W. Elmer,

Pessary,

No. 21,189. Patented Aug. 17, 1858.

Fig. 1

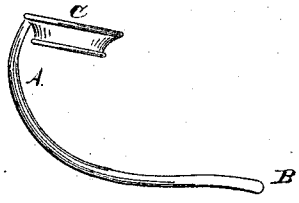


Fig. 2

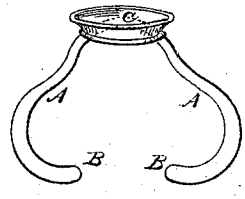


Fig. 3

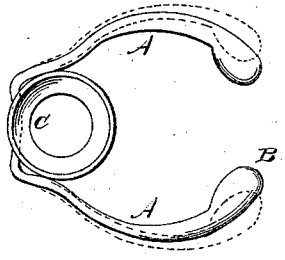


Fig. 4

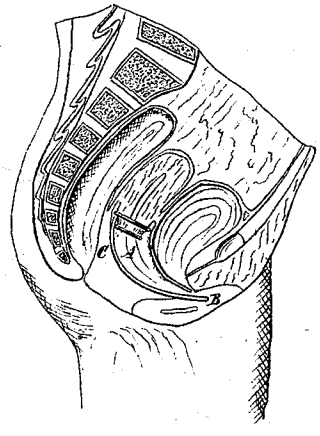


Fig. 5

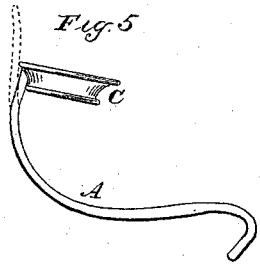
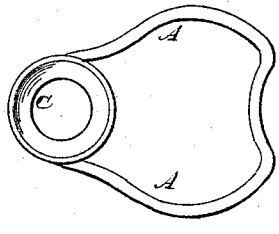


Fig. 6



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM ELMER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

PESSARY.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 21,189, dated August 17, 1858.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM ELMER, M. D., of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Uterine Supporters; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification.

Figure 1, is a side elevation of the improved uterine supporter. Fig. 2, is a front elevation of ditto. Fig. 3, is a top or bird's-eye view of ditto. Fig. 4, is a section of the genital organs of a female with the instrument for supporting the uterus applied thereto. Fig. 5, is a side elevation of a modification of the improved uterine supporter. Fig. 6, is a top or bird's-eye view of ditto.

Similar letters in the several figures refer to corresponding parts.

The nature of this invention and improvement consists in forming a uterine supporter of a light, flexible or elastic bar or tube of gold or other suitable material bent in the form of a yoke at its middle and posterior part, curved downward and outward at this part to correspond with the raphe of the perineum, then extending along the vagina resting upon the sphincter vaginæ, and terminating in a small bulb or rounded end which rests against the pubic bones on either side of the urethra so as to adapt its several parts to the portions upon and against which they respectively rest, and in providing the upper rear end of this curved bar or tube with a circular or nearly circular cup, or inverted frustum of a cone, in which the cervix uteri rests, in such a manner as to form a support for the uterus in case of its displacement from any cause, without in any manner impairing or in the slightest degree interfering with the performance of the functions of the uterus or any of the adjacent organs.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention I will proceed to describe its construction and its mode of operation.

The round bar or tube A, is made smaller in diameter at its center bent part and gradually increased in thickness as it approaches the anterior ends, which are rounded or made to terminate in bulbs B, Figs. 1 and 3, as before stated. From these latter (the anterior ends) it curves outward in the form of segments of circles, and slightly upward, and thence extends inward in continuation of said segments of circles, and more abruptly upward, in shorter curves, so as to somewhat resemble between its upper and rear curved part and its curved prongs cyma-reversas and cyma-rectar combined, and be of the required form to exactly fit the respective parts next which the instrument is brought when inserted in its place. To the upper curved part of this bar or tube A, is firmly secured a cup or inverted frustum of a cone C, in such relative arrangement to the lower flexible and slightly elastic portion and prongs of the instrument as to enable the lower part of the uterus to rest in the same, with its cervix or neck in such a position in relation to the flared opening through the cup C, as not in any manner to irritate the same, or to prevent the escape of the usual secretions, or in fact to interfere with the performance of any of its functions. By thus constructing the instrument, it is enabled to rest anteriorly upon the pubic bones, laterally upon the sphincter vaginæ, posteriorly upon the perineum, from which it ascends and passes up either side of the raphe of the perineum, and finally terminates in the cup shaped ring C, allowing during it application all the physiological functions of the vagina and uterus to be performed, as before stated, desiderata not accomplished by any other uterine support. The cup or ring C, has the effect of straightening the curved or best cervix or neck of the uterus without interfering with or pressing against the os tincæ, or mouth of the uterus, and on this account this instrument is superior to others of the kind. It does not press upon the pelvic nerves as other uterine supports do, and hence it can be worn with perfect ease, while preventing any displacement of the uterus.

The anterior or front part of the instrument is flexible and curved, and made to terminate in rounded ends or bulbs, as represented, so as to prevent these parts pressing against the meatus urinarins (urethra), while at the same time its flexibility allows of its being bent to suit any vagina, large or small. From its peculiar shape, fitting as it does the natural parts of the vagina, it is not liable to become displaced under any circumstances. It maintains the uterus in situ naturali, and at the same time allows

the natural mobility of that organ. It is the only means of curing sterility depending upon a curved cervix, as it not only straightens the neck of the uterus, but also leaves that portion of the organ suspended and free from pressure, as in health or in a natural position.

In case it is desired the form of the instrument may be slightly modified and altered, with a curved connection between the anterior or forward ends of the hollow bar or tube A, and extended above the rear of the cup or ring C, as represented in Figs. 5 and 6, but it is believed the form above described is the most desirable to properly fulfil the objects for which the instrument is designed. It may be made of gold or any other suitable material not likely to be affected by acids or by the secretions of the organs next which it is placed.

Having thus fully described my improved uterine supporter, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

Giving the peculiar form to the curved bar or tube A described and represented, and attaching to its posterior or rear part, a ring shaped cup, or inverted frustum of a cone C, in such relation thereto as to enable the instrument to perform the functions for which it is designed, in the manner and for the purpose before described.

WILLIAM ELMER.

Witnesses:
U. M. SMALLING,
C. P. JOHNSON.