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R. W. JOHNSON  
PACKAGING SURGICAL COTTON

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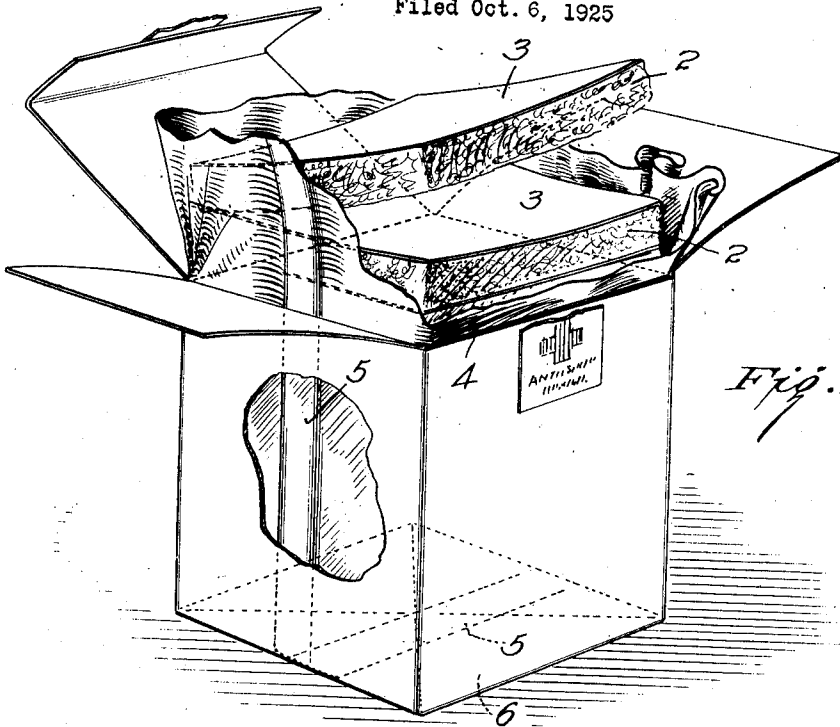


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

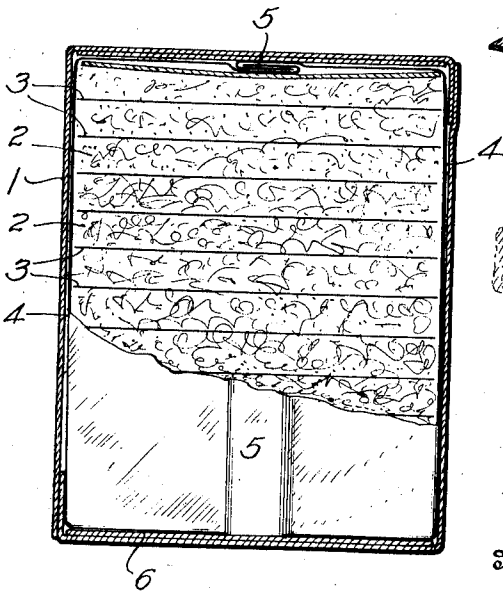
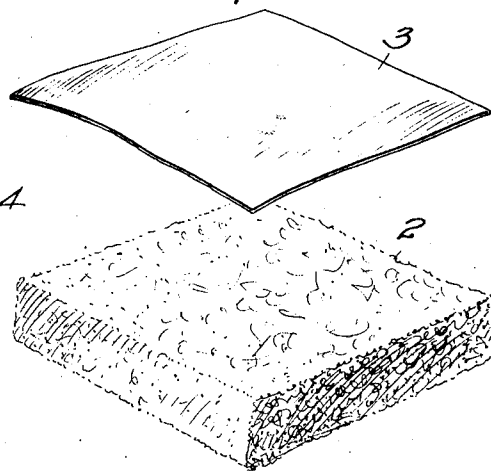


Fig. 3.



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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## PACKAGING SURGICAL COTTON.

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So called surgical or absorbent cotton is usually supplied in rolled or folded strip form. A vast amount is used in households; and in emergency the consumer tears or cuts a portion from the strip or roll so that regardless of the aseptic efficiency of the unbroken package there is grave danger of infection due to handling and other contaminating influences. Aside from this the nature of the package and the practice referred to obviously make for waste.

The object of my invention is to obviate the hazard of infection and to package the cotton so that there will be no waste.

My inventive thought when reduced to practice is embodied in separate cotton elements or units each of appropriate shape and size for immediate use in wound dressing, the units being superimposed and maintained out of direct contact one with the other by separators which constitute trays whereby the units may be removed from the package and applied to the wound without danger of infection; the assembled units being secured in a compressed state in a sealed wrapper of such nature as to admit of complete sterilization, and finally sealed within an external wrapper or carton.

The improved package is illustrated in its preferred form in the accompanying drawings, wherein

Figure 1 is a perspective view with both seals broken and the upper unit in the act of being lifted; the outer seal or carton being broken away to disclose the inner seal;

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view; and

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a unit and separator in detached relation.

The improved package comprises an outer seal or carton 1, preferably of heavy paper or cardboard, the construction being of the usual open-end body, with closing and sealing flaps at each end.

The cotton, cut in uniform block or other appropriate shape, is arranged in superimposed sections, each unit 2 being entirely separate from other units and being maintained in this relation in the original package by interposed separators 3 of appropriate material, as paper. The elements 3 may be slightly larger than the surface area of the cotton units and preferably are at least

equal in area. The elements 3 perform the dual function of separators and trays.

The assemblage of cotton units and separators or trays is compressed and sealed in a wrapper 4, having a longitudinal joint 5 and end seals 6. The wrapper 4 holds the mass in the desired state of compression and also admits of ready sterilization.

When required for use, the carton is opened, one end of the wrapper is unfolded, and the cotton units freed of compression immediately expand, one or more of them being projected beyond the edge of the open carton. In this position, the outer unit may readily be displaced by and through the medium of its complementary tray 3. This follows as a natural result of the slight adhesion between the cotton unit and the tray, the connection being sufficient for all necessary handling of the cotton. Thus in manipulating the unit contact of the person with the cotton is avoided and there is no danger of contamination from this source.

The package forms a convenient first-aid accessory and is particularly useful in the home or when traveling where sterilization is ordinarily difficult through lack of proper apparatus. Its use insures that the cotton, when applied with ordinary care and by means of the trays, will be in its original sterilized condition.

What is claimed as new, is:—

A sterile package of surgical or absorbent cotton, consisting of a stack of separate units of fibrous or absorbent cotton whereof each is of appropriate shape and size for immediate use in wound dressing, sterile partitions for separating and maintaining the independence of said units and of light friction material whereby the respective partition is pinchable with the associated unit to provide for sterile handling of a particular unit without the hazard of disturbing, unpacking and infecting the remaining units, each unit being condensed and the several units being collectively compacted in a sterile wrapper which admits of the individual service stated, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

ROBERT W. JOHNSON.