

M. B. CLARKE.
VAGINAL IRRIGATOR.
APPLICATION FILED JUNE 5, 1914.

1,167,979.

Patented Jan. 11, 1916.

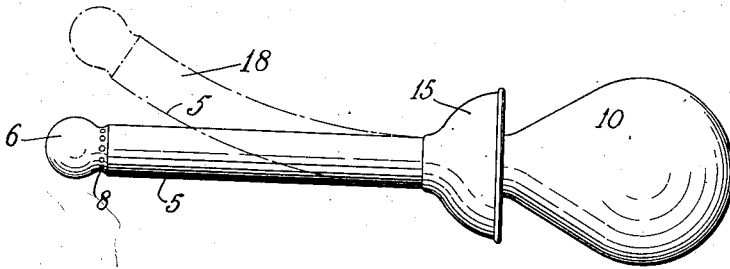


Fig. 1

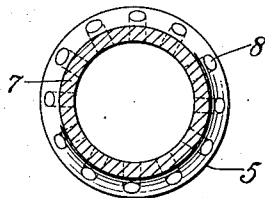


Fig. 3

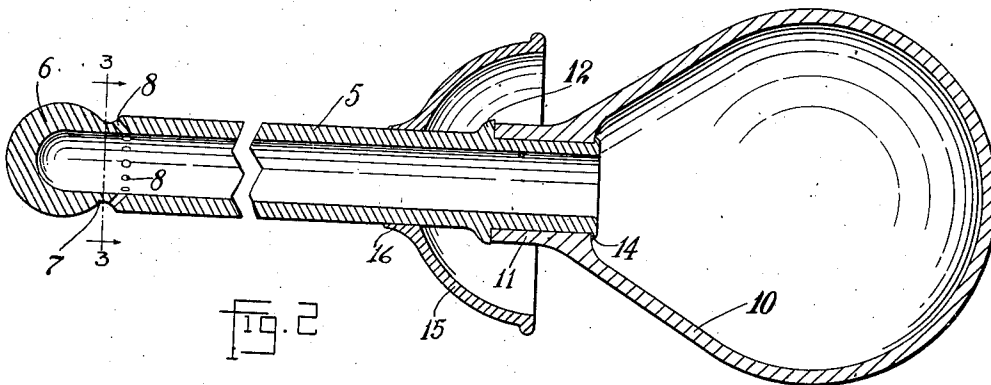


Fig. 2

Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARCELLUS B. CLARKE, OF AKRON, OHIO.

VAGINAL IRRIGATOR.

1,167,979.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 11, 1916.

Application filed June 5, 1914. Serial No. 843,306.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARCELLUS B. CLARKE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Akron, in the county of Summit and State of Ohio, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Vaginal Irrigators, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

10 This invention relates to vaginal irrigators such as are used for cleansing purposes and for treatment of disease.

An object is to provide such an article which shall avoid irritation or unduly straining the tissues of the vagina and adjacent organs. This I accomplish by making the barrel of soft flexible material so that it may readily conform to the contour of the vaginal canal.

20 Another object is to so construct the irrigator that it may be efficient in use and cheap to manufacture.

My invention is hereinafter more fully described in connection with the drawings and the essential characteristics are set forth in the claim.

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my irrigator, showing the barrel in normal position, and in a flexed position in dot and dash lines; Fig. 2 is a longitudinal central section through the same; Fig. 3 is a transverse section taken on the line 3-3 of Fig. 2.

Referring to the drawings: 5 designates the barrel of my irrigator, having a ball or head 6 integral with the end thereof. This ball portion is preferably slightly larger in diameter than the barrel and is connected therewith by a slightly reduced portion forming a neck 7. Through this neck are made orifices 8 leading outwardly at a suitable angle to project liquid forwardly about the ball portion 6. It will be noted that this neck forms a groove in which these openings terminate. This prevents them being closed by the adjacent parts of the body when in use.

A suitable collapsible bulb 10 has a contracted neck 11 fitting over the end of the barrel and abutting an annular flange 12.

A smaller flange or bead 14 engages the inner end of the neck of the bulb, thereby holding the same in position.

At 15 is indicated a bell-shaped shield having a central opening surrounding the barrel and tapering forwardly as at 16 to substantially the same diameter as the outside of the barrel, leaving the joint between smooth, so that it will not irritate the labia or mouth of the vagina. This shield is preferably slidable along the barrel to provide for the used portion of the barrel being of the desired length. This shield acts to prevent liquid running down onto the bulb, and hand of the user, and may also act as a closure for the mouth of the vagina.

The barrel 5 is provided with the usual bore forming a passage for the liquid, communicating with the orifices 8. And the bulb may be filled by immersing the head end of the barrel in the liquid to be used, while the bulb is compressed, then allowing it to expand, drawing the liquid into it by suction. The liquid may be then forced from the bulb and barrel by compressing the bulb in the usual manner.

Irrigators have heretofore been made with a rigid barrel either straight or somewhat curved, and unless such shape happens to conform to the contour of the vaginal passage, an undue strain is put upon the surrounding tissues which is painful and frequently dangerous. I have entirely obviated this difficulty by making the barrel, head and shield of soft flexible material preferably of rubber composition, allowing the barrel to find its own path very readily by bending in any direction. In Fig. 1 the barrel is shown in dot and dash lines, bent upwardly as at 18, to indicate this flexibility.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

In a device of the character described, the combination of a hollow flexible barrel having at its end a ball-shaped head connected with the barrel by a neck which leaves an external annular groove, an annular series of openings extending diagonally through the barrel in a general forward direction

and terminating in said groove, a flexible bell-shaped shield surrounding the barrel and slidably embracing the same, an annular shoulder on the barrel between the shield and the end opposite the head, and a bulb embracing the barrel and abutting said shoulder.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

MARCELLUS B. CLARKE.

Witnesses:

J. A. VAN METER,
G. E. HALL.