

Specification of Lemuel Dow Owen : menstrual receiver or truss.

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A.D. 1859, 17th May. N° 1222.

SPECIFICATION

OF

LEMUEL DOW OWEN.

—
MENSTRUAL RECEIVER OR TRUSS.
—

LONDON:

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A.D. 1859, 17th MAY. N° 1222.

Menstrual Receiver or Truss.

LETTERS PATENT to Lemuel Dow Owen, of 192, Tottenham Court Road, in the County of Middlesex, Engineer, for the Invention of "**AN IMPROVED MENSTRUAL RECEIVER OR TRUSS.**"—A communication from abroad by Herman W. Ladd, of Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America.

Sealed the 13th October 1859, and dated the 17th May 1859.

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION left by the said Lemuel Dow Owen at the Office of the Commissioners of Patents, with his Petition, on the 17th May 1859.

I, **LEMUEL DOW OWEN**, of 192, Tottenham Court Road, in the County of Middlesex, Engineer, do hereby declare the nature of the said Invention for "**AN IMPROVED MENSTRUAL RECEIVER OR TRUSS,**" being a communication to me from abroad by Herman W. Ladd, of Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America, to be as follows :—

Two air-tight crescent-shaped hollow vessels made of vulcanized caoutchouc or other air-tight flexible material, so as when inflated with air to form elastic cushions flexible in all directions, which are joined together by a siphon or connecting piece, which is made of flexible waterproof material, and extends from the outer surface or edge of one to the outer edge of the other, and forms an elongated space or receptacle between the two capable of holding a sponge, or some other proper absorbent. The two crescent-shaped vessels are connected at one end by a pipe or conduit so as to allow a free passage of air from one to the other. On the opposite ends of the crescents is a filling hole or passage provided with a valve, in connection with which is used an inflating

Owen's Improved Menstrual Receiver or Truss.

tube which answers the purpose of filling the crescents with air and closing the valve, and can be disengaged when not in use.

The said menstrual receiver is to be worn by females during the periods of menstruation for the purpose of intercepting the uterine flowage or discharge, and is supported in its proper place by two or more elastic straps attached to 5 the corners or ends passing upwards, and attached to one passing round the body of the wearer.

SPECIFICATION in pursuance of the conditions of the Letters Patent, filed by the said Lemuel Dow Owen in the Great Seal Patent Office on the 18th October 1859. 10

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, I, LEMUEL DOW OWEN, of 192, Tottenham Court Road, in the County of Middlesex, Engineer, send greeting.

WHEREAS Her most Excellent Majesty Queen Victoria, by Her Letters Patent, bearing date the Seventeenth day of May, in the year of our Lord 15 One thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine, in the twenty-second year of Her reign, did, for Herself, Her heirs and successors, give and grant unto me, the said Lemuel Dow Owen, Her special licence that I, the said Lemuel Dow Owen, my executors, administrators, and assigns, or such others as I, the said Lemuel Dow Owen, my executors, administrators, and assigns, 20 should at any time agree with, and no others, from time to time and at all times thereafter during the term therein expressed, should and lawfully might make, use, exercise, and vend, within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Channel Islands, and Isle of Man, an Invention for "**AN IMPROVED MENSTRUAL RECEIVER OR TRUSS**," a communication from 25 abroad by Herman W. Ladd, of Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America, upon the condition (amongst others) that I, the said Lemuel Dow Owen, my executors or administrators, by an instrument in writing under my, or their, or one of their hands and seals, should particularly describe and ascertain the nature of the said Invention, and in what manner the same 30 was to be performed, and cause the same to be filed in the Great Seal Patent Office within six calendar months next and immediately after the date of the said Letters Patent.

NOW KNOW YE, that I, the said Lemuel Dow Owen, do hereby declare the nature of the said Invention, and in what manner the same is to 35 be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the

Owen's Improved Menstrual Receiver or Truss.

following statement, reference being had to the Drawings hereto annexed, that is to say:—

Figure 1 is a top view of said improved menstrual receiver or truss; Figure 2, a side elevation; Figure 3, an inside view; Figure 4, a transverse section, and Figure 5, a longitudinal section of it; Figure 6 is a longitudinal section of its fitting valve and pipe; Figure 7 is a transverse section of the valve and its seat.

The nature of the said Invention consists of two air-tight hollow crescents, shewn at A, B, made of vulcanized caoutchouc, or some other air-tight flexible waterproof material, so constructed that they can be filled or inflated with air. These two air-tight crescent-shaped cushions are conjoined by a syphon or connection piece C, which is also made of waterproof flexible material, and extends from the outer surface or edge of one to that of the other, and so as to make an elongated cup-shaped space D between the two crescents capable of holding a sponge, or some other proper absorbent.

