

No. 49,915.

PATENTED SEPT. 12, 1865.

E. L. PERRY.
CATAMENIAL SACK.

Fig. 1.

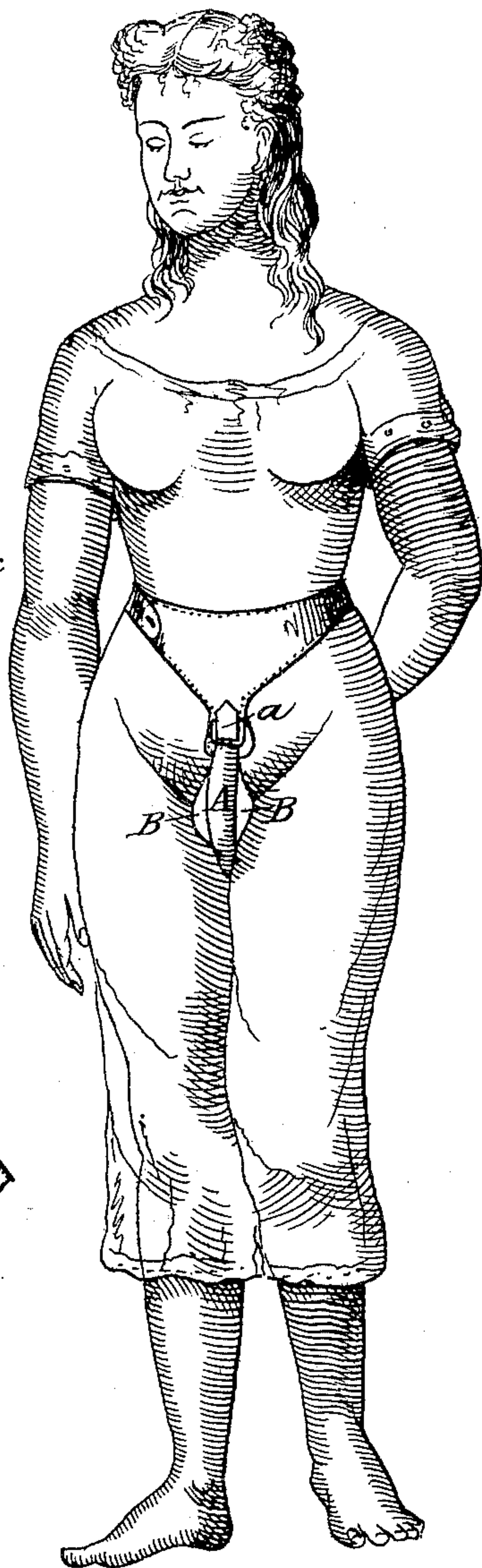


Fig. 2.

