

C. N. FOWLER.
PESSARIES.

No. 186,469.

Patented Jan. 23, 1877.

Fig. 7.

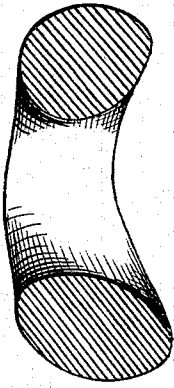


Fig. 3.

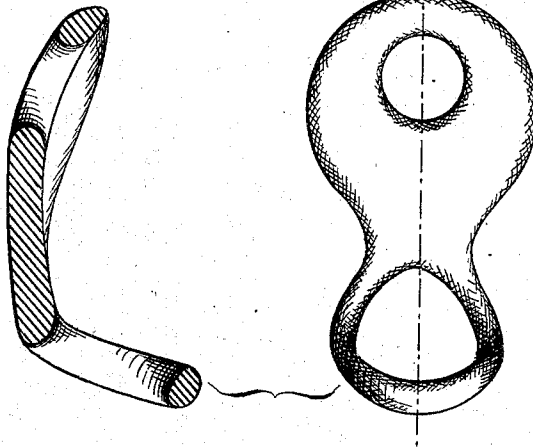


Fig. 2.

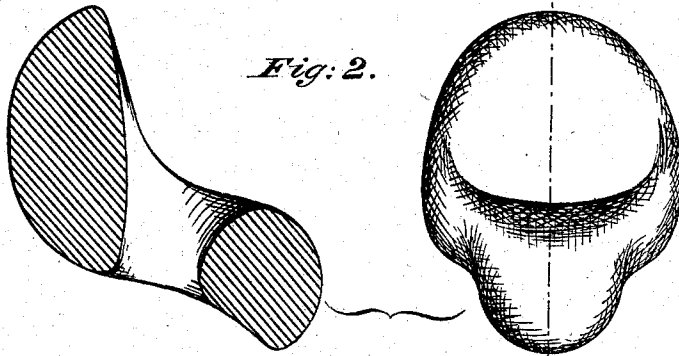
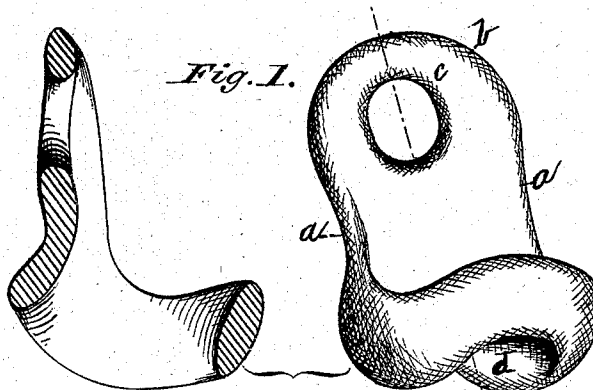


Fig. 1.



Witnesses:

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Fig. 8.

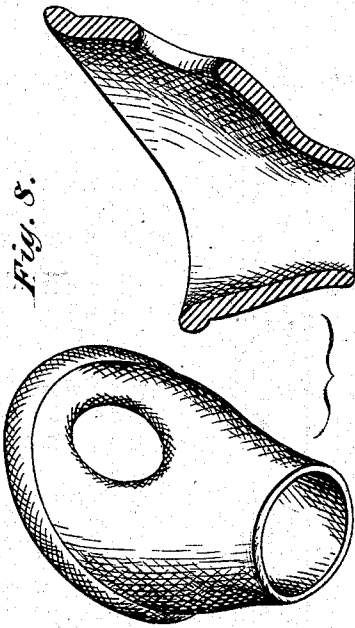


Fig. 5.

