No. 751,415. PATENTED FEB. 2, 1904.

F. P. PRINDLE.

NIPPLE SHIELD.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 29, 1903.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 1.

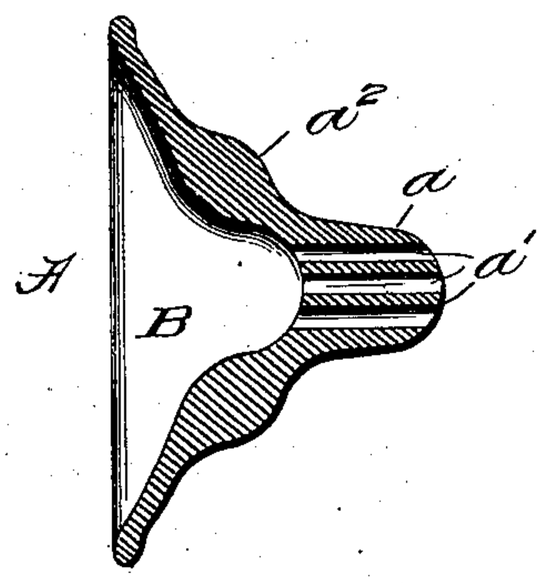


Fig. 2.

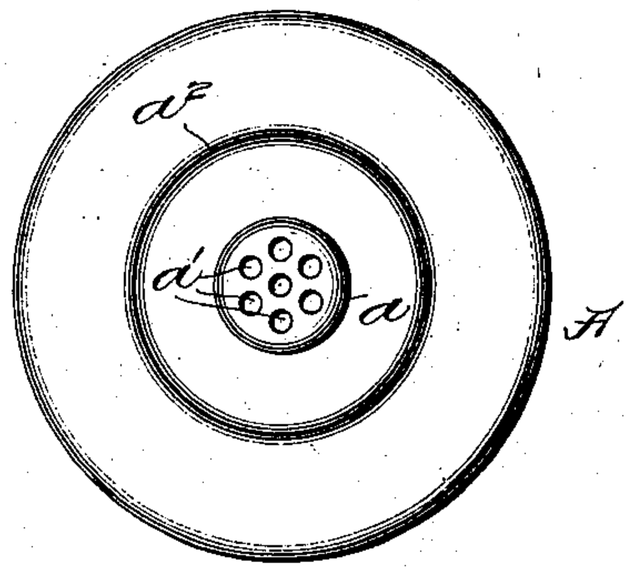


Fig. 3.

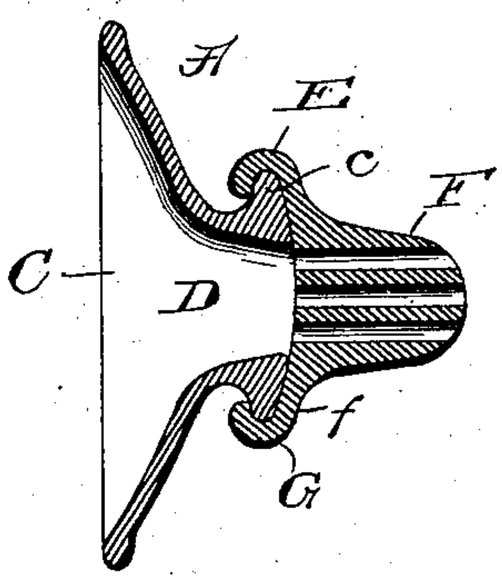
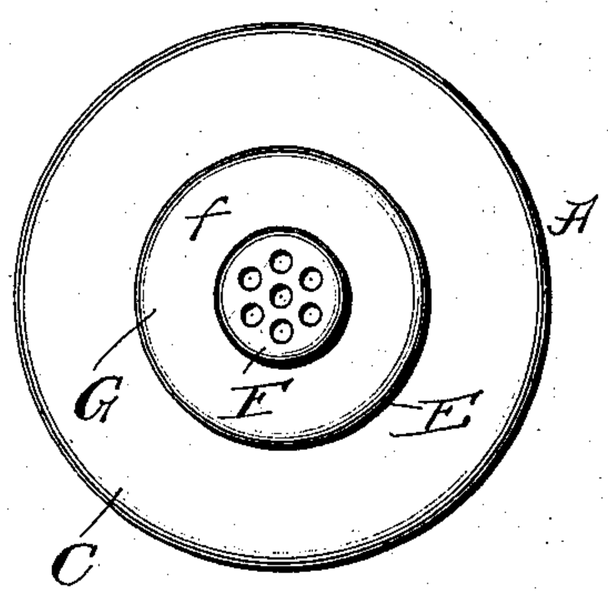


