July 7, 1953 G. S. WHITE 2,644,623

NURSING BOTTLE HOLDER

Filed Feb. 28, 1950

Fig. 1

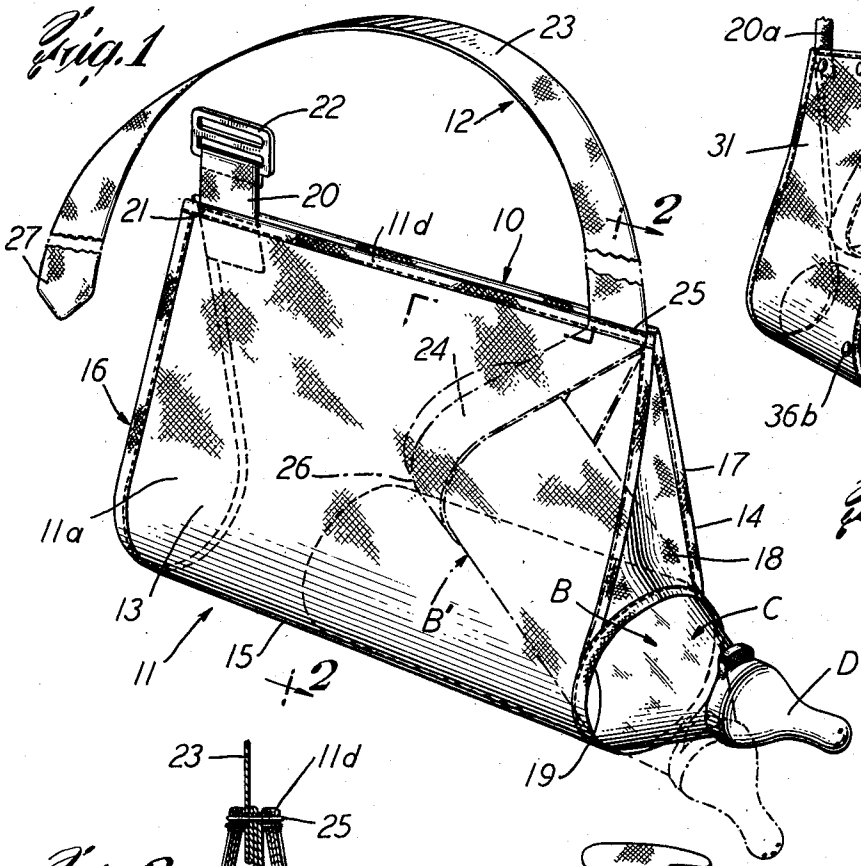


Fig. 4

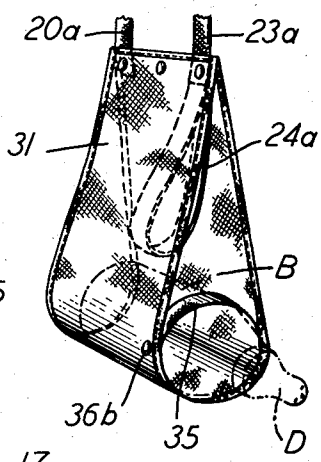


Fig. 2

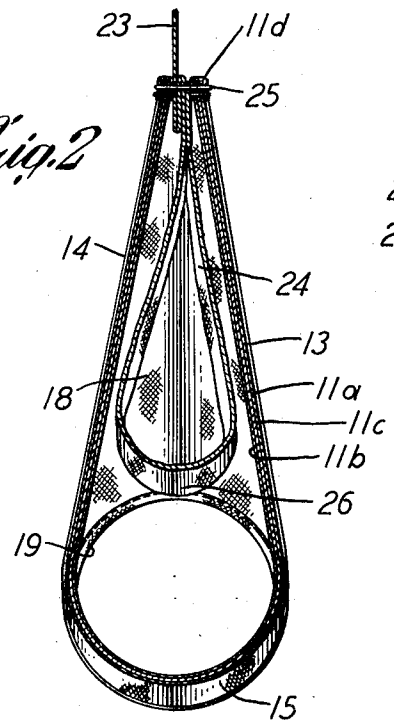
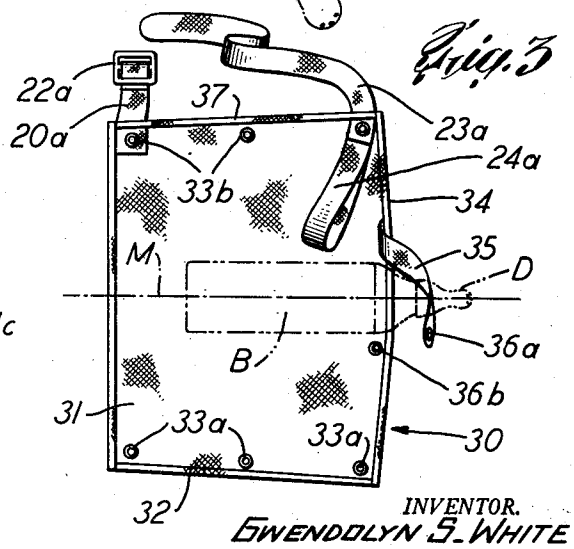