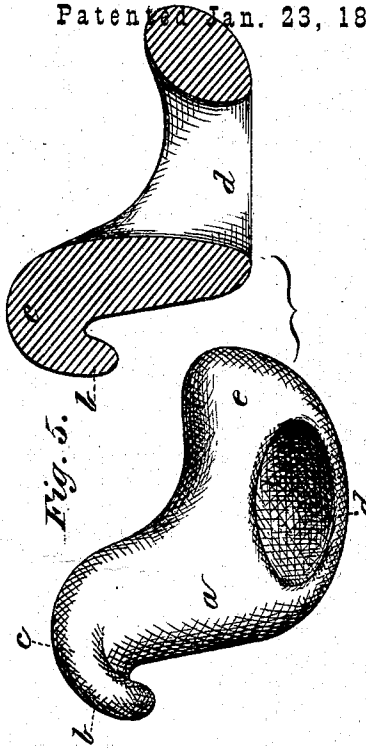


Fig. 6.

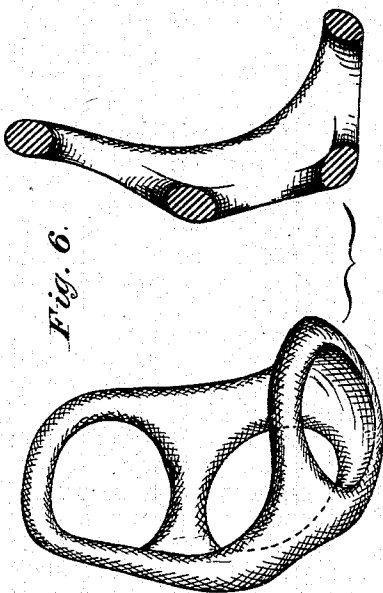
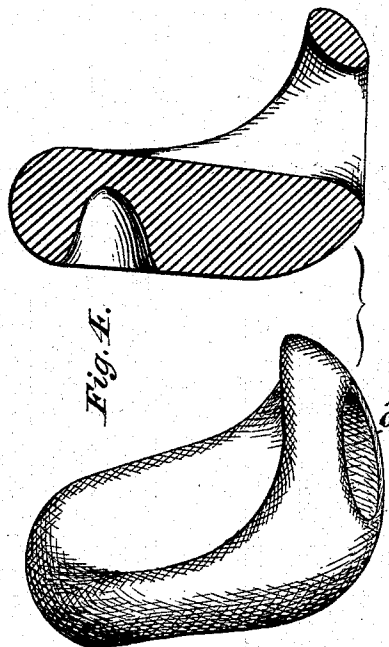


Fig. 4.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES N. FOWLER, OF YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN PESSARIES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **186,469**, dated January 23, 1877; application filed January 6, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES N. FOWLER, of Youngstown, in the county of Mahoning and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Pessaries, which improvement is fully set forth in the following specification and accompanying drawing.

My invention relates to an improvement in pessaries made either solid or hollow, from rubber, celluloid, or other suitable material. The object of my invention is to provide a mechanical support for the uterus, and is intended to correct versions, flexions, and displacements of that organ.

The invention is based upon the theory that the position of the neck of the uterus determines the relative bearing of the entire organ to the other pelvic viscera.

The invention consists of a ring for the fixation of the cervix uteri, and of a prolongation, concave on its upper surface, adapted to the convex surface of the anterior part of the body of the uterus, which is to rest upon it. The length of this prolongation determines the distance of the cervix uteri from the symphysis pubes, and should not be larger than is necessary to provide against the possibility of retro-displacements.

Properly adjusted, my pessary moderately distends the vagina, and forms, with the perineum, a perfect floor to the pelvis, and holds the neck of the uterus at any desirable point in the hollow of the sacrum. No pain or irritation will attend the use of such a pessary, if the right size is employed. The pessary affords a complete support for the uterus, and effectually controls cases of retroflexion, retroversion, antelexion, anteversion, and prolapsus of the uterus. It is simple and perfect, and in its shape is such as to have no angles, joints, or ends to produce irritation of the parts.

As the pessary does not interfere with the evacuations of the uterine secretions, its removal at the menstrual periods is unnecessary. The pessary is adapted to the uterus in its natural position, and its tendency is always to that position. This tendency prevents the possibility of an accurately-adjusted pessary being displaced.

Referring to the accompanying drawings,

the figures thereon illustrate modifications of my invention.

