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L. C. YOUNG

NURSING NIPPLE

Filed Nov. 7, 1924

FIG. 1.

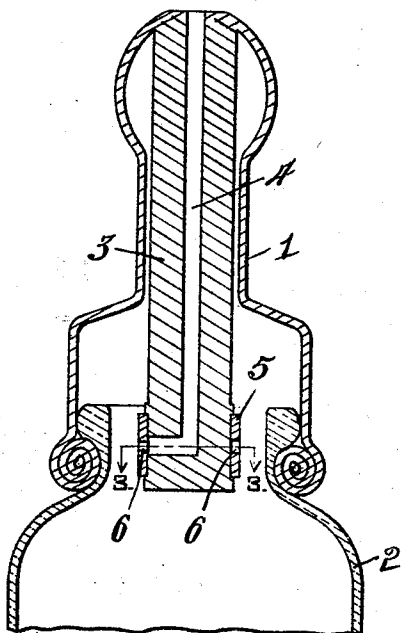
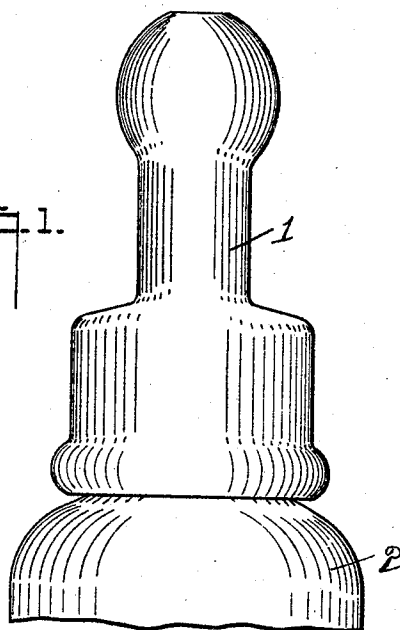


FIG. 2.

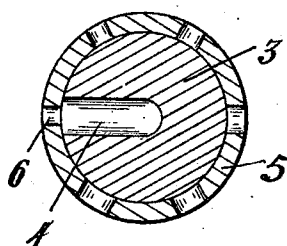


FIG. 3.

Inventor

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LLEWELLYN C. YOUNG, OF TOLEDO, OHIO.

## NURSING NIPPLE.

Application filed November 7, 1924. Serial No. 748,301.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, LLEWELLYN C. YOUNG, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Toledo, in the county of Lucas and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Nursing Nipple, which invention is fully set forth in the following specification.

This invention relates to nursing nipples, and has for one of its objects the provision of a nipple which will permit biting without stopping the flow of milk or other liquid therethrough, and for another object the provision of means for regulating the quantity of such flow whereby the infant may be fed fast or slow, as conditions may require.

The invention is fully described in the following specification, and while in its broader aspect it is capable of embodiment in numerous forms, a preferred embodiment thereof is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which,—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a nipple embodying the invention attached to a bottle, with the latter fragmentarily shown. Fig. 2 is a central longitudinal section thereof, and Fig. 3 is an enlarged section on the line 3—3 in Fig. 2.

Referring to the drawings, 1 designates a nursing nipple of the usual or any suitable form, and 2 a bottle to the neck of which the nipple is adapted to be attached. These nipples are of soft, pliable material, usually rubber, and may, therefore, be pressed together by biting of the infant when nursing so that a closing of the passage through the nipple occurs. This closing action is objectionable as it interrupts the feeding which should be substantially constant and of uniform character.

To prevent this collapsing or closing action, the nipple is provided interiorly with a tube-like part 3 of hard or stiff material, such for instance as vulcanized rubber, which will resist compressing. This tube is preferably fixedly connected at its outlet end to the interior wall of the nipple at its outlet end, and the tube passage 4 is continuous through the nipple end so that all the liquid passing through the nipple goes through the tube.

In the use of nursing nipples the discharge orifice through the end of the nipple gradually enlarges in use and results in a too rapid feeding of the infant. This condition requires a frequent replacing of the

nipples with new ones having small holes. With these nipples the flow is not maintained uniform but gradually increases with the size of the orifice. In order to overcome this objection and to enable the quantity of flow through the feed passage 4 to be regulated, according to the requirements of the particular case, the inlet end of the passage 4 is extended through the side of the tube, and a valve sleeve 5 encircles such end portion of the tube and is provided with a series of successively arranged orifices 6 of varying sizes which may be selectively placed in register with the adjacent end of the tube passage 4 by a turning of the sleeve on the tube. The largest of the valve orifices 6 is of substantially the same size as the passage 4, and the other orifices are gradually reduced in size. The valve sleeve 5 may be of rubber or any other suitable material adapting it to fit closely around the tube.

I wish it understood that my invention is not limited to any specific construction, arrangement or form of the parts, as it is capable of numerous modifications and changes without departing from the spirit of the claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A nursing nipple of yielding material having a feed tube of stiff material extending therethrough with the inlet end of the tube passage opening laterally from the tube, and a sleeve valve rotatably mounted on the tube and having a plurality of orifices of different sizes selectively movable into register with the inlet end of the tube passage by a turning of the sleeve.

2. A nursing nipple having an outer shell of yielding material with a discharge orifice in its outer end, a relatively stiff feed tube projecting through the nipple and adhesively connected thereto, said tube having a passage communicating with said discharge opening and a laterally disposed inlet opening, a sleeve valve having a plurality of different sized orifices selectively to register with said inlet opening, said valve being rotatably mounted on said tube thereby to regulate the liquid flow therethrough by manually adjusting said valve.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name to this specification.

LLEWELLYN C. YOUNG.