

J. Schofield,

Pessary,

N^o 5,844.

Patented Oct. 10, 1848.

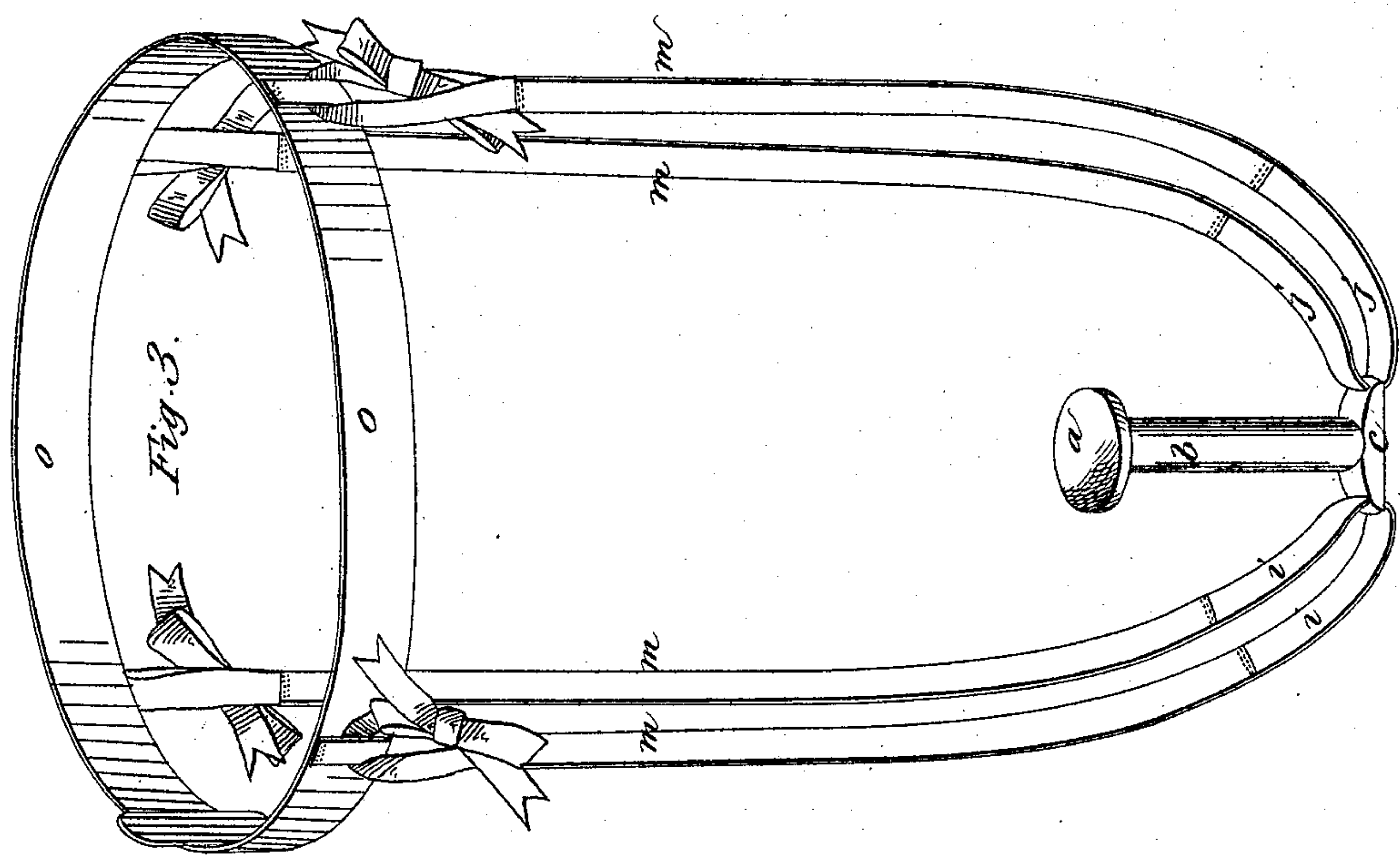


Fig. 2.

