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# T. L. Jennison,

## Preparing and Applying Fomentations,

Patented Aug. 30, 1832.

Fig 1.

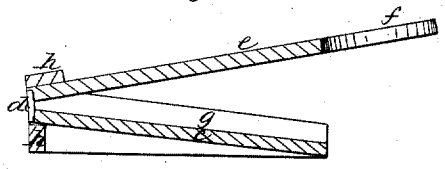



Fig 2.

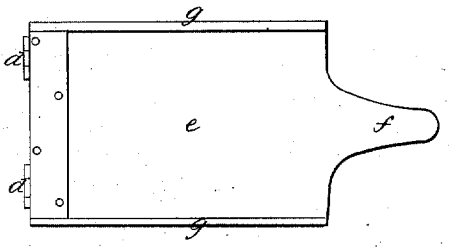



Fig 3.

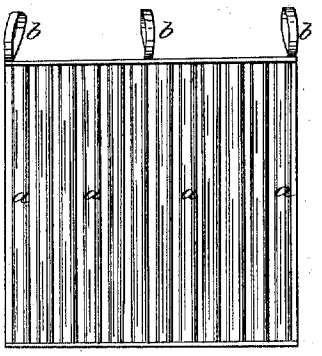
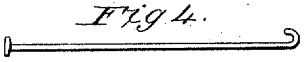



Fig 4.



AM. PHOTO-LITHO. CO. N.Y. (OSBORNE'S PROCESS.)

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Timothy L. Dennison. Cambridge Massachusetts

# Letters Patent.

The schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same, containing a description in the words of the said Timothy L. Dennison, of his improvement in the mode of preparing and applying fomentations in sickness and surgery.

To all to whom these presents shall come.

Be it known that I Timothy Lindall Dennison of Cambridge in the County of Middlesex & State of Massachusetts Physician have invented, constructed, made and applied to use, new & useful improvements in the mode of preparing & applying fomentations in sickness & surgery and that the following is a full & exact description of the construction & operation of my invention — consisting of a several Figs made of silk, Cotton, linnen or other suitable cloth, with circular cavities a. a. a. to be suspended thereto — designed to include small pieces of sponge or curled horse hair or appropriate aromatic herbs & other vegetable matters, at the discretion of the physician, surgeon or nurse; as also a stout tinned iron wire Fig. b. of appropriate length, having a circular piece of Metal at one end, designed to fill up by the aid of a funnel, with a suitable outlet said cavities; and a hook at the other end for putting or applying the same — Said iron hook is also designed to be used for withdrawing the fomentation from the heated water and placing the same in the machine or compress or Figs. 1 & 2 — Moreover the fomentation herewith exhibited is formed as follows: viz of two yards or less of silk, linnen cotton or woolen cloth half a yard wide spread on a table — half a yard of it is then to be covered with ballons of lambs wool, it is then to be rolled cautiously by the end half yard of the cloth, & sewed with a needle and thread from side to side at the eighth part of the whole — the two sides are then to be bound with suitable binding —

&c.

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In the next place a circular stick of pine or other wood an inch in diameter, of length equal to the width of the cloth, is to be laid on the cloth, close to & parallel with the turning: & the space cloth to be rolled smoothly over it (the stick) & pinned down at each edge.... The stick is then to be withdrawn & another turning effected from pin to pin, at the distance of one fourth or ½ part of an inch from the last turning. another is to be made parallel with it & the stick is again to be laid down as before; & the same process gone over, till all the space covered by the balloons be taken up.

It deserves notice that the space designedly left between each two turnings is purposely reserved for diffusing the aqueous vapors of the fotus.... Two or three loops b.b.b. should be firmly attached to one end of the bellows pipe at proper distances for upholding the vessel while the cavities are filling or evacuating. The Compressor Figs 1 & 2 is made of six pieces of Mahogany or maple wood secured by two stout bat hinges d.d. & screws.... The bottom C is 18 inches wide & 18 inches long & one inch thick. The upper part or lid C, is of the same width & 25 inches in length inclusive of the handle f. Larger E.E. one third of an inch in thickness, three inches & a half in width at the posterior part & two inches at the anterior part reduced by screws to the bottom c. so as to make it an inclined plane for discharging all the condensed water.... To prevent its warping and add to its solidity cleats h.h. of one inch in thickness are to be screwed on across the middle part of the top & bottom.....

The manner of preparing aromatic baths & fomentations during the past century, is well known to every nurse at the hospitals & elsewhere.... The menstruum or fluid part containing such ingredients as the cases of sickness or injury require, is heated and applied to the body or limb of the patient by sheets or pieces of soft woollen fabric as hot and ugly as possible, [illegible] ... If the heat not to be offended by the hands only be aware of the intense heat of it.

And

But should occasion be found during the process of boiling that the sponge should stick longer than the width of the vessel will admit of being compressed with dry flannel or woolen cloths sufficiently dry by the united strength & labours of two strong assistants twisting in contrary directions, while a third assistant was sometimes at hand to place them where they were wanted on the patient.— This process required some minutes hard service. But the ordinary instead of resorting for the extraction of the heat & making a strong decoction of them beforehand, my improved mode consists in having the aromatic ingredients primarily compressed into parallel cavities as pointed them in my present & as soon as the kettle of water is of sufficient heat the process may be begun, by placing it in the sick room under the edge of a firm table or bench; then dipping the present into the water by means of the hook already mentioned withdrawn it, and place it in the compressor.— It is then instantly squeezed dry & applied to the diseased part or wound of the patient.

Now as moist heat long continued is highly requisite & more advantageous if so applied without intervals of time it becomes expedient that the present should not lose its heat.

This caloric therefore may readily be communicated to the present in sufficient quantities by means of large sponges wetted in the kettle then compressed & laid on the present.— If the weight of the present & that of the sponge should be too onerous or too hot a remedy is easily provided by propping them by pieces of whalebone or other substance.

But generally the greater the temperature of the part, the more intense heat will be endurable and desirable.—

Furthermore what I claim as my invention and improvement, and what I consider as new in the whole of the Apparatus as above described by me.—

do testify that the above is a true Specification of my said invention and improvement

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I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of July in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and thirty two.

Witness
Robt H. Eddy
John Foster

Thos L Jamison

Ack.
Mfst.

1485 a.b.