Sept. 30, 1952 C. E. WAKEMAN 2,611,903

BEDPAN

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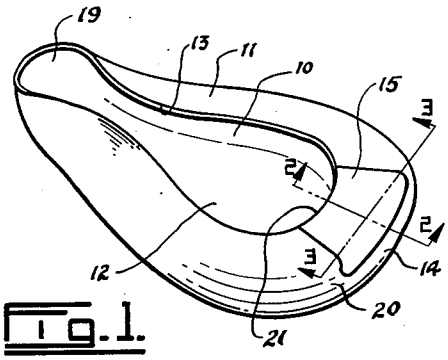

Fig. 1.

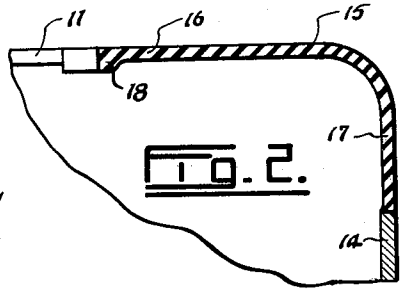

Fig. 2.

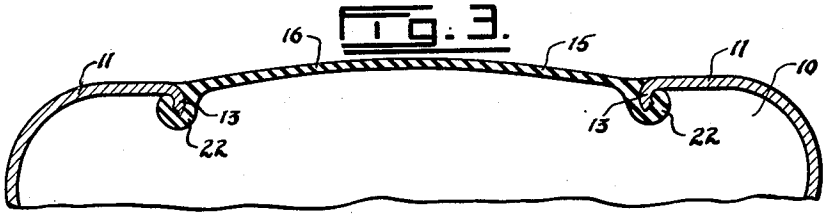

Fig. 3.

Fig. 5.

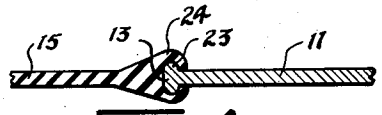

Fig. 4.

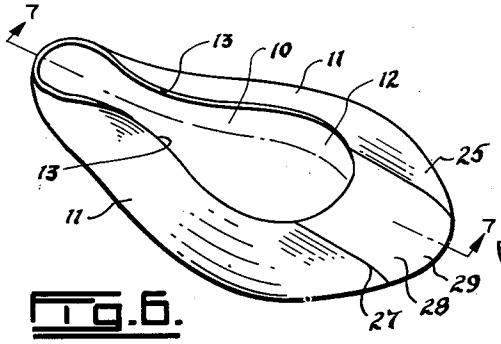

Fig. 6.

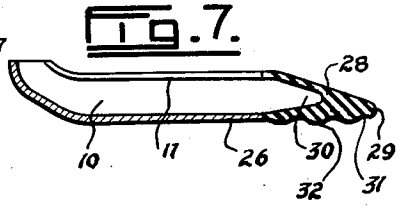

Fig. 7.

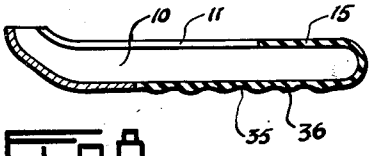

Fig. 8.

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BEDPAN

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9 Claims. (Cl. 4—112)

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This invention relates to improvements in bed pans for use by invalids, patients and the like.

This application is a continuation in part of the applicant's application Serial Number 682,356, filed July 9, 1946, now abandoned, as to subject matter common thereto.

An object of the present invention is the provision of an improved form of bed pan which will provide a maximum amount of ease for the person using it.

Another object is the provision of means for proving a bed pan without materially altering the construction of those now in common use.

A further object is the provision of a bed pan having a resilient portion for comfort which may be moulded in the pan or secured thereto.

Yet another object is the provision of a resilient portion in a bed pan which will not interfere with the cleaning and sterilizing thereof.

It is a well known fact that the bed pans now commonly used cause a great deal of hardship to a great many invalids or patients. These pans have been in use for many years and yet no one has been able to eliminate or reduce the difficulty which is so apparent to doctors, nurses, and persons who have had to use them. Numerous attempts have been made to provide cushions for these pans, but not one of them is in common use today. Some of these cushions are detachable and are formed of material that cannot be properly disinfected or which will not dry very rapidly so that hospitals will not have anything to do with them. Furthermore, these cushions are laid over a flat surface of the pan. If the cushions are capable of keeping the bones of the lower spine away from the hard surface of the pan, they themselves would cause a great deal of discomfort. Of course, if they are not capable of keeping these bones away from the pan, they do not serve any useful purpose. Air cushions have been designed for this purpose, but they cannot practically be made deep enough to support the spine bones away from the hard pan.

