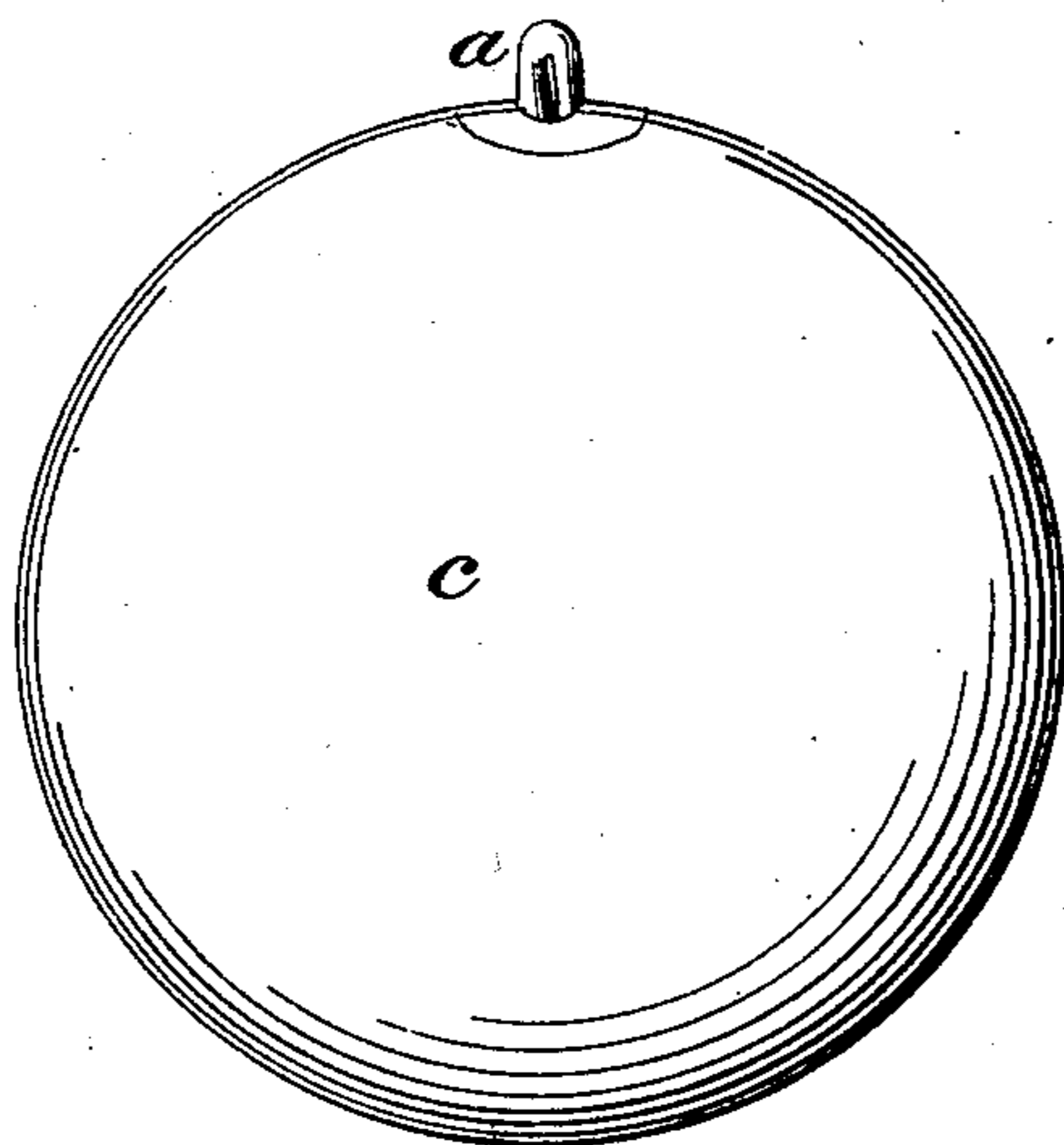
