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W. J. KIRK

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MEDICAL TABLET

Filed Dec. 6, 1929

Fig. 1.

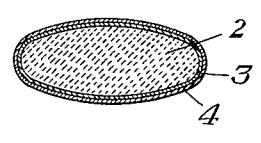
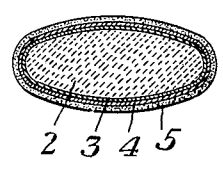


Fig. 2.



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MEDICAL TABLET

Application filed December 6, 1929. Serial No. 412,094.

This invention relates to a medical tablet, and more particularly medical tablets of the type having an enteric coating.

Heretofore enteric covered tablets containing an intestinal disinfectant or other medication have been provided, the coating being soluble only in an alkaline medium, whereby the coating is not attacked by the acids of the stomach, and the tablet not dissolved until it comes into contact with the alkaline fluids in the intestines. It has frequently been found, however, that at the time the tablet is taken, the contents of the stomach may not be of proper acidity, and under certain circumstances may be definitely alkaline. In this case the enteric coating is prematurely dissolved. According to the present invention, there is provided a tablet having a second coating external to the enteric coating containing some stomachic which will definitely stimulate the secretion of hydrochloric acid in the stomach, preventing premature solution of the enteric coating.

The invention may be readily understood by reference to the accompanying drawing, in which

Figure 1 represents a section through a tablet made in accordance with my invention, the drawing, of course, being on an enlarged scale.

Figure 2 is a view similar to Figure 1, of a slightly modified form of the invention.

In the drawing, 2 designates a tablet containing an intestinal disinfectant, a diuretic or other preparation intended to enter the system through the intestine or to be rendered effective in the intestine. The medicant 2 is protected by a shield 3 commonly referred to in the art as an enteric coating, and which is soluble only in an alkaline medium. Applied to the surface of the enteric coating 3 is another coating 4 of a stomachic, such for instance as ginger, clove, cinnamon, or any similar substance intended to stimulate the secretion of hydrochloric acid in the stomach.

When the tablet is taken, the stomachic 4 is immediately dissolved or diffused through the contents of the stomach, stimulating the secretion of hydrochloric acid. The contents of the stomach are, therefore, made definitely

acid during the time the tablet remains in the stomach. When the tablet passes into the intestine, the external coating has been removed and the enteric shield 3 may be dissolved in the alkaline fluids of the intestines.

In order to make the tablet more palatable and protect the stomachic, the stomachic may be combined with a sugar coating, or the tablet may be further provided with a sugar coating 5 outside the coating of stomachic. This is disclosed in Figure 2, wherein the tablet is the same as that shown in Figure 1 with the exception that the additional envelope 5 is provided.

The invention, by the simple provision of the stomachic, secures an enteric-coated tablet which will always provide conditions in the stomach adverse to the dissolution of the enteric coating, and thus prevent premature release of the contents of the tablet.

While I have referred to the contents of the tablet as being of a specific nature, it will be understood that the invention is not confined to the use of any particular material within the tablet, but is applicable to any tablet wherein it is desirable to employ an enteric coating soluble only under an alkaline medium. I have also referred to ginger as a specific stomachic, but it will be understood that any one of a large number of substances intended to stimulate the secretion of hydrochloric acid in the stomach may be used.

I claim:

As an article of manufacture, an enteric-covered tablet, the enteric coating of which is soluble only in an alkaline medium, and an enclosing layer external to the enteric coating comprising a stomachic adapted to stimulate the secretion of hydrochloric acid in the stomach.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

WILLIAM J. KIRK.