

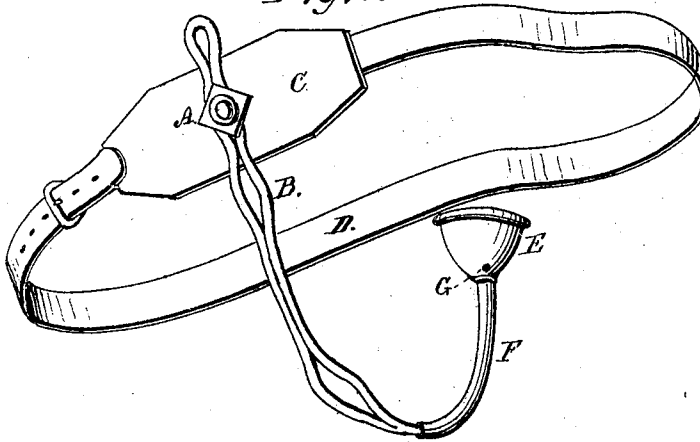
L. A. BABCOCK.

Improvement in Uterine Supporters.

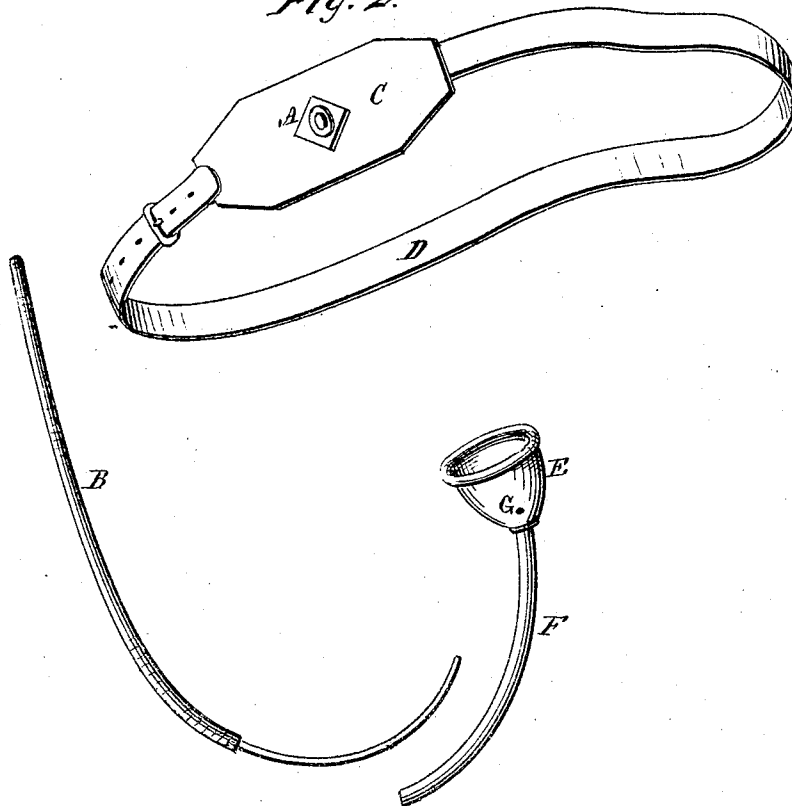
No. 123,856.

Patented Feb. 20, 1872.

*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



Witnesses.

*J. A. Cook*  
*H. A. Hurlfish*

Inventor.

*Iceland, A. Babcock M.D.*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LELAND A. BABCOCK, OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS.

## IMPROVEMENT IN UTERINE-SUPPORTERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 123,856, dated February 20, 1872.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, LELAND A. BABCOCK, M. D., of Freeport, in the county of Stephenson and State of Illinois, has invented a new and useful Improvement in Uterine-Supporters; of which the following is a full and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawing making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of the improved supporter. Fig. 2 is a view of the belt detached; and Fig. 3 represents the two parts of the supporter detached from each other and from the supporting-belt.

Similar letters of reference denote corresponding parts in all the figures.

My invention has for its object the provision of a uterine-supporter which is light and simple in construction, of easy adjustment or application, not liable to get displaced or out of order, and which will be incapable of injurious effect, even when used or applied by other than the skillful practitioner, thereby obviating the difficulties and objections to those heretofore in use. It consists in the employment of a cup conforming in shape to the neck or lower extremity of the womb, and provided with a series of perforations or small outlets for the escape of the fluids when combined with a tubular stem and a detachable handle or stem matching or fitting the tubular stem and adapted to be connected to and supported by a belt or strap, as hereinafter described.

In the drawing, A represents a thumb-nut and screw-bolt, said bolt being secured to a copper plate inside the pad C of the belt D, the plate and pad being, for the comfort of the wearer, covered with white enameled leather. B represents the handle of the supporter, which, for the purpose of combining lightness and strength, and an increased bearing surface without increased weight of metal, with a capability of ready adjustment, is bifurcated, terminating at the lower end in a single stem, and adapted to be secured to the pad by the thumb-nut and screw-bolt A, said bolt passing between the arms or branches of the handle, as shown. E is the cup, which, in shape, conforms to the neck of the womb, and is provided near its bottom, as at G, with any desired number of small holes or openings through which the fluid secretions may escape. The cup E is provided with a

tubular stem, F, which is connected to the cup by a double-socket joint within which, or in the bottom of the cup, may be secured a small piece or plug of zinc. The tubular stem F, at its lower end, is of a size corresponding to and is adapted to receive the terminal stem of handle B in such manner that when the two are united they form a continuous stem of substantially uniform diameter from the cup E to the bifurcated portion of the handle B. The supporter, with the exception of the parts referred to, is designed to be made of pure silver, as not liable to corrode or chafe the parts brought into contact with it. The use of portions of copper and zinc in the construction in positions where they are not brought into actual contact with the person of the wearer, is intended, by being acted upon by the acid secretions resulting from perspiration and other exudations of the body, to generate a weak galvanic action, which is communicated through the stem and cup to the womb, and is believed to materially aid in the speedy restoration of the parts to a normal condition. By making the portion of the stem connected with the cup detachable from the handle it will be seen that the difficulty of applying and properly adjusting the instrument incident to the employment of uterine-supporters as heretofore constructed, and the injury frequently resulting therefrom, is entirely obviated, as by my construction the cup may be first applied and properly adjusted, and when so adjusted the supporting-handle may be readily and quickly applied and secured to the belt without disturbing the cup, and consequently without any twisting or straining of the parts.

The device as a whole is light, simple, and durable, without projections or joints, of a character that can, by any possibility, inflict injury upon the wearer, and is believed to fully overcome the objections heretofore urged against this class of instruments.

Open bottom or annular cups and rings which permitted the escape of the fluid secretions have been used, but their use has been found objectionable because of the danger of producing strangulation of the neck of the womb. This difficulty is obviated in my supporter by the employment of the closed cup, affording an uniform and the largest possible supporting-surface, while, at the same time,

the advantages of the open bottom are retained by means of minute perforations in the cup, as described. This feature, however, is not claimed separately; but

Having now described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination of the perforated cup, having the tubular supporting-stem with the bifurcated handle, fitting within the stem, made

either wholly of or surfaced with silver or equivalent non-corrosive metal, and adjustably connected with the supporting-pad, and with or without the zinc and copper, substantially as described.

LELAND ALMANZON BABCOCK, M. D.

Witnesses:

E. E. BABCOCK,  
GEO. WOLF.