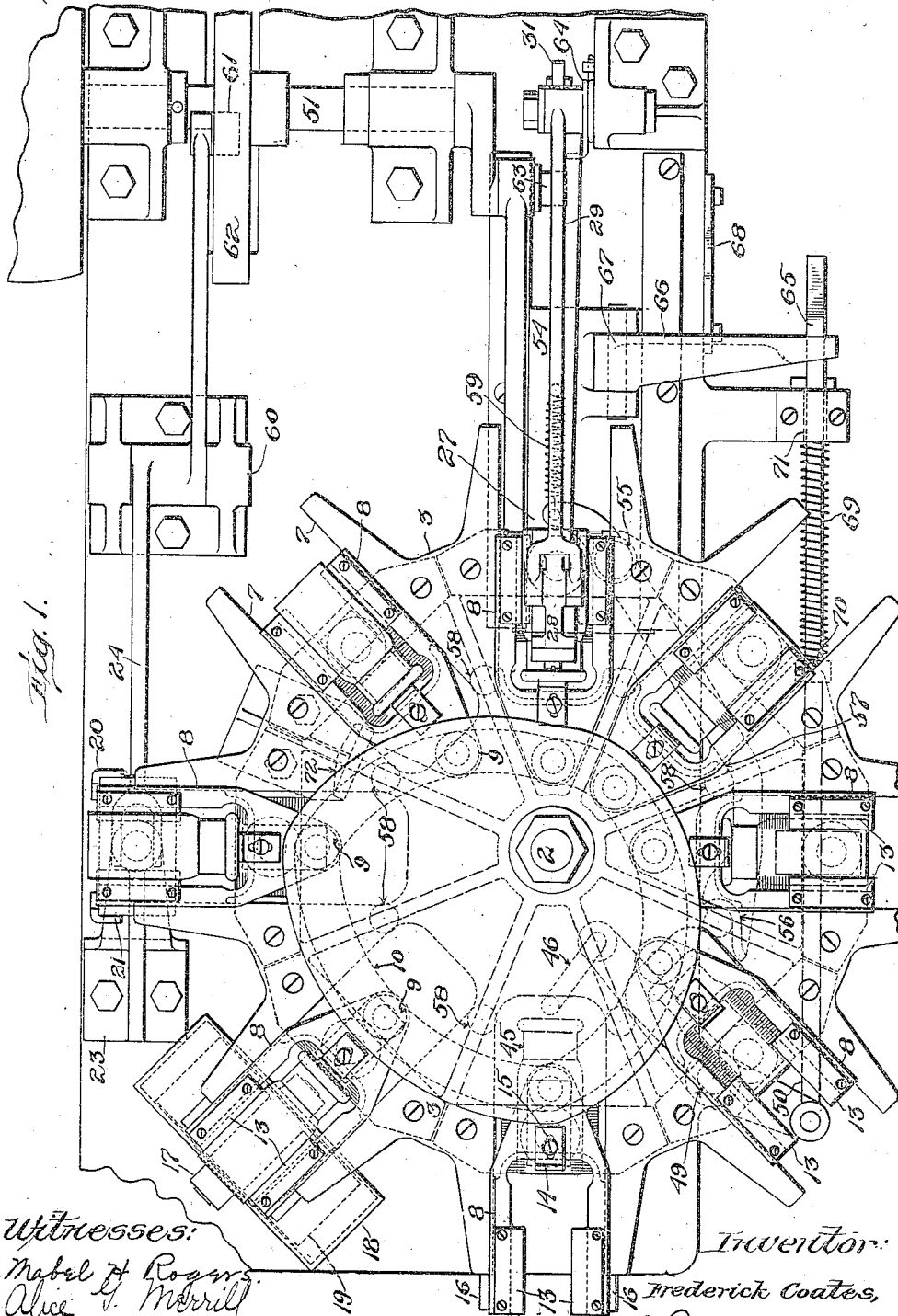


F. COATES.
 AUTOMATIC LABEL APPLYING MACHINE.
 APPLICATION FILED AUG. 21, 1912.

1,049,996.

Patented Jan. 7, 1913.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnesses:
 Mabel H. Rogers.
 Alice V. Merrill.

