What is claimed is:

1. An aseptic fluid connector comprising:

a first connector including:

a first fluid passageway for receiving a fluid therein;

a first port in fluid communication with the first fluid passageway for passage of the fluid therethrough; and

a first deflecting member including a first engaging portion radially spaced relative to the first port, and a first valve movable between a closed position and an open position with movement of the first engaging portion between a substantially non-deflected position and a deflected position, respectively, wherein in the substantially non-deflected position the first valve is located in the closed position forming a fluid-tight seal between the first valve and first port and preventing the passage of fluid therethrough, and in the deflected position, the first valve is located in the open position allowing the aseptic passage of fluid through the first port.

2. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

a second connector connectable to the first connector and including:

a second fluid passageway for receiving a fluid therein;

a second port in fluid communication with the second fluid passageway for passage of the fluid therethrough;

a second deflecting member including a second engaging portion radially spaced relative to the second port, and a second valve movable between a closed position and an open position with movement of the second engaging portion between a substantially non-deflected position and a deflected position, respectively, wherein in the substantially non-deflected position the second valve is located in the closed position forming a fluid-tight seal between the second valve and second port and preventing the passage of fluid therethrough, and in the deflected position, the second valve is located in the open position allowing the passage of fluid through the second port.

3. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 2, wherein the first and second connectors are movable between non-connected and connected positions, in the non-connected position the first and second engaging portions are in the substantially non-deflected positions

and the first and second valves are in the closed positions, and in the connected position, the first and second engaging portions are in the deflected positions and the first and second valves are in the open position.

4. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 1, wherein in the non-deflected position, the first valve forms a fluid-tight seal between the first port and ambient atmosphere and prevents external contamination of any fluid-contacting surfaces of the first port.

5. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 4, wherein the first connector further includes a first body defining a first sealing surface formed adjacent to the first port, and engageable with the first valve in the closed position to form a fluid-tight seal between the first valve and first port.

6. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 5, wherein the first sealing surface is substantially annular, the first valve is substantially annular, and in the closed position, the first valve engages the first sealing surface and forms an annular fluid-tight seal therebetween.

7. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 6, wherein the first sealing surface is relatively rigid, the first valve is flexible, and in the closed position, the first valve and first sealing surface form an interference fit therebetween at the annular fluid-tight seal.

8. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 6, wherein the first engaging portion is formed integral with the first valve, is radially spaced relative to the first valve, extends annularly about the first valve, and extends axially relative to the first valve.

9. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 8, wherein the first engaging portion and first valve are made of an elastic material.

10. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 3, wherein the first connector further includes a first body defining a first sealing surface formed adjacent to the first port, and engageable with the first valve in the closed position to form a fluid-tight seal between the first valve and first port; the second connector further includes a second body defining a second sealing surface formed adjacent to the second port, and engageable with the second valve in the closed position to form a fluid-tight seal between the second valve and second port.

11. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 10, wherein in the non-deflected position, the first valve forms a fluid-tight seal between the first port and ambient atmosphere and prevents external contamination of any fluid-contacting surfaces of the first port, and the second valve forms a fluid-tight seal between the second port and ambient atmosphere and prevents external contamination of any fluid-contacting surfaces of the second port.

12. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 11, wherein the first sealing surface is substantially annular, the first valve is substantially annular, and in the closed position, the first valve engages the first sealing surface and forms an annular fluid-tight seal therebetween; and the second sealing surface is substantially annular, the second valve is substantially annular, and in the closed position, the second valve engages the second sealing surface and forms an annular fluid-tight seal therebetween.

13. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 12, wherein each annular fluid-tight seal extends axially between the respective valve and sealing surface to further prevent the ingress of contaminants through the seal.

14. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 13, wherein the first sealing surface is relatively rigid, the first valve is flexible, and in the closed position, the first valve and first sealing surface form an interference fit therebetween at the respective annular fluid-tight seal; and the second sealing surface is relatively rigid, the second valve is flexible, and in the closed position, the second valve and second sealing surface form an interference fit therebetween at the respective annular fluid-tight seal.

15. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 14, wherein the first engaging portion is formed integral with the first valve, is radially spaced relative to the first valve, extends annularly about the first valve, and extends axially relative to the first valve; and the second engaging portion is formed integral with the second valve, is radially spaced relative to the second valve, extends annularly about the second valve, and extends axially relative to the second valve.

16. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 15, wherein each deflecting portion is substantially dome shaped, and each valve extends laterally with respect to the axis of the respective dome-shaped deflecting portion.

17. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 16, wherein each deflecting portion is substantially cylindrical shaped, and each valve extends substantially normal to an axis of the respective substantially cylindrical-shaped deflecting portion.

18. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 15, wherein the first engaging portion and first valve are made of an elastic material, and the second engaging portion and second valve are made of an elastic material.

19. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 16, wherein in the connected position, the first and second engaging portions engage each other and deflect each other into the deflected positions, and the first and second valves are invaginated within the first and second engaging portions into their respective open positions, the first and second ports are in fluid communication with each other, and fluid is permitted to flow therebetween.

20. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 3, wherein in the connected position, the first and second engaging portions form a substantially fluid-tight seal therebetween.

21. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 20, wherein in the connected position, the first and second engaging portions extend annularly about the first and second valves and the first and second ports, respectively, and form a substantially fluid-tight seal with respect to ambient atmosphere.

22. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 21, wherein in the connected position, the first and second valves extend annularly about the first and second ports, respectively, form a substantially fluid-tight seal with respect to ambient atmosphere, and prevent contamination of any fluid-contacting surfaces of the first and second ports.

23. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 3, wherein the first connector is a female connector, and the second connector is a male connector that is received within the female connector in the connected position.

24. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 23, wherein the first connector includes a first connector housing that extends annularly about the first engaging portion and the first valve and extends axially outwardly therefrom, and the second connector includes a second connector housing that extends annularly about the second engaging portion and the second valve and extends axially outwardly therefrom, and is receivable within the first connector housing in the connected position.

25. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 24, wherein in the connected position, the second connector housing is received within the first connector housing, and the first and second engaging portions and the first and second valves, are located within the second connector housing.

26. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 25, wherein the first connector includes a first body defining the first port, the second connector includes a second body defining the second port, and in the closed position, a distal portion of the second body is received within a distal portion of the first body.

27. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 26, wherein the first connector includes a plurality of first ports angularly spaced relative to each other, and the second connector includes a plurality of second ports angularly spaced relative to each other.

28. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 3, further including a first fluid conduit connected in fluid communication with the first connector, and a second fluid conduit connected in fluid communication with the second connector.

29. An aseptic connector comprising:

first means for connecting including:

a first fluid passageway for receiving a fluid therein;

second means in fluid communication with the first fluid passageway for passage of the fluid therethrough; and

third means for deflecting including fourth means radially spaced relative to the second means for engaging another connector and deflecting the third means, and fifth means movable between a (i) closed position for sealing the second means by forming a fluid-tight

seal between the fifth means and second means and for preventing the passage of fluid therethrough and (ii) an open position for allowing fluid flow through the second means, wherein the fifth means is movable between the closed and open positions with movement of the fourth means between the substantially non-deflected position and a deflected position, respectively.

30. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 26, further comprising:

sixth means for connecting including:

a second fluid passageway for receiving a fluid therein;

seventh means in fluid communication with the second fluid passageway for passage of the fluid therethrough; and

eighth means for deflecting including ninth means radially spaced relative to the seventh means for engaging another connector and deflecting the eighth means, and tenth means movable between (i) a closed position for sealing the seventh means by forming a fluid-tight seal between the tenth means and seventh means and for preventing the passage of fluid therethrough and (ii) an open position for allowing fluid flow through the seventh means, wherein the tenth means is movable between the closed and open positions with movement of the ninth means between the substantially non-deflected position and a deflected position, respectively.

31. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 30, wherein first means is a first connector, the second means is a first port, the third means is a first deflecting member, the fourth means is a first engaging portion, the fifth means is a first valve, the sixth means is a second connector, the seventh means is a second port, the eighth means is a second deflecting member, the ninth means is a second engaging portion, and the tenth means is a second valve.

