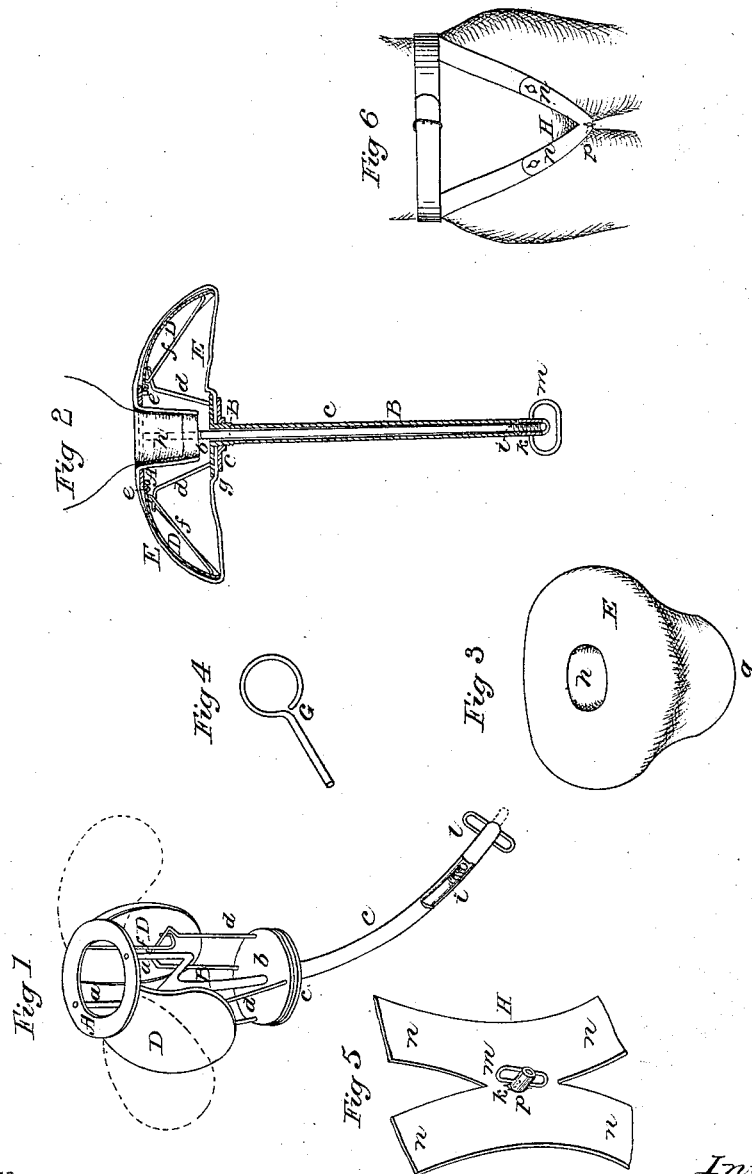


F. Reichenbach.

Pessary,

N^o 52,076.

Patented Jan. 16, 1866



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK REICHENBACH, OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN UTERINE SUPPORTERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 52,076, dated January 16, 1866.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK REICHENBACH, of Rochester, in the county of Monroe and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Uterine Supporters; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the expanding device in its depressed or non-expanded condition and with the elastic pessary or bag removed; Fig. 2, a section of the same in its expanded state and with the pessary or bag in place; Fig. 3, a perspective view of the pessary or bag detached; Fig. 4, a perspective view of the key for expanding the wings; Fig. 5, a view showing the manner of retaining the supporter in place by means of the bandage; Fig. 6, a view of the bandage and sustaining-belt applied to the person.

Like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

My invention consists in the combination of an expanding mechanical device of a peculiar construction and arrangement with an elastic pessary or bag covering the same, for the double purpose of giving ease to the organs it sustains and protecting the mechanical parts from corrosion and contact with destructive agents.

The mechanical expanding device is of the following construction: A simple ring, A, of proper size to receive the elastic socket for supporting the neck of the uterus, is provided, which is fixed to two arms or forks, *a a*, of a curved stem, B, extending downward a sufficient length so that when inserted in the vagina the ring shall reach the neck of the uterus. This stem slides freely through a hollow tube, C, which has at its top a rigid disk, *b*, and a similarly-shaped nut, *c*, which screws on the tube up toward the disk to clamp the edge or rim of the pessary or bag, which will presently be described. On opposite sides of the disk *b* are respectively secured wires *d d*, bent into substantially the form shown, and engaging with or resting within other wires, *f f*, attached on the under side of wings D D. These wings are made convex, so as to properly fit the arch at the upper extremity of the vagina, and they are hinged on opposite sides of the ring A, as shown at *e*, so that they may

be expanded or contracted at pleasure. The wings may be of different sizes to fit different subjects.