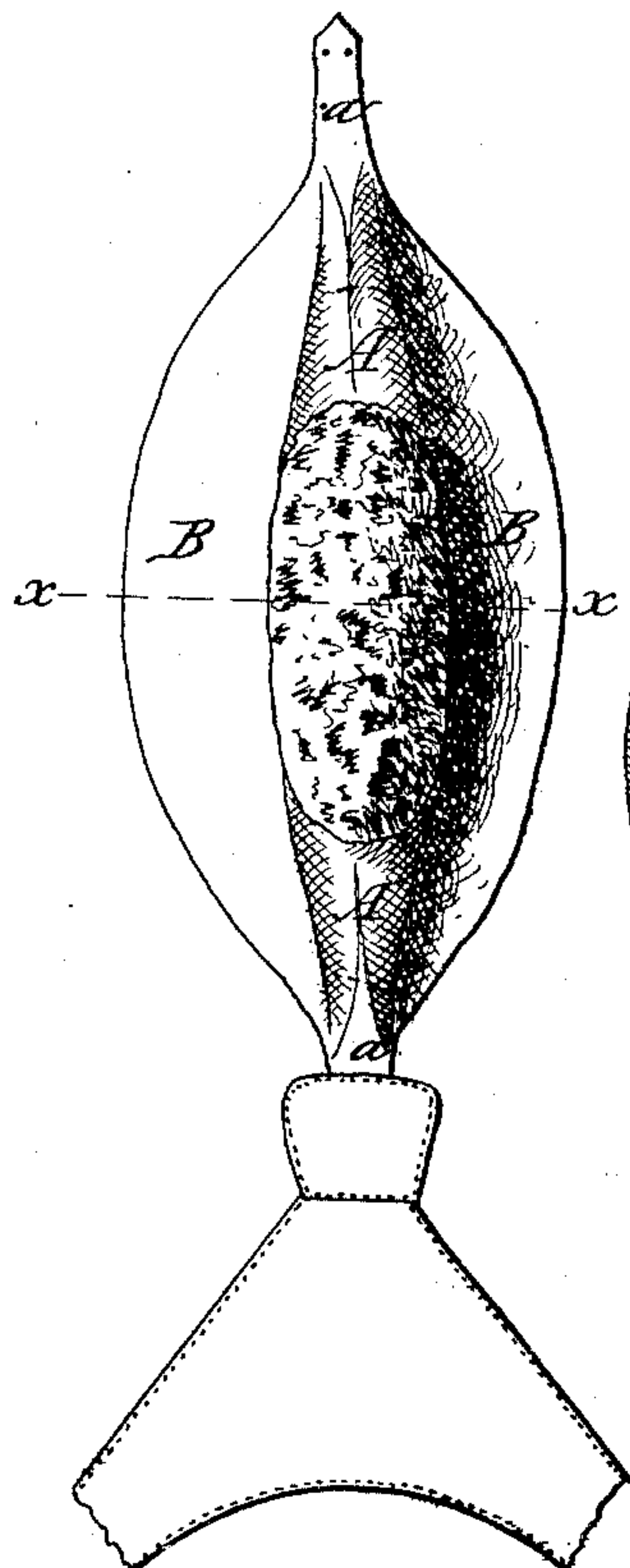
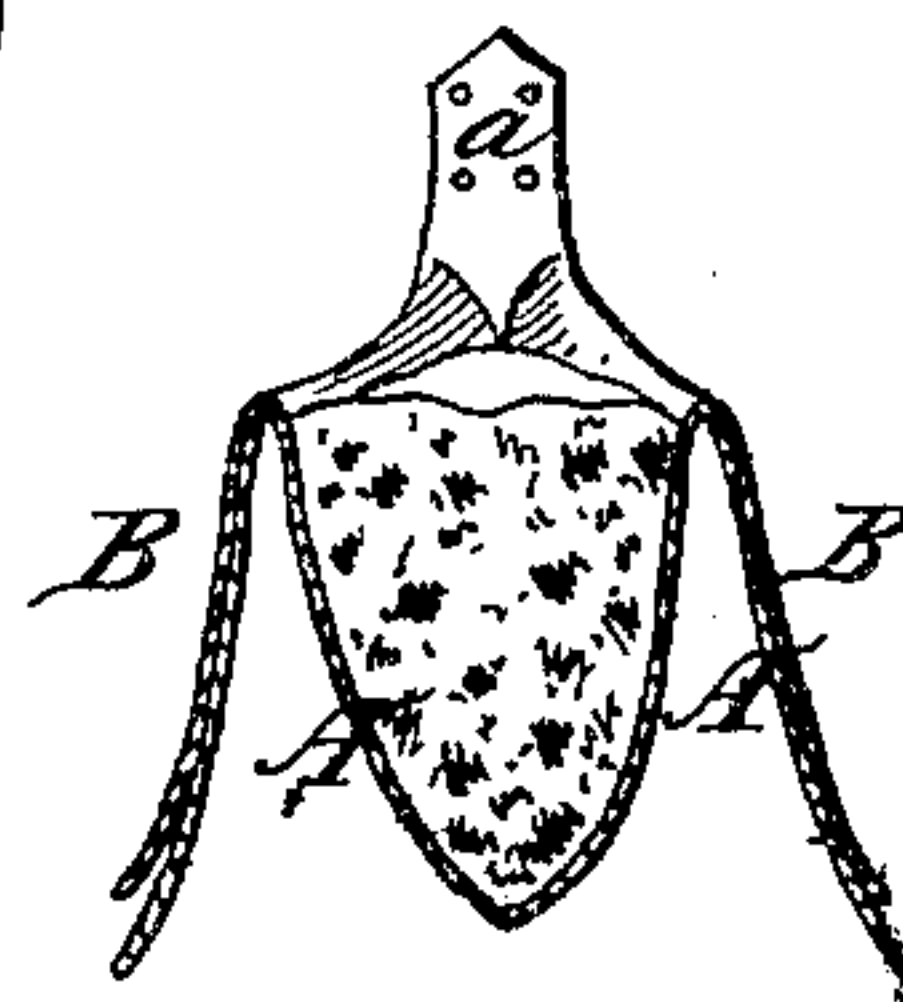


Fig. 3.



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IMPROVEMENT IN CATAMENIAL SACKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 49,915, dated September 12, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD L. PERRY, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Catamenial Sacks; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification.

Catamenial sacks and other such appliances heretofore devised for the use of females at certain periods have all lacked some essential feature, which has prevented their introduction into general use, and therefore the old habit of wearing bandages or "cloths," is still in use, for the reason, as before stated, that all catamenial sacks or other like appliances for receiving and retaining the menstrual discharges of the female have been wanting in some particular, either they did not perfectly catch the catamenia, or they did not perfectly retain the same when caught, so as to preclude the possibility of any particle thereof escaping upon the clothes of the wearer.