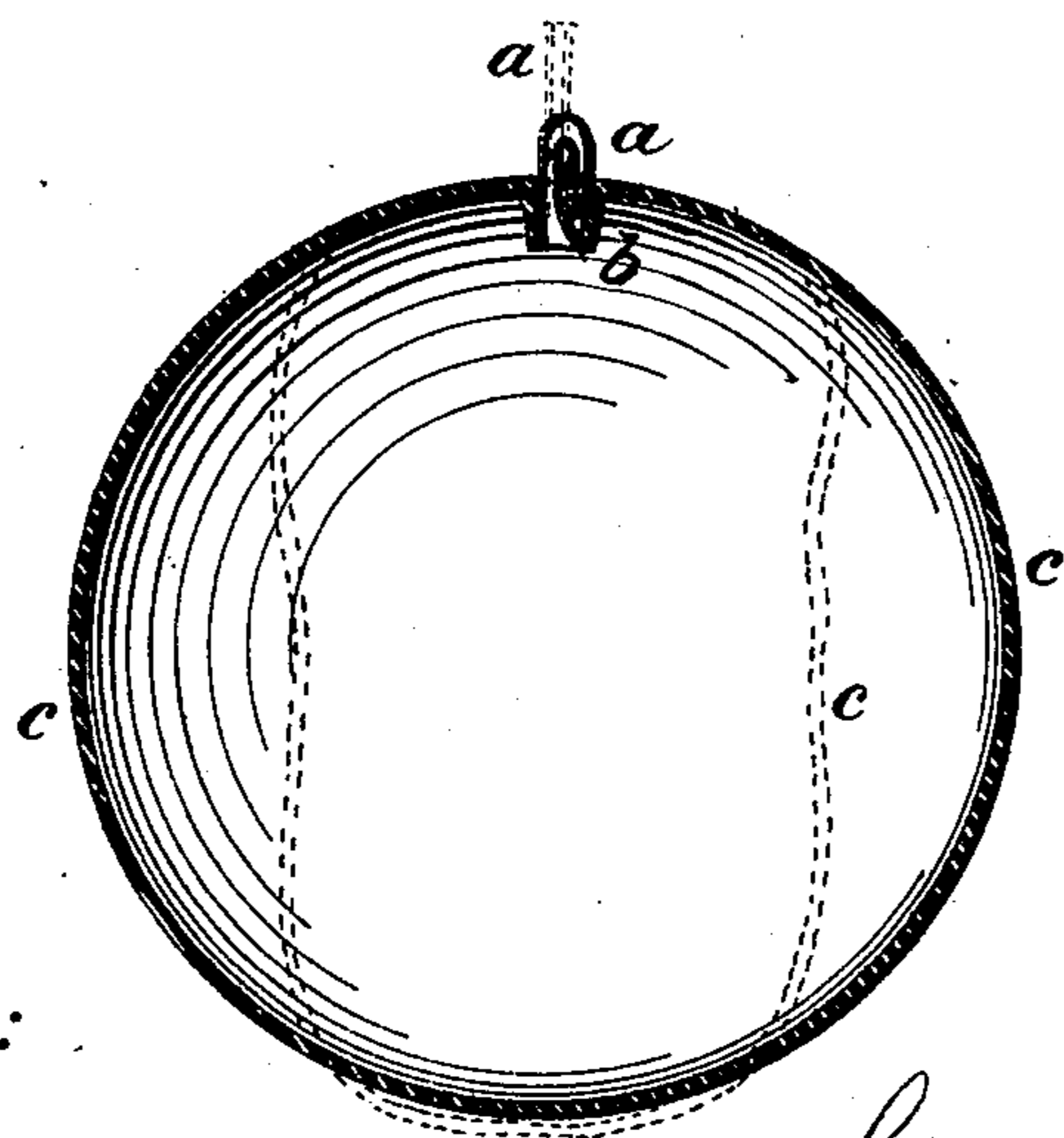


