Jan. 22, 1924

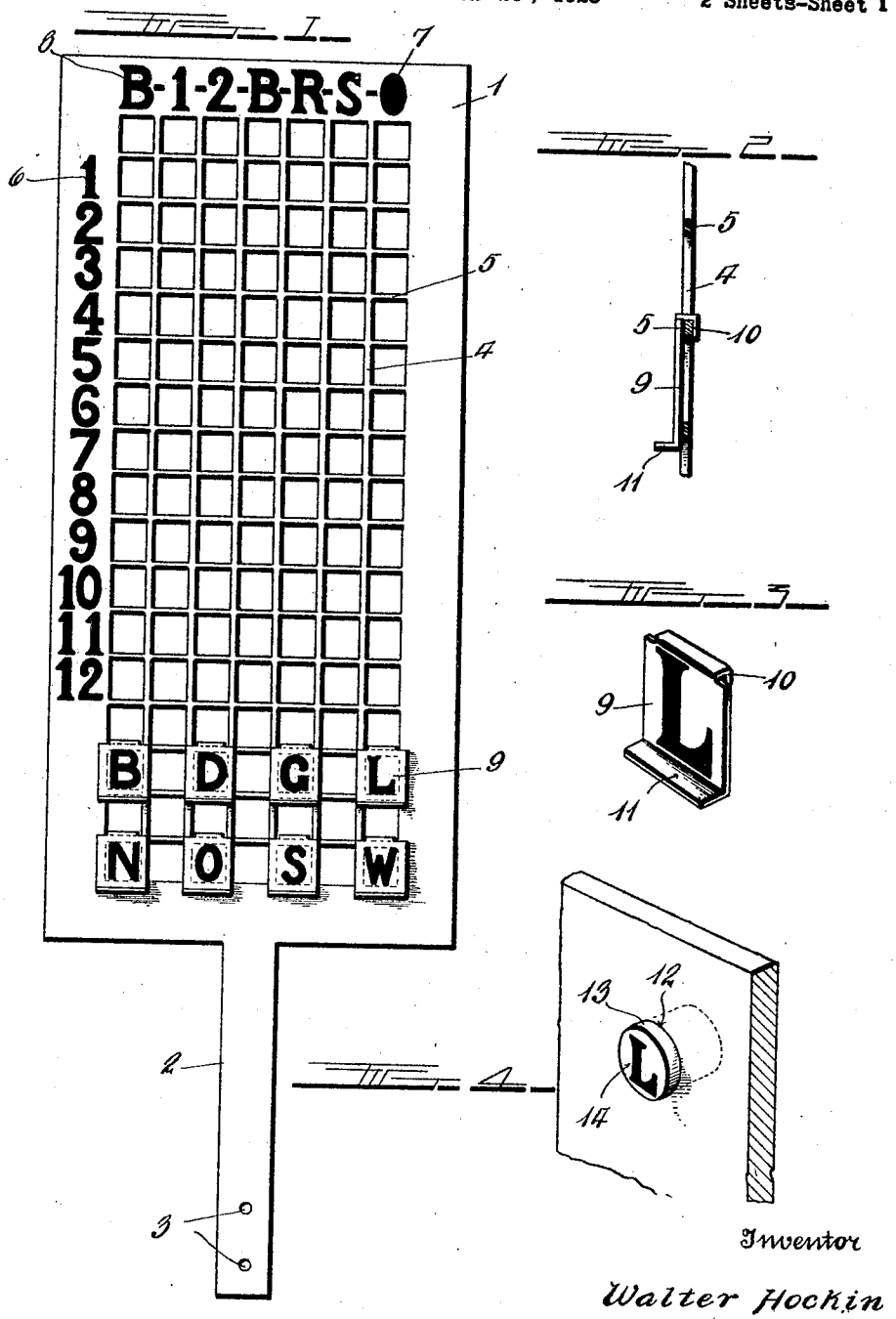
1,481,467

W. HOCKIN

INDICATOR

Filed March 26, 1923

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



Inventor

Walter Hockin

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 5

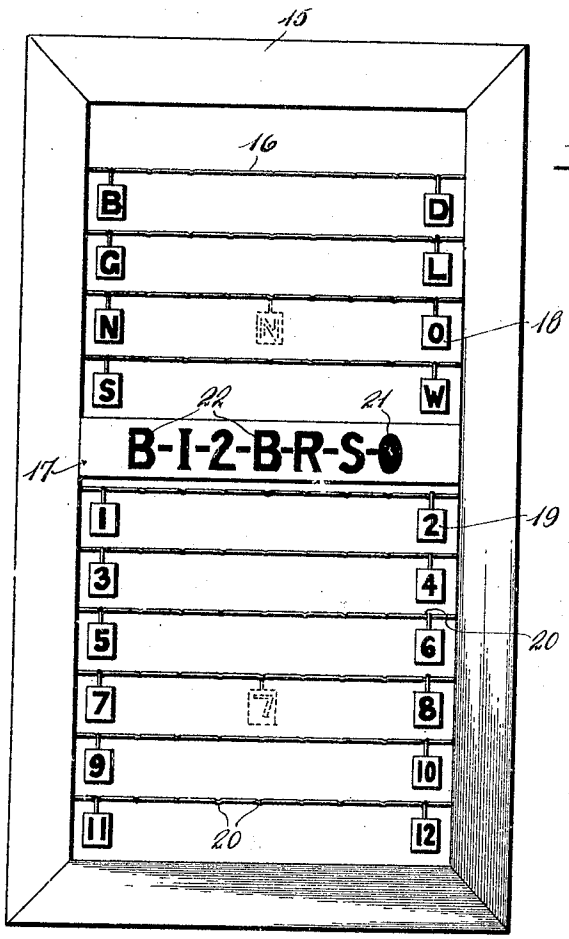
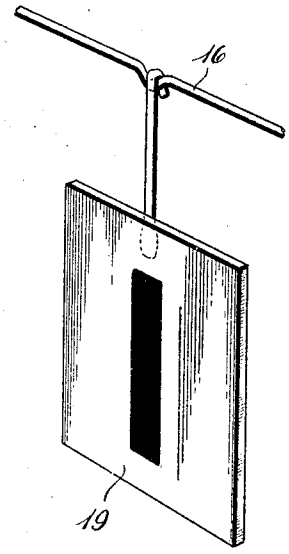


Fig. 6



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Patented Jan. 22, 1924. 1,481,467

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WALTER HOCKIN, OF JACKSON, MICHIGAN.

INDICATOR.

Application filed March 26, 1923. Serial No. 627,906.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WALTER HOCKIN, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Jackson, in the county of Jackson and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Indicators; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, concise, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to improvements in indicating devices, having for an object to provide an inter-changeable indicator especially advantageous for use in laundries and like establishments, where it is desired to register each and every step followed in the process of laundrying matter and also, to indicate to an attendant or washman, the nature of the matter being laundered, the approximate time consumed during the steps of laundering and the particular machine or apparatus in which the matter being laundered is, hence, enabling a single attendant or washman to accurately follow and be advised of the contents of each machine or apparatus and those conditions peculiar to each.

Other objects will be in part obvious and in part pointed out hereinafter.