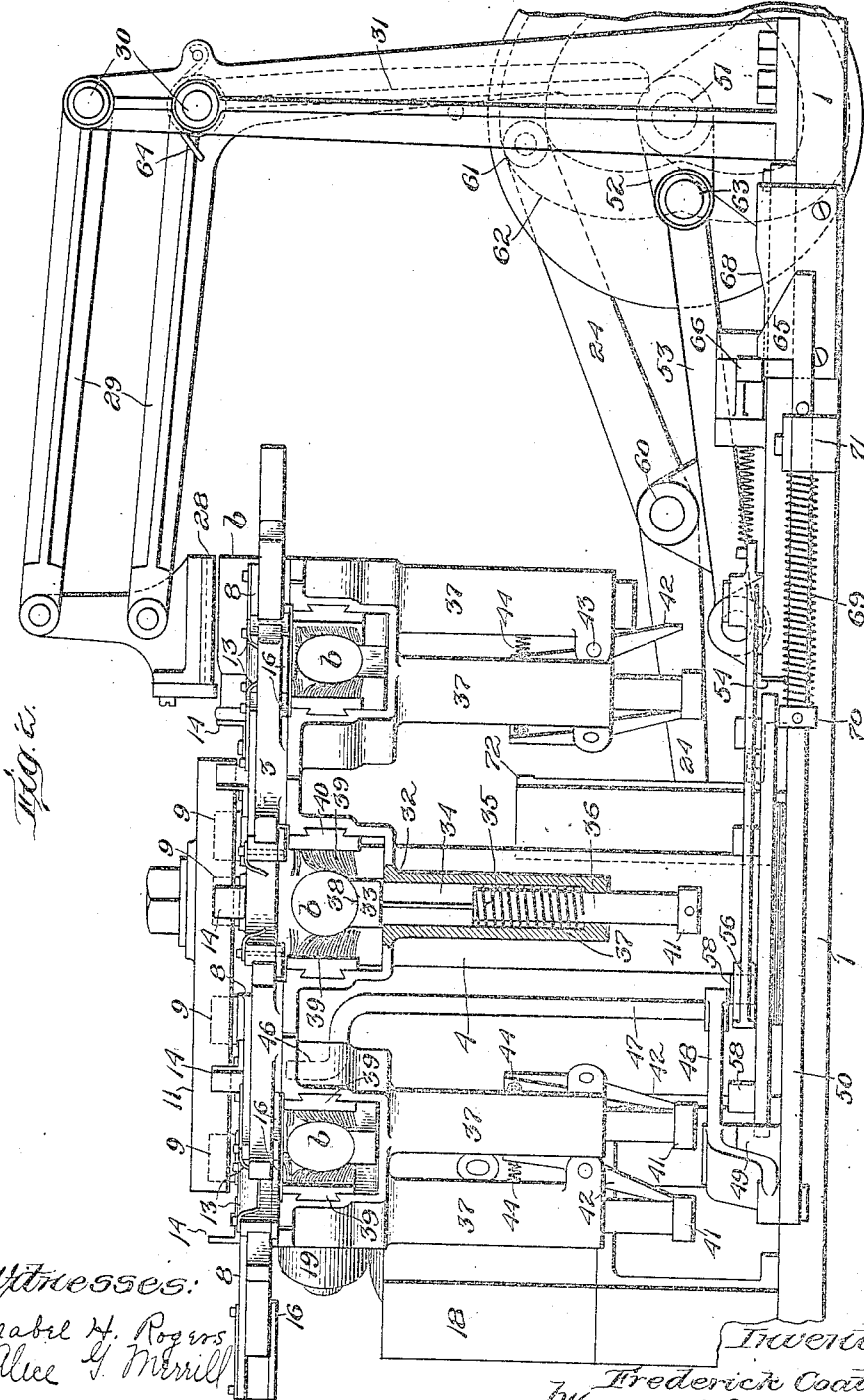
Inventor:
 Frederick Coates,
 by Charles L. Rogers atty.

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3 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