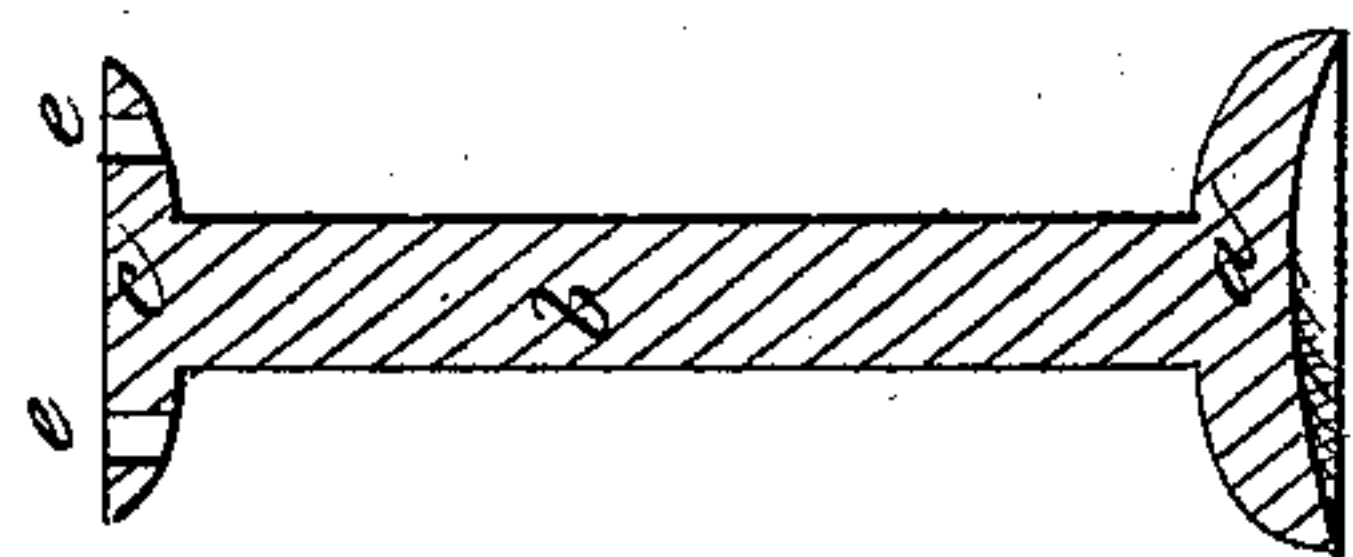
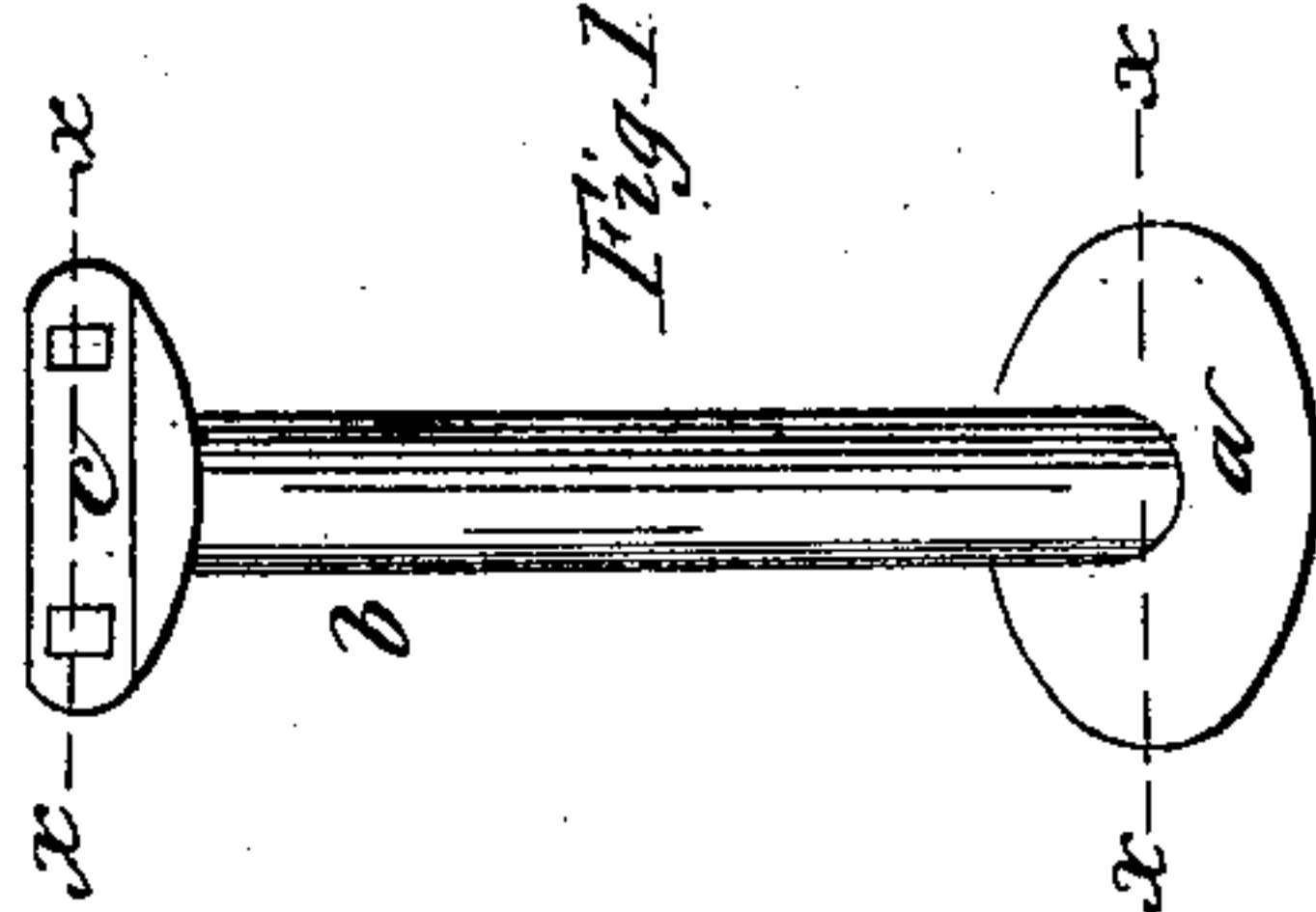