The present invention reduces the discomfort to a very marked degree by providing a bed pan having a resilient area in the back thereof upon which the lower end of the user's spine rests. This resilient area can conform to the shape of the bones at the lower end of the spine, and at the same time, it yields sufficiently to allow the weight of the person to be carried by the rigid portion of the pan. This resilient area provides a cushion which eases and, in fact, practically eliminates any pressure on this part of the body.

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With the above and other objects in view, the present invention consists essentially of a bed pan of the class described having a resilient closure formed at the end thereof nearest the body of the user, as more fully described in the following specification and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a bed pan incorporating one form of the invention,

Figure 2 is a longitudinal section through the back end of the pan,

Figure 3 is a cross section through the back end of the pan, showing an alternative method of connecting the closure of the pan,

Figures 4 and 5 illustrate other methods of joining the resilient closure to the rest of the pan,

Figure 6 is a perspective view of an alternative form of bed pan,

Figure 7 is a reduced longitudinal section through the pan shown in Figure 6, and,

Figure 8 is a longitudinal section through a pan of the type shown in Figure 1 illustrating another variation of the invention.

Referring more particularly to Figures 1 to 3 of the drawings, 10 is a bed pan in the form of a receptacle of ordinary construction having a rigid flat top 11 in which the usual opening 12 is formed, the edges 13 of said top defining the sides of the opening.

According to this invention, the opening 12 is continued through the top of the pan to the back end wall 14 thereof and part way down said end wall, as clearly seen in Figure 1. A closure 15 is formed of suitable resilient material, such as plastic, rubber, or the like, extends across the back end of the opening 12 and is formed with or joined to the rigid edges 13 of said opening in any suitable manner. By referring to Figure 2, it will be seen that the closure has a horizontal portion 16 and a vertical portion 17. With this construction, the top 11 and the portion 16 of the closure actually form an inturned rim for the pan, while the portion 17 forms part of the end wall 14. The forward edge of the closure may be formed with a reinforcing bead 18. While it is preferable to carry the opening 12 down into the end wall 14, as shown, it is obvious that it may terminate at the top 11 at or near the end wall. In this case, the resilient closure will not extend into the wall.

The bed pan described so far has a high open end 19 and a relatively low closed end 20. The opening 12 forms a longitudinal slot along the higher end of the top of the pan and extending

to the top of the lower end thereof. The end 21 of the resilient closure 15 nearest the high end of the pan is substantially normal to the length of the rigid portion thereof.

As stated above, the closure 15 may be connected to the rest of the pan in any suitable manner, or it may even be formed with said pan, depending upon the material of the latter. The pan itself may be made of any desired material, such as metal, enamelled metal, or plastic. If, for example, the pan were formed of moulded plastic which becomes rigid when set, it would be possible, with the plastics known today, to form the closure of a resilient or flexible plastic which might be moulded along with the other plastic.

If desired, the edges of the closure 15 may be bonded to the edges 13 by a suitable bonding material, as in Figure 5, said bonding material depending upon the material of the two elements to be joined. Figure 3 shows the edges 13 bent over to form a bead which fits into a relatively large bead 22 formed on the side and rear edges of the closure, said bead having a recess therein shaped to receive said edges 13. In Figure 4, the edges 13 are formed with a solid bead 23 adapted to fit into a bead 24 in the edges of the closure, said bead 24 having a correspondingly shaped recess to receive the bead 23.

Figures 6 and 7 illustrate a bed pan that differs slightly in construction from those in common use. The pan 10 has the flat top 11, opening 12, and edges 13. However, instead of the back end being vertical as in Figure 1, the pan is formed with a back end wall 25 which slopes down to the bottom 26 thereof. This wall is cut away to form a recess 27 which is really a continuation of the opening 12, and said recess is covered by a closure 28 formed of a resilient material, such as rubber, plastic, or the like. This closure is connected or bonded to the rigid edges of the pan in any suitable manner as indicated above, and it is moulded to taper down to a thin edge 29, see Figure 7, which forms the back end of the pan. The end wall 25 and the closure are almost horizontal that is, the slope thereof is very gradual. The closure 28 is provided with an internal recess 30 which forms part of the interior of the pan. The bottom 31 of this closure forms a non-skid surface which, if desired, may be corrugated as at 32. This surface helps to prevent the pan from slipping around in a bed when it is being used.