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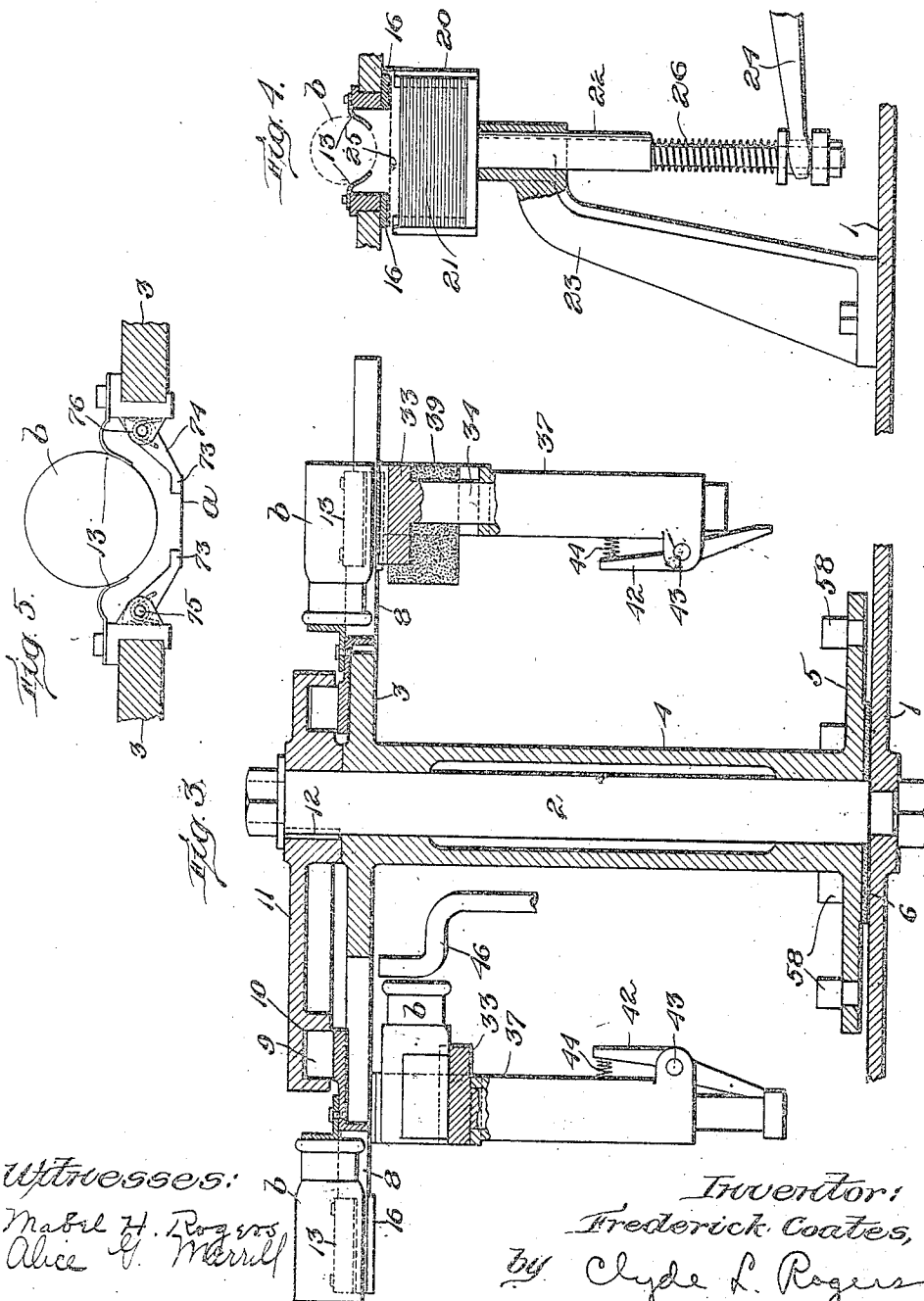
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3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.



Witnesses:
Mabel H. Rogers
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK COATES, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO STANDARD AUTOMATIC MACHINE COMPANY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., A CORPORATION OF NEW YORK.

AUTOMATIC LABEL-APPLYING MACHINE.

1,049,996.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 7, 1913.

Application filed August 21, 1912. Serial No. 716,116.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK COATES, a citizen of the United States, and resident of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented an Improvement in Automatic Label-Applying Machines, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like letters on the drawings representing like parts.

My present invention relates to apparatus for applying labels, bands, or wrappers to bottles, tubes, cans, boxes, and the like, of varying sizes and shapes and where I use the term "bottle" and "label" in the following description and claims for the sake of brevity I intend these terms to typify the various equivalent or like articles named and others adapted to be handled by the machine to be set forth.

A prime object of the invention is to provide a machine adapted to apply labels to bottles by an automatic sequence of operations wherein the labels are applied rapidly, evenly and with precision by the automatic mechanism in an exact predetermined position on the bottle, the mechanism providing means for insuring the even smoothing out of the label ends to which the adhesive is applied.

One important feature of the invention consists in means whereby at the very beginning of the label affixing operation the label with its ends coated with adhesive has its intermediate portion gripped to the bottle in definite position and is thus held from displacement while its ends are smoothed down on to the bottle, this operation being carried out as shown by positioning the labels between the bottles and a yielding backing piece spaced therefrom and then pressing the bottles from holding seats provided therefor to grip the labels between the bottles and the backing pieces.