Fig. 3



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NURSING BOTTLE HOLDER

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10 Claims. (Cl. 224—5)

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This invention relates to a holder or supporting device for nursing bottles, and more particularly to a holder or supporting device capable of being suspended from the body of a person and constructed for easy insertion and removal of a nursing bottle and so that the nursing bottle carried thereby will be disposed in nursing position relative to an infant cradled in the arm of the person.

It is an object of this invention to provide a nursing bottle support for supporting the bottle in front of a person in the position necessary for nursing an infant cradled in that person's arm, thereby freeing the hand normally supporting the bottle, so that the hand thereby freed may be used in supporting the infant, or for any other purpose.

Another object of this invention is to provide a nursing bottle support so constructed as to position a nursing bottle disposed in the support at the proper tilted position for feeding an infant cradled in the person's arm.

A further object is to provide a nursing bottle support for carrying a nursing bottle in front of a person in nursing position relative to an infant cradled in the person's arm, and constructed so as to hold a bottle therein in any of a plurality of tilted positions, the bottle being movable from one tilted position to another by simple manipulation by the free hand of the person feeding the infant.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a nursing bottle support formed of a sling within which the bottle is supported and having means secured thereto for engagement with the body of a person to thereby position the sling and nursing bottle in nursing position relative to an infant cradled in the person's arm, and in which the sling is so constructed as to permit the easy placement of the nursing bottle therein and to prevent the inadvertent disengagement of the bottle from the sling.

A still further object is to provide a nursing bottle support formed of a flexible sheet foldable along a medial line to provide a sling within which a nursing bottle may be supported, and having separable fasteners at the opposite longitudinal edges for retaining the sheet in the sling form; so that the fasteners may be separated and the flexible sheet disposed flat when the nursing bottle is being received to reduce the likelihood of contact between the bottle nipple and the sheet, and also when the holder is being cleaned.

Finally, it is an object of this invention to provide a nursing bottle support of the kind described having a moisture-proof interior and in which the construction is simple, sturdy, and inexpensive to thereby permit the widest use of the device.

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The foregoing and other objectives, features, and advantages of my invention will become apparent from the following detailed description of an illustrative embodiment thereof, while the new features of combination, construction, and operation, which I claim as my invention are set forth more particularly in the appended claims.

The detailed description refers to the accompanying drawing which forms a part hereof and in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a nursing bottle support constructed according to this invention,

Figure 2 is a sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1,

Figure 3 is a plan view of a modified nursing bottle support constructed according to this invention and showing the sling forming member in open position for easy cleansing thereof, or preparatory to receiving a nursing bottle, and

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the modified nursing bottle support with the sling forming member folded along a medial line to provide the supporting sling.

Referring to the drawing, in which like reference characters indicate like parts, and initially to Figures 1 and 2 thereof, the nursing bottle support is generally indicated by the reference character 10. The nursing bottle support 10 includes a sling shaped holder generally indicated by the reference numeral 11, and a halter strap, generally indicated by the reference numeral 12.

The holder 11 is formed of a flexible sheet material, which may be any suitable fabric, such as cloth or plastic sheeting, but in the form shown is a laminated material including an outer covering 11*a*, an inner moisture-proof lining 11*b*, and padding material 11*c* sandwiched between the covering and the lining. The several layers are secured together by the edge binding tapes 11*d*. The sheet material is folded upon itself into the shape of a sling or holder 11 having side walls 13 and 14, and a bottom or fold portion 15. One end 16 of the sling 11 thereby formed is open. At the other end 17 of the sling the sides 13 and 14 are interconnected by a gusset 18 which terminates at a location away from the adjacent edge of the bottom or fold 15 so as to define a restricted opening 19 through that

end of the sling. The depth of the holder or sling at end 16 preferably is less than its depth at end 17 so that the bottom or fold 15 will be inclined downwardly in the direction of opening 19 when the holder is in a normal position of use.

