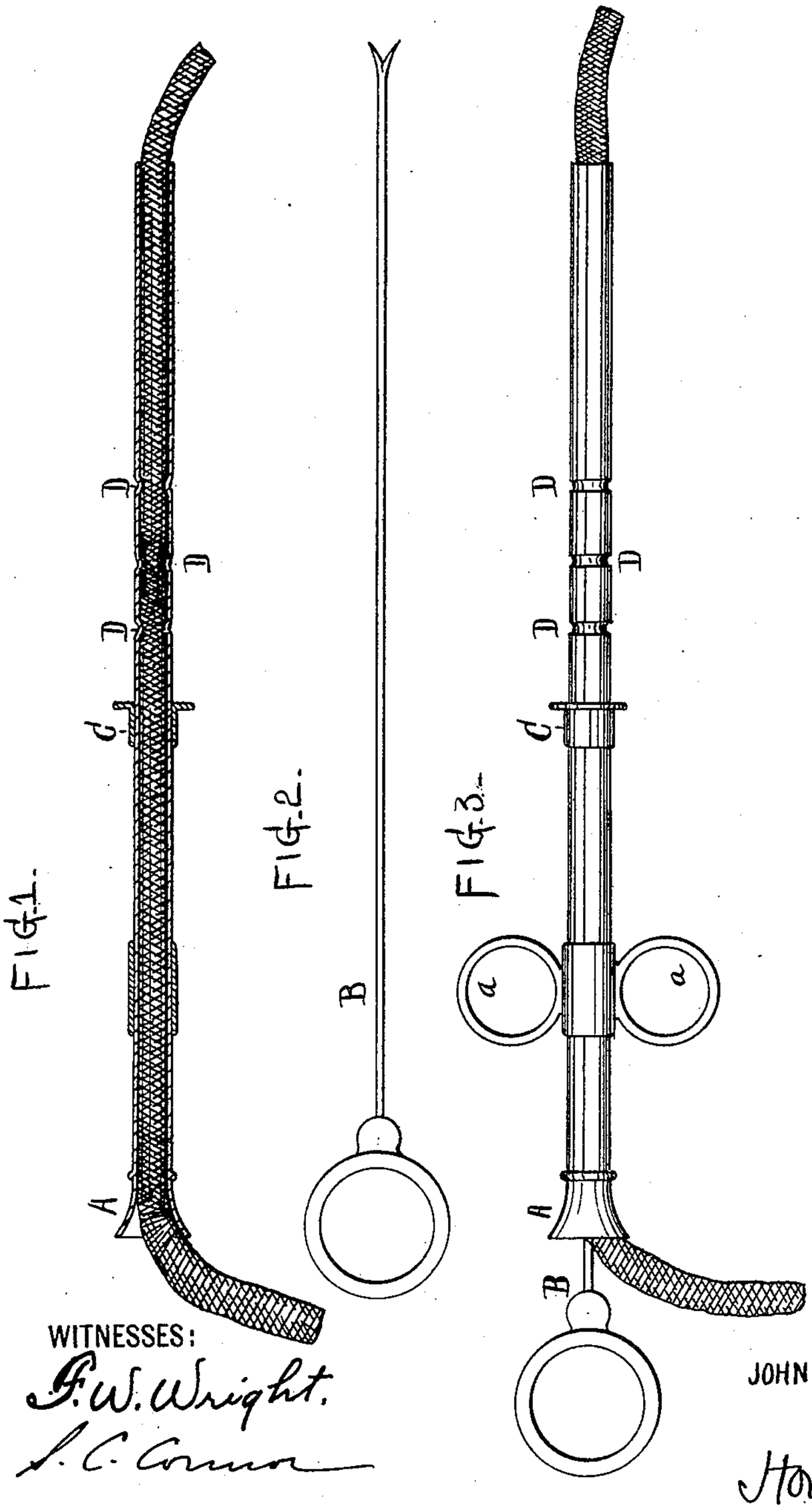
No. 682,090. Patented Sept. 3, 1901.

J. E. LEE.

SURGICAL DRESSING PACKER.

(Application filed Dec. 13, 1900.)

(No Model.)



WITNESSES:

F. W. Wright.

L. C. Connor

INVENTOR

JOHN ELLWOOD LEE

BY

Howson and Howson

HIS ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN ELLWOOD LEE, OF CONSHOHOCKEN, PENNSYLVANIA.

SURGICAL-DRESSING PACKER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 682,090, dated September 3, 1901.

Application filed December 13, 1900. Serial No. 39,735. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN ELLWOOD LEE, a citizen of the United States of America, residing in Conshohocken, in the county of Montgomery, State of Pennsylvania, have invented an Instrument for Packing Surgical Dressings, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates more particularly to the construction of a special surgical instrument designed for packing antiseptic gauze or other surgical dressing into the uterus or deep-seated abscesses or wounds. For example, such instruments consist, essentially, of a hollow tube in combination with a pointed plunger, which can be reciprocated in the tube to feed the dressing from the back end of the tube and out at the forward end, which has been inserted in the uterus, abscess, or wound to be packed. Heretofore the tube has either been left plain inside or has been provided with an internal pointed spring. If the tube is left plain, the gauze or other dressing is apt to be drawn back with the backward movement of the plunger, and therefore no progress is made in feeding. The internal spring avoids that difficulty, but is open to the objection that the instrument is difficult to keep clean and free from bacteria, and the spring adds to the cost.

The object of my invention, therefore, is to meet both of these objections, and this I do by a simple and inexpensive construction of the packing-tube itself.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a longitudinal section of one form of my improved packing-tube with dressing in it. Fig. 2 is a side view of a reciprocating plunger for the tube. Fig. 3 is an outside view of the two together.

The tube may be made of any suitable material, such as metal, glass, or hard rubber. At the rear end it is made, as shown in the drawings, with a flaring mouth A for convenience in feeding the packing into it. The tube may be straight or curved, according to the particular use to which it is intended to be put. For convenience I have shown it in straight form, as will usually be adopted for the smaller sizes. The tube may be provided with any suitable handle—as, for instance, two rings *a a*—for the reception of two fingers of the operator's hand, while the plunger B is provided with a ring for the reception of the operator's thumb or to be grasped by the hand. A guard or gage C, frictionally adjustable lengthwise on the tube, may be provided to aid the operator in inserting the forward end of the instrument the proper distance into the wound, uterus, &c.

The essential feature of my invention consists in forming in the body of the tube, preferably toward its forward end, annular indentations, as shown at D in Figs. 1 and 3. These indentations may be of any suitable number in a tube. For instance, in Figs. 1 and 3 I have shown three annular indentations. In any case these indentations are such as to form on the inside of the tube projections of such a character as to engage the dressing which is being fed into and through the tube by the reciprocations of the pointed plunger and prevent the backward slip of the dressing at each backward movement of the plunger. I use annular indentations, because they not only are thoroughly effective in preventing backward slip of the dressing, but they are most effective in compelling the plunger-rod to take good hold of the dressing on the forward or feed movement.

I claim as my invention—

A surgical-dressing packer, comprising a tube having an annular indentation in the body of the tube, in combination with a feeding-plunger, as and for the purpose described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN ELLWOOD LEE.

Witnesses:

J. CARL DE LA COUR,

F. R. JONES.