

[54] **DEVICE FOR STERILIZING THE HUMAN FEMALE OR MALE BY LIGATION**

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[51] Int. Cl.² **A61B 17/12**

[58] Field of Search **128/326, 303 A, 303 R, 128/4, 6, 2 B, 320, 321**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A method for sterilizing the human female by tubal ligation comprising the use of a ring applicator device having forceps means slidably mounted inside a cylindrical tube for grasping the Fallopian tube and pulling it within the device and means for pushing or otherwise displacing an elastic or stretchable ring over the portion of the tube held within the device, thereby effecting a ligation thereof. The procedure is preferably used in conjunction with a viewing device such as a laparoscope or a culdoscope. The placement of the elastic ring on the tubes eliminates the need for time-consuming procedures which are discomforting to the patient and the use of bulky and expensive equipment. Moreover, depending upon the size and elastic power of the rings, the sterilization can be made permanently or reversibly, as desired. The device and method are also applicable to the sterilization of the human male by the ligation of the vas.

21 Claims, 21 Drawing Figures

