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SUTURE BOX

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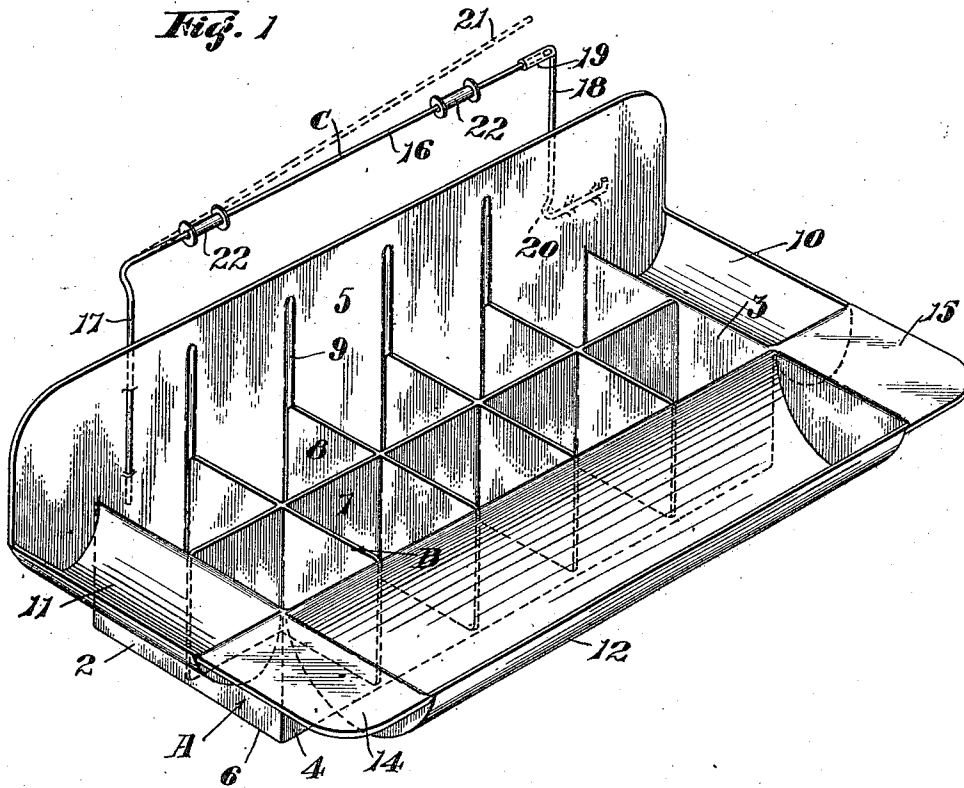
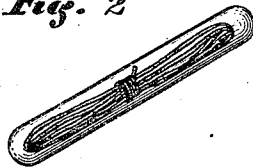


Fig. 2



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SUTURE BOX.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ETHEL M. BAILEY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Yreka, county of Siskiyou, and State of California, have invented new and useful Improvements in Suture Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a tray or container for the reception of surgical implements and the like, and particularly to a special form of tray or container to be known as a suture box.

When performing certain major operations, and particularly when uniting the lips or edges of an incision or wound by stitching, it is necessary that needles and sutures of varying size, together with other implements and means for sterilizing the same, be provided, and further that the needles, sutures, etc., should be separated and arranged as to size so that they may be quickly and readily selected when required.

The purpose of the present invention is to provide a tray or suture box which may be placed within convenient reach of the surgeon or nurse when an operation is being performed, said suture box having a series of troughs and compartments formed therein for the reception of needles and sutures of varying size, a sterilizing agent such as alcohol or the like, glass spools containing silk and linen thread, and other materials or implements required.

The object of the present invention is to generally improve and simplify suture boxes of the character described; to provide a container of this character permitting separation and classification of the different materials and implements employed, and further to provide a novel spool support for the reception of a plurality of spools and from which the threads may be readily removed as required. Other objects will hereinafter appear.

One form which my invention may assume is exemplified in the following description and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the suture box.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a sealed glass tube containing a suture thread.

Referring to the drawings in detail, and particularly to Fig. 1, A indicates in general a rectangular shaped container con-

sisting of end sections 2 and 3, a front section 4, a back section 5, and a bottom section 6. The container is divided into a plurality of compartments as shown by means of a spacer B, said spacer comprising a longitudinally disposed member 7, and a series of integral cross members 8. The spacer is held in position when placed in the container by vertical grooves or channels formed in the front and rear sections, as indicated at 9, and as such may be readily removed for cleaning or other purposes.

