(No Model.)

H. M. ROSENBLATT, C. A. DICKSON & T. G. OWEN.

SPRING FOR MEDICINE CASES.

No. 491,136. Patented Feb. 7, 1893.

Fig. 1.

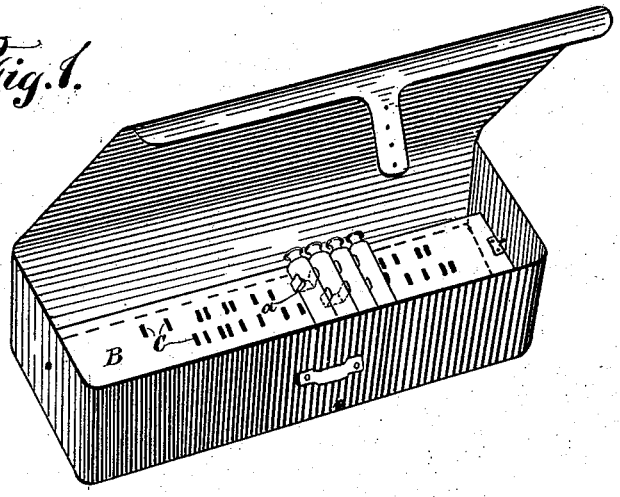


Fig. 2.

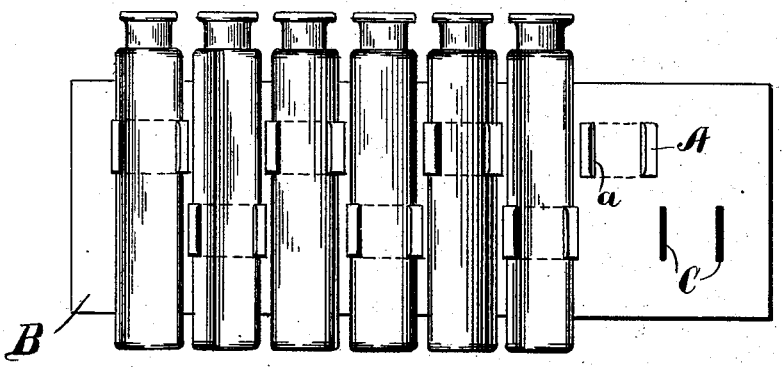
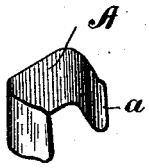


Fig. 3.



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SPRING FOR MEDICINE-CASES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 491,136, dated February 7, 1893.

Application filed July 19, 1892. Serial No. 440,487. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, HARRY M. ROSENBLATT, CLARENCE A. DICKSON, and THOMAS G. OWEN, citizens of the United States, residing at Chicago, Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Springs for Medicine-Cases, of which the following is a specification.

The object of our invention is to improve the springs by which bottles, vials, and instruments of various kinds are arranged and held in place in medicine cases; and our improvement consists in the features and combinations hereinafter described and claimed.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a medicine case opened to expose some vials held in place by our improved springs; Fig. 2 is a side elevation of one of the partitions or trays in which the bottles, vials or instruments are arranged; and Fig. 3 is a perspective view of one of our improved springs.

Heretofore in making provision for arranging and carrying vials, bottles, instruments, &c., in medicine cases, it has been customary to take a sheet of metal, usually brass, of the desired length and width, and to strike out from it the desired number of pieces, which, for convenience, may be termed fingers, as they have a holding capacity, possessing the amount of resiliency contained in the sheet metal from which they are struck, and between which the bottles or instruments are placed and clamped to be held in position. This arrangement of holding devices is open to the objection that when one of the fingers is broken off, its holding capacity is not only destroyed, but it is impracticable to repair it. The fingers and sheet metal are weakened by striking out the fingers, and the expense of preparing the plate containing them is also considerable, while the metal surface of the sheet presents too bright and glaring an effect to the eye. We propose to obviate these objections and to make springs that are simple and economical of construction, attractive in appearance, easily inserted, and removable if broken or impaired to admit of the substitution of new ones in their place, and capable of being changed to accommodate vials, bottles or instruments of different sizes.

In making our improved springs for medicine cases, we take strips of metal of the desired width and thickness, and containing the requisite resiliency, and strike or bend up, what we call U-shaped springs A. The holding fingers of these springs are preferably bent in a little at their juncture with the connecting portion, and flared out a little at their ends, as at *a*, so that when they are inserted they will remain in place on the back or pad on which they are mounted, and so that the vials, bottles, or instruments intended to be held by them, may be easily inserted in place through the flaring end, without tearing off or mutilating the labels which may be on them. We then take a pad or support B, formed of pasteboard, leather, or other desired material, and provide it with the desired number of slits C, arranged preferably in rows, and of a distance apart to accommodate the U-shaped springs of the desired size, so that when the spring is inserted, its two projecting members or fingers pass through the slits and, by clamping the pad, securely hold the spring in place, with its connecting portion resting upon the back of the pad between the two slits. The free portions or fingers of the springs will thus project up or out from the pad the desired distance to accommodate a bottle, vial, instrument, or other thing that it may be desired to insert between them. The distance between the free members of the springs should be a little less than the width of the bottle or other thing intended to be inserted between them, so that they will be sprung apart enough to cause them to grasp and clamp it with sufficient force to prevent it falling out or being too readily removed. As many rows of slits in the back or pad on which the springs are mounted may be made as desired, so as to have as many rows of springs as may be necessary for the purpose. We have shown in Fig. 2, two rows of springs, the springs of one row alternating with the springs of the other row. In this way, we are able to utilize all of the space, so that the bottles or other things may lie practically contiguous to each other. When one spring is broken, it may be taken out and another one inserted in its place, without interfering with the others. By arranging the slits

in the pad or support at different distances apart, or by providing additional slits to the ones occupied by the free members or fingers of the springs, springs of different sizes may be inserted when the pad is prepared, or springs may be removed and others of different size inserted in their place, to accommodate larger or smaller bottles or instruments. It will thus be seen that our improved springs for medicine cases possess advantages over those which are provided by striking out the fingers from a blank sheet of metal; in that they are simple and economical of construction, more attractive in appearance, possess greater strength and durability, hold themselves in place on the back or pad, may be of different sizes, and are adapted to be removed and others inserted in their places when broken or impaired.

What we regard as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In medicine cases, the combination of a pad or support provided with slits, and U-shaped springs having their free portions or fingers pass through the slits in the pad or support, substantially as described.

2. In medicine cases, the combination of a pad or support provided with slits, and U-shaped springs having their free portions or fingers pass through the slits in the pad or support to hold them in place and having outwardly flaring ends, substantially as described.

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