

M. Mattson,

Syringe,

Nº 68,096,

Patented Aug. 27, 1867.

Fig 1

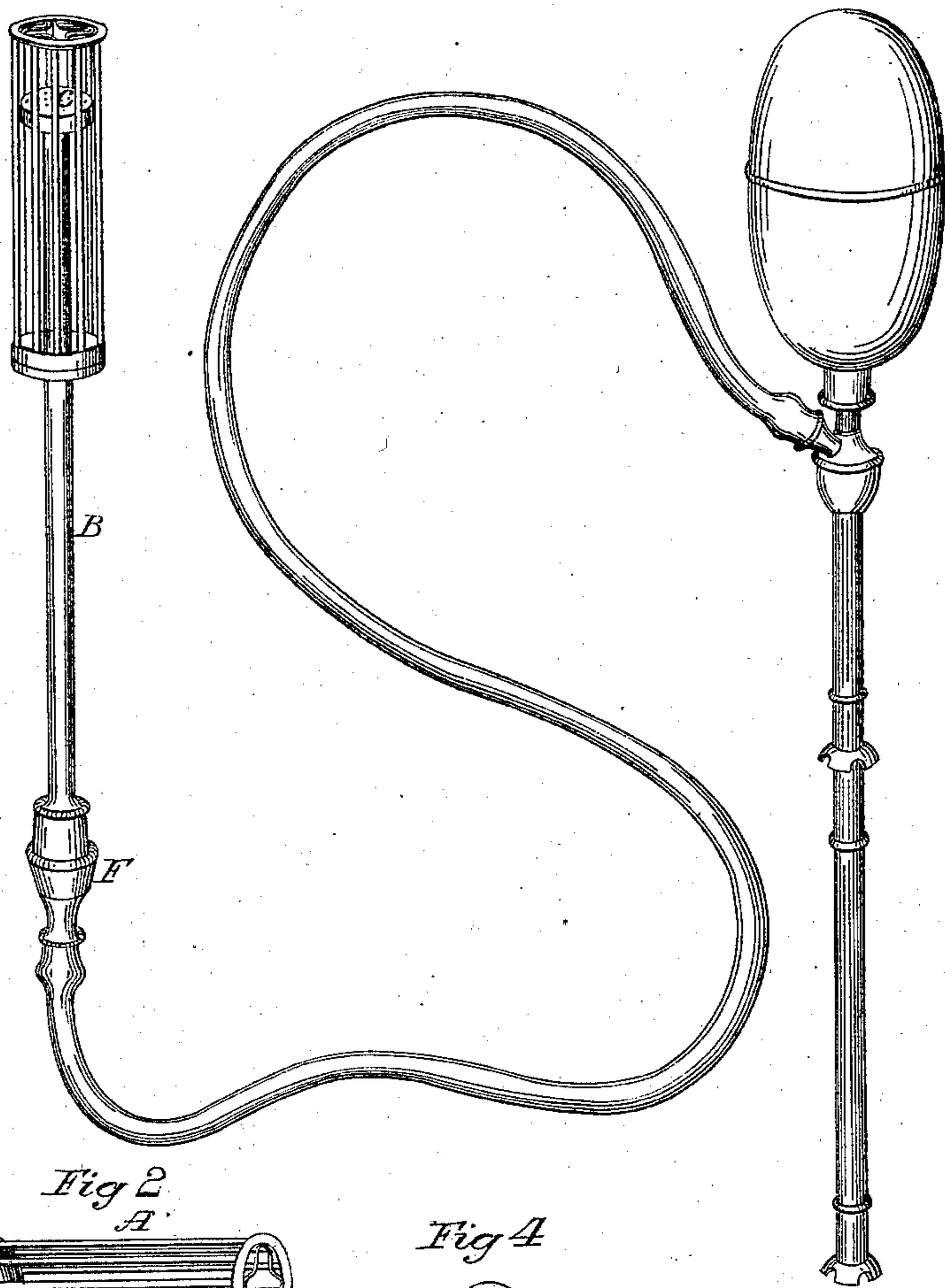


Fig 2
A

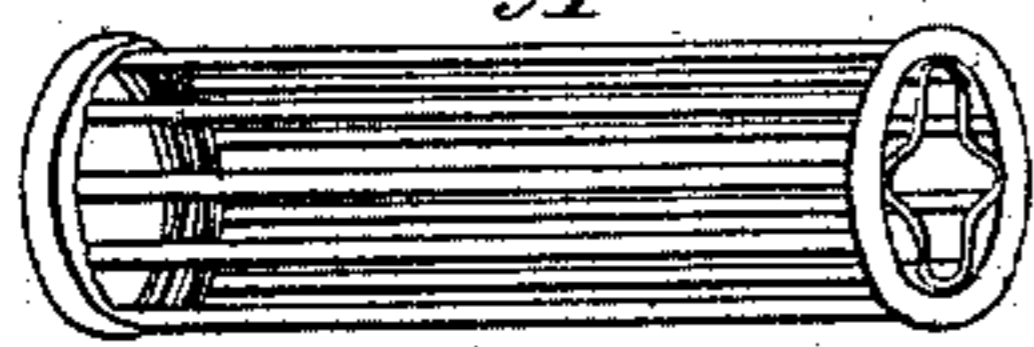


Fig 4



Fig 3

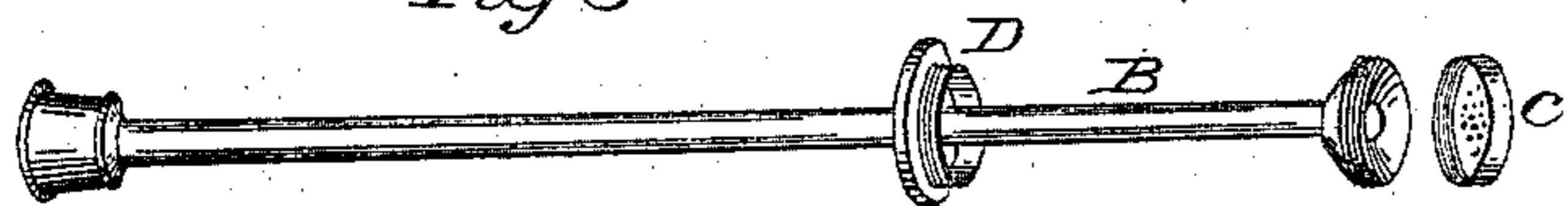
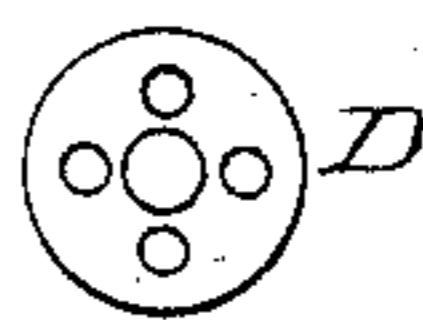


Fig 5



Witnesses:

J. D. Law
Edw. B. Sears

Inventor:

M. Mattson

United States Patent Office.

MORRIS MATTSON, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

Letters Patent No. 68,096, dated August 27, 1867.

VAGINAL IRRIGATOR.

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

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, MORRIS MATTSON, of the city of New York, in the county of New York, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful instrument for washing and cleansing the vagina, and for use in treating the diseases of that organ and the womb, called a Vaginal Irrigator; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, and of its mode or manner of operation, reference being had to the accompanying drawings and to the letters of reference marked thereon, and making a part of this specification.

My invention is specially adapted, as its name indicates, for washing and cleansing the vagina, and is so constructed that it will perform such offices and kindred ones in the treatment of diseases of such organ far more effectually than any instrument that has heretofore been introduced into practice.

Figure 1 is a representation of such instrument in connection with the elastic bulb and flexible tube of a common syringe.

Figure 2 is a detached view of the external portion of the irrigator.

Figure 3 is a like view of the central or spray-tube, with its perforated top removed.

Figure 4 shows the perforated top.

Figure 5 is a top view of the ferrule.

The instrument, which is known as the "vaginal or female tube," and which is in common use for washing and cleansing the vagina, is a tube generally four or five inches long, with a diameter at the thickest part varying from three-eighths to three-quarters of an inch or more, and has several perforations at its extremity, and sometimes along its sides, for the escape and distribution of the water or other fluid which is to be injected through it. Such a form of tube can, however, accomplish but very imperfectly its purpose, as will be apparent by reference to the structure of the vagina and its relation to the neck of the womb, which it encircles. The vagina, in the adult female, is a canal, five or six inches long, having at its upper extremity the neck of the womb, which it encircles, and which projects half an inch or more into the vaginal cavity. The lining membrane of the vagina is a loose structure, consisting of numerous folds, which allow of great distension. These loose folds of the vaginal membrane, which fall and collapse about the ordinary injecting tubes, such as above described, prevent a thorough washing of the vagina, and also, by closing about the neck of the womb, prevent more or less the access thereto of the injected fluid. The cleansing process is therefore necessarily imperfect.

