H. E. CAUTY.

POULTICE.

No. 186,540. Patented Jan. 23, 1877.

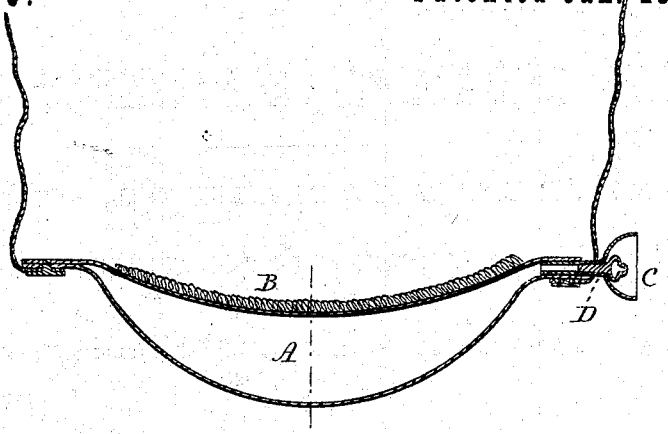

Fig 1.

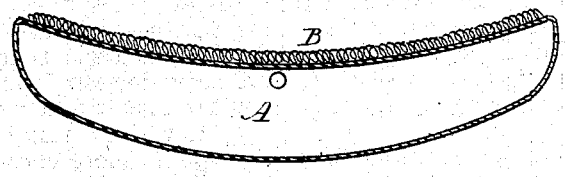

Fig 2

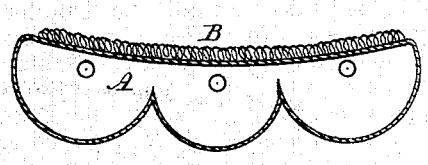

Fig 3.

Witnesses.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY EVANS CAUTY, OF LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND.

IMPROVEMENT IN POULTICES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **186,540**, dated January 23, 1877; application filed December 19, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY EVANS CAUTY, of Liverpool, in the county of Lancaster, in the Kingdom of England, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Poultices and similar applications, which improvement is fully set forth in the following specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

In the application or use of poultices they are thoroughly effective only while moist and hot, and have therefore to be continually replaced by fresh ones, or steeped in hot water. Now, my invention is designed to obviate this trouble. In carrying it out I take a waterproof bag, A, or other vessel, preferably of vulcanized india-rubber, which, being flexible, accommodates itself to varying surfaces. To one side of this vessel I attach some woolen felted material, sponge or other substance, B, capable of retaining moisture, preferably the fabric known as "spongeopilene." The vessel, when required for use, is filled with water nearly boiling. The attached material is wetted with water only, or with such medicinal liquid as may be desirable, and is placed next to the skin.

It thus acts as a poultice, and keeps hot for hours without further trouble. It can be taken off instantly without leaving any dirt behind—so troublesome to wash off in the case of linseed or even bran poultices.

If cold instead of heat is desired, instead of hot water a refrigerating-mixture, iced water, or snow, or pounded ice and water, can be inserted into the bag.

When done with, the apparatus can be washed, the bag emptied, and the whole hung up or packed away.

In large hospitals, where a large assortment of these poultices can be kept, different shaped and sized bags can be used; but for ordinary domestic use it is well to have a poultice that will fit itself to all parts of the body to which it may be applied. To enable it to do so more effectually, I place several bags side by side on the back of the spongeopilene, either independent of each other, as in Figure 3, which is a transverse section, or each bag joined to its next neighbor's by a flexible tube or opening. If the latter, the bags could be made of hard material, if desirable; but I prefer the india-rubber.

Fig. 1 is a transverse section of the bag. Figs. 2 and 3 represent, in cross-section, the bag modified in form A, showing mouth-piece *c*, funnel-tube D for filling, and hand screw or plug for preventing the escape of the liquid. B is the spongeopilene. There need be only one mouth-piece if all the bags are connected with pipes or junctions.

I claim—

A water-bag, faced with spongeopilene or similar absorbent material, to serve as a poultice, substantially as described.

HENRY EVANS CAUTY.

Witnesses:
WM. P. THOMPSON,
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