The halter strap 12 includes a relatively short portion 20 having an end thereof secured between the top edges of the side walls 13 and 14, adjacent end 16 of the sling 11, by the stitching 21 extending through these edges and strap portion 20. The stitching 21 also binds sides 13 and 14 together at the top of the holder. A buckle or clamp 22 is attached to the free end of strap portion 20. The halter strap 12 also includes an elongated strap portion 23 secured between the top edges of side walls 13 and 14 adjacent end 17 of the holder and preferably extending into the holder to form therein a depending loop 24 integral with one end of the strap 23. The strap 23 and the ends of the loop 24 may be secured between the top edges of side walls 13 and 14 by stitching 25 which also binds the top edges of the holder or sling together adjacent end 17. The loop 24 has a length such that its bottom 26 is spaced a substantial distance above the underlying portion of bottom wall 15 of the sling. The free end 27 of the strap portion 23 is adapted to be connected adjustably with the buckle 22, so that the effective length of the halter strap 12 may be varied easily by movement of the buckle 22 along the length of the strap portion 23.

In the use of the bottle supporting device illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, the halter strap 12 is engaged about the neck of a person preparing to feed an infant, so as to suspend the sling 11 in desired position at the front of the person where the sling will hold a nursing bottle accessible to the infant cradled in the nurse's arm. A nursing bottle, generally indicated by the reference character B, may then be inserted freely into the sling 11 through the open end 16 of the latter. The nursing bottle B is generally formed with a neck portion C of reduced diameter, upon which a nipple D is engaged. The bottle B is moved inwardly from the open end 16 of the sling along the bottom 15 of the latter until the reduced neck portion C and nipple D project outwardly through the restricted opening 19 formed in end 17 of the sling. The restricted opening 19, while permitting the extension of the nipple D and the reduced neck portion C therethrough, is formed with a diameter smaller than the diameter of the body of the bottle B, and therefore keeps the bottle B from falling through the restricted opening 19. Since the bottom 15 of the sling 11 is inclined downwardly towards end 17 of the sling, as indicated in the drawing, the bottle B will be tilted downwardly towards the infant who has easy access to the nipple D. Whenever it is desired to tilt the bottle further for completion of a feeding, the nurse simply extends a hand through the open end 16 of the sling and tilts the bottle upwardly into the position shown in broken lines at B' in Figure 1, and engages the lower end of the bottle within the loop 24. The bottle is then disposed in an extreme tilted position to cause its diminished contents to flow into the lowered nipple.

Referring now to Figures 3 and 4, a modified nursing bottle holder 30 is illustrated. The holder 30 is formed of a sheet 31 of flexible material, which may be any suitable fabric, such as cloth or plastic sheeting, or a laminated material such as that described in connection with holder 11. The sheet 31, as seen in Figure 3, is substantially quadrilateral, and binding tape 32 extends around the four sides thereof. The mating portions 33*a* and 33*b* of snap fasteners, or other suitable separable fasteners, are spaced along the opposite side edges, respectively, of the sheet 31 and secured thereto in a well known manner. While only three of such fasteners are shown in the drawing, one in each of the opposite corners and the third midway therebetween, a greater number may be provided and spaced closer together.

It will be noted that the sheet 31 is not a parallelogram, but that the opposite side edges diverge slightly in the direction of the end edge 34. An elongated cross strap 35 has one end preferably secured to the sheet 31 at a point on end edge 34 spaced from the longitudinal median line M. The cross strap 35 is provided with a fastener portion 36*a* at the free end thereof for engagement with the mating portion 36*b* carried by the sheet at a point spaced a distance from the median line substantially equal to the distance from the median line to the point at which the strap is fixed. If desired, the strap 35 may be fixedly attached at both ends to the sheet, instead of having one end separable from the sheet, as in the illustrated embodiment.

A halter strap, similar to that recited in the description of the nursing bottle support of Figures 1 and 2, includes a relatively short portion 20*a* having an end secured by stitching or other means to the side edge 37 of the sheet at the end of the latter remote from the end edge 34. A buckle or clamp 22*a* is attached to the free end of the strap portion 20*a*. The halter strap also includes an elongated portion 23*a* formed with a loop 24*a* on one end, which loop overlies the sheet 31 adjacent the edge 34 thereof. Strap portion 23*a* and the ends of the loop 24*a* may be secured by stitching, or otherwise, to the sheet adjacent the corner formed by end edge 34 and side edge 37. The loop 24*a* has a length substantially less than half the width of the sheet, so that the bottom of the loop will be spaced a substantial distance above the underlying portion of the bottom of the sling formed by the sheet 31 in a manner hereinafter set forth. The free end of the strap portion 23*a* may be adjustably connected to the buckle 22*a*.

