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FEEDING DEVICE

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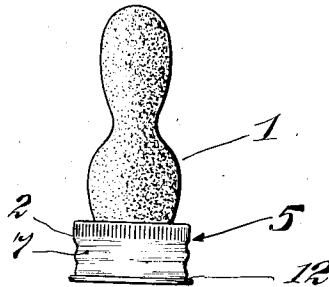


Fig. 1.

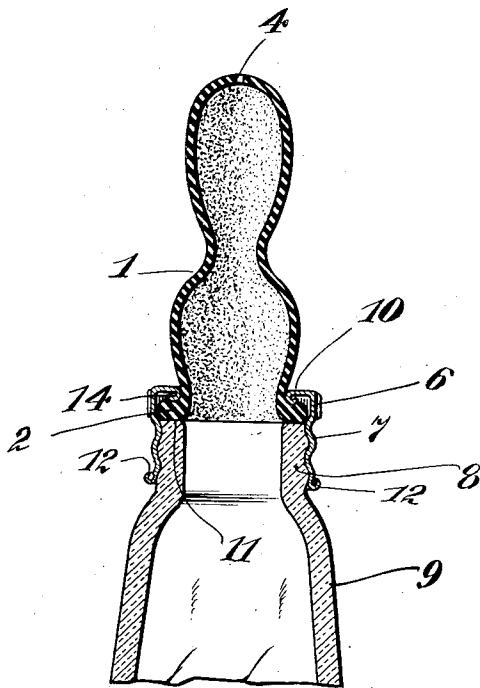


Fig. 2.

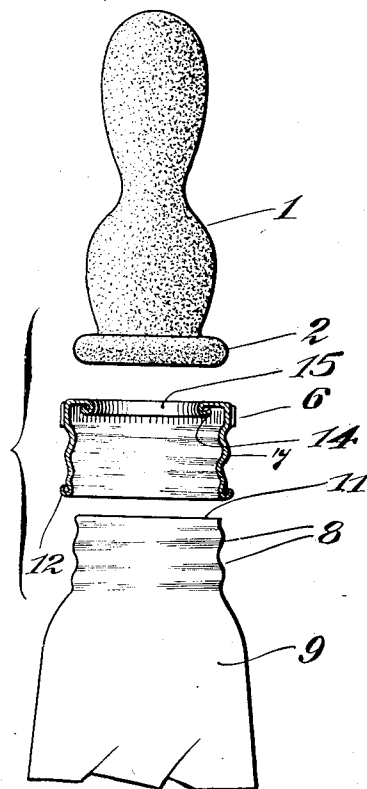


Fig. 3.

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FEEDING DEVICE.

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The present invention relates to feeding devices and more particularly to a feeding bottle having an elastic feeding means rigidly secured thereto.

Feeding bottles heretofore have comprised a small container or bottle with an annular bead or lip about the mouth thereof adapted to receive a nipple. In using such bottles the food such as milk, and likewise the container and nipple, are first sterilized; thereafter the bottle is filled and the lower edge of the nipple is stretched over the mouth thereof. To assemble the nipple and the bottle it is necessary to hold one side of the nipple under the lip of the bottle and to pull the other side over until it can be snapped on. The nipple must be of extremely strong elastic material otherwise it will come off the bottle during the feeding. It must also be considerably under size for the same reason. This renders the application of the nipple to the bottle a very difficult manipulation, necessitating excessive handling of the sterilized parts. Frequently the bottle slips from the hands and the contents are spilled or contaminated if the bottle itself is not broken. Furthermore, during the feeding after the nipple has been applied the physical accomplishments of the infant have to be taken into consideration, since after a certain age the infant will hold the nipple firmly in its mouth and pull on the bottle. The natural result is that the nipple pulls off and the food is spilled.

The present invention eliminates the above difficulties by providing a threaded member having an aperture in its cover portion so that it may be slipped over the nipple. An intumed flange at the upper part of the member engages the bead at the bottom of the nipple and when the member is threaded onto a container the bead is securely retained between the flange and the mouth of the bottle. In this manner the nipple may be rigidly secured to the mouth of the container to form a liquid-tight seal which cannot be disturbed by pulling the nipple or in any other manner other than by removing the threaded member. The assembling operations are extremely simple and danger of spilling or contaminating the food is eliminated.

An object of the present invention is to provide a simple and effective means for securing a nipple to a feeding bottle.

Another object of the invention is to fa-

cilitate the application of a nipple to a container and to eliminate accidental removal thereof.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device having the above characteristics which may be readily sterilized and which is free from sharp projections likely to injure an infant.

Other and further objects of the invention will be obvious from an understanding of the illustrated embodiment about to be described, and many other advantages not specifically referred to herein will occur to one skilled in the art upon employment of the invention in practice.