32. A method comprising the following steps:

i. providing a first connector including a first valve hermetically sealing in a normally closed position a first port in fluid communication with a first fluid passageway, and a sterile fluid in fluid communication with the first fluid passageway;

ii. connecting the first connector to a second connector including a second port in fluid communication with a second fluid passageway;

iii. during the connecting step, deflecting the first valve from the normally closed position to an open position, and placing the first port in fluid communication with the second port;

iv. allowing a flow of sterile fluid through the first and second ports; and

v. during the preceding steps maintaining the first and second ports hermetically sealed with respect to ambient atmosphere and thereby preventing contamination of any fluid-contacting surfaces of the first and second ports and of the sterile fluid flowing therethrough.

33. A method as defined in claim 32, wherein the first connector includes a first valve and a first deflecting member, and the second connector includes a second valve and a second deflecting member, and the deflecting step includes placing at least one of the first and second deflecting members into engagement with the other, deflecting the first and second deflecting members and, in turn, moving the first and second valves from normally closed positions to open positions and placing the first and second ports in fluid communication with each other.

34. A method as defined in claim 33, further comprising the step of forming a fluid tight seal, when in the connected and open positions, between at least one of (i) the first and second deflecting members, and (ii) the first and second valves, hermetically sealing the first and second ports with respect to ambient atmosphere, and preventing contamination of any fluid-contacting surfaces of the first and second ports and of the sterile fluid flowing therethrough.

35. A method as defined in claim 34, wherein during the connecting step, the first and second deflecting members resiliently engage each other and invaginate the first and second valves into the open position and into contact with each other to form an annular, fluid-tight seal therebetween.

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. An aseptic fluid connector comprising:

a first connector including:

a first fluid passageway for receiving a fluid therein;

a first port in fluid communication with the first fluid passageway for passage of the fluid therethrough; and

a first deflecting member including a (i) first engaging portion radially spaced relative to the first port, and (ii) a first valve movable between a closed position and an open position with movement of the first engaging portion between a substantially non-deflected position and a deflected position, respectively,

wherein in the substantially non-deflected position the first valve is located in the closed position forming a fluid-tight seal between the first valve and first port and preventing the passage of fluid therethrough, and all fluid-contacting surfaces of the first connector are hermetically sealed with respect to the ambient atmosphere, for preventing external contamination of said surfaces, and in the deflected position, the first valve is located in the open position allowing the aseptic passage of fluid through the first port.

2. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

a second connector connectable to the first connector and including:

a second fluid passageway for receiving a fluid therein;

a second port in fluid communication with the second fluid passageway for passage of the fluid therethrough;

a second deflecting member including (i) a second engaging portion radially spaced relative to the second port, and (ii) a second valve movable between a closed position and an open position with movement of the second engaging portion between a substantially non-deflected position and a deflected position, respectively,

wherein in the substantially non-deflected position the second valve is located in the closed position forming a fluid-tight seal between the second valve and second port and preventing the passage of fluid therethrough, and all fluid-contacting surfaces of the second connector are hermetically sealed with respect to the ambient atmosphere, for preventing

external contamination of said surfaces, and in the deflected position, the second valve is located in the open position allowing the passage of fluid through the second port.

3. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 2, wherein the first and second connectors are movable between non-connected and connected positions, in the non-connected position the first and second engaging portions are in the substantially non-deflected positions and the first and second valves are in the closed positions, and in the connected position, the first and second engaging portions are in the deflected positions and the first and second valves are in the open position.

4. An aseptic connector as defined in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein in the non-deflected position, the first valve forms a fluid-tight seal between the first port and ambient atmosphere around the first port and prevents external contamination of any fluid-contacting surfaces of the first port.

5. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 4, wherein the first connector further includes a first body defining a first sealing surface formed adjacent to the first port, and engageable with the first valve in the closed position to form a fluid-tight seal between the first valve and first port.

6. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 5, wherein the first sealing surface is substantially annular, the first valve is substantially annular, and in the closed position, the first valve engages the first sealing surface and forms an annular fluid-tight seal therebetween.

7. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 6, wherein the first sealing surface is relatively rigid, the first valve is flexible, and in the closed position, the first valve and first sealing surface form an interference fit therebetween at the annular fluid-tight seal.

8. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 6 or claim 7, wherein the first engaging portion is formed integral with the first valve, is radially spaced relative to the first valve, extends annularly about the first valve, and extends axially relative to the first valve.

9. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 8, wherein the first engaging portion and first valve are made of an elastic material.

10. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 3, wherein the first connector further includes a first body defining a first sealing surface formed adjacent to the first port, and engageable with the first valve in the closed position to form a fluid-tight seal between the first valve and first port; the second connector further includes a second body defining a second sealing surface formed adjacent to the second port, and engageable with the second valve in the closed position to form a fluid-tight seal between the second valve and second port.

11. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 10, wherein in the non-deflected position, the first valve forms a fluid-tight seal between the first port and ambient atmosphere around the first port and prevents external contamination of any fluid-contacting surfaces of the first port, and the second valve forms a fluid-tight seal between the second port and ambient atmosphere around the second port and prevents external contamination of any fluid-contacting surfaces of the second port.

12. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 11, wherein the first sealing surface is substantially annular, the first valve is substantially annular, and in the closed position, the first valve engages the first sealing surface and forms an annular fluid-tight seal therebetween; and the second sealing surface is substantially annular, the second valve is substantially annular, and in the closed position, the second valve engages the second sealing surface and forms an annular fluid-tight seal therebetween.

13. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 12, wherein each annular fluid-tight seal extends axially between the respective valve and sealing surface to further prevent the ingress of contaminants through the seal.

14. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 13, wherein the first sealing surface is relatively rigid, the first valve is flexible, and in the closed position, the first valve and first sealing surface form an interference fit therebetween at the respective annular fluid-tight seal; and the second sealing surface is relatively rigid, the second valve is flexible, and in the closed position, the second valve and second sealing surface form an interference fit therebetween at the respective annular fluid-tight seal.

15. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 14, wherein the first engaging portion is formed integral with the first valve, is radially spaced relative to the first valve, extends annularly about the first valve, and extends axially relative to the first valve; and the second engaging portion is formed integral with the second valve, is radially spaced relative to the second valve, extends annularly about the second valve, and extends axially relative to the second valve.

16. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 15, wherein each deflecting portion is substantially dome shaped, and each valve extends laterally with respect to the axis of the respective dome-shaped deflecting portion.

17. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 16, wherein each deflecting portion is substantially cylindrical shaped, and each valve extends substantially normal to an axis of the respective substantially cylindrical-shaped deflecting portion.

18. An aseptic connector as defined in any one of claims 15 to 17, wherein the first engaging portion and first valve are made of an elastic material, and the second engaging portion and second valve are made of an elastic material.

19. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 16, wherein in the connected position, the first and second engaging portions engage each other and deflect each other into the deflected positions, and the first and second valves are invaginated within the first and second engaging portions into their respective open positions, the first and second ports are in fluid communication with each other, and fluid is permitted to flow therebetween.

20. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 3, wherein in the connected position, the first and second engaging portions form a substantially fluid-tight seal therebetween.

21. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 20, wherein in the connected position, the first and second engaging portions extend annularly about the first and second valves and the first and second ports, respectively, and form a substantially fluid-tight seal with respect to ambient atmosphere.

22. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 21, wherein in the connected position, the first and second valves extend annularly about the first and second ports, respectively, form a

substantially fluid-tight seal with respect to ambient atmosphere, and prevent contamination of any fluid-contacting surfaces of the first and second ports.

23. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 3, wherein the first connector is a female connector, and the second connector is a male connector that is received within the female connector in the connected position.

24. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 23, wherein the first connector includes a first connector housing that extends annularly about the first engaging portion and the first valve and extends axially outwardly therefrom, and the second connector includes a second connector housing that extends annularly about the second engaging portion and the second valve and extends axially outwardly therefrom, and is receivable within the first connector housing in the connected position.

25. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 24, wherein in the connected position, the second connector housing is received within the first connector housing, and the first and second engaging portions and the first and second valves, are located within the second connector housing.

26. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 25 or claim 26, wherein the first connector includes a first body defining the first port, the second connector includes a second body defining the second port, and in the closed position, a distal portion of the second body is received within a distal portion of the first body.

27. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 26, wherein the first connector includes a plurality of first ports angularly spaced relative to each other, and the second connector includes a plurality of second ports angularly spaced relative to each other.

28. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 3, further including a first fluid conduit connected in fluid communication with the first connector, and a second fluid conduit connected in fluid communication with the second connector.