A further feature of the invention has to do with a step-by-step moving carrier support, shown as a turret, whereon a series of carriers are moved out at certain parts of the turret rotation so as to be clear of the turret support and parts carried thereby, there being adhesive furnishing, and label supplying means coöperative with the carriers in this part of their travel, and the carriers being then moved in so as to position the bottles and labels carried thereby directly in alinement with label affixing

means, a part of which is carried by the turret or other moving carrier support.

The above and other features and objects of my improved machine will be better understood from the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings and will be thereafter pointed out in the appended claims.

Referring to the drawings: Figure 1 is a plan view of a preferred illustrative embodiment of the invention; Fig. 2 is a side elevation thereof with a part in section; Fig. 3 is a view partly in vertical section and partly in elevation of certain operative parts with other parts removed to better exhibit the parts shown; Fig. 4 is an elevation partly in section showing the label supplying mechanism; and Fig. 5 is a detailed view showing an attachment adapted to be applied for handling small labels.

On a suitable base 1 an upright post 2 is fixed and journaled thereon is a table or turret 3 having a long depending sleeve 4 with a flange plate 5 at its bottom resting on a suitable bearing on the base 1, a bearing washer 6 of fiber or the like being shown as interposed beneath said plate. The turret 3 is rotated step by step by mechanism to be later described and is formed with a series, shown as eight, of radial peripheral openings with parallel sides 7 forming guide ways for sliding forked carriers 8 which are interfitted therewith as seen in Figs. 2 and 4. The carriers 8 are given a controlled movement to be moved and held outward, in certain parts of the rotation of the turret, and moved and held inward during other parts of such rotation to permit the sequence of operations to be described. For effecting such in and out movement of the carriers 8 their inner ends have upwardly projecting pins 9 engaging in a closed cam path 10 shown as formed on the under side of a plate 11 fixed by keying or like means as at 12 to the top of post 2. The carriers 8 have their forks spaced apart far enough and these forks are long enough to permit any bottle or the like with which the machine is to be used to be passed down through between such forks, and at the top of each of the forks I fasten yielding bottle holding means shown as thin springs 13 projecting in some little distance from each fork. These springs are stiff enough to hold the weight of a bottle placed thereon without yielding, but they are light enough to

permit a bottle to be pushed down through
 them without any great pressure. It may
 be here noted that for smaller sizes of bot-
 tles these springs may be replaced by others
 5 projecting in toward each other farther, and
 if required of stiffer quality so that smaller
 bottles may be held at will. To permit
 bottles of different length to be accurately
 set in the carriers 8 I provide backing pieces
 10 14 adjustable by bolt and slot connection 15
 to project a greater or less extent into the
 space between the forks. The bottles may
 be accurately positioned on the seats thus
 provided therefor in any of the positions of
 15 the carriers shown in the lower and left
 hand parts of Fig. 1 either by hand or by
 any suitable automatic or semi-automatic
 feeding mechanism not shown.

The bottoms of the carrier forks have
 20 fitted thereto or formed therewith beneath
 the turret, plate strips or platens 16 and to
 these platens a coating of glue or other ad-
 hesive is applied at a station 17 where a glue
 pot 18 is mounted beneath the plane of the
 25 carriers with a roller or rollers 19 dipping
 in the glue at their lower portions and
 mounted so as to wipe the surfaces of
 platens 16 to deposit the requisite amount of
 glue thereon. The step movement of the
 30 turret next brings the platens 16 directly
 over a label holder 20 having a stack of
 labels 21 therein, the term "label" as herein
 used being of course intended to include any
 kind of band, wrapper or the like adapted
 35 to be applied in the manner to be described.
 The holder 20 has a depending post 22 ver-
 tically slidable in a support 23 and it is con-
 nected with a power operated lever 24, this
 lever being intermittently moved by the
 40 driving mechanism as hereinafter described
 to move up the label holder, each time a
 carrier with its platens 16 is positioned
 thereover to an extent sufficient to press the
 top label on to the glue covered surfaces of the
 45 platens as indicated at 25 in dotted lines in
 Fig. 4, after which the label holder is at
 once again depressed. The connection of
 lever 24 with the label holder is shown as
 through a spring 26 mounted on a reduced
 50 lower end of the post 22 and the range of
 movement is such that all the labels in the
 stack 21 are removable in the manner de-
 scribed, the spring 26 yielding to a greater
 extent when the stack of labels is higher in
 55 the holder as seen in Fig. 4. The carriers
 each with a bottle resting thereon and with
 a label adhering to the platen surfaces 16
 now advance in the step by step movement
 of the turret to a station 27 where the bottle
 60 is directly beneath a presser plate 28 held
 for vertical movement at the ends of par-
 allel arms 29 which are fulcrumed at 30 one
 of said arms being equipped with a depend-
 ing extension 31 adapted to receive inter-
 65 mittent movement from the driving mecha-

nism to be later described for forcing the
 bottles downward when they come to rest
 thereunder.

