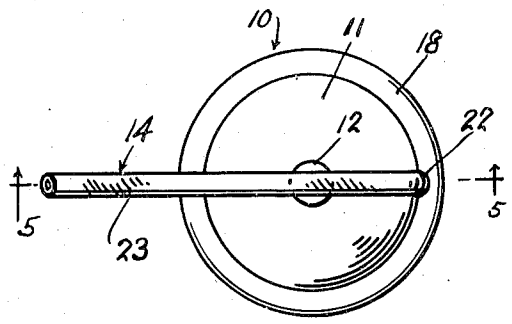
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INVALID DRINKING GLASS AND TUBE

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Fig. 1.



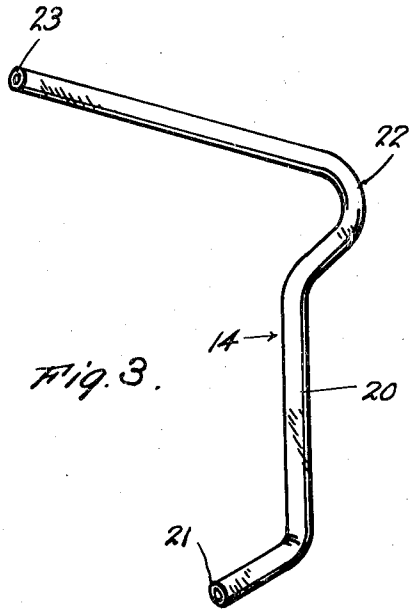


Fig. 3.

Fig. 2.

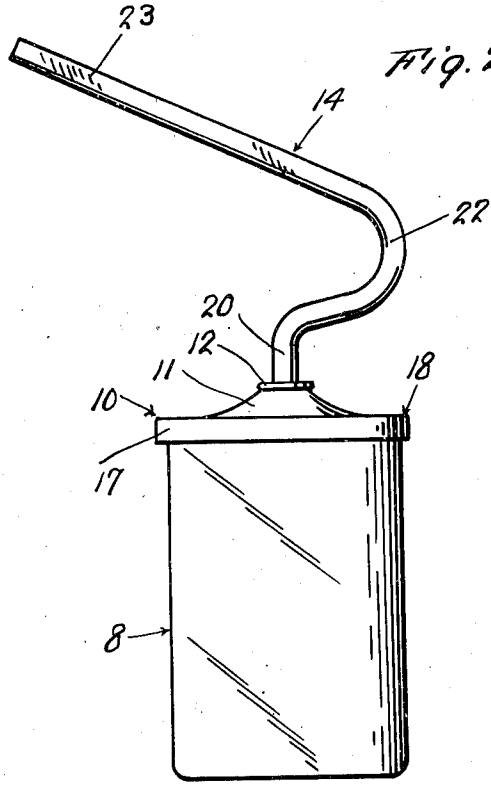
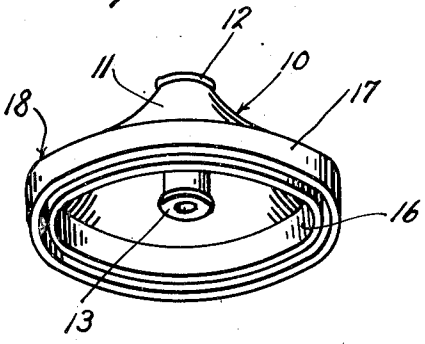


Fig. 4.



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Fig. 5.

