

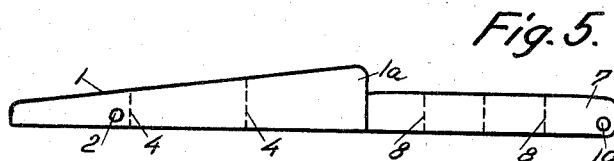
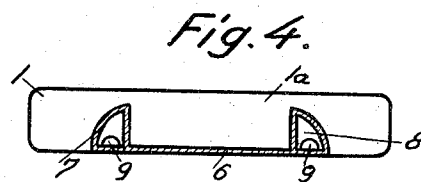
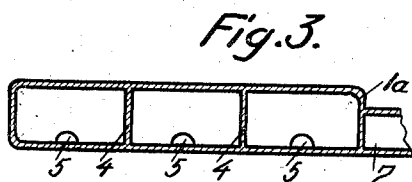
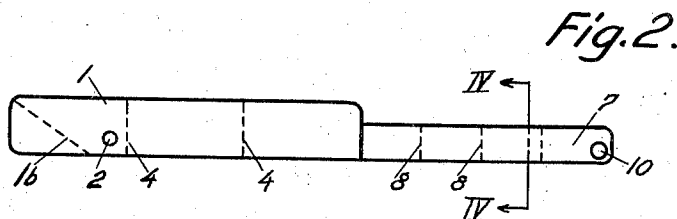
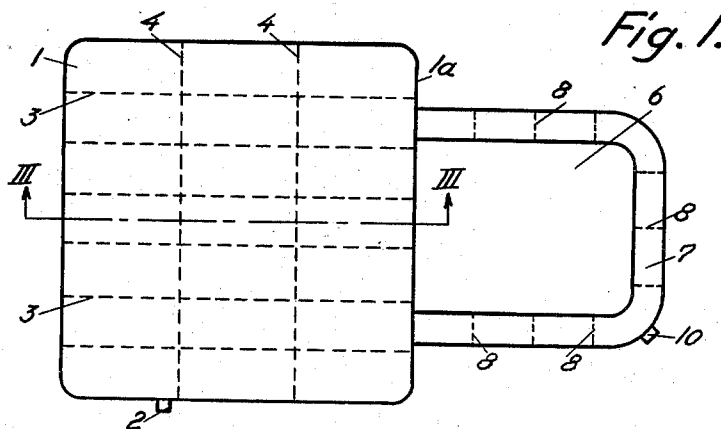
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OBSTETRICAL COUCH

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OBSTETRICAL COUCH

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2 Claims. (Cl. 128—292)

The invention relates to an obstetrical couch, which is especially characteristic in that it consists of a pad or cushion of rubber or another airtight material, this cushion being inflatable and of such dimensions that it can form a couch for the bearing woman, who is laid on the cushion, and serve thus as an efficient support for the pelvis and back portion of the woman, a receptacle or bowl preferably of the same material being combined with the said cushion, the front wall of which forms preferably one bounding wall of the bowl, which is, for the remaining part, bounded by an inflatable wall.

Bowls of the abovementioned kind are known per se, but it is a characteristic feature of the invention to combine such a bowl with an inflatable cushion which yields an efficient support for the pelvis and back portions, viz. due to the cushion being wide enough to form a real couch. The obstetrical couch brings hereby the advantage that it can be positioned, and the bearing woman be laid thereon, while the cushion is flat (un-inflated), whereupon the inflation is carried out, so that the obstetrical couch gets its final shape, and the pelvis portion of the woman is lifted in a lenient manner by the actual inflation of the cushion. Besides, the couch is easily cleaned after its use, and it occupies only a small space, when out of use, as it may be folded, when the air is exhausted.

According to a further feature of the invention the bottom of the bowl is preferably level with the bottom of the cushion, and the height of the inflatable wall of the bowl is preferably essentially less than that of the cushion at the front edge thereof, e. g. $\frac{1}{2}$ — $\frac{2}{3}$ thereof.