A preferred embodiment of the invention has been chosen for purposes of illustration and description and is shown in the accompanying drawings, wherein

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of the nipple and retaining member assembled;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view of the nipple and retaining member applied to a container; and

Fig. 3 is a detailed view of the nipple, container, and retaining member, unassembled, the retaining member being shown in section.

Referring to the drawings there is shown a common form of nipple 1, which may be purchased for a nominal price. Such nipples are made of elastic material such as rubber with a reinforced beaded lower edge 2 adapted to be stretched over the mouth of the container, and with an aperture 4 in its upper end for the escape of the food. A sheet metal retaining member 5 is provided preferably of aluminum or the like, having a downwardly depending skirt 6 with screw threads 7 therein adapted to engage co-operating threads 8 on the mouth of a bottle 9. The upper portion of the skirt may be knurled to a considerable depth to improve the looks of the cap and to facilitate gripping for removal thereof.

An inwardly extending annular flange 10 is formed at the upper portion of the skirt and adapted to extend over the edge 11 of the bottle when the member is threaded thereon. The lower edge of the skirt may be turned upwardly into a wire edge 12 to conceal and protect the raw edge thereof, and likewise the free edge of the flange 10 may be turned inwardly to conceal the raw edge thereof as shown at 14. The width of the flange 10 and the size of the aperture 15 is such that the nipple 1 will readily extend

through the aperture and the reinforcing bead 2 of the nipple will be engaged by the flange 10. The nipple and retaining member may be sterilized as a unit without disassembling or each part may be sterilized separately; likewise these parts may be sold as a unit or separately. When the retaining member is applied to the container with the nipple assembled therein, the beaded edge 14 of the flange engages the reinforcing bead on the lower edge of the nipple and presses it firmly against the rim of the container and holds the nipple securely in position. The heavy elastic roll or bead of the nipple pressed between the rim of the container and the flange 10 acts as a gasket forming a liquid-tight seal which cannot be disturbed by any pull exerted by an infant on the nipple.

It will be seen that a feeding bottle has been provided, the parts of which may be readily assembled without danger of spilling the contents. A secure liquid-tight seal is formed which cannot be disturbed or affected by the rough usage to which it may be subjected since it is securely held in position by a rigid threaded member through which any desired pressure may be applied to the reinforced beaded edge of the nipple. All rough surfaces of the retaining member are turned in so that there is no danger of injury in the use of the bottle. Further the retaining member is readily applicable to nipples and containers in common use.

As various changes may be made in the above embodiment without departing from the spirit of the invention, it is to be understood that all matter herein is to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A feeding bottle comprising a container, a nipple having an annular bead at its lower edge, and a metallic member having an aperture in its upper portion adapted to receive said nipple, the upper part of said member having a narrow flange adapted to extend over the bead on said nipple, with the free edge of said flange bent downwardly to engage and to hold said nipple in position on the end of said container.

2. A feeding bottle comprising a container, a retaining member adapted to be attached to said container, said member having an aperture in its cover portion, whereby an annular

shoulder extends inwardly from the skirt of the retaining member over the edge of the container the free edge of the metal forming the shoulder, being bent downwardly, a nipple with an annular bead at its lower edge, said nipple being adapted to fit into the aperture of said member with the bead thereon engaging the shoulder and the downwardly extending edge of the member to permit it to be rigidly held between said shoulder and the end of said container.

3. As an article of manufacture, a device for securing a nipple to a container comprising an annular skirt, and an intumed annular flange at the upper edge of said skirt adapted to extend over the rim of a container, the inner edge of said flange being rolled inwardly to facilitate gripping of the enlarged outer periphery of the nipple.

4. A feeding bottle comprising the combination of a nipple having a beaded, outwardly extending lower edge, a bottle, a sheet metal retaining element adapted to be secured to said bottle, said retaining element having an intumed flange for engaging the beaded edge of said nipple, the inner edge of said flange being rolled downwardly and inwardly to form an annular space between the downwardly depending part of said flange and the container engaging portion of the retaining element for the reception of the beaded edge of the nipple, whereby the inwardly turned edge of the flange locks with the bead on said nipple.

5. As an article of manufacture, the combination of a nipple having a beaded outwardly extending lower edge, a sheet metal retaining element having a skirt adapted to be secured to a bottle, said retaining element having an intumed flange for engaging the beaded edge of said nipple, the inner edge of said flange being bent downwardly to form an annular space between said edge and the skirt of said retaining element to receive the beaded edge of the nipple.

6. As an article of manufacture, a retaining element having a skirt adapted to be attached to a feeding bottle, an intumed flange for engaging the beaded edge of a nipple, the inner edge of said flange being rolled downwardly and outwardly to permit it to lock over the beaded edge of said nipple.

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