The object, therefore, of my invention is to provide a catamenial-sack which will possess the qualities of surely and perfectly catching the catamenia, and without the possibility of any part thereof escaping upon the clothes of the female, and whose provisions for the insertion in and removal from of the substances used for absorbing the discharges is so ample that no trouble or embarrassment will be given to the wearer; and it consists in the formation of a rubber or gutta-percha pouch, somewhat like a canoe in form, and with a lapel or wing, which is intended to lie on the thighs inside of the drawers, and thus prevent any particle of the fluid from getting upon the same, or upon any other portion of the female wearing-apparel.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a view showing my invention applied to the person of a female. Figure 2 is a front view of the sack; and Fig. 3 is a transverse section taken in the line *x x*, Fig. 2.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

These sacks are made of gutta-percha, india-rubber, or the like; and the body A is formed by taking two flat pieces of rubber or gutta-percha, cut in an elliptical form, and of

a sufficient length, and folding them or creasing each piece through the center longitudinally. The halves thus creased present the form of a crescent, and two of the convex edges are joined together in the usual way of uniting gutta-percha or india-rubber. The outer ends are carried out into straps *a*, or the pouch has straps attached to it. Said straps are to be buckled or attached to a belt or any suitable appliance, fastened around the waist of the female, in front and behind, which secures the sack in proper position, as shown in Fig. 1. The pouch has its entire front open—that is to say, its mouth extends its entire length, as shown in Fig. 2.

B B represent the lapels or wings, one on each side, and of any desirable depth or width. When the sack is properly adjusted on the female, as shown in Fig. 1, the lapels or wings will fall against the thighs and lie close to her person for their entire length, which effectually prevents the discharges from escaping over the sides of the pouch upon the drawers or clothes of the female.

I prefer using gutta-percha for the sack, as this substance will not be affected by heat and it has no smell.

The lapels may be made separate and attached to the pouch in any suitable way, instead of being a part of one of the pieces or halves composing the sack; and indeed the pouch itself may be made of one piece, of an elliptical shape, and folded through the center longitudinally, to give it the desired canoe-like shape. When the sack is to be used a moistened sponge large enough for the purpose is placed in the sack, and the sack is placed between the thighs and buckled up taut before and behind, so that the sponge will be directly over the vulva, and thus it will catch every particle of the menstrual discharge. And it will be noticed that the canoe-like shape of the pouch would catch any escaping portion of the fluid, should the sponge become accidentally removed from the vulva, and conduct the same to the sponge, where it will be absorbed.

The sponge can, of course, be removed by merely unbuckling the front strap of the sack and rinsed out and again inserted; or, should this operation be disagreeable, it can be thrown away or some other less-expensive substance, such as cotton-batting, may be used, which

can be removed and then thrown away or burned as often as necessity requires.

I am aware that catamenial sacks made of india-rubber have been devised, (for instances I might cite that of Dr. A. Meyers, rejected January 5, 1855, and that of D. F. Robertson, a feature of which was patented December 20, 1864;) but I know of none having the shape of mine—that is to say, they have been made of an oval or nearly hemispherical form, and are merely bags, so to speak, for holding an absorbing substance, such as a sponge. In such sacks no provision is made for catching the menstrual discharge should the sack be accidentally pushed aside or crowded away from its position directly under the vulva, and the fluid would flow down upon the clothes of the female; but by making the sack of a canoe-like shape and an opening or mouth for its entire length this cannot occur. Again, should the female unconsciously press her thighs very tightly together, the fluid in the sponge would be caused to ooze out, and it would run over the top of the sack upon the clothes of the wearer; but with mine this will not occur, for the fluid, instead of having a tendency to rush over the top of the sack, would ooze out laterally, so to speak, and run up the sack on each side of the sponge, and, so soon as the pressure be taken away, would run back and be absorbed by the sponge. And again, the form of my sack obviates the necessity of so particular an adjustment under the vulva as with those alluded to, for the reason that its mouth

or opening is ample enough to cover the whole space between the thighs and for a considerable distance up in front and behind, and the sponge, though it may not be directly under the vulva, will receive all the fluid which may fall into the pouch.

I am not aware that any catamenial sack yet made has had lapels or wings, such as I have shown, attached to it for precluding entirely the possibility of any portion of the discharge from escaping upon the clothes of the female; and this I claim to be an essential advantage, for by its use the drawers and clothes of the female may be kept in an untainted and unsoiled condition during the whole time that she may be unwell.

No uneasiness whatever is experienced by the female when wearing a sack constructed according to my invention, and the value of an article of this kind which will perform its functions perfectly and surely can hardly be estimated.

I do not claim, broadly, a catamenial sack made of india-rubber or of any other material; but

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

Forming with or attaching to a catamenial sack lapels or wings, substantially as and for the purpose herein shown and described.

EDWARD L. PERRY.

Witnesses:

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