Over the head of the expanding device thus constructed fits a pessary or bag, E, which is preferably made of india-rubber in order to secure the elastic qualities necessary. The form of this pessary is shown most clearly in Figs. 2 and 3, consisting simply of a hollow bulb having an edge or rim, *g*, for holding between the disk and nut *b c*, and a socket, *h*, open at the top for receiving the neck of the uterus. This socket rests within the ring A, as represented clearly in Fig. 2.

From the above description the operation of the device will be readily understood. In its contracted or depressed state, as indicated in Fig. 1, the device is readily introduced into the vagina until it reaches the uterus, when the neck of the latter enters the socket *h* of the elastic pessary and is raised to the proper position. In this position the pressure on the tube C will slide the same upward, causing the wires *d d* to strike against the under side of the hinged wings and expand them, as indicated in Fig. 2 and by the red lines in Fig. 1. In this expanded condition the convex wings fit accurately the vaginal arch, and not only sustain the uterus, but also the contiguous parts. When fully expanded the screw end *i* of the interior stem, B, projects downward beyond the corresponding end of the tube C sufficiently for a nut, *k*, to be screwed thereon, Figs. 2 and 5, which effectually retains the device expanded.

In order to contract or depress the wing so as to remove the device from the vagina, a key, G, Fig. 4, is employed, being pressed against the end of the stem B to force it upward into the tube C. If necessary, this key may also be employed to prevent the wings from expanding in introducing into the vagina. It will be seen that the wings are contracted by the contact of the two wires *d f*.

There are several advantages in this device not attained by any other similar expanding device with which I am acquainted. First, I am aware of no other arrangement in which an elastic pessary or bag has been used in combination with the expanding wings for fitting and supporting the vaginal arch. By this combination I accomplish two important purposes, viz: I furnish a soft and elastic cushion for the

sensitive organs, so that they do not come in contact with the rigid metal, and I protect the metallic working parts from corrosion and from contact with destructive agents. A simple non-expanding rubber ball would not be an equivalent of my device, and neither would simple uncovered expanding wings. This arrangement is of very great importance. In addition to this the special construction of the expanding device itself presents some features of advantage. The wings are expanded by simply sliding the stem B up the tube C, and this tube is so small that in the action no pressure or expansion comes laterally upon the vagina. This is far superior to any arrangement in which levers must close together gradually while they are being introduced, and in which, at the same time, the wings are gradually expanded. Another advantage is that the device can be inserted and adjusted exactly in place before any expansion of the wings occurs, and when this expansion takes place it may be to any degree or limit desired. The wires *d f* are also simple and effective means of producing the expansion and contraction of the wings.

In order to sustain the device in place in the vagina, I employ the following means: The lower end of the tube C is provided with a loop, stop, or shoulder, *l*, Fig. 1, and the nut *k* is also provided with a similar loop or shoulder, *m*. A belt is passed around the waist of the subject, having straps extending down on each side, both before and behind, and provided with buttons at the extremities. To these buttons are secured the ends of straps or forks *n n* of a bandage, H, passing around the crotch, the junction *p* of the straps being preferably not more than an inch in length and resting between the orifice of the urethra and the anus. Through the portion *p* is made a hole of sufficient size to receive the end of the stem B, with the nut *k* screwed thereon, as indicated in Fig. 5. Thus arranged, it will be seen that the two loops or shoulders *l m* have the

bandage resting between them, and therefore the device will be sustained in place at all times. The position of the portion *p* of the bandage between the urethra and the anus and the short length of the same will permit both urination and evacuation without removing the bandage and without difficulty.

I claim as a great benefit of the use of this arrangement that the subject herself can introduce and remove the device without assistance of any kind. In most of the supporters in use at the present time the assistance of a second person is required, which is a source of much annoyance and mortification to the patient. This device is so easily introduced, removed, and operated that no assistance is required. When fixed in place it cannot fail to sustain the parts properly, as it is so arranged as not only to hold the neck of the uterus, but also to sustain the arch of the vagina. In this manner, by insuring a proper sustaining of the organs, the tendency is for them to regain their natural tone, or at least to grow stronger and be greatly benefited. This device holds the uterus in its natural position, which is not done by any other.

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

1. The combination of the expanding device, consisting, essentially, of the ring A, hinged wings D D, and the sliding stem and tube B C, with the elastic covering-pessary E, the whole operating substantially in the manner and for the purpose herein set forth.

2. The special construction of the expanding device, the same consisting of the ring A, hinged expanding wings D D, operated by wires *d f*, the clamping nut and disk *e b*, and the sliding stem B, tube C, and nut *k*, the whole arranged and operating substantially as described.

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Witnesses:

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