At or near the two contiguous ends of the crescents or vessels A, B, they open into one another by a pipe or conduit *a*, so arranged as to allow a free passage of air from one to the other, and at the opposite end of one of the crescents or vessels is a filling hole or passage *b*, Figure 4, provided with a valve *c*; the filling hole *b* is made through the seat of the valve *c*, such seat being at the bottom of a metallic valve socket *f*, and which has a female screw *g*, Figure 6, formed in it, and is cemented in the hollow crescent B, Figure 4. A cap-shaped valve *c*, as shewn in section, Figures 6 and 7, screws into socket *f*, and is furnished with one or more lateral air passages *i, i*, leading through its sides, below the screw, and where its diameter is less than the screw.

This cap-shaped valve is made to receive the filling tube or key *k*, which should fit into it, so as to be capable, when turned around axially, of causing the valve to turn in the socket. By means of this key tube, which may be detached from the valve when not in use, the crescents or air-tight cushions may be inflated with air, which, when the valve is screwed down on its seat, will remain sustained in the crescents or cushions. By raising the valve off its seat and compressing the instrument, the air will be expelled from it, so as to enable it to be folded up or packed away in a very small space.

In wearing the instrument, a female places it between the thighs, so as to cover the labia of the vagina, and confines it in place by two or more elastic straps *l, m*, extended from its corners or ends upward on the back and front parts of the body to a belt fastened around the body above the hips.

By being constructed of waterproof materials, the deposit made in the

Owen's Improved Menstrual Receiver or Truss.

instrument when in use, can easily be removed by washing with water or other liquid, and the sponge contained in it can be taken out and rinsed or cleansed as often as may be found necessary. The advantages of this instrument can only be appreciated by the sex for whom it is intended. The soft air crescents or cushions are flexible in all directions, and therefore cause a perfect fit of the instrument to the body of the wearer, whether she be in a standing, stooping, setting, or reclining position. 5

I am aware various devices, somewhat analogous, have been long known and used, but this Invention differs from any heretofore in use in many important particulars. The air-tight cushions extend the whole length of the instrument, leaving a cavity between the two, such cavity being intended to hold a long piece of sponge. The crescents are united by a waterproof septum, extending from one to the other, as shewn at *c*, Figure 4, such crescents when inflated or filled with air being flexible in all directions, and act not only as elastic springs to hold the sponge in place, but cause the instrument to fit with perfect ease against the body of the wearer. 15

Having thus fully described and ascertained the nature of the said Invention, and the manner in which the same is or may be used or carried into effect, I would observe that I do not confine or restrict myself to the precise details or arrangements which I have had occasion to describe or refer to, as many variations may be made therefrom without deviating from the principles or main features of the Invention; but what I consider to be novel and original, and therefore claim as the Invention secured to me by the herein-before in part recited Letters Patent, is an improved manufacture of menstrual receiver, as made of air-tight waterproof crescent-shaped vessels united by a waterproof septum, and arranged together with the septum, and provided with means of supplying them with air, and discharging it therefrom in the manner and for the purposes herein-before substantially described. 25

In witness whereof, I, the said Lemuel Dow Owen, have hereunto set my hand and seal, this Eighteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine. 30

LEMUEL DOW OWEN. (L.S.)

LONDON:

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Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty. 1859.

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FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.

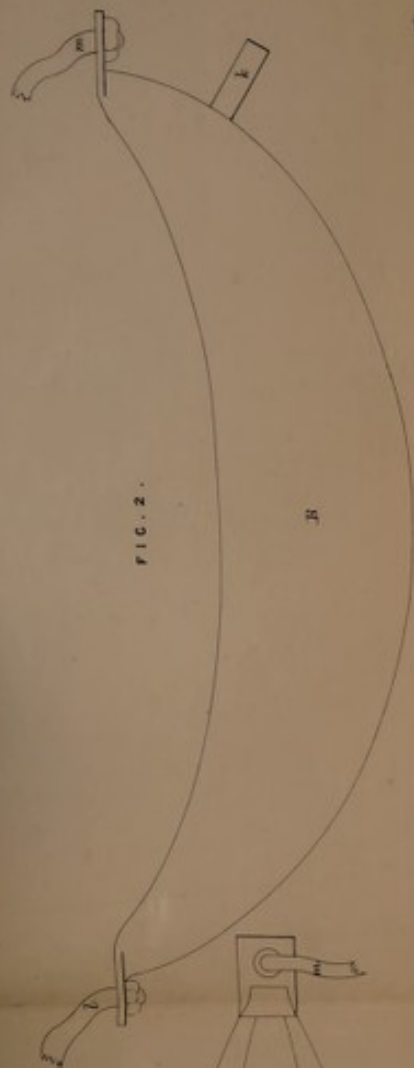


FIG. 3.



FIG. 5.



FIG. 4.

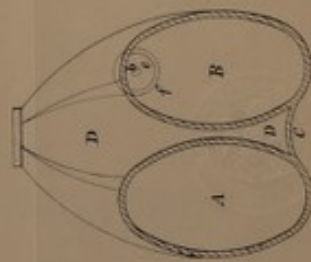


FIG. 6.



FIG. 7.



