

No. 608,921.

Patented Aug. 9, 1898.

L. SILVERMAN.
SURGICAL OR OTHER DRESSING AND PAD.

(Application filed May 4, 1897.)

(No Model.)



Fig. 1.

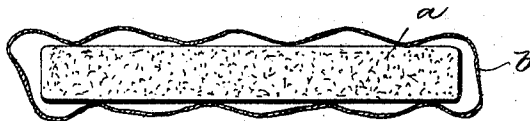


Fig. 2.

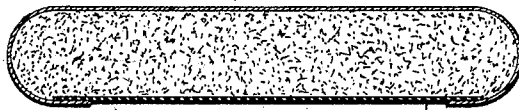


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

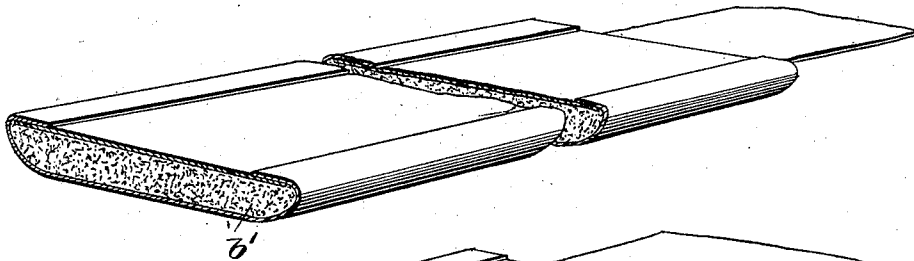


Fig. 5.

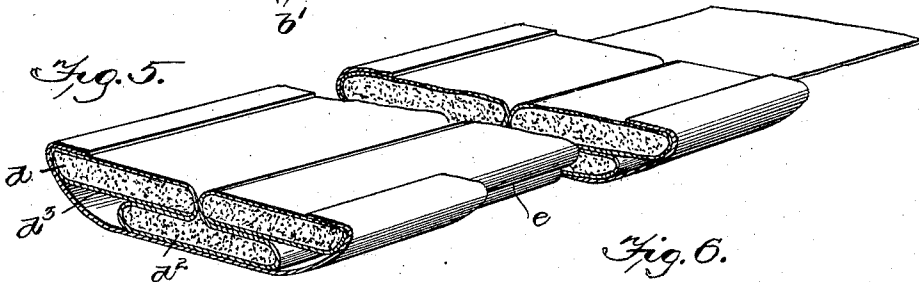
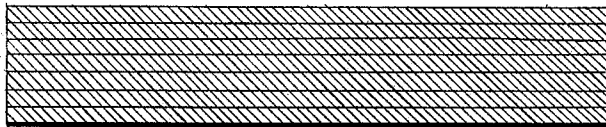


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LAZARUS SILVERMAN, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

SURGICAL OR OTHER DRESSING AND PAD.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 608,921, dated August 9, 1898.

Application filed May 4, 1897, Serial No. 635,102. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LAZARUS SILVERMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Surgical or other Dressings and Pads; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to surgical and catamenial dressings and pads.

The primary object of the invention is to produce dressings and pads of the kind referred to which in points of cheapness and efficiency shall be superior to articles of this kind as commonly made. Further, the object of the invention is to utilize for surgical and similar uses a substance which is now practically a waste product.

With these objects in view the invention consists of a pad for surgical or other purposes, substantially as hereinafter described and claimed.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a side view of a simple form of embodiment of my invention. Fig. 2 is a sectional view of a pad composed of a loosely-woven covering and containing the pith of cornstalks. Fig. 3 is a sectional view of a pad having covering of loosely-woven fabric on one side and having the remainder covered with any suitable material. Fig. 4 is a sectional view of a pad having covering of loosely-woven fabric on one side and covered with material impervious to moisture on the other side and containing pith of cornstalks. Fig. 5 is a perspective view, partly in section, of a pad for catamenial purposes; and Fig. 6 is a sectional view of a pad formed of compressed pith of cornstalks having a network of threads or fabric to preserve its form.

In making dressings or pads in accordance with my invention I utilize a substance—namely, the cornstalk—which is at the present time of practically no value in the arts,

but which contains pith of a character which renders it, after proper preparation, highly absorbent, and therefore eminently suited for use as the principal part of a pad for use on discharging sores, wounds, cancers, and by women during periods of menstruation.

In preparing the pith for use the outer shell or cane is first removed, leaving the pith with the fiber. In the embodiment of my invention the pith *a*, comminuted and freed from the fiber, is placed in a covering *b*, one or more sides of which are composed of one or more thicknesses of a loosely-woven fabric which will hold the pith in a convenient form for use and at the same time permit the free passage of liquid to be absorbed by the pith. Any desired portion of the remainder of the pad may be covered with any other suitable material.

It may be desirable to form the pith into a body *b'* somewhat in the nature of felt. When this is done, it may be interwoven with threads to strengthen it.

In Fig. 5 of the drawings I have particularly illustrated a pad for use by women during menstruation. This pad is composed of two or more layers *d* and *d*² of pith separated by fabric *d*³. The face of the pad which is to come into contact with the body is covered by one or more layers of loosely-woven or absorbent fabric, and this face is provided with one or more depressions *e*, formed by stitching or otherwise, which will serve to keep the pith evenly distributed through the pad and prevent packing in any particular part. Any moisture passing through the depressed portion of the pad will be absorbed by the part *d*², arranged back of it. The pad is attached to the body by any suitable means which will render its use comfortable.

In some instances I cover a portion of any of the pads described with covering *c* impervious to moisture to prevent fluid from passing through them.

The pith, when prepared in any of the various ways described, may have mixed with it a suitable quantity of antiseptic substance or may be scented to prevent a disagreeable odor, or both the antiseptic and the scent may be used.

In any of the forms of pads described I may

use either compressed pith or ground pith, or, when occasion requires, both the compressed and the ground pith may be used.

Having thus described my invention, what
5 I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A pad for surgical or other purposes having a covering of loosely-woven or absorbent fabric, and containing comminuted pith of

cornstalks from which the fiber is removed, in substantially as described.

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

LAZARUS SILVERMAN.

Witnesses:

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S. G. HOPKINS.