My improved instrument or vaginal irrigator is intended to overcome the difficulties enumerated. Such instrument consists generally of an outer cylinder made of small wires fixed to partially open heads, within which cylinder, and extending nearly to the upper end, is a central tube having a perforated cap, and with which tube connects any ordinary syringe. The outer cylinder A is usually about three inches long, and is made cylindrical, so as to put the membranes of the vagina as much as possible upon the stretch, and thereby allow the injected fluid to come in contact with it in every direction. In addition to such distension of the vagina, the neck of the womb, being pushed up by the cylinder A as it is introduced into the vagina—the upper end or top of such cylinder having one or two cross-bars, as shown in the drawings, to more certainly push up the neck of the womb—is entirely exposed to the action of the injected spray, as it issues from the central tube B, and is thus thoroughly cleansed. This cleansing, in reference to the neck of the womb, is of much importance, as the cavity of the womb frequently becomes diseased, and, as a result, pours out an abundant secretion, which collects about the neck and in the upper part of the vagina, and is not easily removed by the ordinary injecting tubes.

The injected fluid, which is forced through the tube B by any syringe, is thrown, by means of the perforated cap C, in the form of a spray, first upon the neck of the womb, and falls downward and gradually fills the vagina, and may be prevented from escaping by pressing the soft external parts about the lower end of the tube B. The vagina being completely distended by the cylinder and the fluid, the irrigator, which is supposed to be entirely within the vaginal cavity, may be slightly rotated, and may also be moved upward and downward in an axial line, and in this way all the leucorrhœal secretions will be completely detached from the membrane, so as to mingle with the injected fluid. Such fluid may then be allowed to escape, and fresh fluid injected until the cleansing process is completed in a satisfactory manner.

Leucorrhoeal discharges are a great annoyance to females, and their removal is always desirable equally in reference to health, comfort, and delicacy. Physicians also, in the treatment of "female diseases," desire to have such irritating and offensive secretions removed, and to bring into contact with every portion of the vaginal cavity, including the neck of the womb, which projects into it, any fluid or weak medicinal solution such as in their opinion is best adapted to the case. All this can be accomplished more satisfactorily and certainly by my improved instrument than by any other instrument or method heretofore devised or used.

The cylinder A may be made of perforated metal instead of wires, though I prefer the latter. It should, however, in all cases, be sufficiently open to permit free circulation of the fluid through it. It may also be made of various sizes according to the wants of those who may seek its benefits.

To render it easily possible to keep the instrument entirely clean, and free from any offensive matter, or from anything which may interfere with its proper action, the tube B connects to the cylinder A by a screw upon the part D which forms the bottom of the cylinder, and the spray or perforated cap C also screws upon the end of the tube B, as shown in figs. 2 and 3. Every part of the irrigator is thus easily kept clean and in complete working order.

Such instrument, with its accompanying metallic connection F, which contains a suitable valve, may be used in connection with any form of syringe having an elastic outlet-tube. It can, however, be used much more conveniently and satisfactorily in connection with my improved syringe having a rigid sectional inlet-tube, patented to me on the fifth day of February, 1867, represented in fig. 1, as the syringe is maintained in a vertical position in the vessel containing the fluid to be injected, and the hand being supported by the rigid inlet-tube, the patient can operate the syringe with much greater ease and facility than would be possible if a flexible inlet-tube were made use of. The cylinder A, when made longer and the spray-tube B removed, may be conveniently used as a vaginal speculum.

The fluid, instead of being injected from the tube B in a spray, may be delivered in one or more finer or larger jets, if in any case desirable or found necessary.

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

An instrument for washing and cleansing the vagina, and for use in treating diseases of that organ and of the womb, having an outer perforated or open cylinder, and within such cylinder an injecting-tube for a spray or jet, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

M. MATTSON.

Witnesses:

S. D. LAW,

FRED. B. SEARS.