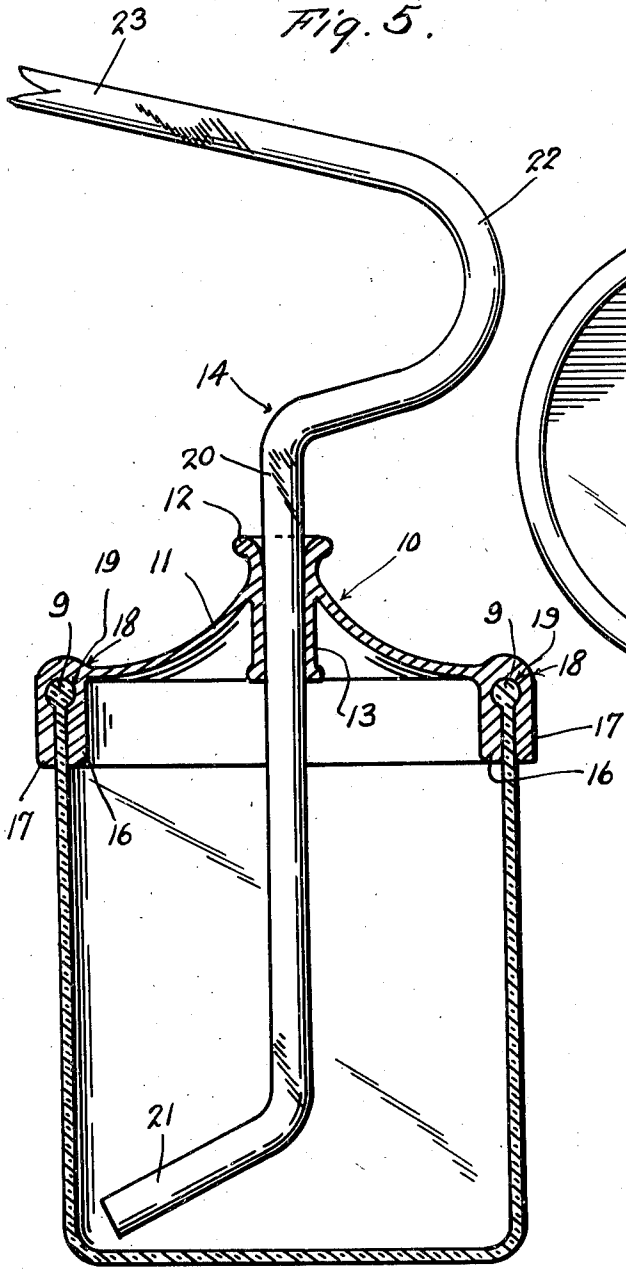


Fig. 6.

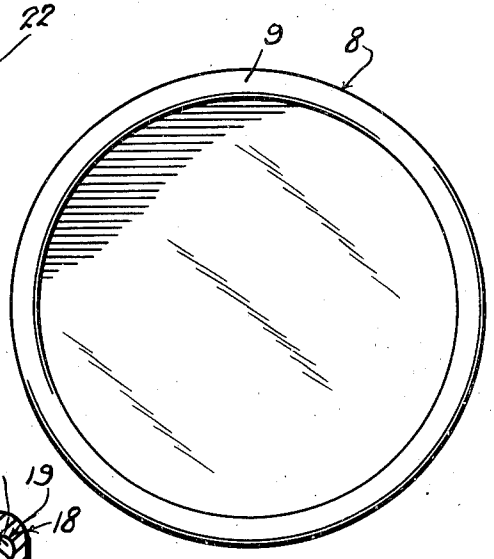
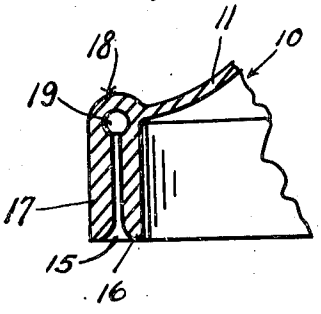


Fig. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,052,496

INVALID DRINKING GLASS AND TUBE

George Stassi, New Orleans, La.

Application August 5, 1935, Serial No. 34,845

1 Claim. (Cl. 65—13)

This invention relates to a novel combination sick-room accessory especially designed for use by invalids and sick persons in the home and in the hospital.

Almost everyone is familiar with the present method of feeding drinking water and administering liquids and medicines to patients while confined to the bed. Likewise, it is a matter of common knowledge that the present day method of using an ordinary drinking glass and a more or less straight glass feeding tube is characterized by antiquity from a standpoint of practicability and crude mode of use. Not only does the glass, when thus uncovered, become laden with dust and impurities, but the fact that the receptacle itself is of breakable material tends to interfere with freedom of use by the patient. Worse than this, however, is the employment of the dangerous and fragile glass feeding tube. Together the glass and tube are certainly not properly serviceable and in keeping with good taste from the standpoint of efficiency and sanitation.

Manifestly, nervous fear of mishaps or unknown contingencies and lack of familiarity with drinking accessories of this old type at times tends to cause an overcautious patient to waive the opportunity to frequently use the standard tube and glass. Then, too, a weak and feeble invalid or sick person, lacking strength and stability, is often restrained from having the freedom of use of his hands and limbs for adequate use of the regulation tube and glass. These and many other factors enter into the picture which reflects the present day difficulties and inconsiderate adoption and use of such precarious articles.

Inspired to overcome these well recognized problems and to provide something which the patient will welcome with enthusiasm, I have perfected a novel assemblage of parts forming a liquid supply appliance which is feasible for satisfactory use whether the patient is lying on his back, side or flat on his stomach, something which is likewise practical for use irrespective of the angle at which the user may be propped up in bed. Briefly, I have found it expedient and practicable to accomplish what I desire by using a glass or equivalent receptacle, providing this with a special cover and associating with the cover an especially designed drinking tube, all of these parts having been carefully selected and coordinated to make for efficiency, dependability, simplicity and economy.

The essential features and advantages of the improved combination will become more readily apparent from the following description and the accompanying illustrative drawings.

In the drawings wherein like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the views:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the assemblage constructed in accordance with the principles of the present inventive conception.