Fig. 4.



WITNESSES:

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No. 751,415. Patented February 2, 1904.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK P. PRINDLE, OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT.

NIPPLE-SHIELD.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 751,415, dated February 2, 1904.

Application filed September 29, 1903. Serial No. 175,051. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK P. PRINDLE, of Stamford, in the county of Fairfield, and in the State of Connecticut, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Nipple-Shields; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figures 1 and 2 are respectively a sectional view and an elevation of a shield embodying my invention and made of a single piece of material, and Figs. 3 and 4 are similar views of such a shield made of glass and rubber.

The object of my invention has been to provide a nipple-shield which shall have the advantages of preventing the child from chewing its mother's nipple, of preventing the mother's nipple from being drawn out or lengthened by nursing, and of permitting the child to be held as closely as possible to the mother; and to such ends my invention consists in the nipple-shield substantially as hereinafter specified.

In carrying my invention into practice I provide a shield A, shaped upon one side to conform to the breast, and upon such side having a cavity B which is of such shape and depth as to be nearly or quite filled by the mother's nipple. Upon the outer side of the shield an artificial nipple *a* is formed, such nipple being perforated by a plurality of holes *a'*. A shoulder a^2 is formed at the base of the artificial nipple to limit the extent to which the latter can enter the child's mouth.

In the alternative construction illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4 a stiff shield C is used, such shield being preferably made of glass or hard rubber. The said shield upon its under side conforms to the shape of the mother's breast and has a cavity D of such shape and size as to be practically filled by the mother's nipple. The shield is provided with a flange *c*, over which fits the inturned edge E of an artificial nipple F. The artificial nipple F, like the nipple *a*, is provided with a series of perforations. The outer surface *f* of the base G of the artificial nipple forms a shoulder which prevents the nipple from entering the child's mouth beyond the desired extent. The manner of connecting the artificial nipple with the shield brings the former very close to the latter, so that the child is close to the mother's breast.

It will be observed that in my shield as the mother's nipple is entirely inclosed in the shield it cannot be drawn out or elongated, and it cannot be chewed by the child, so that, as has been found in actual practice, it is safe from all avoidable discomfort. It will also be observed that the child cannot draw the artificial nipple into its mouth beyond the desired extent and that the child can be held very close to the mother's breast. The form of artificial nipple with the perforations makes the nipple pliable, like a natural one, and prevents its being collapsed. The holes are preferably made large enough so that they can be readily cleaned by inserting a wire or other similar object through the holes.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

A nipple-shield, comprising a shield having a larger cavity to receive the breast, a smaller cavity communicating therewith that is adapted to receive and to be completely filled by the natural nipple in its natural condition, whereby elongation of the natural nipple is prevented, having an artificial nipple of soft material directly over and close to said smaller nipple, said artificial nipple having a series of parallel perforations extending therethrough, whereby very free passage for milk is provided and great elasticity of the artificial nipple results, and a shoulder formed at the base of the artificial nipple and approximately in the same plane as the tip of the natural nipple, whereby the child is prevented from taking more than the artificial nipple into the mouth and from chewing upon the natural nipple, substantially as and for the purpose described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand.

FRANK P. PRINDLE

Witnesses:
F. B. GURLEY,
WM. F. WATERBURY.