Sept. 3, 1963 J. J. McCARTHY 3,102,273

SITZ BATH

Filed Sept. 25, 1962 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

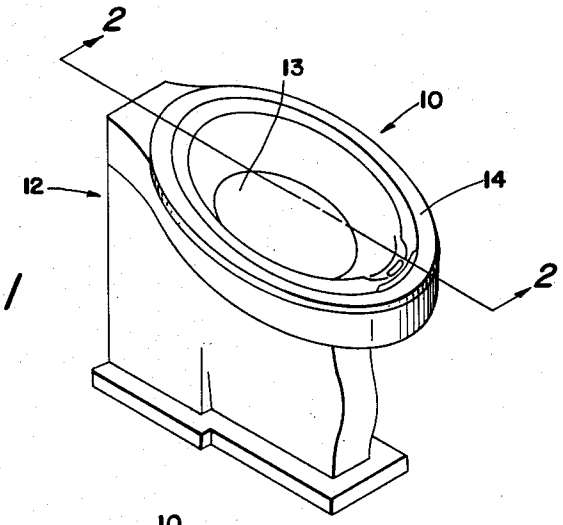


Fig. 1

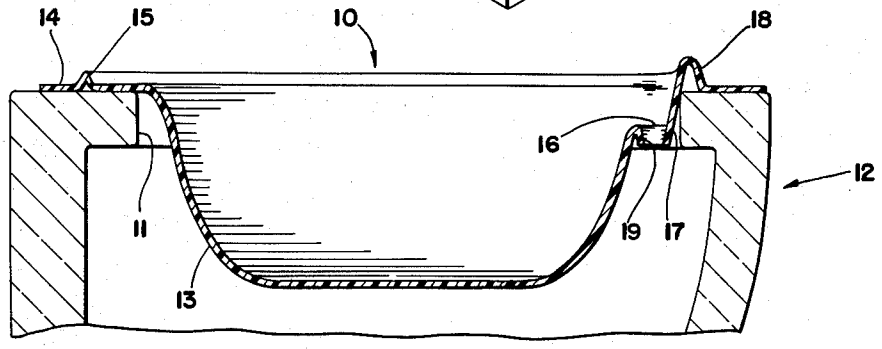


Fig. 2

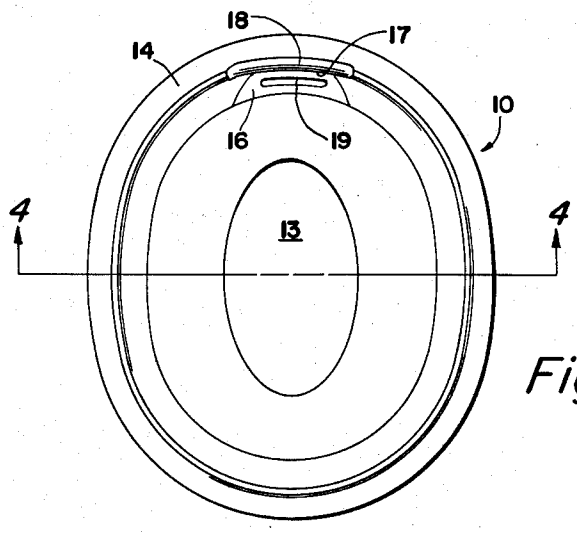


Fig. 3

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SITZ BATH

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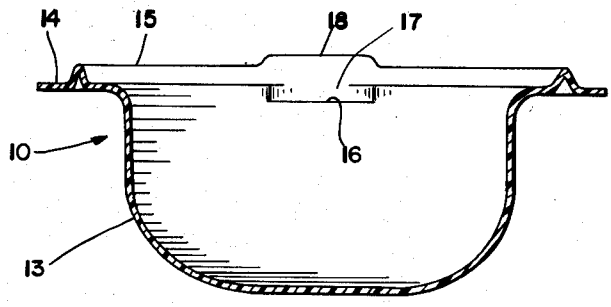


Fig. 4

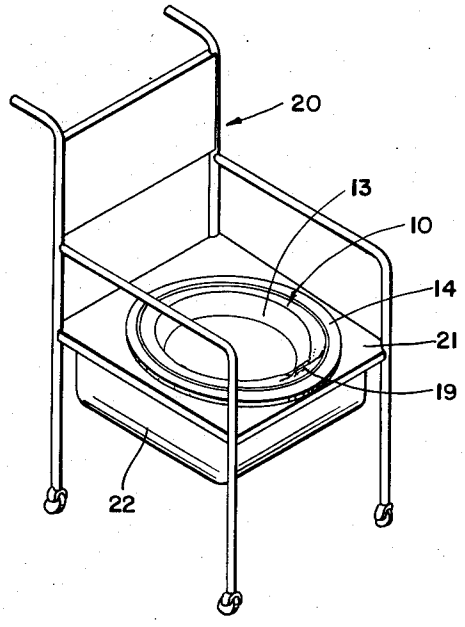


Fig. 5

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SITZ BATH

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2 Claims. (Cl. 4—6)

This invention relates to an improved therapeutic device and more particularly to an improved sitz bath for either post-operative or non-surgical perineal lavages.

After perineal or rectal surgery the physician usually prescribes bathing of the operation site in warm water for lengthy periods several times a day. This treatment is begun in the hospital and, after the patient is discharged, the patient continues the treatment at home. The home treatment is usually accomplished by fully disrobing and sitting in three inches of water in a bath tub.