Figure 2 is a side elevational view thereof.

Figure 3 is a perspective showing of the detachable replaceable and cleanable feeding or drinking tube.

Figure 4 is a perspective drawing of the cover or cap for the glass.

Figure 5 is an enlarged detail section taken approximately on the plane of the line 5—5 of Figure 1.

Figure 6 is a top plan view of the mouth of the drinking glass.

Figure 7 is a fragmentary sectional view of the rim portion of the flexible rubber glass cover.

In the novel assemblage which I have developed I use a suitable drinking receptacle such as a glass 8. As shown in Figure 5 and as brought out emphatically in Figure 6 the glass is provided at its mouth portion with an annular bead 9 which is utilized as a retention element for the sanitary flexible rubber (preferably white dental rubber) cover 10. This cover comprises a somewhat conical diaphragm portion 11 having a flared entrance neck 12 and a depending vertically aligned retention sleeve 13 for the glass feeding or drinking tube 14. As shown in Figure 7, the cover includes a marginal rim which rim is centrally divided by a slot 15 to define inner and outer annular skirts 16 and 17 which fit snugly down over the glass. At the juncture of the channelled rim and the flexible diaphragm portion 12 is an upstanding annular rib 18 which serves as a reinforcing member and which is itself formed with an annular bore 19 to accommodate the bead 9. Thus this especially designed rim of the cover fits effectively over the beaded portion of the glass to provide a liquid proof connection. In addition the flared neck 12 facilitates insertion of the glass tube 14 while the sleeve 13 snugly surrounds the tube and serves not only as a guide and retention element but as packing means as well. These features 12 and 13 provide an ideal flexible mounting for the tube 14 so that it is tiltable and turnable and virtually mounted in place by what may be described as a universal joint.

The tube as shown for example in Figure 3 comprises a vertical stem portion 20 having a lateral intake at its lower end as indicated at 21 and

having a suitably shaped bend at 22 leading off into the mouth piece 23. The features 22 and 23 form a sort of goose-neck on the upper end of the delivery tube or stem 20. Manifestly, this tube alone is an ideal improvement in that it conforms more nearly to the purposes and conditions met and aids the patient and lessens the strain of drinking especially for the convalescent patient.

The assemblage, as a unit, may be said to be of a triple part character. For example, drinking glass 8 is ingenious in that it includes the bead 9 to accommodate the special closing cover or cap 10. Secondly, the cap 10 is structurally distinguishable as a refinement in this line of endeavor in that it is characterized by the flexible rubber diaphragm 11 to provide requisite resiliency and self adapting measures. Furthermore, features 12 and 13 serving as the neck and retention guide or as the jointing means between the tube 14 and the cap 10 is believed to be an innovation due to the ability to accommodate proper angling of the drinking tube with relation to the glass 8 whether the glass is tilted or straight. The water proof connection between the rim of the cover 10 and the beaded glass is an appreciable feature of requisite newness. Moreover the glass tube 14 is itself an ingenious adaptation usable alone or in combination with the special glass and cover. Having a special shape with the goose neck portion on the top it lends itself nicely to the needs of the patient.

Novelty is predicated on the combination accessory suitable for use by a patient ill in bed and in a weakened condition not able to drink without the assistance of a nurse from the ordinary glass and tube. With the device described the patient may assume almost any position in bed and pick up the glass with the tube attached in one hand and tilt the glass as desired to drain the full contents without lifting the head from the pillow and without being obsessed with the fear of spilling the liquid. A feature of paramount importance is the sanitary factor derived from the use of a sanitary cap which conceals the liquid and protects it from being subjected to dust and germs and bacteria that may be in the room, especially when the room is occupied by two or more patients such as is the case in many hospital wards. This improved drinking appliance may be used even in darkness. During the night a patient desiring to use the glass and tube need not be afraid of breaking the tube or glass as often happens with the ordinary tubes and therefore the invention invites its own use by nervous folks. The foregoing and many other features of advantage may be accredited through this special development. It is believed unnecessary however, to delve further into the commercial phases of the case.

It is thought that persons skilled in the art to which the invention relates will be able to obtain a clear understanding of the invention after considering the description in connection with the drawings. Therefore, a more lengthy description is regarded as unnecessary.

Minor changes in shape, size and rearrangement of details coming within the field of invention claimed may be resorted to in actual practice, if desired.

I claim:

A cap for drinking glasses formed from elastic material and including a crown portion provided at the center thereof with an integral drinking tube accommodating sleeve extending inwardly from the under side of the crown and an integral resilient mouth for said sleeve extending outwardly from the outer side of said crown and having an internally flared terminal extending outwardly from the crown to facilitate initial introduction of one end of a drinking tube for passage of the tube through the sleeve, as and for the purpose specified.

GEORGE STASSI.