

H. C. MILLIGAN.
BED PAN.
APPLICATION FILED DEC. 30, 1916.

1,237,673.

Patented Aug. 21, 1917.

FIG. 1.

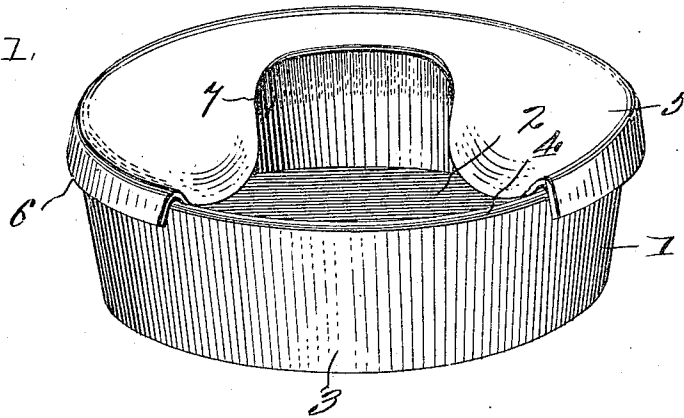


FIG. 2.

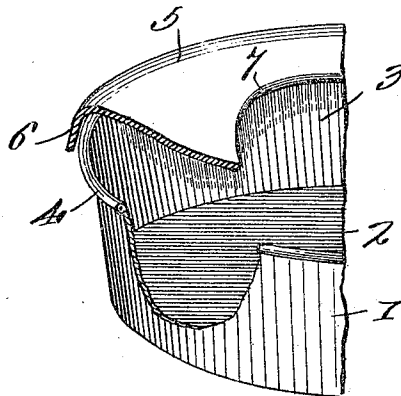
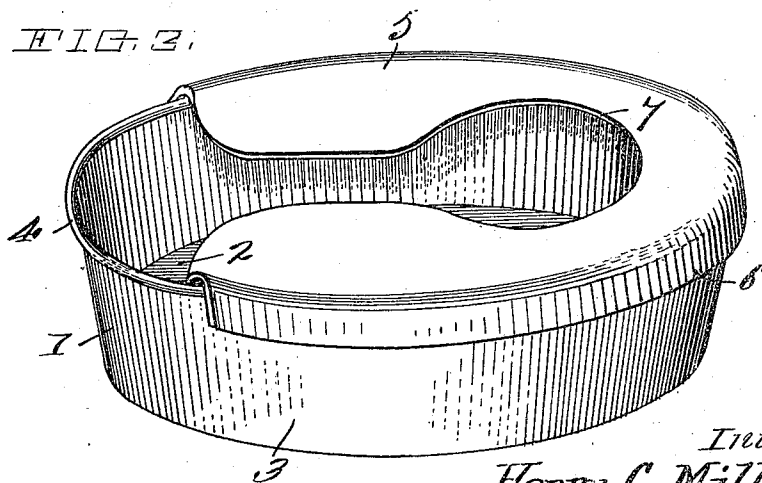


FIG. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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BED-PAN.

1,237,673.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY C. MILLIGAN, a citizen of the United States, resident of Canton, county of Stark, and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Bed-Pans, of which the following is a specification, the principle of the invention being herein explained and the best mode in which I have contemplated applying that principle, so as to distinguish it from other inventions.

My invention relates to bed-pans, its object being to provide a bed-pan which may be economically manufactured, which will be efficient in the performance of its function, and which will meet with sanitary requirements.

It has heretofore been customary to make bed-pans of a single or unitary structure, that is, in which the bottom, sides and top were made from a unitary piece of china-ware or from enameled metal parts built up or secured to each other so as to form connected irremovable or non-detachable parts, a suitable seat opening having been provided in such top, smaller in area than the horizontal sectional area of the receptacle. In every such case interior spaces were formed, difficult of access, hard to clean, and hence apt to become unsanitary. The most common form of pan was furthermore wedge-shaped, thereby forming wedge-shaped interior spaces of small vertical dimension, thus still further accentuating the inaccessibility of all parts of its interior and in consequence increasing liability of the occurrence of unsanitary conditions.

My said invention consists of means hereinafter fully described and particularly set forth in the claim.

The annexed drawing and the following description set forth in detail certain means embodying my invention, the disclosed means, however, constituting but one of various mechanical forms in which the principle of the invention may be applied.

In said annexed drawing:—

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of a bed-pan embodying my invention.

Fig. 2 represents a perspective of a fragmentary portion thereof and partly in section.

Fig. 3 represents a bed pan of slightly modified form and embodying my invention.

The illustrated embodiment of my invention comprises a main or body portion 1

which consists of a bottom 2 and sides 3. This main or body-portion forms a receptacle proper and I make it preferably of cylindrical form, with the open top surrounded by a suitable bead 4. This shape of receptacle may be readily stamped or otherwise formed, as will be readily understood by those skilled in the art.

The open top of this receptacle is provided with a cover 5, circular in general form as shown and provided with an outer or peripheral downwardly extending flange 6 which is adapted to overhang the peripheral upper part or bead of the main or body-portion, as shown in Fig. 2. This circumferential flange 6 closely fits the body portion 1 and is made of rigid material as distinguished from air and water cushions heretofore utilized with some forms of bed pans and cases into which pans have been inserted and strapped up firmly. The middle portion of the cover is cut out to form a seat opening 7 which extends to the edge of the cover, that is, intersects the cover's periphery and hence interrupts the continuity of the flange 6, as shown in Fig. 1. I make the central portion of this opening preferably circular, as shown, and the outer part thereof having its sides diverging outwardly. The entire periphery of this opening is made rounded so as to present no sharp edges, as will be readily understood.

The interruption of the peripheral portion, that is the outer end of opening 7, is of a length less than the diameter of the receptacle so that when the cover is in place the flange 6 prevents its dislocation in a horizontal direction, or in a direction parallel with the bottom of the pan. The said distance which is less than the diameter of the receptacle is that distance, measured in a straight line, between the two ends of the break created in the flange by the open-ended seat opening 7. At the same time the cover may be readily removed and all surfaces thereof are hence readily accessible for cleaning and may therefore easily be maintained in a perfectly sanitary condition. The main or body-portion of the receptacle proper has its interior therefore also readily accessible and may likewise be kept in an absolutely sanitary condition without difficulty.

It will therefore be seen from the above-described construction that a bed-pan of a

very simple construction is obtained and hence may be economically manufactured, and is also devoid of inaccessible spaces.

The general form of the pan may be oval
5 or elliptical as shown in Fig. 3, if desired,
or other obvious modifications of such general form may be adopted without departing from the general principles of my invention. In the form of pan shown in Fig.
10 3, it is evident that the straight line distance between the two ends of the break in the circumferential flange 6 will be less than the length of the minor axis of the ellipse.

By adopting a round form of receptacle,
15 I have departed from the conventional type of wedge-shaped pan and find that such departure in no wise effects any inconvenience or in any way disturbs the efficiency of the device in the performance of its functions.

Having fully described my invention, 20 what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

As a new article of manufacture, a bed pan comprising a main or body portion forming a receptacle and having an open 25 top; and a removable cover formed with a close fitting circumferential flange of rigid material adapted to overhang said body portion and also formed with an open-ended seat opening extending to and through said 30 flange, the distance between the two ends of the break in said flange created by said seat opening being less than the diameter of said body portion.

Signed by me, this 14th day of December, 35 1916.

HENRY C. MILLIGAN.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."