R. Faulkner.

Pessary.

No. 109,401. Patented Nov. 22, 1870.

Fig. 1

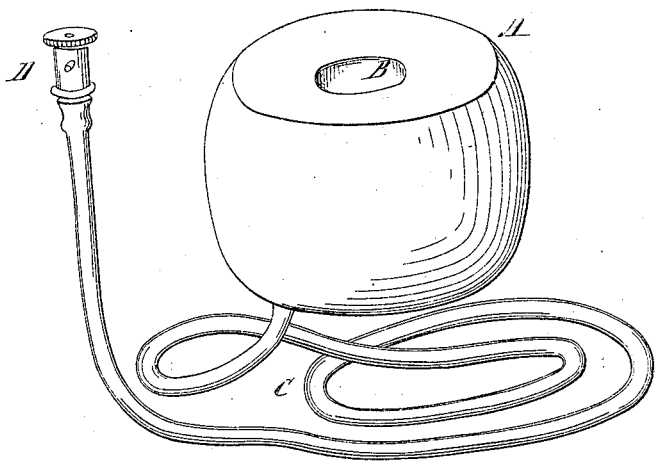
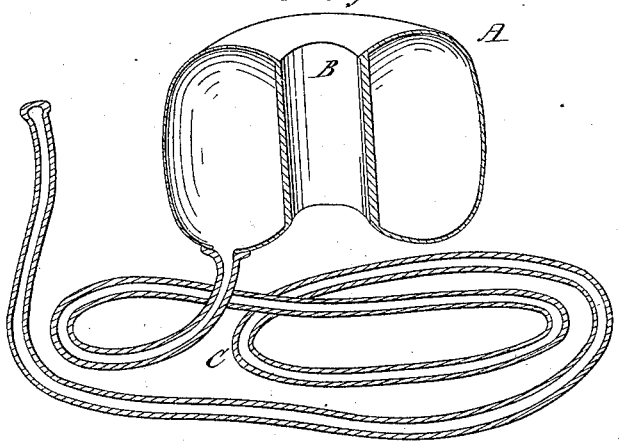


Fig. 2



Witnesses
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ROBERT FAULKNER, OF ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA.

Letters Patent No. 109,401, dated November 22, 1870.

IMPROVEMENT IN UTERINE-SUPPORTERS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

Be it known that I, ROBERT FAULKNER, of the city of Erie, in the county of Erie and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Uterine-Supporters; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable those skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming part of the specifications.

This invention relates to a new and improved supporter, designed not only to adapt itself to and to fill the whole cavity of the vagina, and to keep the uterus in place during medical treatment for its displacement, but also to receive the neck of the womb without any strain or flexion upon it, and without the possibility of pinching the same by contracting, in the act of inflation, that open or tubular part provided for the reception of the neck.

The construction is also such that when inflated the exterior wall will adapt itself, as it is expanded, to the special contour or shape of the vaginal cavity of the patient to whom it may be applied, and thus firmly hold itself to place without liability to drop downward, or to shift its position and cause irritation.

Its construction is also such that the tubular opening into which the neck of the uterus is permitted to drop naturally, while the body of the womb is steadily and firmly supported in the cup or saucer-shaped top wall, admits of insertion of the finger for the purpose of directing the neck into the tube and placing it properly, and of adjusting the whole instrument satisfactorily to the patient.

Its construction is also such that its central opening or tube, although flexible to a sufficient extent, has a greater thickness than the other parts, so that it may form a wall or column of such rigidity that it shall uphold the whole and not be subject to bending or breaking down, even when the chamber is not inflated, thus not only supporting the womb and receiving the neck without pressure under all conditions, but also, as above stated, preventing its collapsing upon and pinching the neck, and also greatly facilitating its insertion into the vagina, as it admits of wrapping or folding the thinner inflated portion around and upon the stout central tube preparatory to insertion.

In the accompanying drawings—

Figure 1 is a perspective view, and

Figure 2, a vertical section of my invention, the same being shown with an inflating-tube applied.

A represents the body of the instrument.

B the stout vertical tube passing through it.

C represents the inflating-tube, which may or may not be terminated by the metallic stop-valve D, and which may be applied to the instrument in any well-known manner.

The outer part A or body of the apparatus may be made of elastic India rubber or other suitable elastic material, in the form of or similar to the form shown in the drawings, and with a broad top, and also with a broad base, the latter insuring its retaining its place when in use, as the expanded part rests upon and is held up by the base of the pelvic cavity.

The vertical tube is to be made of heavier material than the outside, being stout enough to prevent its collapsing when the instrument is inflated, and to be self-supporting under any pressure it may receive while in use; and the top of this tube serves to receive the neck of the womb, the body of the uterus resting in and upon the cup or saucer-shaped top of the instrument, as upon a soft elastic cushion.

The vertical tube also serves for the ready reception and easy escape of all secretions, and for the passage of a syringe or other instrument, or for other application, when desired.

The internal diameter of this tube B should, for the above-named purposes, and for the insertion of the finger, as heretofore stated, be about three-quarters of an inch, and the tube should be from one to one and three-quarters of an inch in length.

The horizontal diameter of the outside A, when inflated, should be from two and a quarter to three and a half inches.

The vertical diameter of the outside A should be from one and a half to two and a half inches.

The inflating tube should be about three-sixteenths of an inch outside diameter and about thirty inches long.

Upon applying the instrument, the air is to be expelled and the instrument rolled up in its smallest form, by wrapping or folding the outer inflatable part around or upon the stout central tube, and it is then inserted into the vagina until it comes in contact with the neck of the uterus, the neck being properly directed and placed by means of the finger, which can be passed through the vertical tube for that purpose.

The instrument being properly applied, it is inflated by blowing into the tube C. As the outer part A is thus expanded, (the tube B being stout enough to resist the action of the injected air,) it spreads until it fills the vagina, accommodating itself to the natural formation in different patients, supporting the uterus amply at the top, holding its neck easily and without compression in the tube, and resting firmly and securely upon its broad expanded base.

By this apparatus irritation and spasm, caused by compression of the neck, are avoided; also flexion of the neck is prevented, and it relieves that abnormal condition, if previously existing.

I claim—

1. A uterine supporter, made of rubber or equivalent

material, having a central, vertical, non-collapsible tube supporting an annular chamber having expansible elastic walls, and a broad base and broad top, all as shown and described, and for the purposes set forth.

2. The same, when provided with a cup-shaped top surface to receive and support the body of the uterus, all as set forth.

The above and foregoing specification of my invention signed by me this 22d day of June, A. D. 1869.

ROBERT FAULKNER.

Witnesses:

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