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MENSTRUAL SPONGE

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Fig. 1.

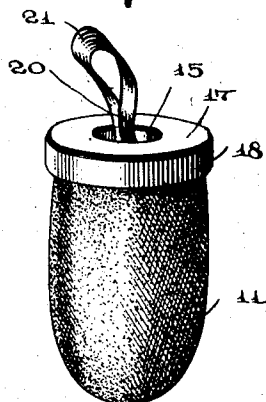
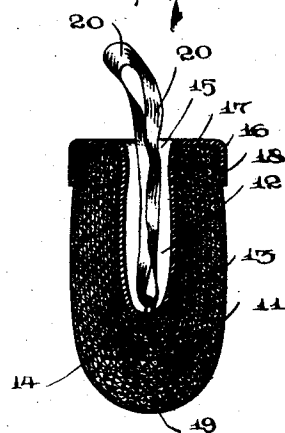


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES
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MENSTRUAL SPONGE.

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This invention relates to a menstrual sponge.

An object of the invention is the provision of a device for more efficiently controlling the menstrual flow and in a more sanitary and more comfortable manner to the user.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a compact, simple and unitary device for controlling the menstrual flow, which device will eliminate the use of belts worn around the waist for supporting unsanitary napkins, and thus eliminate the use of napkins upon which the menstrual flow dries thereby causing chafing of the body of the wearer.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a device for controlling the menstrual flow and for ready application to the outer portion of the vagina, the device being of such a simple character and being cheaply constructed may be readily replaced at a reasonable cost so that after the device has served the purpose it may be discarded and a fresh one applied.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of a device for controlling the menses in such a manner that obnoxious odors will be prevented since the menstrual flow is protected against exposure to the atmosphere. In such a case the device functions to prevent the soiling and staining of the clothes of the wearer.

This invention will be best understood from a consideration of the following detailed description, in view of the accompanying drawing forming a part of the specification; nevertheless it is to be understood that the invention is not confined to the disclosure, being susceptible of such changes and the modifications which shall define not material departure from the salient features of the invention as expressed in the appended claim.

Figure 1 is an enlarged view in perspective of the device.

Figure 2 is a vertical section of the device.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, 10 generally designates the device for controlling the menstrual flow, the device being formed of such material that it will not injure the tissues but will be capable of neatly fitting and conforming to the interior

walls of the passage to which it is applied thereby providing a seal to prevent the discharge of the menstrual flow. Furthermore, the material forming the device is of such a character that it will adapt itself to the irregularities of the passage and thus be retained against accidental loss.

Referring more particularly to Figure 2, it will be seen that main body portion 11 of the device is formed of some absorbent material and built around a central well or cavity 12. The well is isolated from the body 11 by a cylinder 13 of non-absorbent material closed at the inner end thereof as shown at 14.

The upper end of the cylinder 13 is open at 15 and the material forming the cylinder is rolled around the upper annular end 16 of the body 11 to provide an inverted channel-shaped ring 17 having an external depending flange 18 embracing the upper outer wall of the body 11.

The body is of cylindrical formation and has the lower end 19 rounded to facilitate insertion of the device into the outer end of the vagina. The body is not only formed of absorbent material but is capable of being compressed. Furthermore the absorbent material being compressible is capable of tending to regain the normal cylindrical shape so that the device will, when expanding, exert a slight pressure against the walls of the vagina and prevent the accidental discharge of the device from its position.

A tape 20 is folded upon itself to form an annulus and the ends of the tape are secured to the inner end 14 of the sheath or cylinder 13. The annulus is of sufficient length that a looped portion 21 will progress beyond the open end 15 of the well 12 in order that said looped portion may be grasped by the fingers for removal.

In applying the device, the finger is inserted in the well 12 so that the end of the finger will rest on the closed end 14 of the cylinder 13. The rounded end 19 of the body is then fitted into the outer end of the vagina. Sufficient pressure is then applied on the device through the finger inserted into the well 12 until the device is fitted into place. In such a position as shown in Figure 1 the non-absorbent ring 17 projects

slightly beyond the outer portion of the vagina. The loop 21 projects beyond the open mouth of the well 12 so that it may be readily grasped by the index finger and re-
5 moved when desired.

I claim:

A device of the character described comprising a body portion formed of absorbent material and having a central cavity closed
at one end, a sheath formed of non-absorbent material and embracing the wall of the cavity, said sheath projecting beyond the open end of the cavity and expanded over the adjacent portion of the body portion, a tape
15 connected to the inner end of the sheath for aiding in removing the body portion from a fixed position in a passage.

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