(No Model.)

J. E. LEE.

PACKAGE OF SURGEONS' SILK OR CATGUT.

No. 385,937. Patented July 10, 1888.

Fig. 1.

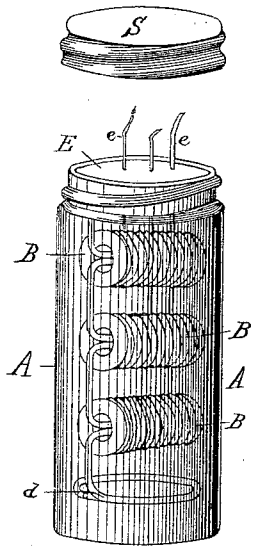
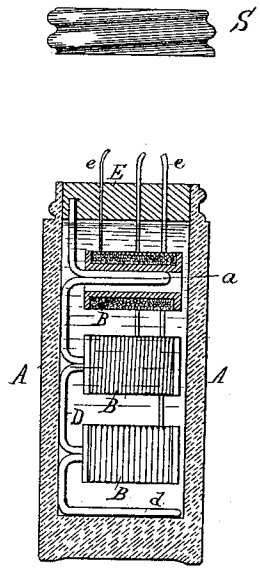


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

J. ELLWOOD LEE, OF CONSHOHOCKEN, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR TO THE J. ELLWOOD LEE COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

PACKAGE OF SURGEONS' SILK OR CATGUT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 385,937, dated July 10, 1888.

Application filed March 8, 1888. Serial No. 266,501. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, J. ELLWOOD LEE, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Conshohocken, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, have invented an Improved Package of Surgeons' Silk or Catgut, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to put up surgeons' silk or catgut for ligatures, so that the silk or catgut may be drawn off of the size and quality and in the quantity desired in a cleanly manner without liability of spilling any of the antiseptic fluid in which the silk or catgut is kept, and also without liability of the catgut or silk becoming entangled.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved package with the inclosing-cap lifted off, and Fig. 2 is a sectional view of the same.

The ordinary method of putting up surgeons' silk or catgut is to wind it on glass spools, a number of which are placed loosely in a bottle or other receptacle of carbolized oil or other antiseptic fluid. When it is desired to use any of the silk or catgut, one of the bobbins is withdrawn from the bottle and the desired quantity taken off the bobbin; but this is not a very cleanly operation and causes loss of more or less of the fluid, and the threads of silk or catgut are apt to get entangled.

According to my invention I put up silk or catgut on glass spools B, as heretofore, and place the spools in a glass bottle or other receptacle containing the antiseptic fluid, but each spool or bobbin is mounted on a separate spindle. I prefer to make these spindles out of wire by bending the wire up into a frame, D, one end of the wire being bent into a ring, *d*, to form a base to fit in the bottom of the bottle, while at suitable intervals horizontal arms or spindles *a* are formed to receive the glass spools B, containing the silk or catgut. In the present instance I have shown three of these arms or spindles to receive three spools with different sizes of catgut or silk. The upper end of the frame of wire extends into the stopper E, of rubber or cork or other suitable material, which is intended to remain in the bottle after the frame, with its bobbins, has been placed in the liquid and until the catgut or silk has been used up. The metal frame D should be coated with a varnish, enamel, or other coating which will resist the action of the antiseptic liquid in the bottle, in order to prevent possible corrosion. The loose ends *e* of the catgut or silk from the several spools are drawn through the body of this stopper with a close fit, as shown in the drawings. The threads may be conveniently drawn through the stopper by means of a needle, into the eye of which the ends are threaded. The top of the bottle is then covered by means of a screw-cap, S, in the ordinary manner.

It will thus be seen that when it is desired to use any of the silk or catgut it is simply necessary to remove the outer cap and draw through the stopper as much of the desired thread as is needed for use, and as the thread is drawn through the stopper the surplus antiseptic fluid is wiped off. This arrangement of drawing the silk or catgut through the stopper also prevents entangling of the thread in the bottle, and this is further aided by the mounting of the spools on the separate spindles in the manner described.

I claim as my invention—

1. The herein-described package of surgeons' silk or catgut, consisting of a bottle or other receptacle containing antiseptic fluid, a spool or spools of the thread, and a stopper for the bottle, through the body of which the end of the thread passes with a close fit, substantially as described.

2. The herein-described package of surgeons' silk or catgut, consisting of a bottle or other receptacle containing antiseptic fluid, bobbins of the thread, spindles for the bobbins, and a closing-stopper through which the ends of thread are passed with a close fit, substantially as described.

3. The herein-described package of surgeons' silk or catgut, comprising a bottle or other receptacle containing a wire frame having arms or spindles, and having a coating to resist the action of the antiseptic fluid, bob-

bins of the thread, and a stopper through which the threads are passed with a close fit, substantially as described.

4. The herein-described package of surgeons' silk or catgut, comprising a bottle or other receptacle containing antiseptic fluid, and the threads, a stopper through which the threads are passed with a close fit, and an inclosing-cap.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

J. ELLWOOD LEE.

Witnesses:
WILLIAM D. CONNER,
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