The pessary is made of hard rubber, celluloid, or other substance.

In Figures 1, 4, and 5, *a* represents the sides of the instrument; *b*, the anterior portion or beak, upon the upper surface of which, *c*, the anterior body of the uterus is to rest. *d* represents a canal through the body of the instrument, from above downward, to permit of uterine discharges, &c. *e* represents the posterior portion.

When the pessary is in position the cervix uteri rests upon the upper rim of this canal or opening, thus giving additional support to the organ.

Fig. 1 represents the form most suitable for the majority of retroversions, retroflexions, and prolapsus of the uterus. The opening in the body of the pessary is to admit the finger, to facilitate its adjustment and removal. The superior lip of the cervical ring overlaps the cervix far enough to prevent the body of the uterus from turning backward at a point of flexure, even while the cervix proper is held by the ring. When no flexion or tendency to it exists, a narrow ring, Fig. 3, is preferable, as it is more easily adjusted and removed, and as efficient for retroversions of prolapsus. Besides this, by boiling or bending just in front of the cervical ring, the relation of the ring and body of Fig. 3 may be changed so as to lengthen or shorten the pessary for special cases.

Fig. 2 consists of a cervical ring and a prolongation, convex on one side to conform to the hollow of the sacrum, and concave on the other side to adapt it to the posterior surface of the uterus, and is adapted to anteversions and antelexions, forcing the neck of the uterus toward the hollow of the sacrum. It is adjusted to the neck of the uterus the same as Fig. 1; but its prolongation, instead of resting in front of the uterus, occupies a position between the hollow of the sacrum and the posterior wall of the uterus.

Fig. 4 is employed in extreme relaxation of the vagina, owing to its greater thickness of body.

Figs. 5 and 7 are only for prolapsus, or as retainers of the uterus after retroversions,

retroflexions, anteversions, and antelexions, have been overcome by the use of Figs. 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Fig. 6 has three openings, any one of which may be employed to retain the neck of the uterus, and is available in cases where adhesions interfere with the adjustment of the cervix to other forms, the successive openings being used as the adhesions yield.

Fig. 8 is still another modification, necessary in special cases.

The pessaries yield to the ordinary movements of the uterus, exerting no brute force, but effectually guard it against unnatural deviations.

In cases of retroflexion, where the flexion is unusually high, the superior lip to the cervical opening must be long enough to overlap even the lower part of the posterior surface of the body of the uterus, to render retroflexion impossible.

The forms shown in Figs. 1, 3, and 4, if worn too long, tend to produce the opposite displacement, and convert retroversions into anteversions. When a retroversion or retroflexion is corrected by forms shown in Figs. 1, 3, and 4, a simple ring-pessary, illustrated by Figs. 5 and 6, will serve to maintain the normal relationship of the pelvic viscera. The same precaution is necessary to be observed in the use of Fig. 2.

It will be observed that all my pessaries have the same general construction, being, viz., a modification of the Hodge pessary; only, instead of being a mere frame, they are filled

out and rounded to conform to the parts, and broader at the posterior portion than at the anterior portion, and having a swell at the posterior part. The pessary being generally made hollow, it is exceedingly light.

All cup-pessaries heretofore introduced simply push the neck of the uterus back, doubling it on the body, and thus retaining the organ in its abnormal or retroverted position. Their primary force and their sustaining power act in the direction of the long axis of the vagina; but my cup-pessary first restores the body of the uterus to its proper position, and then retains it so. Its action is in the direction of the normal position of the uterus, which is at a right angle to the axis of the vagina. It is really a cup-pessary, acting on the principle of the Hodge pessary, with many advantages over the latter in special cases. It is applicable in anteversion as well as retroversion, and is well adapted for prolapsus or procidentia.

Having described my invention, what I claim is—

The modification of the Hodge pessary herein described, the pessary being filled out and rounded to conform to the parts, broader at the posterior portion than at the anterior portion, and having a swell at the posterior part, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

CHARLES N. FOWLER.

In presence of—

C. R. TRUESDALE,
T. R. McEWEN.