The body of the pan illustrated in Figure 7 is formed of metal. However, it may be formed of a suitable hard-setting plastic, in which case the resilient closure may be formed of a resilient or flexible plastic which may be moulded along with the other plastic.

The bed pan of Figure 8 is similar to the one shown in Figure 1. In this case, however, the opening 12 continues from the top of the pan down the back and along the bottom thereof, and the resilient closure 15 fits this opening so that it extends along the bottom of the pan to form a non-skid surface 35 in said bottom. If desired, this surface may be corrugated as at 36. The non-skid surface will help to prevent the pan from moving around in a bed when it is being used. It is obvious that the resilient closure may be made as shown in Figure 1, and a wide slot cut in the bottom of the pan to receive the resilient strip 35 by itself. Furthermore, if the pan is moulded from a hard-setting plastic, a portion thereof along the bottom may be formed of a plastic which remains slightly flexible when it sets to act as a non-skid surface.

When the bed pan is used in the ordinary manner, the resilient closure forms a pad or cushion for the lower end of the spine, thus easing the pressure on this part of the body which is particularly painful when this bony structure rests on a hard surface. The rigid sides of the pan support the weight of the body while the resilient closures conform to the shape of the body. The resilient closures are so constructed that they do not interfere with the use of the pans or with the cleaning and sterilizing thereof. When the bottom of the pan is formed with a non-skid area as in Figures 7 and 8, the chances of the pan moving around in a bed when it is being used are greatly reduced. The non-skid section will not affect the sterilization or normal use of the pan.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. A bed pan of the class described consisting of a receptacle having an inturned rim most of which is rigid to support the weight of a person using the pan, a portion of said rim being composed completely of yieldable material permanently connected at its sides to the rigid portion of the rim, and said yieldable rim portion conforming to the shape of protruding bones of the pan user to eliminate pressure thereon.

2. A bed pan of the class described consisting of a flat bottom and upright rigid sides curving inwardly to form an elongated opening in and extending longitudinally of the top thereof, and a resilient closure extending across one end of the opening permanently secured at its edges to the pan and forming part thereof.

3. A bed pan of the class described consisting of a flat bottom and upright rigid sides curving inwardly to form an elongated opening in and extending longitudinally of the top thereof, said opening extending part way down into one end of the pan, and a resilient closure extending across one end of the opening permanently secured at its edges to the pan and forming part thereof, said closure also covering the portion of the opening in the end of the pan.

4. A bed pan of the class described with an opening in its top, said pan having a back end sloping gradually to a relatively thin edge, a recess in said end communicating with the pan opening, and a resilient closure over said recess permanently secured at its edges to the pan.

5. A bed pan of the class described with an opening in its top, said pan having a back end sloping gradually to a relatively thin edge, a recess in said end communicating with the pan opening, and a resilient closure over the recess integrally connected, as by molding to the pan, said closure having an internal recess forming part of the interior of the pan.

6. A bed pan of relatively rigid material having a relatively low closed end and a relatively high open end, the top of which is inturned to form a longitudinal slot along the higher end of said top and extending to the top of the lower end, said lower end top being of a resilient material across the width of said slot extending part way down the body engaging end of the pan, the end of said resilient portion nearest the higher end of the pan being substantially normal to the length of said rigid portion, said flexible and rigid materials being integrally joined by a butt joint.

7. A bed pan comprising a container formed of moulded hard-setting plastic, said container having an inturned rigid rim defining an elongated opening in and extending longitudinally of the top thereof, and a flexible plastic closure moulded

with the container plastic and covering one end of the elongated opening.

8. A bed pan of the class described consisting of a flat bottom and upright rigid sides curving inwardly to form an elongated opening in and extending longitudinally of the top thereof, a resilient closure extending across one end of the opening permanently secured at its edge to the pan and forming part thereof, the bottom of the pan having an opening therein, and a non-skid closure for the bottom opening and integrally secured to the pan.

9. A bed pan of the class described consisting of a flat bottom and upright sides curving inwardly to form an elongated opening in and extending longitudinally of the top thereof, said opening extending down the back of the pan and along the bottom thereof, and a resilient closure extending across the opening from a point in its top adjacent the back thereof down the back and along the entire portion of the opening in the pan bottom, said closure being permanently secured at its edges to the pan and forming part thereof.

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