It will be observed that the cam formation
 10 is such as to project the carriers 8 out-
 ward as they are adjacent the glue applying
 station and the label holder and that these
 parts are mounted radially out beyond the
 operative portions of the turret and mecha-
 nism to be now described carried thereby.

During the movement of the carriers
 from the label supplying station to the sta-
 tion 27 where the labels are affixed, the car-
 riers are drawn in by the cam 10 so that
 they each with the bottle carried thereby
 now occupy a position directly over a sup-
 port 32 held in depending relation to the
 carrier with a backing block 33 for the bot-
 tle slidably fitted therein for limited ver-
 tical movement as seen at 34. The back-
 85 ing blocks 33 are normally pressed upward
 by springs 35 surrounding reduced lower
 extensions 36 thereof and housed in sleeve
 extensions 37 of the supports 32. The bottle
 engaging faces of the blocks 33 are prefer-
 ably formed as at 38 to fit the bottle more or
 less closely as it is pressed down thereonto
 by the action of the presser plate 28. As
 the bottle is thus pressed down, the springs
 13 yielding to permit this, it engages the
 label adhering to the glued platen surfaces
 16 centrally thereof and immediately grips
 the same against the block 33 so that the
 label is thus securely held from the start in
 precisely correct position as predetermined
 100 by the position of the bottle on the carrier
 relative to the label adhering to the platen
 surfaces. The bottle with the label thus
 clamped against it in a manner to prevent
 relative displacement is forced downward
 105 by the presser plate 28 and in this move-
 ment, brushes 39 or like wiping means suit-
 ably fixed as at 40 at each side of the bottle,
 engage the end portions of the label and ap-
 ply it smoothly and evenly to the bottle,
 110 pressing the extremities thereof to which a
 proper amount of glue has been transferred
 from the platen 16 against the bottle in a
 manner to insure a proper and effective en-
 gagement therewith and adhesion thereto.
 115 At the completion of such downward move-
 ment the backing blocks 33 are locked in
 a manner to prevent the springs 25 reacting
 to raise the same and for this purpose I
 show the lower extensions 36 of such blocks
 120 as provided with collars 41 forming
 shoulders adapted to be engaged by dogs 42
 pivoted at 43 to the sleeves 37 and urged to
 snap over the collars 41 by springs 44. The
 presser plates 28 are now lifted and the suc-
 125 ceeding step movement of the turret brings
 the bottles to a discharging station 45 where
 they are ejected by a pusher arm 46 which
 presses them radially outward. The pusher
 arm 46 is shown as the offset end of an up- 130

right bar 47 fixed to a horizontally swinging lever 48 fulcrumed at 49 and having its other end connected to an operating link 50. It will be observed that the cam 10 is formed to project the carriers outward at about this time so that they are out in position to receive the application of glue from the rollers 19 to which they next proceed in completing the cycle of turret movement. It will be further observed that as the bottles are pressed down beneath the seats formed therefor by the springs 13 at the station 27, all the subsequent stations, are ready to receive bottles so that when the machine is to be supplied with bottles by hand, the operator can have a number of stations available for receiving bottles at once.

The turret is rotated and the several operative parts moved in proper timed relation from a common driving means shown as a horizontal driving shaft 51 suitably journaled at the base of the machine. The particular construction and arrangement of driving and controlling connections for effecting the relatively timed movements of the various parts is not material to my invention in its broader aspects but for illustrative purposes I show the shaft 51 connected by crank 52 and pitman 53 to reciprocate a slide 54 to which is pivoted at 55 a pawl arm 56 adapted to engage successively the several pins 58 of a spaced apart series corresponding in number to the number of bottle carriers 8, projecting upward from the turret plate 5, thus turning the turret one step at each forward movement of such pawl. The pawl arm 56 has an intermediate portion 57 arranged to engage one of the pins 58 following that engaged for operation by its front operative end, whereby it serves as a stop to prevent excess movement of the turret at each step, the curved pin receiving seat at the end of the pawl arm coacting for this purpose to keep the pawl arm in operative position. The inner extremity of the pawl arm 56 beyond its pivot 55 is provided with a small spring 59 whereby it is yieldingly held in operative position. As a means for intermittently moving the label holder 20 upward, I extend its operating lever 24 to the other side of its fulcrum 60 and provide it with a roller pin 61 working in a cam path 62 formed in a plate member carried by the shaft 51. The depending arm 31 of the presser plate operating levers are engaged by a suitable crank pin turned by the shaft 51, the pin 63 which also serves to unite the crank 52 and the pitman 53 being shown as serving this purpose and the presser plate being normally held, lifted by suitable springs 64 engaging its lever arms. As a means for operating the ejector arm 46, the link bar 50 is shown as equipped at its outer

