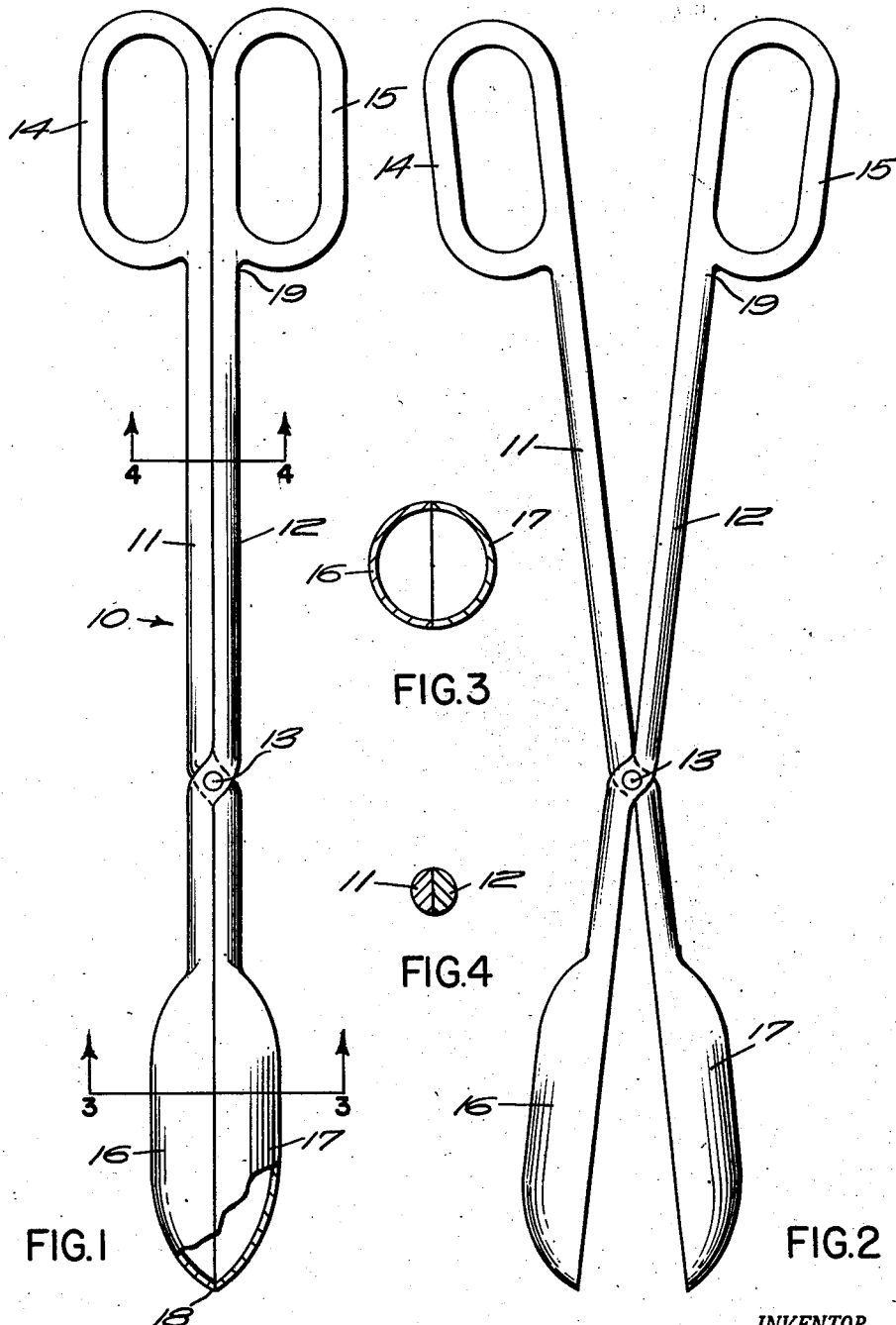


July 7, 1953

J. A. BENOIT
SURGICAL INSTRUMENT
Filed Aug. 5, 1950

2,644,455



INVENTOR.
Jeanne A. Benoit
BY
Max Schwartz
ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,644,455

SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

Jeanne A. Benoit, Anthony, R. I.

Application August 5, 1950, Serial No. 177,941

1 Claim. (Cl. 128—321)

1

My present invention relates to surgical instruments, and more particularly to a rectal evacuator.

