April 8, 1952 C. H. SANFORD 2,592,192

SPOON WITH A BASE

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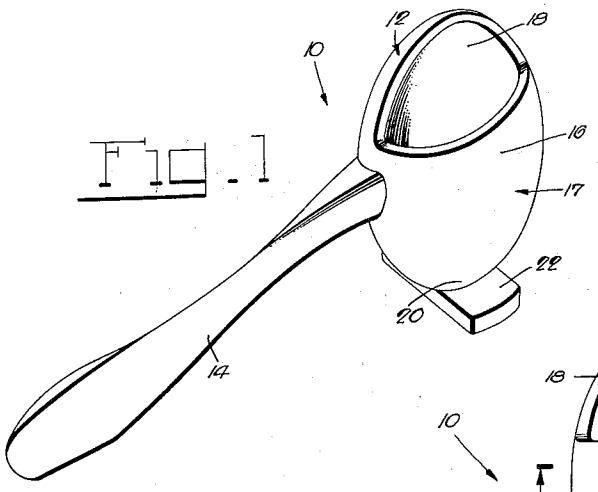


Fig. 1

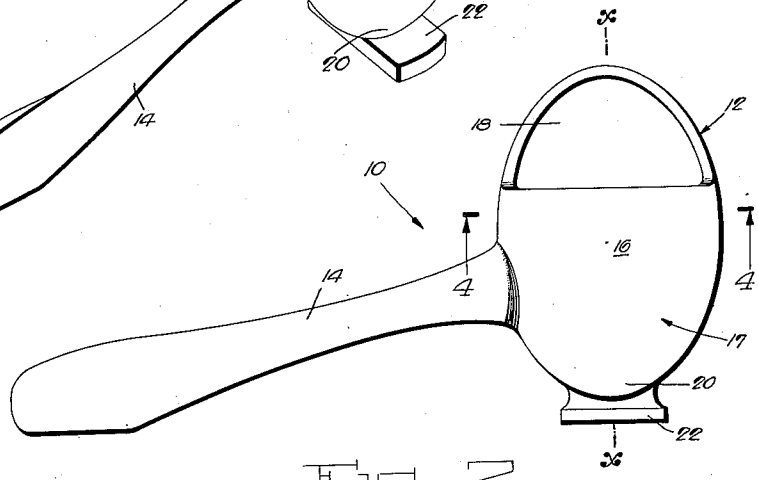


Fig. 2

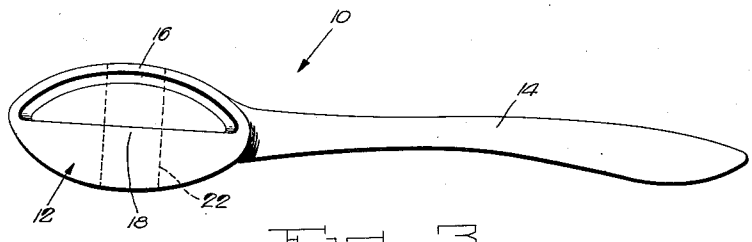


Fig. 3

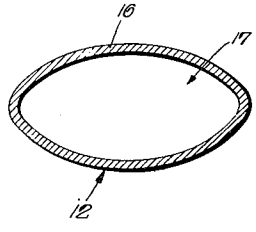


Fig. 4

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SPOON WITH A BASE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 30—327)

1

This invention relates to spoons for use especially, though not exclusively, by handicapped adults and small children.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a spoon which is especially useful in the care of the sick and for persons generally who experience difficulty in the correct use of conventional spoons.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a spoon which by the arrangement of its handle is especially easy and convenient to manipulate.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a spoon which does not permit nearly as much spilling of its contents as a conventional spoon, yet is as freely accessible to the user's mouth.

It is another object of thepresent invention to provide a spoon which is to a considerable extent tip-proof when placed on a table or other support, thereby to render the spoon particularly useful as a medicine spoon for bedridden or invalid patients who are able to administer to themselves.