end with a shoulder ledge 65 engaged by an arm 66 pivoted at 67 to the slide 54 and normally resting by gravity in position to engage the ledge 65. It is tripped off of said ledge as the slide 54 moves back by a cam formation 68 on a plate fixed to the frame and the ejector arm is then moved back out of operative position by a spring 69 operating against a collar 70 on the bar 50 and with a backing against a bracket piece 71 in which the bar 50 is guided.

It is of course essential that the catches or dogs 42 be released from the shoulders 41 before the carriers reach the station 27 and for this purpose I provide an upwardly projecting cam piece 72 fixed to the base in suitable position to engage said dogs to trip the same and permit the springs 35 to again move upward the backing blocks 33.

To widen the field of use of the machine and adapt it to apply labels of smaller sizes than would cooperate with the platens 16, I show in Fig. 5 supplementary platens 73 at the ends of arms 74 pivoted at 75 and projecting inward from the carrier forks. These arms are yieldingly held in position by springs 76 so that when a relatively small label *a* is to be applied to a relatively large bottle *b* is indicated the arms 73 will yield to permit the bottle to pass down through the same. The arms 74 may be detached by removing their pivot pins, or the attachment of which they are a part, may be removable as a whole as desired.

While I have shown the machine as adapted to apply only a single label to the body of a bottle or like container of circular cross section it is to be understood that as to the essential features of novelty the invention is in no wise limited in these particulars, but is practicable and useful for applying a label or labels to different parts of a bottle or container of various forms.

The machine is adapted to apply labels or the like very rapidly and with precision by the automatic sequence of operation described and it is to be noted that the construction is simple, with few parts, none of which are complicated or difficult to produce, so that the machine is not an expensive one to construct. This characterizing simplicity of construction combined with capability of rapid operation is due in large part to the special arrangement whereby the carriers for the bottles and labels shown as the carriers 8 are given a separate movement, shown as the in and out movement during the turret rotation and whereby they are cleared from the turret parts including the label affixing mechanism carried by the turret, sufficiently to come in to operative relation to the adhesive furnishing and label supplying stations. I consider this separate movement of the carriers along with their step by step movement typified by the inter-

mittent turret rotation to be an important and valuable feature of the invention and I intend to cover the same in my broader claims irrespective of whether such separate movement be in the in-and-out radial direction or otherwise, so long as it effects the required clearance for the purpose as stated. I further consider the arrangement of devices whereby at the very beginning of the label applying operation, the label is securely and immovably clamped to the bottle, shown as by the central grip thereof against the yielding backing block to be a feature of great value and importance since thereby any displacement of the label by the action of the brushing and smoothing down devices is absolutely avoided. I therefore intend to protect this feature broadly along with the special construction whereby the bottle with the label centrally clamped thereto is forced between brushing or smoothing down devices, this being the means that I have found most practicable thus far for embodying the broader principles of my invention. It will be clear however that to the carrying out of these broader inventive ideas, the specific details of construction shown are immaterial and I therefore desire the structural embodiment shown to be considered as illustrative and not restrictive, reference being had to the broader of the appended claims rather than to the foregoing description to make clear the scope of the invention.

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

1. A machine of the kind described comprising a carrier support having provision to receive step-by-step movements, adhesive furnishing, label supplying and label affixing means, all arranged in cooperative relation to said support, carriers mounted on said support and means for imparting separate movement thereto relative to the carrier support whereby they are first brought to the adhesive furnishing and label supplying means and thereafter brought into operative relation to the label affixing means.

2. A machine of the kind described comprising a carrier support having provision for step-by-step movement, label affixing means mounted within the range of said support, adhesive furnishing and label supplying means mounted out of the range of said support, and carriers on said support having a movement separate therefrom to bring them into operative relation to the adhesive furnishing and label supplying means and thereafter into operative relation to the label affixing means.

3. A machine of the kind described comprising a carrier support having provision for step-by-step movement, label supplying

means and label affixing means, one mounted within the range of said support and the other out of the range thereof, and carriers mounted on said support with provision for a separate movement, adapted to bring them first into operative relation to said label supplying means and thereafter into operative relation to said label affixing means.