The principal object of the present invention is to provide a surgical instrument for removing rectal fecal impactions.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an instrument for removing rectal fecal impactions without the necessity of using additional dilators.

A further object of the present invention is to provide an instrument that will permit the removal of rectal fecal impactions without pain or trauma to rectal tissue.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a simple surgical instrument for removing rectal fecal impactions which can readily be used by a nurse without danger of injury to the patient.

With the above and other objects and advantageous features in view, my invention consists of a novel arrangement of parts, more fully disclosed in the detailed description following, in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, and more particularly defined in the appended claim.

In the drawings,

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a surgical instrument embodying my invention.

Fig. 2 is a view similar to Fig. 1, with the instrument in open position.

Fig. 3 is a section taken on line 3—3 on Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a section taken on line 4—4 on Fig. 1.

Rectal fecal impactions often occur in elderly people and present a problem for the attending nurse and physician. The usual treatment is to soften the impaction by the use of oils, then to give an enema. In a large number of cases, this will not work and it will be necessary to use a rubber glove and remove digitally. Such procedures are extremely painful and often result in bleeding and other injuries to the tissues. Furthermore, in such cases the doctor must be summoned, whereas the condition is such that the attending nurse should be able to take care of the patient.

The present invention provides for a surgical instrument which will permit the removal of such impactions without pain or injury to the patient, and, if necessary, without softening the impacted matter.

Referring to the drawings illustrating my invention, the instrument 10 comprises a scissor-like arrangement in which the two handle portions 11 and 12 are hinged as at 13. The upper

2

end of the portions 11 and 12 are provided with integral loop portions 14 and 15. The lower end of the portions 11 and 12 are provided with elongated integral spoon shaped portions 16 and 17 tapering towards the lower tip 18. The curvatures of the portions 16 and 17 are such that they form an annular cross section, as shown in Fig. 3. The handle portions 11 and 12 and the loop portions 14 and 15 are semi-circular so that when positioned together they form an annular cross section, as shown in Fig. 4. It is preferred that the pivoting portion 13 be positioned midway between the lower tip end 18 and the point 19 adjacent the lower end of the loops 14 and 15. Since different individuals have different physical characteristics, it is preferred that the instrument be made in three different sizes—small, medium and large. For purposes of illustration, the proportion of parts for the large size would measure as follows: ten inches from the upper to the lower end, two and one-half inches for the length of the spoon shaped end, one inch for the diameter of the spoon shaped cross section shown in Fig. 3, three-eighths inch for the diameter of the handle cross section shown in Fig. 4 and approximately two inches for the length of the loop portions 14 and 15.

After a diagnosis of fecal impaction, the instrument is well lubricated with a suitable conventional lubricator and is carefully inserted up to the fecal mass. The loop portions 14 and 15 are then gently separated, the operator watching the portion 19, to measure the separation at the other end. The rounded sides of the portions 16 and 17 act as a dilator. After the separation, the instrument is then pushed up high enough to grasp the impacted mass. The mass can then be removed, either a cylinder full at a time or by helping the patient, through gentle traction, to move the mass down and out. It may be necessary, in addition to the use of the instrument, to soften the mass first, depending upon the condition of the patient.

The above described instrument can readily be used by the nurse in charge without the need of calling the attending physician. It eliminates the need for a dilator and operates without causing pain or trauma.

While I have described a specific embodiment of my invention, it is obvious that changes may be made in the size or shape of the parts without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the appended claim.

I claim:

A surgical instrument comprising a pair of

elongated members pivotally connected intermediate their ends, said members forming an annular cross-section in closed position, loop handle portions at one end of each member, the other end of each member comprising an elongated spoon-shaped portion, said spoon-shaped portions having an annular cross-section in closed position, said pivotal connection being located midway between the lower end of said loop handle portions and the tip end of said spoon-shaped portions.

JEANNE A. BENOIT.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
525,300	Whisson -----	Aug. 28, 1894
818,465	Price -----	Apr. 24, 1906
864,558	Richter -----	Aug. 27, 1907
1,722,893	Burnier -----	July 30, 1929
1,761,503	Tonhardt -----	June 3, 1930
2,561,374	Igoe -----	July 24, 1951