L. PICOT.  
HOLLOW ARTICLE OF RUBBER AND OTHER FLEXIBLE MATERIALS.  
No. 64,564. Patented May 7, 1867.

*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



*Witnesses:*

*Wm. Bailey*  
*Chas. G. Page Jr.*

*Inventor:*

*Léonce Picot*  
*J. H. Rollock*  
*his atty*

# United States Patent Office.

LEONCE PICOT, OF HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY, ASSIGNOR TO WILHELMINE  
PICOT, OF SAME PLACE.

*Letters Patent No. 64,564, dated May 7, 1867.*

## IMPROVEMENT IN HOLLOW ARTICLES OF RUBBER AND OTHER FLEXIBLE MATERIALS.

*The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.*

### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, LEONCE PICOT, of Hoboken, in the county of Hudson, and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful improvements in Inflating India-Rubber Balls and other Articles; and I hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a ball with my improvements applied; and

Figure 2 is a vertical central section of the same.

The chief objection to the hollow rubber balls and other similar articles now in the market, is that there are no means provided for again inflating them after the air they contain has escaped or become partially exhausted, or for other reasons is insufficient to distend them properly. In the majority of instances, after being used for a little time, they become relaxed and comparatively inelastic and flaccid so as to be unfitted for the purposes for which they are designed. Another drawback to their use is that they are manufactured in an inflated state, and necessarily occupy a great deal of room when packed for transportation that might be saved by making them capable of being collapsed or compressed when not in use.

The object of my invention is to obviate these objections, and provide a ready and simple means whereby India-rubber balls, pessaries, and other similar articles may be maintained in an inflated and distended state as long as desired, and at the same time rendered collapsible, so as to be compressed and packed into a small space when not in use; and to this end my invention consists in the application to a hollow ball, or other article requiring to be distended by inflation, of a flexible and elastic air-tube arranged in such manner that by bending over and inserting its top or end into a recess formed in the ball around the base of the tube, the opening in the tube shall be closed and the air within the ball prevented from escaping. The tube may be forced down into the cup or recess until it is flush with the exterior surface of the ball or other article, and it can be readily removed from the recess whenever it is desired to discharge the compressed air from the ball. It will of course be understood that although in the specification, and in the drawings which accompany it, I have illustrated my invention by its application to a common India-rubber ball, I by no means limit myself to that particular application, but contemplate using it in any connection in which it may be required, as, for instance, with life-preservers, pessaries, &c. In fig. 2 of the drawings, the method of securing and operating the tube is fully shown. The base of the tube *a* is attached to the bottom of the recess or cap *b*, formed in the ball *c*, by any suitable means. The tube extends upwards, and is closely surrounded by the sides of the recess, which being formed of rubber or other elastic substance, are capable of expanding or stretching when occasion demands. The position of the tube when erect and open is shown in red lines; the ball relaxed and collapsed is also represented in red lines. Now, when it is required to inflate the ball, air is forced through the tube until the ball is completely filled and distended. The tube is then compressed between the thumb and one of the fingers, so as to prevent the escape of the air, and its top is bent over and inserted in the cap or recess, between the sides of which and the base of the tube it is tightly compressed, so as to hermetically close all communication between the interior of the ball and the outside air. The tube in this position is shown in black lines in figs. 1 and 2, where it is represented as projecting above the surface of the ball. It can be readily forced down, however, until it is flush with the surface. When it is desired to discharge the air from the ball, the end of the tube is drawn out from the recess *b*, thus giving egress to the air. The ball may now be compressed, so as to occupy very little space, a feature which renders its transportation easy and inexpensive, there being but little bulk or weight. It will thus be seen that by means of this simple device I am enabled to readily inflate or compress the ball or other articles as above specified, or keep it constantly distended to its fullest capacity.

Having described my invention, and the manner in which the same is or may be carried into effect, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The application, to an India-rubber ball or other hollow article required to be distended by inflation, of a flexible tube, in the manner substantially as herein specified, so that the said ball or other article may be either inflated and distended, or collapsed, as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification before two subscribing witnesses.

LEONCE PICOT.

Witnesses:

C. A. DURGIN,

R. H. PEASE, Jr.