4. A machine of the kind described comprising a carrier support mounted for step-by-step movement, label supplying means mounted out of the range of said support, label affixing means mounted in the range of said support, carriers having a separate range of movement in a direction transverse to that which they have with the support, adapted to bring them into operative relation to said label supplying means and thereafter into operative relation to said label affixing means, and means for imparting such separate movement of said carriers.

5. A machine of the kind described comprising a carrier support having provision for step-by-step movement, label and adhesive supplying mechanism, mounted out of the range of said support, label affixing means mounted in the range of said support, carriers having provision for carrying bottles and labels mounted on said support with a separate range of movement from that which they receive with the support, adapted to bring them into operative relation to said label and adhesive supplying mechanism, and thereafter into operative relation to said label affixing means, and means for imparting such separate movement of said carriers.

6. A machine of the kind described comprising a turret having provision for step-by-step rotary movement, label supplying means mounted out of the range of the turret, label affixing means mounted in the range of the turret and carriers slidably mounted on the turret with provision for moving first into operative relation to said label supplying means and thereafter into operative relation into said label affixing means.

7. A machine of the kind described comprising a turret having provision for step-by-step movement, label supplying means mounted out of the range of the turret, label affixing means mounted within the range of the turret, and having a part thereof carried by the turret, carriers slidably mounted on the turret with a range of movement adapting them to be brought into operative relation first to the label supplying means, and thereafter to the label affixing means, and means for imparting such sliding movement to said carriers.

8. A machine of the kind described comprising a turret having provision for step-by-step rotary movement, carriers adapted to receive bottles and labels slidably mount-

ed thereon, label supplying means, mounted out of the range of turret movement, label affixing means mounted in the range of turret movement, said carriers in their sliding movement being arranged to come into operative relation to said label supplying means and thereafter into operative relation to said label affixing means, and means for imparting such sliding movement to said carriers.

9. A machine of the kind described comprising a carrier support having provision for step-by-step movement, carriers mounted on said support for movement in a direction transverse of the support movement, means for imparting such carrier movement, said carriers being adapted to receive bottles thereon and being provided with platens underneath, mechanism for supplying said platens with glued labels, and means for moving the bottles relative to said carriers to transfer the labels from said platens to affix them to the bottles.

10. A machine of the kind described comprising a carrier support having provision for step-by-step movement, carriers slidably mounted thereon, adapted to receive bottles, said carriers having platens underneath, means for sliding said carriers, mechanism for supplying adhesive and labels to said platens, and means for moving said bottles downward past said carriers to remove said labels from said platens and wrapping them around the bottles, a part of said means being carried by said support.

11. A machine of the kind described comprising a turret having provision for step-by-step rotation, carriers mounted thereon with provision for in-and-out sliding movement and means for imparting the same, said carriers being adapted to receive adhesive and labels from underneath, mechanism for supplying adhesive and labels to said carriers when in their outer position and means within the range of the turret with a portion carried thereby, for moving bottles down past said carriers, and causing the labels to be wrapped around them.

12. A machine of the kind described comprising a turret having provision for step-by-step movement, forked carriers mounted for in-and-out movement on the turret, said carriers being adapted to receive adhesive and labels underneath and bottles thereon, means for imparting such movement to said carriers, adhesive and label supplying mechanism in position to apply adhesive and labels to the carriers when in an outer position, and means having a presser foot acting from above and a yielding backing block beneath for pressing bottles on said carriers to first grip the labels thereto, and thereafter wrap the labels therearound.

13. A machine of the kind described comprising a turret having provision for step-

by-step movement, forked carriers mounted thereon with provision for in-and-out movement at different parts of their rotation, the forks having platens underneath and yielding seats for bottles above, means for imparting such movement to said carriers, means supplying adhesive to said platens, means for thereafter affixing labels thereto and means having a presser plate coming from above and a yielding backing beneath for moving said bottles to first grip the labels thereto and then wrap them therearound.

14. A machine of the kind described comprising a support having provision for step-by-step movement, a forked carrier slidable on said support crosswise of the direction of support movement, the forks of said carrier having platens beneath and a yielding seat for a bottle above, means for sliding said carrier on said support, mechanism for applying adhesive and labels to said platens, and means for moving bottles through said seat, and wrapping the labels held on said platens therearound.

15. A machine of the kind described comprising a rigid forked holder with lengthwise extending arms having yielding seats for a bottle extending inwardly therefrom, and platens underneath, with provision for supplying adhesive and labels thereto, a yielding backing beneath said seat and means for pressing a bottle from said seat to grip the label against said backing and wrap it around the bottle.

