(No Model.)

C. E. KENYON.

PESSARY.

No. 304,006. Patented Aug. 26, 1884.

Fig 1

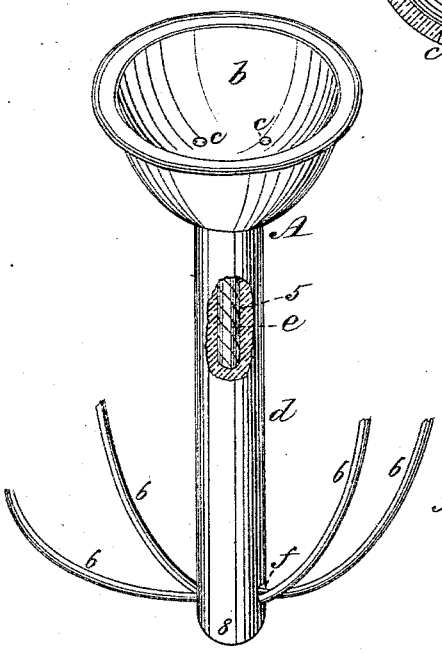


Fig 3

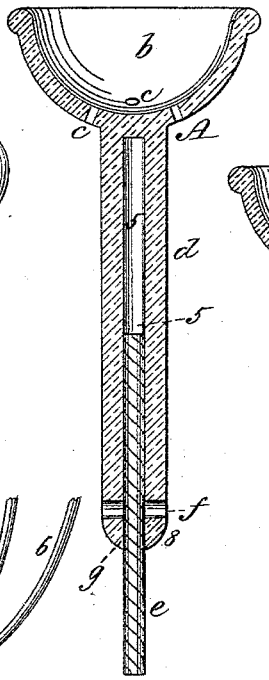
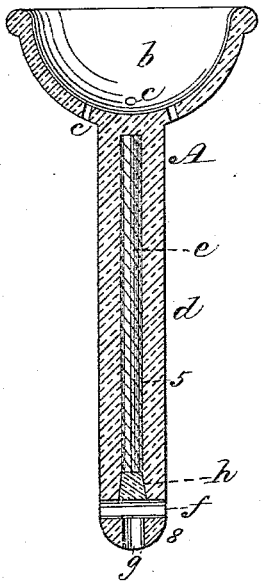


Fig 2



WITNESSES

W. J. Cambridge

Chas. E. Griffin

INVENTOR

Charlie E. Kenyon

per R. E. Tescherstacker

Atty

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLIE E. KENYON, OF CHICAGO, ILL., ASSIGNOR TO JASON T. BARTLETT AND EDWARD E. BUTMAN, BOTH OF BOSTON, MASS.

PESSARY.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 304,006, dated August 26, 1884.

Application filed December 8, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLIE E. KENYON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented an Improvement in Pessaries, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a pessary constructed in accordance with my invention, a portion of the stem being broken away to show the stiffening material within. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal vertical section through the center of the same. Fig. 3 is a similar section illustrating the method of introducing the stiffening-core within the hollow stem of the pessary.

Pessaries have been constructed in which the stem has been composed of soft vulcanized rubber, having embedded within it a coiled-wire spring to render it sufficiently stiff to support the uterus, and at the same time elastic to enable it to accommodate itself to the movements of the wearer. The employment of a metallic spring within the stem is, however, exceedingly objectionable, for the reason that, should the rubber composing the stem crack or break, as sometimes occurs, the metal will be exposed and become corroded by the secretions, thus rendering the pessary unfit for further use, as the corrosion of the metal would injuriously affect the parts with which it came into contact.

My invention has for its object to overcome this difficulty; and it consists in the combination, with a pessary composed of vulcanized rubber and provided with a hollow stem, of a stiffening-core composed of catgut or rawhide introduced within the said stem after vulcanization, and secured in place therein by a plug or other suitable means, by which construction sufficient elasticity is given to the stem to enable it to accommodate itself freely to the various movements of the wearer, while at the same time it possesses sufficient stiffness to perfectly support the uterus, and in the event of the rubber stem becoming cracked or broken the catgut or rawhide will not in any way irritate or injuriously affect the patient, these substances possessing characteristics which especially fit them for this purpose, as they are non-corrosive, lighter than metal, cheap, exceedingly durable, and sufficiently stiff and elastic to accomplish the desired results.

In the said drawings, A represents a soft vulcanized-rubber pessary, having a cup, *b*, of ordinary form, provided with the usual perforations, *c*, and a stem, *d*, made integral therewith. This stem *d* is during the vulcanizing process made hollow, as seen in Figs. 2 and 3, a longitudinal chamber, 5, being thus formed, which opens at its lower end into the usual transverse aperture, *f*, of the stem, through which pass the ordinary tubular elastic connections, 6, leading to the waistband. (Not shown.) The portion 8 of the stem below the aperture *f* is provided with an perture or passage, *g*, extending centrally and longitudinally through it in line with the chamber 5 above. After the pessary has been vulcanized, a stiffening-core, *e*, composed of catgut or rawhide of suitable diameter to snugly fit within the hollow portion of the stem *d*, is introduced within the aperture *g*, as seen in Fig. 3, and forced, by means of a suitable rod or wire, up into the chamber 5, as seen in Fig. 2, the length of the core being slightly less than that of the chamber, after which a small rubber plug, *h*, Fig. 2, is inserted beneath the end of the stiffening-core and secured in place by cement, thus completely concealing the end of the core *e* and making a neat finish, the operation of introducing the stiffening-core within the chamber 5 being greatly facilitated by providing the lower end of the stem *d* with the aperture or passage *g*. By thus providing the stem of the pessary with a stiffening-core composed of catgut or rawhide, as described, it is rendered sufficiently stiff to properly support the uterus under all conditions, and will at the same time bend freely to any desired curve to suit the movements or position of the wearer, and on account of its resiliency will always retain its original form and not become permanently bent out of shape, while, besides these advantages, it possesses the very important one of avoiding all possibility of the flesh in contact therewith being irritated or injuriously affected in the event of the rubber be-

coming cracked or broken away, so as to expose the stiffening material within the stem, no substance other than catgut or rawhide with which I am acquainted combining all of the advantages above enumerated, which render them so particularly applicable for the purpose for which they are employed.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A vulcanized-rubber pessary having a hollow stem, *d*, provided with a stiffening-core, *e*, composed of catgut or rawhide introduced after the vulcanization of the rubber, substantially in the manner and for the purpose set forth.

2. The combination, with a pessary composed of vulcanized rubber and provided with a hollow stem, *d*, of a stiffening-core, *e*, composed of catgut or rawhide introduced within the said stem after vulcanization, and secured in place therein by a cemented plug, *h*, substantially as and for the purpose described.

Witness my hand this 27th day of November, A. D. 1883.

CHARLIE E. KENYON.

In presence of—
ABRAM C. VANDERBURGH,
ARTHUR L. SLEEPER.