

For the Medical Profession.

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Amesbury 10/17/19

A NEW PRINCIPLE
IN THE CONTROL
OF CONCEPTION



PERMFOAM

A NEW PRINCIPLE IN THE CONTROL OF CONCEPTION

FOR various reasons the medical man is often asked which of the many methods should be employed for the control of conception, and it is for this reason that we venture to submit not only information in regard to our new foam jelly preparation called PERMFOAM, but also a short summary of other methods generally used.

It has been found that most of these have certain shortcomings, and in the past dual methods, mechanical and chemical, have been advisable and strongly recommended. We think, however, that we have now succeeded in evolving a chemical method which will give an even greater degree of security than any of these combinations, and which will practically eliminate failures due to personal factors.

Eminent workers in the field of contraceptive methods agree that the formation of a stable barrier across the *os uteri* is essential. This barrier may be constructed of rubber, like the condom and the various forms of occlusive pessary, or may be formed by chemical means. It is also their opinion, for well known reasons, that the main requirement is a simple, harmless chemical preparation which is easy to apply and is capable of coating the cervix and occluding the *os uteri*. This barrier should always contain a chemical spermicide which will instantly kill all the spermatozoa in the vagina. This organ contains many crevices which may afford shelter to the spermatozoa, and for this reason it is essential that a chemical contraceptive should have a sufficiently low surface tension to penetrate into them.

The other requirements of the ideal chemical contraceptive are admirably laid down by Dickinson and Bryant in their text book "The Control of Conception."

Three methods of a chemical nature are generally employed :—

THE SUPPOSITORY.—This may be prepared from cocoa butter or gelatin, both of which melt below body temperature, 37° C., and are therefore universally applicable when pure, but the addition of adulterants raises the melting point.

FOAM TABLETS.—These are small tablets containing ingredients such as sodium bicarbonate and tartaric acid, which can easily be placed in the vagina where they create a foam. Their action, however, is entirely dependent upon that organ's humidity, which varies considerably. They are, therefore, by no means universally applicable. Moreover, once the foam has been produced and has broken down, it affords no mechanical protection whatever.

A third factor may cause the failure of both these methods as the constituents take time to disintegrate and spread after their insertion into the vagina. Coitus therefore must be rather accurately timed—a grave psychological disadvantage.

JELLIES.—There are many varieties of these but, in general, they may be regarded as suspensions of gum-acacia or gum-tragacanth in water. In this manner a semi-solid mass is obtained which can readily be placed within the vagina. The viscosity of the preparation is of paramount importance, since it is that which governs its spreading power and jellies with a high viscosity do not spread or penetrate in the desired manner.

None of these methods, therefore, entirely fulfil the requirements, but it was realised that a high degree of security could be attained by combining, if possible, any two of the basic chemical principles.

A foam suppository, it was realised, would still be dependent upon time and temperature ;

but a foam jelly, it seemed, would be independent of these factors and would be capable of immediate application and action.

Considerable research by competent authorities has enabled us to develop the first foam jelly preparation which fulfils the requirements of the ideal chemical contraceptive.

FOAM JELLIES.—Since it is normally impossible, in the presence of moisture, to keep sodium bicarbonate and an acid together, our experiments were carried out with a patented double tube which resulted in the building up of a formula for a foam jelly. The essentials for a preparation of this nature are correct viscosity, low surface tension and stability.

This patent container, which consists of one tube inside another, has enabled us to select the viscosity which gives the greatest covering and penetrating power, when the ingredients are extruded and mixed. The inner tube contains an acid jelly and the outer a bicarbonate jelly, and their mixture immediately creates a spermicidal foam, charged with carbon dioxide, which penetrates the sulci and fornices of the vaginal passage and occludes the *os uteri*. The foam, moreover, continues to expand and penetrate after the first mixing. Not only, therefore, are the spermatozoa mechanically prevented from entering the cervical canal, but they are also immediately killed by several powerful spermicides which are definitely harmless to the vaginal mucous membrane.

This preparation is called PERMFOAM and we think that it is worthy of your consideration.

PERMFOAM possesses the following advantages :—

1. It gives immediate protection, since it is independent of time, temperature or moisture, and thus is an improvement on others.
2. It contains several powerful non-irritating spermicides. When the two jellies mix, a copious foam is produced which is even more spermicidal than the individual constituents, and forms a formidable barrier. *This unique action can only be attained by means of the patented double-compartment tube.*

3. It does not contain any insoluble materials
4. It is colourless, odourless and does not stain.
5. Douching is unnecessary owing to the choice of constituents, but may certainly be carried out at *any* time desired.
6. The tubes are made of pure tin internally coated, so that no chemical interaction can take place which might give rise to toxic effects.
7. It does not deteriorate even in extreme climatic conditions.
8. The nozzle for application is of correct length and is unbreakable. In the interests of hygiene a separate nozzle is supplied for each application.
9. PERMFOAM is easy to apply and sufficient material for one application is contained in each tube. The contents are easy to extrude, and after use the tube and nozzle are to be thrown away.

The following references may be consulted :—

1. Dickinson & Bryant.
 "Control of Conception." Baillière,
 Tindall & Cox. London. 1932.
2. Fielding.
 "Parenthood: Design or Accident."
 Noel Douglas. London. 1932.
3. Florence.
 "Birth Control on Trial." G. Allen &
 Unwin, Ltd. London. 1930.
4. Fraenkel.
 "Die Empfängnisverhütung." Enke
 Stuttgart. 1932.
5. Sanger & Stone.
 "The Practice of Contraception."
 Williams & Wilkins. Baltimore. 1931.
6. Van de Velde.
 "Fertility and Sterility in Marriage."
 Heinemann. London. 1931.

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_____ boxes of PermFoam each containing six tubes
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