In order that the invention and its mode of operation may be readily understood by persons skilled in the art, I have in the accompanying illustrative drawings, and in the detailed following description based thereon, shown several possible embodiments of the same.

In these drawings:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of one form of the improved indicator;

Figure 2 is an enlarged vertical fragmentary section therethrough showing the manner in which the indicating pieces are engaged with the base or rack portion;

Figure 3 is an enlarged detail in perspective of one of the indicating pieces;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary detail in perspective of a slightly modified form of the indicator;

Figure 5 is a front elevation of a still further modified form of the invention; and,

Figure 6 is an enlarged fragmentary detail in elevation of a portion of the modifications shown in the Figure 5.

Having more particular reference to the drawings, in connection with which like characters of reference will designate corresponding parts throughout, and having particular reference to that modification illustrated in the Figure 1, the improved indicator may be stated to comprise a substantially rectangular base 1 having a stem or shank portion 2 extending from one end thereof and provided with openings 3 adapted to receive screws or other suitable fastening devices whereby the indicator may be fixedly secured in position upon a suitable supporting object.

The central portion of the base 1 is foraminated, that is, is composed of a plurality of intersecting relatively parallel longitudinally and transversely arranged bars 4 and 5 respectively, thus forming a plurality of juxtaposed hollow squares, or squared openings, as clearly shown in the Figure 1.