It is another object of the present invention to enlarge and form an end portion of the scoop of a spoon into a cup and to make provisions for standing the spoon with its cup-shaped scoop portion upright on a table or other support, thereby to render the spoon further useful as a medicine spoon in measuring and administering prescribed doses of liquid medicines.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a spoon of the foregoing kind of which the cup portion of the scoop will in its upright position hold substantially the same amount of liquid as the scoop will hold when tilted into horizontal disposition, thereby to facilitate the correct measurement and administration of a spoonful of liquid, such as medicine, for instance.

It is a further object of the present invention to form at least the cup portion of the scoop of a spoon of this kind of transparent or translucent material, and to provide the cup portion with readily discernible graduations denoting volumetric measures, thereby to facilitate the correct measurement and administration of liquids, such as medicines, for instance, in any desired amounts.

It is another general object of the present invention to provide a spoon which, by its construction, compels a child, and thereby teaches it, to use the spoon in the well accepted manner of adults.

It is also among the objects of the present in-

2

vention to provide a spoon of the above characteristics which is extremely simple in construction, compares favorably with a conventional spoon of comparable capacity insofar as its bulk is concerned, and readily lends itself to efficient and inexpensive mass production.

The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will be more fully understood from the following description considered in connection with the accompanying illustrative drawings.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a spoon embodying the present invention;

Figs. 2 and 3 are side views of the same spoon when standing and lying, respectively, on a support; and

Fig. 4 is a section taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2.

Referring to the drawings, the reference numeral 10 designates a spoon having a scoop or bowl 12 and a handle 14 which, in the present instance, projects from the scoop 12 laterally of its longitudinal axis x—x (Fig. 2). The scoop 12 and handle 14 are preferably formed integrally from any suitable material, such as precious or non-precious metal, for instance.

In accordance with the present invention, there is provided on the scoop 12, and preferably formed integrally therewith, a partial cover 16 which may be of the same cross-sectional contour as the scoop or bowl 12, and forms with the adjacent portion of the latter a cup 17. The cup 17 leaves a substantial forward end 18 of the scoop 12 readily accessible to the user's mouth.

The uncovered forward end 18 of the scoop 12 will compel a person to use the spoon in the well-accepted manner of adults. Hence, it is one of the many advantages of the instant spoon that it may be used for teaching children the correct and accepted manner of eating with a spoon, and preventing them from becoming accustomed to such spectacular and offensive habits as eating from the wrong side of the spoon or opening their mouths wide in an effort to admit the entire scoop of the spoon. By virtue of its partially covered construction, the scoop of the instant spoon is also to a considerable extent spill-proof, and is for this reason further advantageous for children whose hand manipulations are still awkward, as well as for feeble or other handicapped adults who do not have complete control over their hand manipulations.

Further in accordance with the present invention, the scoop 12 of the instant spoon is provided

at the bottom 20 of the cup 17 with a preferably integral base 22 by means of which the scoop may be stood upright on a table or any other support in the fashion indicated in Fig. 2, or may be supported in considerably tip-proof fashion on a table or other support when lying thereon in the manner indicated in Fig. 3. The provision of the base 22 on the scoop 12 of the instant spoon renders the latter well suited as a medicine spoon. Thus, by standing or laying the spoon on a table or other support in substantially tip-proof fashion (Figs. 2 and 3), the instant spoon may safely hold liquid medicine near a bed-ridden or invalid patient who is able to self-administer the medicine when needed.

The cover 16 on the scoop 12 of the instant spoon is, of course, of additional advantage in the use of the latter as a medicine spoon by a bed-ridden or feeble patient who is called upon to administer to himself or herself.

