its inlet but being otherwise flattened in contact with each other and held in flattened condition by their inherent resilience said walls being of constant thickness throughout their length, said tubular element being of appreciable length relative to the size of masses of drainage matter passing through, said walls separating momentarily in advance of such matter and automatically closing directly behind it as a pressure differential moves such matter progressively through said element from inlet to outlet, said walls nevertheless remaining always in contact along broad areas thereby preventing reverse flow through said valve, and a protective chamber of rigid material surrounding and enclosing said valve, said chamber having an end wall provided with aligned connection nipples extending outwardly and inwardly therefrom, said nipples being integral with each other, the outer nipple being attachable to said catheter and the inner nipple to the inlet end of said valve, and the inner walls of said nipples being substantially annular and diverging toward said valve so that any clot entering said outer nipple will surely pass into and through said valve.

2. An instrument for drainage of the chest as defined in claim 1 wherein said inner walls are smooth and unbroken.

3. An instrument for drainage of the chest as defined in claim 1 wherein the cross-sectional shape of each wall of said outer nipple tapers in a direction away from said valve so that the inlet edge of said nipple has a minimum thickness.

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DALTON L. TRULUCK, Primary Examiner

U.S. Cl. X.R.

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