To ensure a uniform inflation the cushion is preferably provided with suitable internal stiffeners or shoring elements, as e. g. a number of partitions, preferably both longitudinal and transversal ones, the said partitions being provided with holes or apertures for the passage of air between the compartments of the cushion formed by the partitions. The inflatable wall may be similarly stiffened by a suitable number of transversal partitions.

As to the shape of the cushion proper, the latter may be square and equally high all over, but it may also profitably be so made that it

slopes from its front edge backwards, as this shape is very well fit for a good support.

The invention is illustrated in the drawing, in which

Fig. 1 is a plan view of an obstetrical couch according to the invention,

Fig. 2 is an elevation thereof,

Fig. 3 is a section on line III—III in Fig. 1,

Fig. 4 is a section on line IV—IV in Fig. 2, and

Fig. 5 is an elevation of another constructional form of an obstetrical couch according to the invention.

In the figures it is supposed that the couch is in its inflated situation.

Referring now to Fig. 1, 1 is the inflatable cushion, which is, in the illustrated constructional form, square and equally high all over. The dimensions may vary somewhat, but the height of the cushion is preferably between 4 and 6 inches, while the length and width of the cushion may for instance be about 28 inches. At one side the cushion is provided with a valve or nipple 2 through which the inflation takes place. To ensure a uniform inflation the interior of the cushion is provided with a number of longitudinal partitions 3 and some transversal partitions 4, as indicated by the broken lines in Figs. 1 and 2.

Fig. 3 shows such a partition 3 and openings 5, through which the air is allowed to pass during the inflation to the compartments formed by the partitions. In a similar manner the partitions 4 may be provided with openings for the passage of air.

The cushion 1 is combined with a bowl consisting of a bottom 6 and an inflatable bounding wall 7 extending along three sides of the bowl, while the bounding wall of the fourth side is formed by the front wall 1^a of the cushion 1. The height of the wall 7 is somewhat less than that of the said front wall and may e. g. be between 2 and 4 inches. The bounding wall 7 may e. g. have the cross section represented in Fig. 4 transversal partitions being arranged to ensure this cross section as indicated by the broken lines 8 in Figs. 1 and 2. In Fig. 4 apertures 9 are shown in the said partitions. 10, Figs. 1 and 2, indicates a valve or nipple for the inflation, which may be independent of the inflation of the cushion 1, the front wall 1^a closing the ends of

the cavity of the wall 7. The said cavity may, however, also communicate with the cavity of the cushion, so that the inflation takes place simultaneously, but preferably the two cavities are separated from each other.

In the modification shown in Fig. 5 the top face of the cushion slopes backwards from the front wall 1^a, which shape has proved very advantageous.

As to the shape of the cushion shown in Fig. 2, this shape may be modified by bounding its back portion by an inclined surface as indicated by the broken line 1^b, which makes the cushion fit for use in a bed, in which a usual bolster is already present.

The invention is not limited to the illustrated and described constructional forms, which are only given by way of examples, but may be varied in several ways, as to dimensions and shapes, without leaving the principle of the invention. For instance, the bowl may be circular, semi-circular, semi-oval etc. instead of substantially square, and the bounding wall 7 may, instead of being provided with stiffeners, be in the shape

only of a hose getting a circular cross section when inflated, in which case its diameter must, however, be large enough to give a suitable height to the wall 7. The bowl may, if desired, be provided with an outlet in its bottom communicating with a hose.

I claim:

1. Obstetrical couch comprising an inflatable cushion of such dimensions that it can serve as support for the pelvis and back portions of a patient lying on the cushion, and a bowl arranged at one end of the cushion so as to form an extension of the latter, said bowl having a bottom flush with the underside of the inflatable cushion and being besides bounded by inflatable walls, the height of which is essentially lower than the height of the cushion at its wall adjacent the bowl.

2. Obstetrical couch according to claim 1, in which the end wall of the cushion adjacent the bowl is essentially higher than the opposite end wall of the cushion, the upper side of the cushion sloping downwardly against the latter end wall.

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