Upon one side marginal portion of the base 1 there is arranged in consecutive fashion the numerals one to twelve inclusive, indicated, generally, by the numeral 6, such numerals being arranged immediately adjacent of the transversely disposed rows of squared openings hereinbefore referred to. These symbols 6 are adapted to be indicative of the consecutive intervals of time and afford means whereby the approximate time that the various matters to be laundered are placed in the different machines or apparatus may be accurately followed in order that the steps of laundering may be properly performed.

Other symbols consisting of the letters and numbers arranged as follows:—B—1—2—B—R—S and an oval symbol 7 are arranged adjacent the upper side of the base 1, the former symbols being generally designated by the numeral 8. These symbols 7 and 8 as will be noted upon reference to the Figure 1 are arranged directly adjacent the various rows of longitudinally disposed squared openings and are adapted to serve as means for permitting the various steps of a laundering process to be indicated to an attendant or washman in the laundry; the first symbol B being indicative of a soda bath, commonly employed in laundering processes, the numeral one the first suds, the numeral two, the second suds, the second symbol or letter B the boiling or bleaching of the matter, the letter R the rinsing of the matter being laundered, the

letter S the sousing bath to which matters being laundered are commonly subjected and the symbol 7, the bluing of the matter. In this connection, it should be noted that the symbol 7 preferably does consist of a substantially oval symbol, preferably colored blue in order that it may be readily observed by an attendant or washman.

A plurality of indicating pieces consisting of substantially square sheet metal devices 9 are provided the indicator and, as will be noted, have substantially right angularly formed fingers 10 arranged upon the upper ends thereof, while right angularly disposed fingers or extensions 11 are formed upon the lower side of the pieces and as will be appreciated, afford convenient means for engaging and moving the indicating pieces to the desired position upon the foraminated portion of the base 1. These indicating pieces have certain indicia or symbols presented upon their outer faces and in the present embodiment, such symbols may be stated to comprise the letters B—D—G—L—N—O—S—W; such matter being indicative of the particular nature of the goods to be indicated by the device, that is, the letter B indicating blankets, the letter D indicating blues (material colored blue), the letter G ginghams, the letter L linen, the letter N netted goods, the letter O overalls, the letter S socks and the letter W woolens.

When the indicating pieces 9 are not in use upon the indicating device, they are preferably engaged with the transverse bars 5 along the lower transverse rows of squared openings, in the manner shown in the Figure 1. Thus, when it is desired to use the same, the indicating pieces may be readily detached and moved to the desired position upon the indicator.

In using the improved indicator and assuming that blankets are to be laundered, the attendant or washman will remove that indicating piece 9 bearing the letter L from the lower foraminated portion of the indicator base 1 and will place it directly adjacent or opposite the particular symbol 6 which represents the approximate time at which the process is started. In placing the indicating piece directly adjacent the particular symbol 6 indicating the approximate time of starting of the laundering process, it will be also understood that the same will be arranged in the first longitudinally disposed row of squared openings, indicated by the first letter L of the symbols 8, thus indicating to the washman or attendant that the blankets are receiving a soda bath. With progress of the laundering process, the indicating piece 9 is removed from the first longitudinally disposed row of squared openings indicated by the first letter L to the second row of squared openings indicated by the numeral 1, thus being indicative of the fact that the blankets are now receiving their first suds, whereupon the piece 9 is then advanced into the third longitudinal column of squared openings indicated by the numeral 2, indicating that the blankets are then receiving the second suds. At this time, the indicating piece 9 is advanced to the fourth longitudinally disposed row of squared openings indicated by the second letter L of the symbols 8, thus showing that the blankets are being boiled or bleached as the process may be, whereupon with completion of this particular step, the indicating piece 9 is moved to the fifth row of longitudinally disposed squared openings to indicate to the washman that the blankets have been removed from the boiling or bleaching machine or apparatus and are then being rinsed, subsequently to which the indicating piece is advanced to the sixth longitudinally disposed row of squared openings, thus indicating that the blankets are receiving the usual sour bath, after which the piece is then passed to the last row of the longitudinally disposed rows of squared openings, whereby to indicate that the blankets are then being blued. During the advance of the indicating piece 9 from the various longitudinally disposed rows of squared openings indicated by the numerals 7 and 8, it of course will be understood that its positioning with respect to the transversely disposed rows of squared openings will be changed, because of the constant changing of time during the various steps of the process. Hence, should an indicating piece be first placed adjacent the numeral one of the symbol 6, it may, for purposes of illustration, when reaching the last row of longitudinally disposed square openings be in the particular transverse row of squared openings adjacent to or indicated by the numeral 5 of said symbol 6.

