No. 867,091. PATENTED SEPT. 24, 1907.

J. F. ALTERMATT.

CATAMENIAL APPLIANCE.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 30, 1906.

Fig. 1.

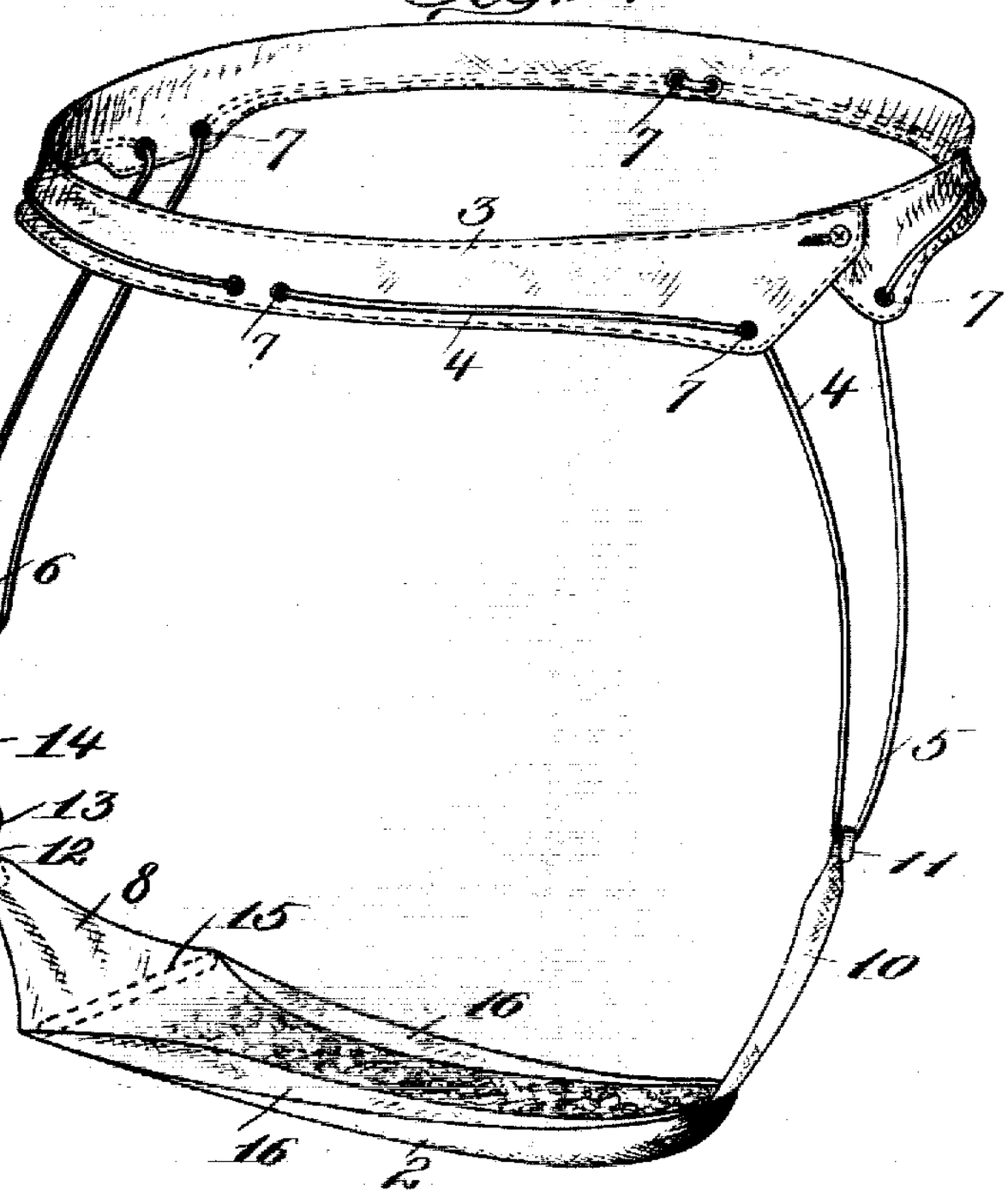


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

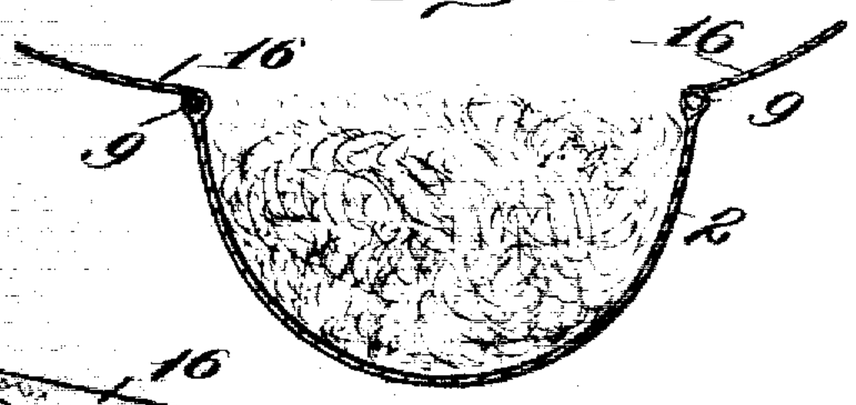
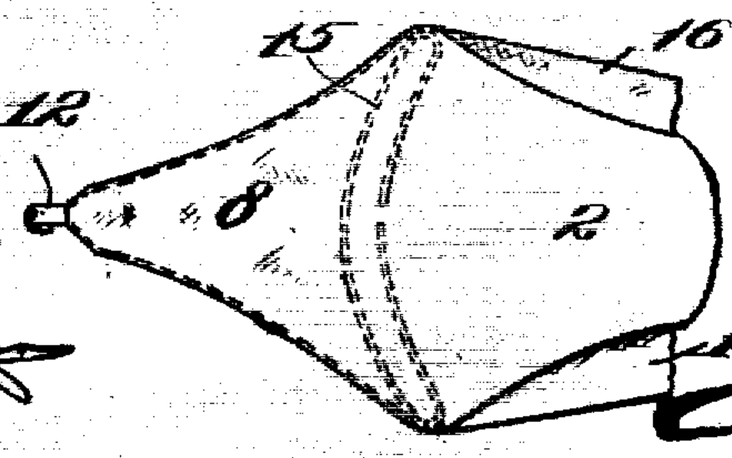


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CATAMENIAL APPLIANCE.

No. 867,091. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 24, 1907.

Application filed November 30, 1906. Serial No. 345,754.

To all whom it may concern.

Be it known that I, JOHN F. ALTERMATT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Missoula, in the county of Missoula and State of Montana, have invented new and useful Improvements in Catamenial Appliances, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to catamenial appliances, the object of the invention being to provide a simple and effective device of this character which is comfortable to the wearer and by which staining of the clothing is prevented.

The device includes other objects and advantages which with the foregoing will be hereinafter fully set forth.

In the drawings accompanying and forming a part of this specification I show in detail one form of embodiment of the invention which to enable those skilled in the art to practice said invention will be particularly described hereinafter, while the novelty of my invention will be included in the claims hereinafter made.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of an appliance including my invention. Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the absorbent carrier. Fig. 3 is a cross sectional view of the said carrier, the section being taken through the forward end thereof. Fig. 4 is a view corresponding to Fig. 2 of a slightly modified form of carrier.

Like characters refer to like parts throughout the several figures of the drawings.

A catamenial appliance involving my invention includes in its make-up an absorbent-carrier as 2 which may be suspended for use in any desirable way, for instance, by means of the belt or girdle 3 adapted to fit around the waist or other suitable part of the body. This belt may be detachably supported in place in any desirable way, for example, by means of a button on one of the ends thereof engaging in a buttonhole in the other end. The absorbent-carrier may be connected with the belt in any desirable way. I find a cord as 4 satisfactory for this purpose, the cord when employed being so related with the belt as to produce a pendent front loop as 5 and a pendent rear loop as 6. The cord is preferably so associated with the belt that the former can have a sliding movement with respect to the belt. This may be accomplished by freely passing the sides of the cord through openings in the belt and for strength these openings may be eyeleted. There are two rear openings, two opposite pairs of side openings and two front openings all denoted by 7 and the cord can be so passed through said openings as to be practically wholly upon the exterior of the belt and thereby not chafe the user.

