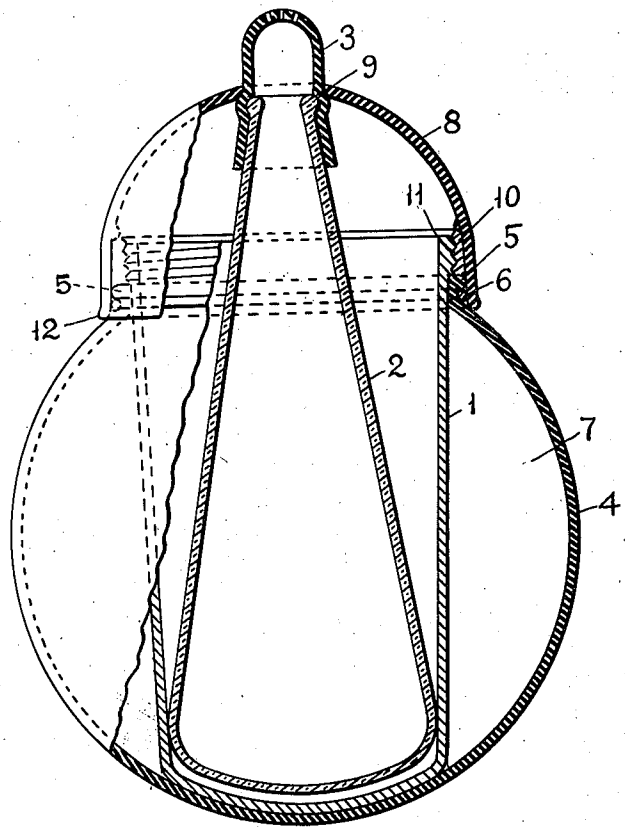
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NURSING DEVICE

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ANTONINA M. KAZIMIROW
INVENTOR.

BY John P. Nikonow
ATTORNEY

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NURSING DEVICE

Antonina M. Kazimirow, New York, N. Y.

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3 Claims. (Cl. 215—11)

My invention relates to nursing devices and has particular reference to devices comprising nursing bottles in special enclosures.

In my United States Patent No. 2,150,835 I have disclosed a nursing device consisting of a nursing bottle in an enclosure made of an elastic material, such as sponge rubber, and so shaped as to make a child feel that it is being fed from its mother's breast, thereby encouraging the child's natural feeding instinct. Important psychological and nutritional effects are thereby obtained, as is explained in the foregoing patent.

Practical experience with feeding children, using my device, has fully confirmed its value and advantages. I have found, however, that the enclosure, made, in accordance with my foregoing patent, of sponge rubber, is rather heavy and expensive. I have also found that it is necessary to provide means for positively holding the round cap on the lower portion of the enclosure so as to prevent the cap from being worked loose by the child.

My invention has for its object to provide a nursing device comprising a round enclosure for a nursing bottle, the enclosure being made in the form of a hollow thin-walled ball open at the end, the opening being permanently attached to an inner container for the nursing bottle. A light, inexpensive device is thereby obtained, having an added elasticity due to the air sealed in the ball. The cap for the device is also made with thin walls and is provided with a reinforcement for removably fastening the cap to the body of the device.

My invention is more fully described in the accompanying specification and drawing, the single figure of which represents an elevational view of my device partly in section.

My nursing device consists of an inner container 1 of a tubular shape made of a rigid material, such as metal, plastic composition, etc., and open at the top. The container has straight sides, converging to the bottom and is adapted to receive a nursing bottle 2 with a nursing nipple 3 of an ordinary type, the bottom end of the bottle being enlarged and tightly wedged in the lower portion of the container but not reaching the bottom of the container.

A ball-shaped enclosure 4 is provided for the container, the enclosure being preferably made of an elastic material such as rubber and provided with a reinforcing bead 5 at the neck or open end, fitting over the upper portion of the container 1. A metal wire or cord 6 may be provided for permanently clamping the neck of the enclosure against the container. A sealed air space 7 in the container provides an added resiliency to the same.

A semi-spherical cap 8 is placed over the container 1, being provided with an opening 9 for the nipple 3 of the nursing bottle 2. The cap is also made of a resilient material, such as rubber and has relatively thin walls. The cap is removably fastened to the container by a ring 10 made of a rigid material and threaded inside for corresponding threads 11 on the outer end portion of the container 1. The ring 10 is firmly cemented to the inner surface of the cap. The cap extends beyond the ring 10, the overhanging edge 12 tightly fitting against the upper portion of the enclosure 3.

I have found that my nursing device made in accordance with the foregoing specifications more fully reproduces the beneficial effects of feeding a child from its mother's breast; moreover, it is relatively light, highly elastic and less expensive to manufacture. It has an added advantage in that the cap cannot slide off by itself or be pulled off by the child.

It is understood that my nursing device may be modified without departing from the spirit of my invention, as set forth in the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. A nursing device having a tubular container open at one end with a large neck and having straight sides converging toward its bottom; a glass bottle with a nipple, the bottle having an enlarged bottom rigidly wedged at the bottom of the container at a distance therefrom; a hollow ball made of a resilient material enclosing the container; a hollow cap made of a resilient material enclosing the upper portion of the bottle and having an opening for the nipple, and means to hold the edges of the ball and of the cap against the neck of the container.

2. A nursing device having a tubular container open at one end with a large neck and having straight sides converging toward its bottom; a glass bottle with a nipple, the bottle having an enlarged bottom rigidly wedged at the bottom of the container, the bottom of the bottle being thereby spaced from the bottom of the container; a hollow ball made of a resilient material of a substantially uniform thickness enclosing the container; means to removably attach the upper edge of the ball to the container, a hollow cap made of a resilient material of a substantially uniform thickness enclosing the upper portion of the bottle and having an opening for the nipple;

and means to detachably attach the edge of a cap to the neck of the container.

3. A nursing device having a tubular container open at one end with a large neck and having straight sides converging toward its bottom; a glass bottle with a nipple, the bottle having an enlarged bottom rigidly wedged at the bottom of the container, the bottom of the bottle being thereby spaced from the bottom of the container; a hollow ball made of a resilient material of a substantially uniform thickness enclosing the container; the upper end of the container neck having threads; a wire ring holding the edge of the ball against the neck under the threads; a cap made of a resilient material of a uniform thickness for the upper end of the bottle with an opening for the nipple; and a threaded ring on the inside of the cap engaging the threads and the container neck.

ANTONINA M. KAZIMIROW.