In the use of the modified bottle supporting device, sheet 31 is initially disposed flat, as viewed in Figure 3, and the nursing bottle B is laid thereon with the nipple D extending over the end edge 34. Since the sheet is spread wide, the nipple need not contact the surface of the sheet during this operation, and may be maintained in a sanitary or sterilized condition. The cross strap 35 is then extended over the neck of the bottle and the fastener portions 36*a* and 36*b* interengaged. The sheet 31 may then be folded upwardly along the medial line M and the side edges thereof secured together by engaging the fastener portions 33*a* with the mating portions 33*b*.

When folded in this manner, the sheet forms a sling (Figure 4), freely open at one end and having a restricted opening at the bottom of the other end formed by the cross strap 35 which prevents the bottle from falling through that other end of the sling. By reason of the divergence of the side edges of the sheet, the bottom of the sling thus formed will incline downwardly towards the restricted opening. The halter strap may be en-

gaged about the neck of a person preparing to feed an infant, and the modified bottle holding device is then used in the manner set forth in connection with the initially described device. At the completion of a feeding, the sheet 31, forming the sling may again be spread flat to facilitate the thorough cleaning thereof.

From the foregoing description of preferred embodiments of this invention, it will be evident that it provides a simple, convenient, and economical nursing bottle holder whereby a bottle being used for nursing may be supported from the body of a nurse holding the infant without any discomfort to the infant or the nurse, and yet so as to make one hand of the nurse completely free for other purposes.

While I have illustrated and described in detail preferred embodiments of my invention, it will be apparent that the new features of construction and combination herein set forth may be embodied in other forms of nursing bottle supports, and I therefore desire that the invention be accorded a scope fully commensurate with its contribution to the art, which is intended to be defined by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A nursing bottle holder comprising a sling member open at one end for loosely receiving a nursing bottle and having a bottom inclined downwardly towards the other end thereof, a restricted opening formed through said other end adjacent the bottom thereof through which the neck and nipple of a bottle resting on said inclined bottom may project, and means in said sling member spaced upwardly from said bottom engageable with the backward end of the bottle for further tilting the bottle towards said restricted opening.

2. A nursing bottle holder comprising a sling member open at one end for loosely receiving a nursing bottle and having a bottom inclined downwardly towards the other end thereof, a restricted opening formed in the lower portion of said other end through which the neck and nipple of a bottle supported in tilted position on said inclined bottom may project, and a looped member extending into said sling member and supported from the top of the latter, the bight portion of said looped member being spaced upwardly from the underlying inclined bottom and engageable under the backward end of the nursing bottle for further tilting the latter towards said restricted opening.

3. A nursing bottle holder comprising a sling member formed of a sheet of flexible material bent upwardly upon the medial line thereof to provide a bottom and a pair of side walls, said sling member being open at one end for loosely receiving a nursing bottle and said bottom being inclined downwardly towards the other end thereof, a restricted opening formed in said other end adjacent the bottom thereof through which the neck and nipple of a nursing bottle resting on said inclined bottom may project, a looped member extending into said sling member between the side walls thereof, the bight portion of said looped member being spaced upwardly from said inclined portion whereby said looped member when engaged about the backward end of a nursing bottle will further tilt the bottle towards said other end, and means securing the top of said looped member to the top edges of said side walls.

4. A nursing bottle supporting device comprising a flexible sling member open at one end for loosely receiving a nursing bottle and having a bottom inclined downwardly towards the other

end thereof, a gusset member extending across the upper portion of said other end to provide a restricted opening at the bottom of said other end through which the neck and nipple of a nursing bottle supported in tilted position on said inclined bottom may extend, a looped member in said sling member adjacent said other end thereof and spaced upwardly from the underlying portion of said bottom of said sling member, said looped member being engageable about the backward end of a nursing bottle disposed in said sling member to thereby further tilt the bottle towards said restricted opening, and means secured to said sling member and engageable about the neck of a person for supporting a nursing bottle disposed in said sling member in front of the person in nursing position relative to an infant cradled in the person's arms.