The carrier 2 is adapted to support a suitable absorbent. This absorbent may be of any suitable character; for example, it may consist of a mass of cotton laid in the carrier. The carrier 2 is advantageously made in the form of an imperforate receptacle so that it can receive the mass of cotton and menstrual fluid passing onto the cotton without possibility of the fluid scattering. The carrier is preferably closed at its forward end and widened at its rear end, such construction preventing the escape of fluid from the opposite ends of the carrier or receptacle. The latter is of trough or channel construction and its sides diverge rearward from the front closed end thereof, and at the rear there is a triangular extension or tab as 8, the purpose of which will hereinafter appear.

Along the front portion of the upper edge of the carrier or receptacle is a stiffening medium which may consist of wire as 9, which is covered preferably by the material of which the carrier or receptacle is composed and this material is ordinarily of non-absorbent nature, rubber sheeting or oil cloth being suitable for the purpose. The wire 9 does not extend the complete length of the carrier from front to rear, but is preferably located at the front to preserve the shape of the forward end of the carrier and permit a certain amount of play of the intermediate and rear portions thereof.

From the forward closed end of the carrier or receptacle I have shown a tab as 10 extending, said tab being equipped with a hook as 11 to detachably engage the bight of the loop 5.

The triangular tab 8 to which I have referred is shown as furnished with a hook as 12 adapted to detachably engage an eye as 13 on the lower end of a tab as 14 interlooped preferably permanently with the bight of the rear loop 6. This tab 14 is preferably elastic so as to permit in use a certain amount of endwise motion of the carrier or receptacle 2.

To hold the shape of the carrier 2 at the rear I prefer to use a stiffening device as 15 of loop form which may take the shape shown in Fig. 2 or that represented in Fig. 4 and which may consist of a piece of wire bent to produce the desired loop. This stiffening device 15 is preferably covered by the material of which the carrier is composed.

I have shown as extending outward from the upper edges of the trough shaped carrier 2 pliable or flexible flaps as 16 which may be made from the same material as that from which the carrier itself is made and these parts may if desired be integral. In fact I prefer to make the receptacle and flaps from one continuous piece of material. The flaps conform closely to the body of the wearer and prevent chafing. The receptacle is of heavier material than the flaps and is relatively non-elastic.

In operation the belt is applied to the wearer, the hook 11 is connected with the loop 5 and the hook 12

is connected with the eye 13. To remove the absorbent from the carrier the following operation is usual. The front hook 11 is disengaged from the loop 5 and the rear loop 6 is drawn downward or elongated without disconnecting the hook 12 from the eye 13, this result being easily accomplished by virtue of the sliding relation between the cord 4 and the belt 3. When the rear loop 6 is elongated to the requisite extent the carrier can be drawn forward and the absorbent removed and a fresh supply put in its place, after which the shortened front loop 5 can be brought to its original condition by a draw downward upon the same, and when this original condition is reached, the hook 11 can be engaged with said loop. It is, therefore, unnecessary to disconnect the endless cord 4 from the belt 3 or to disconnect the carrier 2 from the cord when it becomes necessary to supply a clean absorbent.

I have employed the term "absorbent-carrier" hereinbefore. By this I mean to include any kind of carrier capable of carrying an absorbent. I do not mean necessarily that the carrier is of absorbent material for it is preferably of non-absorbent material.

What I claim is:

1. A catamenial appliance having a belt, an endless cord slidingly connected with the belt and having pendent loops at the front and rear of said belt, and an absorbent-carrier connected with said loops.

2. A catamenial appliance having a belt, an endless cord, the belt having openings to receive the cord, said cord slidably related to the belt and having loops at the front and rear thereof, and an absorbent-carrier connected detachably with said loops.

3. A catamenial appliance having an absorbent-carrier consisting of a receptacle closed at its forward end, said carrier or receptacle having a stiffening wire along its upper edge, outwardly extending flaps on said upper edge and a stiffening member extending transversely across the carrier at the rear thereof.

4. A catamenial appliance having an absorbent-carrier consisting of a receptacle provided with a closed forward end, and a stiffening wire along the upper edge of the carrier at the front portion thereof, the intermediate and rear portions of the carrier being free of said wire.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN F. ALTERMATT

Witnesses:
CHAS. J. LANGE,
GUY THOMPSON.