

(No Model.)

G. B. ADAMS.

PURSE.

No. 288,539.

Patented Nov. 13, 1883.

Fig. 1.

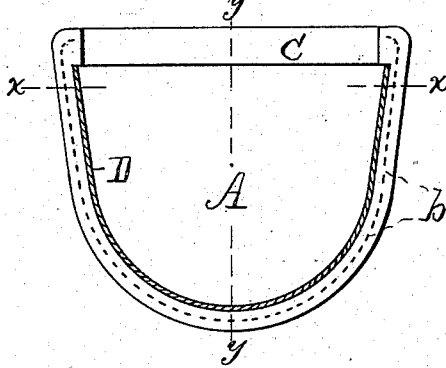


Fig. 2.

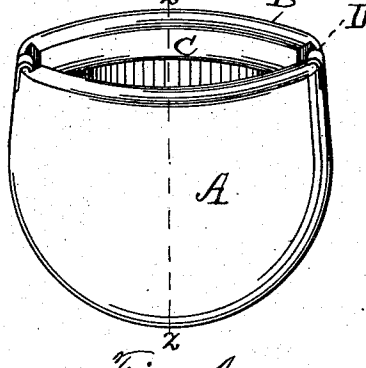


Fig. 3.

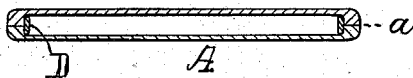


Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.

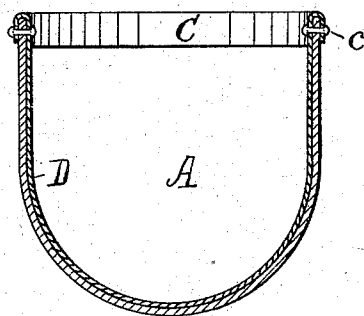
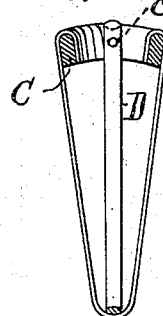


Fig. 6.



Attest:

C. C. Merrick
E. Hewitt

Inventor.

Geo. B. Adams, per
Thos. S. Crane, Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE B. ADAMS, OF NEWARK, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO JAMES
HARDMAN, JR., OF BELLEVILLE, NEW JERSEY.

PURSE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 288,539, dated November 13, 1883.

Application filed September 26, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE B. ADAMS, a citizen of the United States, residing in Newark, Essex county, New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Purses, fully described and represented in the following specification and the accompanying drawings, forming a part of the same.

This invention consists in the combination, with a flat purse or pouch having a convex bottom and a mouth formed of flexible material, of a U-shaped leaf-spring fitted to the sides and bottom of the purse, and operating to stretch the mouth longitudinally, and thereby to hold it shut.

It also consists in various details of construction, as claimed herein.

In the drawings annexed, Figure 1 is a longitudinal vertical section of a purse constructed with my invention. Fig. 2, is a perspective view of a purse as it appears when held open. Fig. 3 is a horizontal transverse section of a purse, as on line *x x* in Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a transverse vertical section of the same, as on line *y y* in Fig. 1. Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 1, with an alternative construction; and Fig. 6 is a transverse vertical section of the open purse, as shown at line *z z* in Fig. 2.

Figs. 1, 3, and 4 show the purse as made of india-rubber, molded to form in halves, and united by sewing at the joint *a*, (shown in Fig. 3,) the stitches appearing at *b* in Fig. 1.

In all the views the bag is represented as of U shape, with a U-shaped spring, *D*, inserted inside of it, and having the extreme ends of the same fitted to the extremities of the longitudinal slit which forms the mouth, so as to stretch the same longitudinally outward and draw the flat sides of the mouth into contact.

A is the body of the purse, which consists of two sides of the shape described, and united at the edges so as to form a pouch, closed except upon the top or straight side, *B*. The spring serving to keep the flat or straight sides of the mouth *B* in contact, nothing more is needed to make the receptacle retain flat objects like coins, except a ledge or rib along the inside of the mouth to check the outward movement of such objects, except when the purse is opened. Such ledge is shown at *C* in

Figs. 1 and 4 as formed of the substance of the sides by shaping the india-rubber in a suitable mold; and, as shown in Fig. 4, such ledges effectually prevent any thin object from slipping out of the closed mouth represented in that figure.

Figs. 2, 5, and 6 represent a mode of construction adapted to leather, cloth, and similar substances, the spring being shown extended over the top of the purse at the ends of the slit forming the mouth, and bent downward over the outside, so as to embrace the fabric of the purse and be secured thereto by rivet *c*. The ledges *C* are shown formed in Fig. 6 by inserting strips of leather or paste-board inside the mouth and folding the upper edges of the purse inward to cover such strips, to which they may be secured by sewing or cement, as preferred.

These different constructions show that my invention may be practiced in a variety of ways, and I do not therefore restrict myself to the precise constructions shown. The rubber purse may thus be made in one piece, if preferred, or of two parts united by cement, and it would also preferably be lined with woven fabric to prevent the rubber from tarnishing silver coins. The bags or purses formed of other material may be woven or knitted, and the spring may, if preferred, be placed upon the outside and otherwise bent, and the upper ends turned inward to clasp the fabric and be riveted thereto. In such case the spring could be fastened to the outer edge of the purse by stitching or otherwise, and may be shaped in any manner to stretch the mouth, as desired.

Having thus fully set forth the nature of my invention, it will be understood that it is a self-closing purse, and that the same is opened by pressing the opposite edges together, as shown in Fig. 2, and thus bulging the sides apart.

I therefore claim my invention as follows:

1. A self-closing purse with straight flexible mouth, and having a U-shaped spring adapted and operated to keep the mouth stretched longitudinally, as and for the purpose set forth.

2. A purse having a straight mouth and convex bottom, in combination with a U-

shaped spring, the ends of which are connected with the ends of the mouth to keep them normally separated, as and for the purpose set forth.

- 5 3. The combination, with the purse having a flexible mouth, and constructed with a U-shaped spring to keep the mouth normally closed, of the ledges C, applied to the insides of the mouth, as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set to my hand in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

GEO. B. ADAMS.

Witnesses:

RICHARD KNEESHAM,
JAMES D. BEATTIE.