July 22, 1924. 1,502,503

J. HOLLRIGL

CATAMENIAL APPLIANCE

Filed Feb. 28, 1922

Fig. 1.

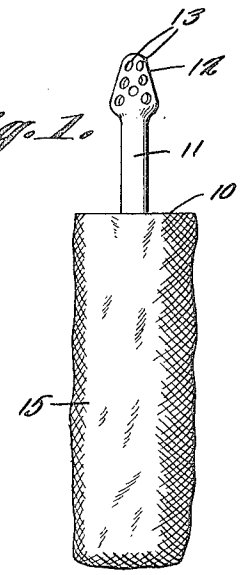


Fig. 2.

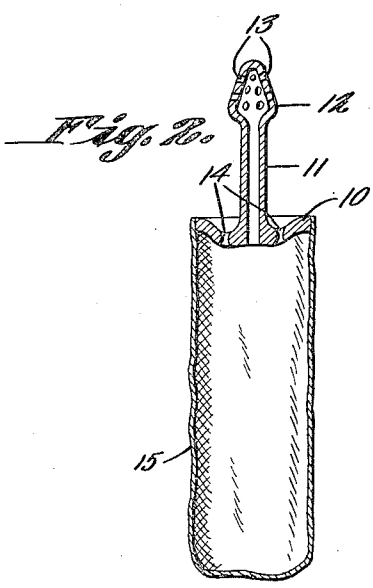


Fig. 3.

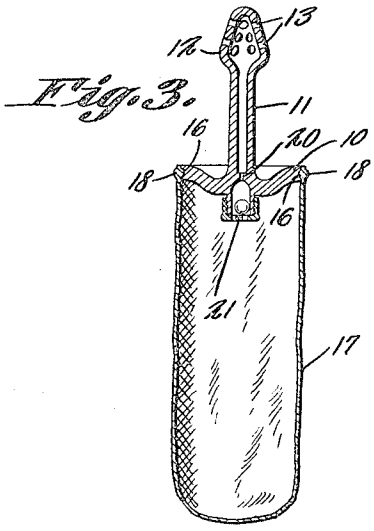
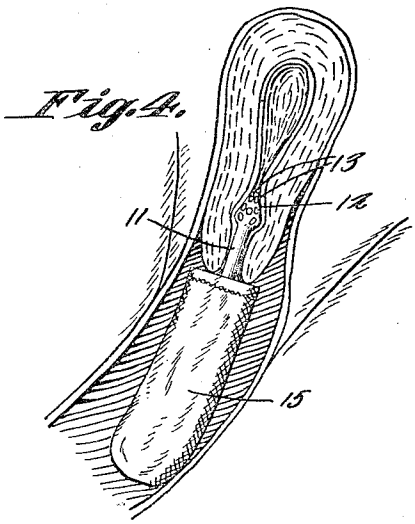


Fig. 4.



P. J. Hickey

WITNESS:

Joseph Hollrigl,
INVENTOR

BY Victor J. Evans
ATTORNEY

Patented July 22, 1924. 1,502,503

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH HOLLRIGL, OF MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

CATAMENIAL APPLIANCE.

Application filed February 28, 1922. Serial No. 540,024.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH HOLLRIGL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Manchester, in the county of Hillsborough and State of New Hampshire, have invented new and useful Improvements in Catamenial Appliances, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to surgical devices, particularly to catamenial appliances, and has for its object the provision of a device designed to be inserted within the cervix of the uterus for the purpose of catching and retaining the menstrual flow whereby to eliminate the use of the ordinary sanitary appliances, such as belts, napkins, pads, and the like, which are commonly provided for absorbing the discharge.

An important object is the provision of a device of this character which, when properly inserted, will positively prevent any leakage onto the garments or person of the wearer, the device consequently obviating much of the annoyance experienced by women during their periods, the device being furthermore sanitary and not injurious to health.

An additional object is the provision of a device of this character which will be simple and inexpensive in manufacture, easy to apply, efficient and practical in use, and a general improvement in the art.

With the above and other objects and advantages in view, the invention consists in the details of construction to be hereinafter more fully described and claimed and illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation showing one form of the device.