The provision of the cup 17 on the scoop 12 of the instant spoon is of particular advantage in the use of the latter as a medicine spoon, in that the cup 17, when held upright as is Fig. 2, greatly facilitates the dispensing and measuring of liquid medicine thereinto. This is particularly true if, as in the present instance, the cup 17 holds in its upright disposition (Fig. 2) the same amount of liquid as the scoop 12 will hold in substantially horizontal disposition (Fig. 3). Regardless of whether the cup 17 of the instant spoon holds as much or less liquid than the scoop 12, the provision of the base 22 secures the additional advantage of safely supporting the liquid-holding cup 17 in upright and, hence, substantially spill-proof disposition on a table or other support until the contents of the spoon is administered to a patient or self-administered by the latter. If desired, the instant spoon, or at least the cup 17 thereof, may be made of any suitable transparent or translucent material so as to enable the user to observe the level of a liquid in the upright cup and thus measure fairly accurately any amounts of liquid therein. Even more accurate measurement of any prescribed amount of liquid medicine, for instance, in the cup 17 may readily be obtained by providing the transparent or translucent cup with readily discernible graduations denoting volumetric measures. Further, regardless of any of the above mentioned specific uses, or other self-evident uses, to which the instant spoon may be put, the latter is, by the specific arrangement of the handle 14 on the side thereof, of further advantage in that the spoon may be manipulated with especial ease, and with a minimum of arm or wrist motion by the user. Moreover, by its slanting disposition on the side of the cup 17, the handle 14 assists the base 22 in securely supporting the cup 17 in upright position on a table or other support (Fig. 2).

It is obvious from the foregoing description that the instant spoon is highly advantageous in several respects. Thus, the spoon is, by virtue of its cover 16, substantially spill-proof and is in that respect advantageous for children as well as for feeble adults. The partially covered scoop of the instant spoon further compels, and thereby teaches, a child to acquire the correct and accepted manner of eating with a spoon. The provision of the base 22 on the instant spoon further

renders the latter particularly suited as a medicine spoon, especially for self-administration of medicine by a patient, in that the instant spoon is substantially tip-proof when lying on a table or similar support within reach of the patient. The provision of the cup 17 on the instant spoon further facilitates the dispensing and measuring of the prescribed amount of liquid medicine therein. The additional provision of the base 22 permits the secure and substantially spill-proof support of the medicine-holding cup 17 in upright position on a table or other suitable support until the medicine is being administered to a patient or self-administered by the latter. Last, but by no means least, the specific arrangement of the handle 14 on the side of the scoop 12 of the instant spoon greatly simplifies the manipulation of the latter, and also assists the base 22 in the secure support of the cup 17 in upright disposition on a table or other support. While the instant spoon of the above characteristics adapts itself to the beforementioned advantageous uses, it is, nevertheless of extremely simple construction and does not have much bulk beyond that of a conventional spoon of comparable capacity. Also, the cleaning of the instant spoon is as facile as that of a conventional spoon, this despite the cover 16 over the scoop 12 which leaves the forward end 18 of the latter sufficiently exposed to permit of ready access to the cup 17 for cleaning purposes.

While I have shown and described the preferred embodiment of my invention, it will be understood that various changes may be made in the present invention without departing from the underlying idea or principles of the invention within the scope of the appended claim.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

A spoon comprising a bowl, a cover for the top of said bowl extending from the rear end thereof and terminating rearwardly of the forward end of the bowl for closing the rear top part of the bowl and leaving an open top portion at the forward part of the bowl for filling the spoon and dispensing the contents thereof into the mouth of the user, and a side handle secured to the spoon at a point between said rear and forward ends of the bowl and extending laterally from the side of the spoon and rearwardly inclined toward said rear end of the spoon whereby to facilitate use of the spoon by a young child, the rear end of the spoon and the outer end of said handle lying in substantially the same plane when the spoon is positioned vertically with said rear end lowermost, said rear end having a part which is sufficiently wide to provide with the outer end of the handle a base for the spoon to support the latter in said vertical position thereof.

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