Formed at one end of the main container is a trough 10, and similarly formed at the opposite end is a trough 11. Similarly formed along the front edge of the container is an elongated trough 12 and connecting the troughs 10, 11 and 12 is a pair of corner shelves as indicated at 14 and 15, respectively. The rear section 5 is extended vertically above the surface presented by the several troughs and the spacer B and this extension is provided for the reception of a spool holder generally indicated at C. The spool holder is constructed of flexible wire, consisting of a horizontal bar 16 and a pair of leg members 17 and 18. These leg members are suitably secured to the rear side of the back section 5, and the leg 18 terminates in a horizontally disposed socket member 19 into which one end of the bar 16 may be inserted. The leg 17 and the bar 16 are formed from one piece of wire and the leg 18 from a separate piece of wire and this leg is provided with a bend or loop 20 at its lower end which renders the leg 18 flexible to such an extent that the socket 19 may be removed with relation to the bar 16. The bar may thus be deflected or raised as shown by dotted lines at 21 and spools such as indicated at 22 may thus be readily applied or removed.

The sutures employed in certain operations when stitching wounds or the like are as a rule received in sealed glass tubes as illustrated in Fig. 2, that is the suture is in reality nothing more or less than a catgut thread which is placed within the tube. The tube is then filled with alcohol or a similar sterilizing agent and it is then sealed and maintained in such a condition for future use. Some hospitals prepare their own catgut, but most modern institutions buy the manufactured catgut prepared, sterilized and sealed in tubes as shown in Fig. 2.

The spacer B divides the container into ten compartments and the tubes containing the sterilized catgut or sutures are placed in these compartments according to size and grade. There are five sizes of plain sutures and there are usually five sizes known as chromic. Both grades are obtainable in five sizes, to-wit, #00, 0, 1, 2, 3. The tubes containing the sutures are accordingly placed in their respective compartments and as such are separated and classified, and may thus be readily selected when required.

The trough 10 may be employed for the reception of cutting needles of varying sizes and the trough 11 for round needles. The bar 16 is employed for the reception of glass spools on which is wound silk and linen threads and spools containing other threads may naturally be employed if required.

When a certain size and grade of suture is required it is only necessary to remove the tube containing the same from the compartment in which it is placed. The tube is then broken and the alcohol, together with the suture, is placed in the trough 12 where it is retained until required. The suture will therefore remain in a perfect sterilized condition until used.

The tray or suture box as constructed may obviously be placed within convenient reach of the surgeon or nurse using the same, and other implements or materials required may also be placed in the box, and as the trough 12 is fairly large, it can readily be seen that all instruments employed may be quickly sterilized before being used. The suture box while preferably constructed of metal may obviously be constructed of any other material suitable for the purpose, and I similarly wish it understood that while the general design is more or less specifically illustrated, that various changes in the construction, combination and arrangement of parts may be resorted to within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what

I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

1. A device of the character described comprising a rectangular shaped container, a spacer disposed in the container dividing the same into a plurality of compartments, a trough disposed at each end of the container, a trough disposed in front thereof, and a spool support on the rear side of the container.

2. A device of the character described comprising a rectangular shaped container comprising a bottom section, end sections and a front and rear section, said rear section being higher than the front and end sections, a trough forming a continuation of each end section, a trough forming a continuation of the front section, corner shelves connecting the front and end troughs, and a spacer disposed in the container dividing the same into a plurality of compartments.

3. A device of the character described comprising a rectangular shaped container comprising a bottom section, end sections and a front and rear section, said rear section being higher than the front and end sections, a trough forming a continuation of each end section, a trough forming a continuation of the front section, corner shelves connecting the front and end troughs, a spacer disposed in the container dividing the same into a plurality of compartments, and channel members formed in the front and rear sections to guide and secure the spacer.

4. In a device of the character described the combination with a container and the rear section thereof, of a pair of vertically disposed, flexible leg members secured to the rear section, a socket member on the upper end of one leg section, and a horizontal bar adapted to be received thereby forming a continuation of the other leg section, said horizontal bar forming a spool support.

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