Fig. 1.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH SCHOFIELD, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR TO JAMES BETTS.

UTERINE SUPPORTER.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 5,844, dated October 10, 1848.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH SCHOFIELD, late of Bradford, England, but now of the city and county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, surgeon, have invented a new and useful Instrument for the Relief and Cure of Prolapsus Uteri, of which the following is a full and exact description, reference being had to the annexed drawings of the same, making part of this specification, in which the same letters refer to the same parts in all the figures.

The nature of my invention and improvement consists, in constructing of porcelain or other suitable material, an artificial support for a prolapsed uterus, which will maintain it in a natural and easy position, without pain or injury, and without irritating or otherwise doing violence to the adjacent parts; and will effectually relieve its natural ligamentous and membranous supports, which are in an enfeebled and relaxed state, of all duty, until they recover their usual healthy tone and contractibility in a sufficient degree to enable them to resume and maintain the performance of their appropriate functions.

Of all the different kinds of material which might be used in the construction of this apparatus, I prefer porcelain, because it is cheap, durable, and not liable to become incrustated or contract odor from use, and also feels smoother, cooler and less unpleasant to the wearer than other substances.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the "supporter" detached from the straps and belts used to retain it in place. The part *a* is in the form of a polar segment of a hollow oblate spheroid, or shallow cup, with its concave side in which the uterus rests, placed uppermost. These cups are made of various sizes to adapt them to different persons: from the bottom or convex side of the cup a stem *b* projects, which is about half an inch in diameter, and three inches long, and having on its end a transverse piece *c* about an inch and a half long and half an inch wide, in whose projecting ends oblong holes or eye-lets *e e* are made to receive the retaining straps. Of whatever material it may be made, the angles of the "supporter" must be rounded, and its entire surface made smooth and even, to prevent it from irritating those parts with which it may be in con-

tact. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section through the line *xx* of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the "supporter" in connection with the straps and belts which retain it in the proper position. *i* and *j* are respectively the anterior and posterior straps; they are made of vulcanized india rubber, and passed half their length through the eyes *e e* in the end of the stem, their ends being connected with the suspender straps *m m m m* which are attached in any way in which they can conveniently be lengthened or shortened, to the belt *o*, which is buckled around the waist to hold the supporter firmly in the position in which it may be placed.

The cup of the supporter is introduced into, and moved forward to the upper part of the vagina, across which it extends, receiving the lower part of the uterus into its cavity, which rests there in all positions of the body without the least tendency to slide out and slip down, as would necessarily be the case if the end of the supporter were semi-globular in its shape, with only a small depression in its center. This extension of the edges of the cup to the sides of the vagina I deem to be of very great importance, because by that means the uterus is so securely held up, and the danger of its falling down so completely removed, that the person wearing it can sit, stand, or take any kind of exercise, as freely and with as much impunity as if no disease existed; and from the smallness of the stem of the supporter the vagina is not distended by it, so that neither irritation or inconvenience is experienced from walking or other movements; and from the way in which the retaining straps and the "supporter" are arranged and connected, they require no adjustment, and offer no obstruction when occasion arises to pass the urine, or other excretions.

The expansion and contraction of the elastic straps *i* and *j* effectually counteract the danger of displacing the supporter from a sudden change of the position of the body, and also prevent the bruises and unpleasant concussions which otherwise would arise from the same cause. These straps being likewise impervious to moisture admit of being washed, and kept as clean and free from odor, as the adjacent parts of the body.

Sometimes under peculiar circumstances the external uterine supporter might with advantage be combined with this, and in

such case, I should prefer to use that of Mrs. Betts, which I deem by far the best of that class of instruments.

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

The combination of elastic retaining straps of india rubber, with the “supporter,” which straps being impervious to moisture, may be washed to keep them clean, wholesome, and

free from odor, without detaching them from 10 the body.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name in presence of two witnesses this fifth day of September A. D. 1847.

JOSEPH SCHOFIELD.

Witnesses:

JOHN THOMPSON,
JOSEPH MORRISON.