16. A machine of the kind described comprising a carrier mounted for movement to different stations having lengthwise extending arms equipped with yielding seats for a bottle extending inward therefrom and platens underneath for receiving adhesive and labels, means for applying labels to said platens at one station and means for pressing bottles from said seat and wrapping the labels around them at another station.

17. A machine of the kind described comprising a carrier mounted for movement to different stations having lengthwise extending arms equipped with yielding seats for a bottle extending inward therefrom and a platen surface beneath, means for supplying adhesive to said platen surface at one station and a label holder having a vertical range of movement adapted to move upward and supply labels to the adhesive covered platen surface at a subsequent station.

18. A machine of the kind described comprising a horizontally arranged forked carrier mounted for movement to different stations, said carrier having a yielding seat carried by its forks above and platens beneath, means for imparting movement to said carrier to transfer it to successive stations, means for supplying adhesive to said platens at one station and a label holder having a

vertical range of movement with means for moving it up to deliver a label to said platens each time they are positioned thereover.

19. A machine of the kind described comprising a rigid carrier having spaced apart lengthwise extending arms with an opening between to permit bottles to be pressed there-through, yielding seat members for a bottle extending in from said arms and platen surfaces carried by said arms beneath, adapted to receive adhesive and labels to be applied to the bottles.

20. A machine of the kind described comprising a carrier having spaced apart side portions with a seat for a bottle above, and removable members extending in from said side portions with platen surfaces beneath, adapted to receive labels of smaller sizes and adhesive for the purpose as stated.

21. A machine of the kind described comprising a carrier having spaced apart side portions with a yielding seat for a bottle above and yielding arms removably fixed to said side portions extending inward therefrom with platen surfaces beneath for the purpose as stated.

22. A machine of the kind described comprising a horizontally arranged carrier mounted for movement to different stations provided with a seat yielding with respect to the carrier and having provision to receive adhesive and labels underneath, means for supplying adhesive and labels as the carrier progresses, and means consisting in a presser plate acting from above with a yielding block beneath, for pressing the bottles from said seat, gripping labels thereto against the backing block and wrapping the labels around the bottles.

23. A machine of the kind described comprising a turret mounted for step-by-step movement with a series of carriers providing yielding seats for bottles thereon slidable in-and-out on said turret at different parts of its movement, means for applying adhesive and labels to said carriers in an outer position thereof and means consisting in a presser plate acting from above and a yielding backing block moving with the turret, arranged beneath each carrier for pressing bottles from said seats to grip labels thereto, there being coöperative means for smoothing the labels against the bottles.

24. A machine of the kind described comprising a turret having provision for step-by-step rotation, carriers mounted for in-and-out movement on said turret at different parts of its rotation, a cam controller for effecting such movements, said carriers being provided with yielding seats for bottles, means for applying adhesive and labels to said carriers with the labels beneath bottles on the carriers when the carriers are in

an outer position, and means for pressing the bottles from their seats to engage the labels with the carriers at an inner position on the turret, said means having provision for first gripping an intermediate portion of the labels against the bottles and thereafter wrapping the adhesive covered extremities thereof about the bottles.

25. A machine of the kind described comprising a turret, carriers having yielding seats for bottles mounted on the turret, means for supplying adhesive and labels in position to be wrapped around the bottles and means having a part thereof carried by the turret for pressing the bottles from their seats and evenly wrapping the labels therearound, said means being arranged to grip the labels to the bottles at an intermediate portion before wrapping the extremities thereof about the bottle.

26. A machine of the kind described comprising a turret, a series of carriers provided with yielding seats for bottles slidably mounted for in-and-out movement on the turret at different parts of its rotation, means for supplying adhesive and labels to said carriers from beneath in an outward position thereof, a series of yielding backing blocks beneath said carriers in their inner position, a presser plate having provision to press bottles downward from their seats on said carriers against said blocks and means for holding said backing blocks depressed through a subsequent stage of turret rotation to permit ejection of the bottles.

27. A machine of the kind described comprising a turret, a series of carriers slidably mounted thereon for in and out movement at different parts of the turret rotation, said carriers having yielding seats for bottles, means for supplying adhesive and label to said carriers in an outer position thereof, a series of yielding backing blocks beneath said carriers in their inner position, means for pressing bottles from their seats on the carriers against said backing blocks to depress the same at an inner position of the carriers, there being provision coöperative therewith for smoothing the labels against the bottles, means for holding the backward blocks depressed through a subsequent stage of turret rotation, means for ejecting the bottles, and means permitting the subsequent return of the backing blocks to operative position.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

FREDERICK COATES.

Witnesses:

C. L. ROGERS,

ARTHUR F. RANDALL.