H W Libbey

Bosom Pad

No 75031 Patented March 3 1868

Fig. 1.

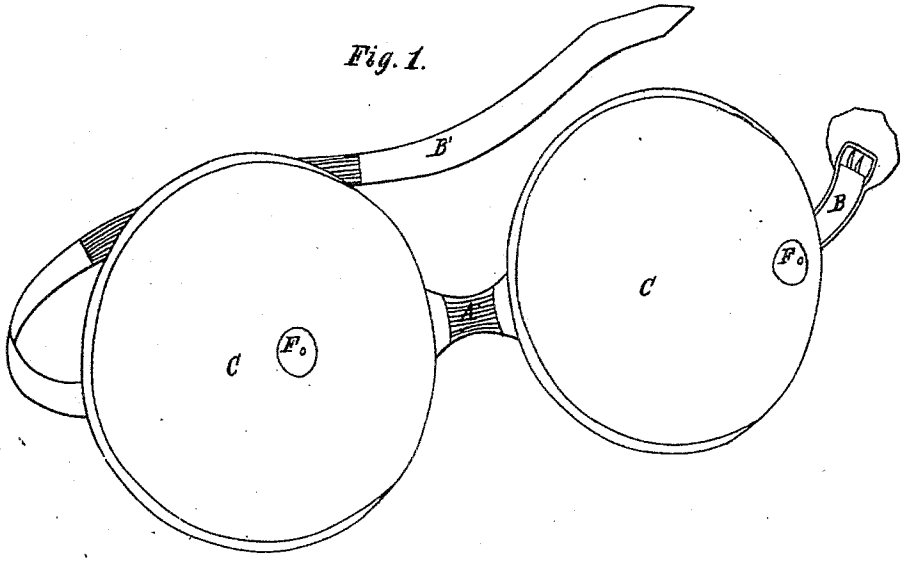


Fig. 3.

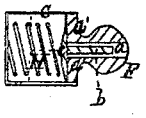


Fig. 2.

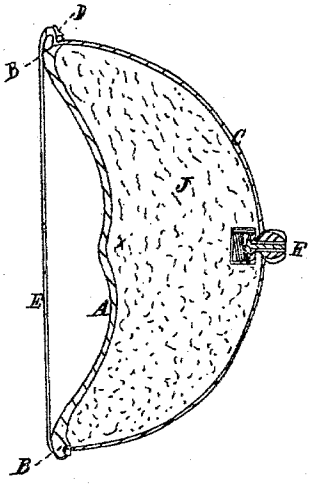


Fig. 4.



WITNESSES.

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H. W. LIBBEY, OF CLEVELAND, OHIO.

Letters Patent No. 75,031, *dated March* 3, 1868.

IMPROVEMENT IN BOSOM-PADS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.:

Be it known that I, H. W. LIBBEY, of Cleveland, in the county of Cuyahoga, and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Breast-Forms for ladies; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and complete description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view,

Figure 2 is a vertical section,

Figure 3 is an enlarged view of the nipple and valve for inflating the form.

Figure 4 shows the manner of securing the outer membranes to the central diaphragm.

A, fig. 2, represents the frame or diaphragm, and it consists of a concave disk, made of thin vulcanized rubber, wood, papier mache, thin metal, or other suitable material. The border or margin is provided with a circular groove or depression, *a*, figs. 2 and 4. B represents a lining membrane, made of silk fabric, which, when the "form" is worn, is in contact with the integument of the breast. At the centre of this membrane is a circular opening, *b*, for the admission of the nipple. C represents an air-tight elastic covering, that is placed upon the outside or convex side of the diaphragm A, and is joined to the outer edge of the disk by first applying an elastic varnish or cement that will make it air-tight. A small cord is then wound tightly around in the grooves, as seen at *a'*, fig. 4. Around under the cord, with the elastic covering, is bound a piece of tape, the edges of which are allowed to project from the rim of the frame. To this tape is secured the membrane or lining B, so that on its becoming worn or soiled, it can be easily replaced by a new one. D represents a mouth-piece, and is provided with a screw-stem, E, for the purpose of inflating the form. To the lower end of this stem is attached a valve, E', the face of which is covered or packed with some elastic material. *a' b* is the valve-seat, and is secured to the elastic covering by a button, *b'*, into which the stem is screwed, and is also packed with some elastic material, as is the valve. The nipple and stem are perforated to the point *x*, and thence at right angles into the chamber between the valve and seat.

In order to inflate the form, the valve is opened, as shown in fig. 3. The nipple is then applied to the mouth, and the necessary amount of air then forced in, and retained by closing the valve, by means of the screw-stem and button referred to, which brings the face of the valve up into its seat, thereby closing over the side perforations in the stem, and this makes the whole secure and air-tight.

F F' represent steel or other metallic springs, which are attached to the outer margin of the disks, the free ends passing to the posterior portion of the chest, and holding the disks in place. G represents an elastic ligament, which holds the two forms together, passing from one to the other in front of the sternum. In using this breast-form, the nipple D is turned so as to open the valve, the form is then inflated by an effort of the lungs, and the valve closed. The form is then placed over the mammary gland, and the springs properly adjusted. The inflation can be more or less, as may be desired, to suit any particular case or fancy.

The advantages of this breast-form over others is as follows: Ladies in whom the glands are not well developed, use, for the purpose of showing such development, padding of various kinds, which presses upon the glands, and by the increase of heat and constant pressure, ultimately produces an irreparable injury, causing the nipple to retract, and giving rise to tumors. With my breast-form neither of these evils can result. The nipple is not retracted, the natural growth of the breast is not retarded, and abundant opportunity is afforded for insensible perspiration by a free admission of air under the form. Another advantage of no small magnitude is, the expansion of the lungs of the wearer by the act of inflation.

What I claim as my improvement, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The diaphragm A, membrane B, and elastic covering C, combined and arranged substantially as specified.
2. The nipple D and valve E, combined and arranged substantially as and for the purpose specified.

H. W. LIBBEY.

Witnesses:

W. H. BURRIDGE,

J. HOLMES.