29. An aseptic connector as defined in any one of claims 1 to 28, wherein the first connector defines a second connector engaging end, and wherein all fluid-contacting surfaces of the second

connector engaging end are hermetically sealed with respect to the ambient atmosphere, for preventing external contamination of said surfaces.

30. An aseptic connector as defined in any one of claims 1 to 29, wherein the first valve comprises material having a compression set value in a range of (a) about 0% to about 50% or (b) in a range of about 0% to about 25%.

31. An aseptic connector as defined in any one of claims 1 to 30, wherein the first connector includes a first base sealingly overlying the first port in the closed position, and in the open position is deflected away to allow the aseptic passage of fluid through the first port.

32. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 31, wherein the first connector includes a deflectable joint between the first base and the first valve, wherein during movement of the first valve between the open and the closed positions, the joint deflects to facilitate said movement of the first valve.

33. An aseptic connector as defined in any one of claims 1 to 32, further comprising a first support configured to abut the first valve in the open position and at least one of (a) prevent failure of the first valve, and (b) prevent the first valve from bending or deforming beyond a maximum open or deflected position.

34. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 33, wherein the first support is ring-shaped.

35. An aseptic connector comprising:

first means for connecting including:

a first fluid passageway for receiving a fluid therein;

second means in fluid communication with the first fluid passageway for passage of the fluid therethrough; and

third means for deflecting including (i) fourth means radially spaced relative to the second means for engaging another connector and deflecting the third means, and (ii) fifth means for valving fluid flow through the second means movable between a (iii) closed position for sealing the second means by forming a fluid-tight seal between the fifth means and second means and for preventing the passage of fluid therethrough and (iv) an open position for allowing fluid flow through the second means, wherein the fifth means is movable between the

closed and open positions with movement of the fourth means between (1) a substantially non-deflected position where all fluid-contacting surfaces of the first means are hermetically sealed with respect to the ambient atmosphere for preventing external contamination of said surfaces, and (2) a deflected position, respectively.

36. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 35, further comprising:
sixth means for connecting including:

a second fluid passageway for receiving a fluid therein;

seventh means in fluid communication with the second fluid passageway for passage of the fluid therethrough; and

eighth means for deflecting including (v) ninth means radially spaced relative to the seventh means for engaging another connector and deflecting the eighth means, and (vi) tenth means for valving fluid flow through the seventh means movable between (vii) a closed position for sealing the seventh means by forming a fluid-tight seal between the tenth means and seventh means and for preventing the passage of fluid therethrough and (viii) an open position for allowing fluid flow through the seventh means, wherein the tenth means is movable between the closed and open positions with movement of the ninth means between (1) a substantially non-deflected position where all fluid-contacting surfaces of the sixth means are hermetically sealed with respect to the ambient atmosphere for preventing external contamination of said surfaces, and (2) a deflected position, respectively.

37. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 36, wherein first means is a first connector, the second means is a first port, the third means is a first deflecting member, the fourth means is a first engaging portion, the fifth means is a first valve, the sixth means is a second connector, the seventh means is a second port, the eighth means is a second deflecting member, the ninth means is a second engaging portion, and the tenth means is a second valve.

38. A method comprising the following steps:

i. providing a first connector having all fluid-contacting surfaces thereof hermetically sealed with respect to the ambient atmosphere, for preventing external contamination of said surfaces including a first valve hermetically sealing in a normally closed position a first port in

fluid communication with a first fluid passageway, and a sterile fluid in fluid communication with the first fluid passageway;

ii. connecting the first connector to a second connector having all fluid-contacting surfaces thereof hermetically sealed with respect to the ambient atmosphere, for preventing external contamination of said surfaces, and including a second port in fluid communication with a second fluid passageway;

iii. during the connecting step, deflecting the first valve from the normally closed position to an open position, and placing the first port in fluid communication with the second port;

iv. allowing a flow of sterile fluid through the first and second ports; and

v. during the preceding steps maintaining the first and second ports hermetically sealed with respect to ambient atmosphere and thereby preventing contamination of any fluid-contacting surfaces of the first and second ports and of the sterile fluid flowing therethrough.