5. A nursing bottle supporting device comprising a flexible sling member open at one end for loosely receiving a nursing bottle and having a bottom inclined downwardly towards the other end thereof, a gusset member extending across the upper portion of said other end to provide a restricted opening at the bottom of said other end through which the neck and nipple of a nursing bottle supported in tilted position on said inclined bottom may extend, an elongated halter strap having one end secured to the top of said sling member adjacent said one end of the latter, the other end of said strap being reverted to form a looped member, said looped member extending into said sling member adjacent said other end of the latter and having the bight portion thereof spaced upwardly from the underlying portion of said inclined bottom, and means securing the top of said looped member to the top of said sling member whereby said looped member may engage about the backward end of a nursing bottle disposed in said sling member to thereby further tilt the bottle towards said restricted opening, said halter strap being engageable about the neck of a person for supporting a nursing bottle in said sling member in front of the person in nursing position relative to an infant cradled in the person's arms.

6. A nursing bottle supporting device comprising a substantially quadrilateral sheet of flexible material; interengageable fastening means carried by said sheet at the opposite side edges thereof; an elongated flexible member; and securing means attaching the opposite ends of said elongated member to one end edge of said sheet at points on opposite sides of the longitudinal median line of the sheet and spaced substantially equidistant from said median line, the securing means on at least one end of said elongated member being separable whereby said sheet may be bent upwardly along said median line and said fastening means engaged to form a sling for receiving a nursing bottle, and whereby said elongated member when secured at its opposite ends to said end edge forms a restricted opening at the bottom of one end of the sling through which the neck and nipple of a bottle in the sling may project.

7. A nursing bottle supporting device comprising a substantially quadrilateral sheet of flexible material, the opposite side edges of said sheet diverging toward one end edge thereof; interengageable fastening means carried by said sheet at said opposite side edges; an elongated flexible member having its opposite ends secured to said one end edge at points on opposite sides of, and substantially equidistant from, the longitudinal

median line of said sheet whereby said sheet may be bent upwardly along said median line to form a sling for receiving a bottle with said elongated member forming a restricted opening at the bottom of one end thereof through which the neck and nipple of the bottle may project, and whereby the bottom of the sling will be inclined downwardly towards the restricted opening for tilting the bottle in that direction.

8. A nursing bottle supporting device comprising a substantially quadrilateral sheet of flexible material; interengageable fastening means carried by said sheet at the opposite side edges thereof; an elongated flexible member having one end fixed to an end edge of said sheet at a point spaced from the longitudinal median line of the latter; means separably connecting the free end of said elongated member to said end edge at a point thereon disposed on the side of said median line opposite from the point of attachment of said one end of the elongated member; and a looped member secured to said sheet at one of the side edges thereof and overlying said sheet, said looped member terminating short of said longitudinal median line whereby said sheet may be bent upwardly along said median line to form a sling for receiving a nursing bottle with said elongated member forming a restricted opening at one end through which the neck and nipple of the bottle may project, and whereby said looped member may be engaged under the backward end of the bottle for tilting the latter towards said restricted opening.

9. A nursing bottle holder comprising a flexible polygonal sling member adapted to be suspended along an upper edge portion thereof from the body of a person holding an infant, said member being formed of a substantially rectangular piece of flexible sheet material folded upon itself substantially along a transverse medial line of the piece and having its end margins brought together to provide an elongated upper edge portion and a lower sling portion extending therealong to hold a nursing bottle placed loosely thereon, means for connecting said end margins together along said upper edge portion, the opposing side margins of the folded piece at one end of said member forming a free opening below said upper edge portion to receive freely a hand inserting a nursing bottle into the sling portion, and strap means for interconnecting the opposing side margins of the folded piece at the other end of said member so as to retain a bottle therein yet form at that end adjacent the bottom of said member a restricted opening through which the neck and nipple of the bottle may project for access by the infant, said strap means being fixed permanently to one of the latter side margins and carrying detachable connecting means for attachment to the other of such side margins.

10. A nursing bottle holder formed of a substantially rectangular sheet of flexible material folded upon itself along a transverse medial line thereof to provide a looped bottom portion to support loosely a nursing bottle thereon and a pair of side walls the end margins of which meet to form an elongated upper edge portion for the holder, means connected with and extending from said upper edge portion for suspending the holder from the body of a person holding an infant, means interconnecting said end margins along said upper edge, opposing portions of said walls below said edge being free at one end of said member so as to form an end opening to receive freely a hand inserting a nursing bottle into said bottom portion, and gusset means interconnecting portions of said side walls spaced above the bottom portion at the other end of said sling member so as to retain a bottle therein yet form a restricted opening below the gusset means through which the neck and nipple of the bottle may project for access by the infant.

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