

J. B. Beers,
Preventing Conception.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

J. B. BEERS, OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK.

PREVENTING CONCEPTION.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 4,729, dated August 28, 1846.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN B. BEERS, of the city of Rochester, in the county of Monroe and State of New York, have invented a new Instrument, called the "wife's protector," the design of which is to Prevent conception; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description.

It consists of six separate pieces, viz, hoop, band, joint, joint-pin, membranous covering, and handle.

It is constructed in the following manner:

The hoop (A) is made of a piece of oval wire, formed into a ring about an inch and a half in diameter, and to this, is soldered the point (B), formed from a piece of hollow wire about $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch in length, which has two slots cut in it (C, C,) about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch apart, to receive the end of the handle (D, D,) which forms the other half of the hinge or joint. The center of this joint, from one slot to the other, is flattened at right angles with the hoop (A) to which it is attached.

The handle consists of one piece of metal, (gold alloyed with platina is to be preferred on account of its great elasticity, and not being liable to change color.) It should be about eight inches in length, and about $\frac{1}{16}$ of an inch in width, except the end that is crooked, which is left larger merely for ornament. The other end is about $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch in width, and has two longitudinal slits extending $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch from the end, and about $\frac{1}{16}$ of an inch from either edge, running parallel with the handle. The two outside planes are then formed into knuckles, to work like a hinge in the slots (C, C,) cut in the joint (B,). The center F is cut off even with the knuckles (D, D,) and is intended to rest upon the flat surface between the slots, and act as a spring, keeping the hoop while in use at right angles. The two are then united, and kept in their place by a joint-pin. The hoop is then covered

with oil-silk, or some other thin membranous substance (E,) and held in its place by a metallic band, made to slip snugly over the hoop and thus securing the edges of the covering between them. The edges of the band are then to be burnished down smoothly; and lastly, the handle should be formed into shape, resembling the sectional view in the annexed drawing No. 2.

To use this instrument, the hoop is to be pressed down upon the handle by the thumb of the right hand, turning it up edgewise, and then introduced into the vagina, when, immediately after, having passed the sphincter, and the bones of the pelvis, it extends itself to its natural position, nearly at right angles with the rod or stem, and as it is farther introduced, the handle is to be turned downward $\frac{1}{4}$ of a circle. In this position the membrane on the hoop is made to completely cover the os uteri, thus entirely preventing the semen from entering the uterus, without which, (it is assumed) conception can not take place.

While the rod aforesaid lies along the lower side of the vagina, with a slight curve, to accommodate itself to the sphincter, and terminates in the angles above described, lying near the anus, and if properly adjusted, can not be felt by either party. After coition, when the instrument is being withdrawn the spring joint permits the extension of the hoop to nearly a parallel line with the rod accommodating itself to the shape and size of the vagina, and bringing the semen away with it.

What I claim as my invention, is—the particular combination of a covered hoop attached to a handle by a spring-joint as described and for the purposes above specified.

J. B. BEERS.

Witnesses:

DANIEL WOOD,
O. MORRIS.