39. A method as defined in claim 38, wherein the first connector includes a first valve integral with a first deflecting member, and the second connector includes a second valve integral with a second deflecting member, and the deflecting step includes placing at least one of the first and second deflecting members into engagement with the other, deflecting the first and second deflecting members and, in turn, moving the first and second valves from normally closed positions to open positions and placing the first and second ports in fluid communication with each other.

40. A method as defined in claim 39, further comprising the step of forming a fluid tight seal, when in the connected and open positions, between at least one of (i) the first and second deflecting members, and (ii) the first and second valves, hermetically sealing the first and second ports with respect to ambient atmosphere, and preventing contamination of any fluid-contacting surfaces of the first and second ports and of the sterile fluid flowing therethrough.

41. A method as defined in claim 40, wherein during the connecting step, the first and second deflecting members resiliently engage each other and invaginate the first and second valves into the open position and into contact with each other to form an annular, fluid-tight seal therebetween.

42. An aseptic fluid connector comprising:

a first connector including:

a first fluid passageway for receiving a fluid therein;

a first port in fluid communication with the first fluid passageway for passage of the fluid therethrough; and

a first member, configurable between a first configuration preventing the passage of fluid through the first port and hermetically sealing all fluid-contacting surfaces of the first connector with respect to the ambient atmosphere for preventing external contamination of said surfaces, and a second configuration defining a first aseptic passageway to allow the aseptic passage of fluid through the first port and through the first aseptic passageway; and

a second connector connectable to the first connector and including:

a second fluid passageway for receiving a fluid therein;

a second port in fluid communication with the second fluid passageway for passage of the fluid therethrough; and

a second member, configurable between a first configuration preventing the passage of fluid through the second port and hermetically sealing all fluid-contacting surfaces of the second connector with respect to the ambient atmosphere for preventing external contamination of said surfaces, and a second configuration defining a second aseptic passageway to allow the aseptic passage of fluid therethrough and through the second port.

43. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 42, wherein the first and second connectors are movable between non-connected and connected positions, wherein in the non-connected position the first and second members are in the respective first configurations, preventing the passage of fluid through the first and second ports, respectively, and in the connected position, the first and second members are configured into the respective second configurations, allowing the aseptic passage of fluid through the first port, first aseptic passageway, second aseptic passageway and second port.

44. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 43, wherein in the connected position, the first fluid passageway, first port, second port, and second fluid passageway define an aseptic fluid

passage sealed with respect to the ambient atmosphere for aseptic passage of fluid between the first and second connectors.

45. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 43 or claim 44, wherein the second connector is a female connector, and the first connector is a male connector that is received within the female connector in the connected position.

46. An aseptic connector as defined in claim 45, wherein the second connector includes a second connector housing that extends annularly about the second fluid passageway and the second member and extends axially outwardly therefrom, and the first connector includes a first connector housing that extends annularly about the first fluid passageway and the first member and extends axially outwardly therefrom, and is receivable within the second connector housing in the connected position.

47. An aseptic connector as defined in any one of claims 42 to 46, wherein the second member in the first configuration defines a closed valve, preventing the passage of fluid through the second port, and the second member in the second configuration defines an open valve, allowing the aseptic passage of fluid through the second port.

48. An aseptic connector as defined in any one of claims 42 to 47, wherein at least one of the first and second members is substantially dome-shaped.

49. An aseptic connector as defined in any one of claims 42 to 48, wherein at least one of the first and second members is substantially cylindrical shaped and extends annularly about the respective at least one of the first and second ports.

50. An aseptic connector as defined in any one of claims 42 to 49, wherein the first connector defines a second connector engaging end, and wherein all fluid-contacting surfaces of the second connector engaging end are hermetically sealed with respect to the ambient atmosphere, for preventing external contamination of said surfaces, and wherein the second connector defines a first connector engaging end, and wherein all fluid-contacting surfaces of the first connector engaging end are hermetically sealed with respect to the ambient atmosphere, for preventing external contamination of said surfaces.

51. An aseptic fluid connector as defined in any one of claims 42 to 50, wherein the first member and/or the second member includes a deflecting member including an engaging portion and movable between a substantially non-deflected position and a deflected position, wherein in the substantially non-deflected position the first member and/or the second member is in its respective first configuration, and in the deflected position, the first member and/or the second member is in its respective second configuration.