The sitz bath equipment provided for use in the hospital usually comprises a chair having a pan or basin seat portion into which warm water is poured. The chair may be mobile and the pan or basin may be removed from the chair for cleaning and sterilization. Since these hospital units are expensive, a few units must serve and be used on all patients requiring a sitz bath treatment on that floor. This requires much time for cleaning and sterilizing the units which greatly increases hospital overhead. The hospital units are usually brought to the patients at times which are convenient for the nurses, since the nurse must from time to time add more warm water during the lavage period. The water is added by hose attachments which are connected directly to hot water faucets.

The patients dislike waiting until the nurse has time to clean, sterilize, and wheel in the sitz bath units. Furthermore, even though the unit has been sterilized, the patients dislike bathing their operation site in a unit previously used by another patient. Ambulatory hemorrhoidectomy and colporrhaphy patients, as a rule, prefer to administer their own sitz bath at times convenient for them and without the constant surveillance and supervision of a nurse. Of course, the self-administration of a sitz bath treatment is permitted only after a first treatment is given by a nurse with careful instructions to the patient.

Aside from these relatively minor inconveniences endured by the patients and hospital personnel and the expense involved in the sterilization and cleaning of the units, some danger is involved in the re-use of sitz bath units by different patients. Despite the time and effort expended in cleaning and sterilizing, a possibility exists that there may be cross infections between patients. Ideally a sitz bath unit should be used for a single patient and discarded, but such practice would be prohibitively expensive in view of the equipment presently in use.

It is a general object of this invention to provide a portable and disposable sitz bath that overcomes many of the above problems.

It is a more particular object of this invention to provide an inexpensive sitz bath which may be distributed to each patient after perineal surgery for his own personal use during his stay in the hospital and which may be taken home by the patient for further use.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a portable sitz bath in the form of a basin which may be removably installed on the flanged portion of a conventional toilet or a converted commode for use by the bedside and which has an overflow opening that prevents spillage onto the floor and which cannot be blocked or obstructed by portions of the patient's body.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent when the following detailed description is considered in conjunction with the following drawings.

In the drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a sitz bath device according to the present invention mounted on the flange of a conventional toilet bowl;

FIGURE 2 is a sectional view of the device, the plane of the section being indicated by the line 2—2 in FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is a plan view of the sitz bath device;

FIGURE 4 is a sectional view of the device, the plane of the section being indicated by the line 4—4 in FIGURE 3; and

FIGURE 5 is a perspective view of a sitz bath device according to this invention mounted on a mobile commode chair.

Referring now to the drawings in detail, and particularly to FIGURES 1 and 2, a sitz bath device **10** is shown mounted for use on a rim portion **11** of a conventional toilet bowl **12**. The sitz bath device **10** comprises an oval basin **13** having a top flange **14** which extends over the rim **11**. The upper surface of the top flange **14** is provided with a rounded protuberance **15** which provides rigidity to the flange **14** and which serves to retain any water that may be inadvertently splashed over the edge of the basin and onto the flange **14**.

A horizontal ledge **16** is provided at the front portion of the bowl and the plane of the ledge **16** is below the plane of the flange **14**. A front wall **17** extends upwardly from the ledge **16** and beyond the protuberance **15** to form an elevated bar **18**. The horizontal ledge **16** is provided with an arcuate overflow slot or opening **19**.

The front wall **17** abuts the rim **11** of the toilet bowl **12** to insure that water which overflows through the slot **19** will not spill onto the floor. The recessed position of the slot **19** further insures that the slot will not become blocked by the rim **11** and/or portions of the patient's body. Furthermore, the provision of the bar **18** over the slot **19** also prevents the patient's body from blocking the slot **19** by making it uncomfortable for the patient to keep his thighs together.

The basin **13** may be filled with water of the desired temperature by a suitable hose (not shown). The patient may continually admit water to the basin in this manner or merely from time to time to maintain the proper temperature. Since the basin **13** is light in weight and contains only a few pints of water, the patient may easily lift the basin and pour its contents directly into the toilet bowl after completion of the treatment.

The foregoing description has been directed to the use of the sitz bath device **10** in conjunction with a conventional toilet bowl. While this arrangement is satisfactory for home use by the patient, it may not be practical in the hospital since it would render many of the toilet bowls unavailable for their intended purpose. Thus, as is shown in FIGURE 5, the sitz bath device **10** may be placed in the seat opening of a standard commode chair **20**. The basin **13** nests in this opening and the top flange **14** rests on the deck portion **21** of the chair **20**. A standard catch basin or pan **22** provided on the chair **20** serves to receive the overflow from the slot **19**. This arrangement enables the patient to conduct his sitz bath treatment at his bedside without occupying the hospital toilet facilities for lengthy periods.

Obviously, many modifications and variations of the specific form of the invention shown and described herein are possible in the light of the above teachings. It is to be understood, therefore, that within the scope of

the appended claims, the invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically shown and described.

What is claimed is.

1. A sitz bath comprising a basin, an outwardly extending top flange on said basin, an outwardly extending ledge portion formed in the side wall of said basin below said flange, the wall of said basin extending upwardly from the outer edge of said ledge portion to form a bar above said flange and above said ledge portion, and an overflow opening in said ledge portion.

2. A sitz bath according to claim 1 including an upwardly extending protuberance on said flange.

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