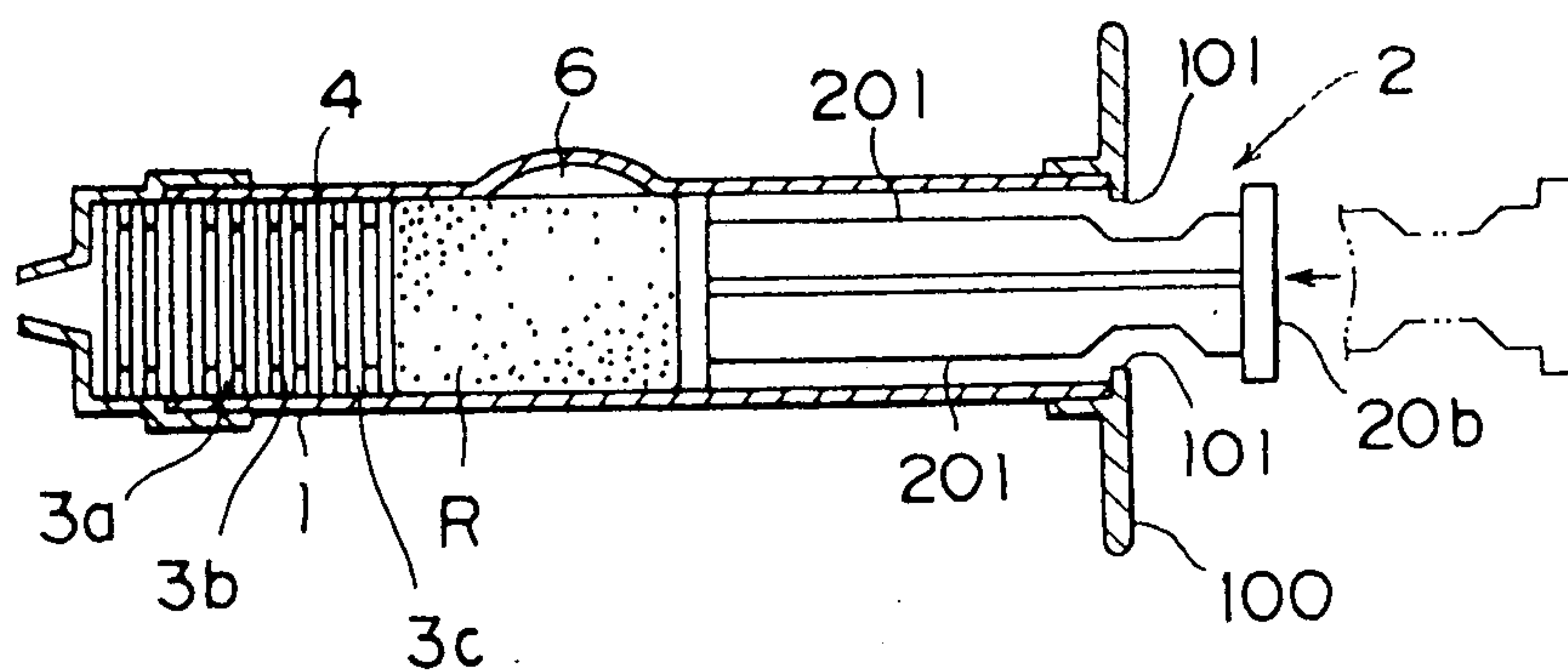
Fig. 22*Fig. 23**Fig. 24*

Fig. 25

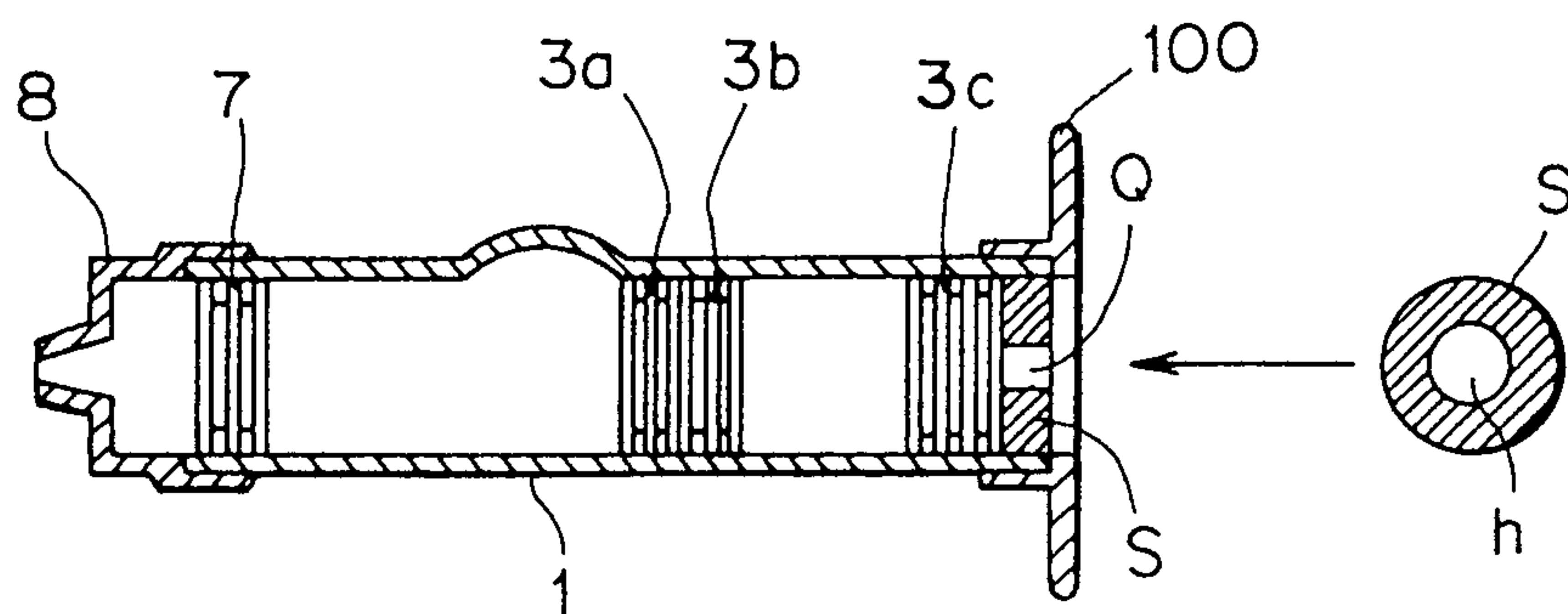


Fig. 26