Figure 2 is a longitudinal sectional view therethrough.

Figure 3 is a longitudinal sectional view through a modified form of the device.

Figure 4 is a view of the device in position within the uterus and vagina.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, I have shown my device as comprising a cup-shaped member 10 which may be formed of hard rubber or the like, it being preferable that an inexpensive material be used as it is intended that this form of the apparatus be used once and then be thrown away. Formed integrally with or rigidly secured to the center of the cup is a hollow stem 11 which has its free end enlarged to define a head 12 formed with a plurality of perforations 13. The cup is provided between the stem 11 and its rim with a plurality of perforations 14, for a purpose to be described. Firmly secured to the rim of the cup is a flexible soft rubber bag 15 which is elongated and which has a reinforced bottom and sides to prevent collapsing. This form of the device is intended to be used once and should therefore be rather inexpensive with no provision made for any possible removal of the bag from the cup, the structure being as shown specifically in Figures 1 and 2.

In Figure 3 I have shown a somewhat modified form in which the cup-shaped member and the hollow stem may be formed of non-corrosive metal and constituting the permanent portion of the device which is designed, in this instance, to be used over and over, the material being such that it can be readily cleansed and kept sanitary. In this type the cup-shaped member is provided in its periphery with a groove 16 and a soft rubber bag 17 is associated with the cup and held thereon by means of an elastic band 18 which is formed integrally upon the open end of the bag and which is snapped into the groove 19 in the edge of the cup. In this form of the device the perforations 14 mentioned in the first described form are eliminated.

An important adjunct to this modified form is the provision of a valve seat 20 at the juncture of the stem with the cup and this valve seat has cooperating therewith a ball valve 21 which is designed to close when the appliance is removed from the body so as to prevent the accumulation within the bag from passing out through the stem.

Regardless of which form of the device is used, the employment or insertion thereof is the same, that is the device is inserted through the vagina and up into the uterus so that the perforated head will be located at the source of the menstrual flow, as shown in Figure 4. In accomplishing the insertion it is probably necessary to make use of a speculum which might be any of the well known type. After the device has been inserted to the proper point in the body the introducer is removed whereupon the flexible bag will occupy a position within the vagina and of course below the cup 10. The flow will enter the perforations in the head

12 and pass through the hollow stem 11 into and collect within the rubber bag. In the form shown in Figures 1 and 2, it will be apparent that such of the discharge as does not enter the perforations 13 in the head will flow onto the cup and will pass through the perforations 13 therein into the bag. In either case it will be seen that every bit of the discharge is taken care of and prevented from soiling the person or garments of the user. In the second described form, that is the form illustrated in Figure 3, it will be apparent that after use the bag may be removed and thrown away and the cup and associated parts be cleaned and sterilized so that when a new bag is applied to the cup the device may be used repeatedly.

From the foregoing description and a study of the drawings it will be apparent that I have thus provided a simply constructed and consequently inexpensive device which is well adapted for taking care of the discharge at the menstrual period so as to eliminate the use of objectionable pads and other equivalent devices. Owing to the simplicity it is apparent that there is nothing to get out of order and that the device should consequently have a long life and satisfactorily perform all the functions for which it is intended.

While I have shown and described the preferred embodiment of my invention, it is of course to be understood that I reserve the right to make such changes in the form, construction and arrangement of parts as will not depart from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the subjoined claims.

What I claim is:—

1. A device of the character described comprising a cup member, a hollow stem carried thereby and having a perforated head, and a flexible bag connected with said cup member, said cup member having its upper surface concaved and formed with a plurality of perforations.

2. A device of the character described comprising a cup like member, a flexible bag engaged with the periphery thereof, and a hollow stem projecting outwardly from the center of said cup like member and terminating in an enlarged hollow conical head provided throughout its area with a plurality of perforations.

3. A device of the character described comprising a cup like member, a flexible bag engaged with the periphery thereof, and a hollow stem projecting outwardly from the center of said cup like member and terminating in an enlarged hollow conical head provided throughout its area with a plurality of perforations, the juncture of the head with the stem defining a substantial shoulder adapted to be engaged by the tissue of the uterus for preventing downward displacement of the device.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JOSEPH HOLLRIGL.