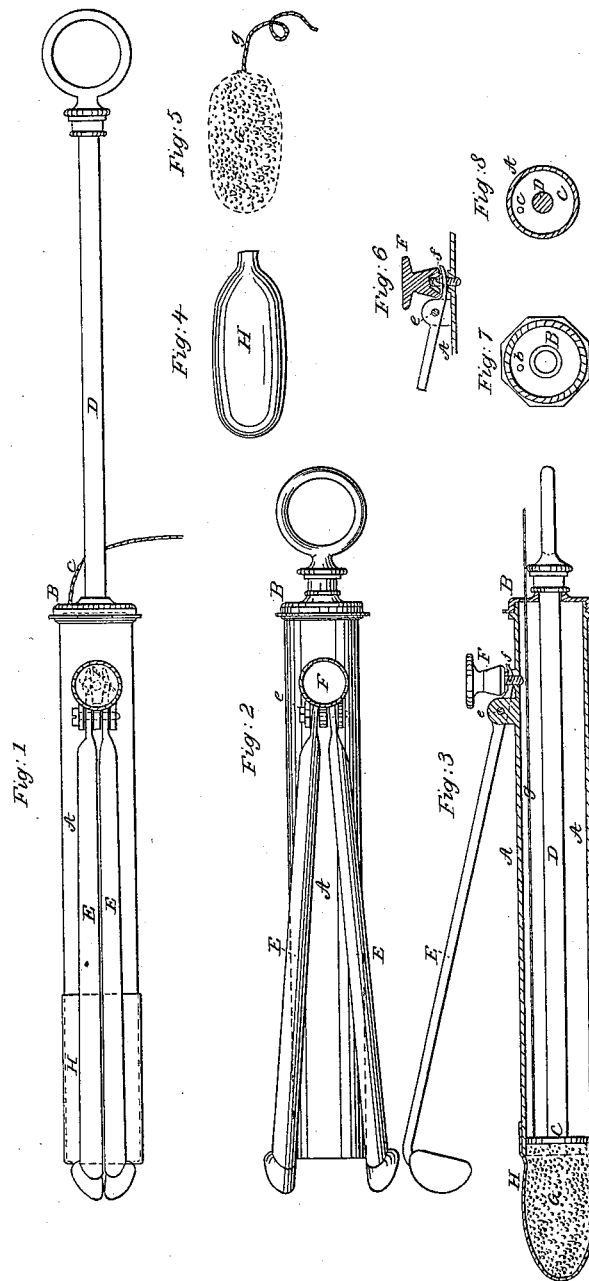


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*Patented Jan. 29, 1850.*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RUSSELL CAULKINS, OF SANDUSKY CITY, OHIO.

## IMPROVEMENT IN UTERO-VAGINAL SUPPORTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 7,050, dated January 29, 1850.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, RUSSELL CAULKINS, of Sandusky City, in the county of Erie and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in an Instrument for Replacing and Supporting the Uterus and Vagina in cases of Prolapsus Uteri and Prolapsus Vagina; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, true, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a view looking down on the fingers or elevators of the instrument. The plunger is drawn back, the capsule put on, and the fingers or elevators are depressed close to the tube in a position for being inserted. Fig. 2 is a view taken in the same direction, having the plunger pushed forward and the fingers or elevators raised and extended. Fig. 3 is a section through the center of the tube. Fig. 4 represents the capsule. Fig. 5 represents the sponge with string attached. Fig. 6 is a detached section of part of the tube with the elevating-screw and end of one of the fingers. Fig. 7 is an end view of the cover or cap. Fig. 8 is a transverse section of the tube, showing the plunger.

Similar letters refer to corresponding parts in the several figures.

My invention consists in an instrument the principal object of which is to enable females suffering under diseases known as prolapsus uteri and prolapsus vagina to perform the necessary operations themselves without surgical aid. It is formed of a hollow tube of metal, provided with a plunger, and also with two fingers or elevators for raising and replacing the uterus in its proper position after the tube has been inserted in the vagina.

