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L. W. BUSCH

1,470,142

FORK

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Fig. 1.

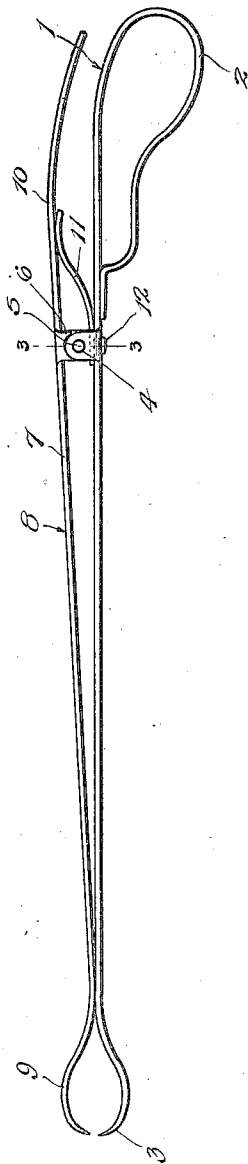


Fig. 2.

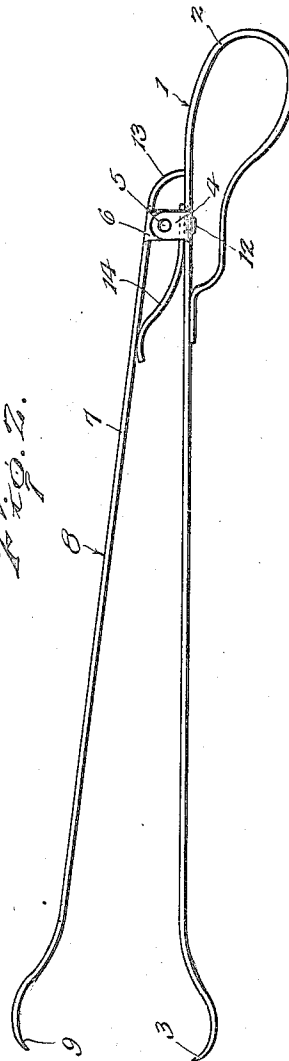
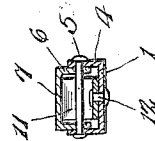


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LOUIS W. BUSCH, OF TOLEDO, OHIO.

FORK.

Original application filed April 4, 1921, Serial No. 458,212. Divided and this application filed June 21, 1922. Serial No. 569,990.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LOUIS W. BUSCH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Toledo, in the county of Lucas and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Forks, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in forks and more particularly to forks of that type which are designed for use in removing pickles, olives, and the like from bottles, jars or other containers. It is a well recognized fact that the ordinary fork cannot be successfully employed for this purpose, or at least with any degree of satisfaction, because food stuffs such as olives and pickles are usually relatively closely packed in their containers and cannot be readily dislodged by vertically inserting the tines of the ordinary fork and lifting upwardly upon the fork, and even where the articles are finally loosened, it is a difficult matter to elevate them from the container as the least contact with the walls or mouth of the container is liable to dislodge them from the fork. Therefore it is the primary object of the present invention to provide a fork of simple construction and capable of being readily and conveniently manipulated and which may be employed with satisfaction in removing articles such as those above referred to from their containers even when relatively closely packed or where the mouth of the container is somewhat restricted.

Another object of the invention is to so construct the fork that it may be conveniently manipulated with one hand and caused to securely grip the article to be elevated from its container regardless of the size of the article, within reasonable limits.

The present application constitutes a division of my co-pending application, filed April 4, 1921, Serial No. 458,212.

In the accompanying drawing:

Figure 1 is a side elevation illustrating one form of the fork embodying the invention;

Fig. 2 is a similar view illustrating a modified form of fork;

Fig. 3 is a vertical transverse sectional view on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

The fork shown in Figure 1 of the drawings comprises a handle member indicated in general by the numeral 1 and provided at its rear end with a hand grip 2 and at its

forward end with an integral prong 3 which is curved in the manner illustrated in the said figure. Immediately in advance of the hand grip 2, the handle member 1 is provided with a pair of upstanding pivot ears 4 preferably integral with its opposite longitudinal edges, and a pivot pin 5 is passed through these ears and through similar ears 6 provided at the opposite longitudinal edges of the shank 7 of a member 8 which is provided at its forward end with a prong 9 corresponding substantially in shape to the prong 3 and having its terminal opposing the terminal of the said prong 3. The member 8 is provided rearwardly of its pivot 5 with a thumb piece 10, and a leaf spring 11 is secured at its forward end, as at 12, to the upper side of the handle member 1 between the pivot ears 4 and is curved upwardly and rearwardly and bears upwardly against the underside of the thumb piece 10. This spring 11 yieldably holds the member 8 swung upon its pivot so that its prong 9 will coact with the prong 3 of the member 1, and when it is desired to grip an article for the purpose of lifting the same, the thumb piece 10 may be depressed in the direction of the hand grip 2 thus spreading apart the prongs 9 and 3 and then when the thumb piece is relieved of pressure the spring 11 will act to return the member 8 in the direction of the member 1 and thus bring the prongs 9 and 3 into gripping engagement with the article.

The fork shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings is substantially of the same construction as the one shown in Fig. 1 and corresponding parts are indicated by like reference numerals. However, the fork in this modified form is devoid of a thumb piece at the rear end of the member 8 but instead has this end turned downwardly and rearwardly, as at 13, so as to provide a stop for engagement against the upper side of the hand grip 2. Also in this form of the invention a leaf spring 14 is secured at its rear end to the upper side of the shank of the member 1 and is curved upwardly and forwardly from the same and bears upwardly against the underside of the member 7 in advance of the pivot 5, thus normally holding the prong end of the said member 7 spread away from the corresponding end of the member 1. The prongs 3 and 9 are therefore normally held separated a distance which is determined by the engagement of the stop member 13

against the upper side of the grip 2, and when it is desired to grip an article for the purpose of lifting the same, the thumb is brought to bear against the upper side of the shank of the member 7 at a point in advance of the pivot 5 thus swinging the prong end of the member in the direction of the prong of the member 1 against the tension of the spring 14.

10 Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. In a device of the class described, a handle member having a hand grip at one end and a prong at its other end, a member 15 pivotally mounted for swinging movement upon the handle member and provided with a prong for coaction with the first-mentioned prong and located at one side of its pivot and provided with a finger piece located at 20 the other side of its pivot and in juxtaposi-

tion to the hand grip, and means yieldably holding the member swung to position to effect coaction of the prongs.

2. In a device of the class described, a handle member having a hand grip at one end and provided at its other end with a prong, a member pivotally mounted upon the handle and having a prong for coaction with the first-mentioned prong, the pivot for the said member being located in juxtaposition to the hand grip whereby the thumb of a hand grasping the grip may be employed in engaging the member to swing the same upon its pivot, resilient means yieldably holding the member swung away from the handle member to relatively space the prongs, and means limiting such movement of the said member.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

LOUIS W. BUSCH. [L. s.]