In the Figure 4, I have shown a slightly modified form of the indicator, wherein instead of providing an indicator base of a foraminated construction, that is, consisting of the longitudinally and transversely disposed rows of squared openings, such indicating base is provided with a plurality of transverse and longitudinally disposed rows of circular openings indicated by the numeral 12, which openings are adapted to snugly receive cylindrical plugs carrying heads 13 thereon upon which symbols as indicated at 14 are presented whereby to indicate the particular nature of the matter being laundered. The operation of this particular modification of the indicator, of course, will correspond to that as set out in connection with the embodiment shown in the Figure 1 except that the indicating plugs carrying the heads 13 are inter-changed with respect to the circular openings 12 as the laundering process progresses.

In the Figure 5, there is shown a still

further modified form of the invention and in this particular form of the indicator device, the same comprises a substantially rectangular frame 15 having a plurality of transversely disposed relatively spaced parallel rods or wires 16 spanning the open intermediate portion thereof and secured at their opposite ends to the adjacent inner sides of the frame 15. These rods 16 are divided into two sets by means of a transversely disposed partition 17, the upper set of rods being adapted to slidably support thereon indicating tags generally designated by the numeral 18. The indicating pieces 18 bearing the letters B—D—N—S are arranged adjacent certain ends of the rods 16, while the remaining indicating pieces are arranged adjacent the opposite ends thereof as clearly shown in the Figure 5.

The second set of rods 16, that is, those rods below the transverse partition 17 slidably support thereon indicating pieces 19 having the numerals one and two, three and four, five and six, seven and eight, nine and ten, and, eleven and twelve presented thereon, such indicating pieces 19 being arranged in pairs and normally positioned adjacent the opposite ends of said lower set of rods 16, as shown in the Figure 5. Spaced stops or abutments 20 are formed in equidistant relation throughout the lengths of the lower group or set of rods 16 and as will be noted, are arranged in longitudinally aligned relation, whereby such longitudinally aligned rows may be indicated by the symbols B—1—2—B—R—S and the symbol 21, the former symbol being generally indicated by the numeral 22.

In operation of this latter embodiment of the invention, should ginghams, indicated by the indicating piece bearing the letter G be laundered, said indicating piece bearing such letter G would be moved to the intermediate portion of the particular rod 16 supporting the same, thus clearly indicating to the washman or attendant that ginghams are being or are to be laundered. At this time, that particular indicating piece 19 bearing the numeral indicative of the approximate time of the start of the laundering process would be moved along its particular supporting rod 16 until the first abutment or stop 20 was engaged by the looped end of the supporting wire thereof, such stop being in the longitudinal row indicated by the first symbol B showing that the ginghams were receiving a soda bath. As the laundering process progresses, the indicating piece would be advanced to the different positions upon its supporting rod beneath the designated longitudinally disposed rows of stops 20. However, as the time consumed by the laundering process advances or passes, it would then become necessary to select another of the indicating pieces 19 approximately indicating the time and to advance it to the particular abutment or stop 20 coming under the longitudinally disposed rows of designated stops. Thus, the washman will be enabled to accurately follow the various steps of the laundering process in order that the same may be properly performed.

From the foregoing, it will be understood that I have provided a simple but meritorious form of indicating device especially advantageous for use in laundries, whereby a single attendant or washman can successfully attend to the timing and advance of the various steps of a laundering process to which matters to be laundered are subjected. Furthermore, by following the indicator, the contents of each and every machine or apparatus in the laundry room may be accurately ascertained as well as the condition of the same, the particular step of the laundering process to which they are being subjected and the time of such step of the process.

Manifestly, the constructions shown are capable of considerable modification and such modification as is within the scope of my claim, I consider within the spirit of my invention.

I claim:—

An indicator comprising a substantially rectangular base having the intermediate portion thereof divided into transverse and longitudinally disposed rows of squared openings by transversely and longitudinally arranged bars, the transverse rows of squared openings being individually designated by a group of symbols indicative of the consecutive hours and the longitudinally disposed row of squared openings being individually designated by a group of symbols indicative of the various steps of a laundering process and indicating pieces comprising metal bodies having substantially right angularly formed fingers arranged upon their upper ends and substantially right angularly and outwardly disposed extensions formed upon their lower ends adapted to be interchangeably engaged with said transversely and longitudinally disposed rows of squared openings, as and for the purpose set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

WALTER HOCKIN.