It further consists in a capsule of gum-elastic or other suitable material, which I place over the mouth of the tube and force distended by a piece of sponge into the vagina for the purpose of sustaining and supporting the parts in their proper position after having been raised by the elevators or fingers.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

A is the tube.

B is the cap, which is screwed onto the

tube, and may be taken off when not desired for use and adjusted when necessary for operation.

b is a hole, through which a string from the sponge passes.

C is the plunger having a small hole c.

D is the plunger-rod having a ring at its outer end for the purpose of a handle.

E E are the fingers or elevators, which are formed of levers working on a pin e, fitted in bearings on the tube.

F is a screw for the purpose of elevating and at the same time extending the fingers or elevators. The shoulder under the head of the screw is provided with a conical groove, as seen in the partial section, Fig. 6. The back ends of the elevators have each a small knob f upon its upper side. The screw is entered into a hole in the tube which has a corresponding female screw, and the conical groove in the shoulder will cover the knobs f f, and as the screw is turned inward the conical groove bearing upon the said knobs will press them downward and at the same time draw them nearer to each other. Consequently the opposite ends of the levers or elevators will be raised upward and forced farther apart.

G is the sponge, to which a string g is attached.

H is the capsule formed of gum-elastic or other suitable flexible material.

The mode of operation is as follows: The cap B is unscrewed from the tube and the plunger withdrawn. The screw F is taken out or unscrewed sufficiently to allow the sponge to pass. The capsule is then drawn over the mouth of the tube and it will be found to hold by its own elasticity. The sponge is next inserted (after being moistened with water so as to give it the required elasticity) into the tube, and the string g is drawn through the hole c in the plunger and through the hole b in the cap. The plunger is then entered into the tube past the screw F and the cap B screwed on. The string g must then be pulled by the operator to release it from the plunger-rod, round which it would be wound in screwing on the cap. The front ends of the elevators, which are formed as shown in the drawings, are brought over the mouth of the tube, and it is then ready for operation. The instrument is then held

by the operator or by the patient herself, and the end is inserted in the vagina, the levers or elevators E E being kept upward and on a line with the center of the body. The instrument is next carefully forced into the vagina in a direction at right angles to the pubes. When it has been caused to proceed as far as is necessary, the screw F is screwed in, and the conical groove under its shoulder is made to bear on the knobs *f f*, in the manner already described, and the elevators will be raised and extended, at the same time embracing the uterus and raising it to its proper position. The plunger C is then propelled forward, driving also the sponge G, the string *g*, hanging out through the holes *c* and *b*. When the sponge reaches the capsule H, it will gradually draw the capsule off the tube, entering in its passage and forcing the capsule into the vagina, when the neck of the capsule H will close over the sponge G, and will present the form shown at Fig. 4. The object of the capsule is to prevent the irritation which would otherwise be caused by the sponge. The instrument must be then very gently and gradually withdrawn, the elevators being gradually closed by slackening the screw F. As the instrument is drawn out, the string *g* will pass through the holes *c* and *b* in the plunger and cup and will be

left hanging out from the vagina, and the uterus and vagina will be sustained and supported by the capsule and sponge. The capsule and sponge must be allowed to remain in the vagina for a time, probably from six to twenty-four hours. This will vary much, according to the circumstances of the case. When they have remained in sufficiently long, they may be withdrawn by the patient or operator by means of the string *g* and washed or cleansed, when they will be again ready for use.

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

1. The combination of the elevating-levers E E with the tube A, made of any material, and the mode of raising and spreading the said elevating-levers by the screw F, with its conical groove, as herein described, or in any way substantially the same.

2. The capsule H, distended by the sponge G, introduced through the tube A, for the purpose of supporting the uterus and vagina, in the manner herein set forth.

RUSSELL CAULKINS.

Witnesses:

S. H. WALES,  
CHAS. F. INNESS.