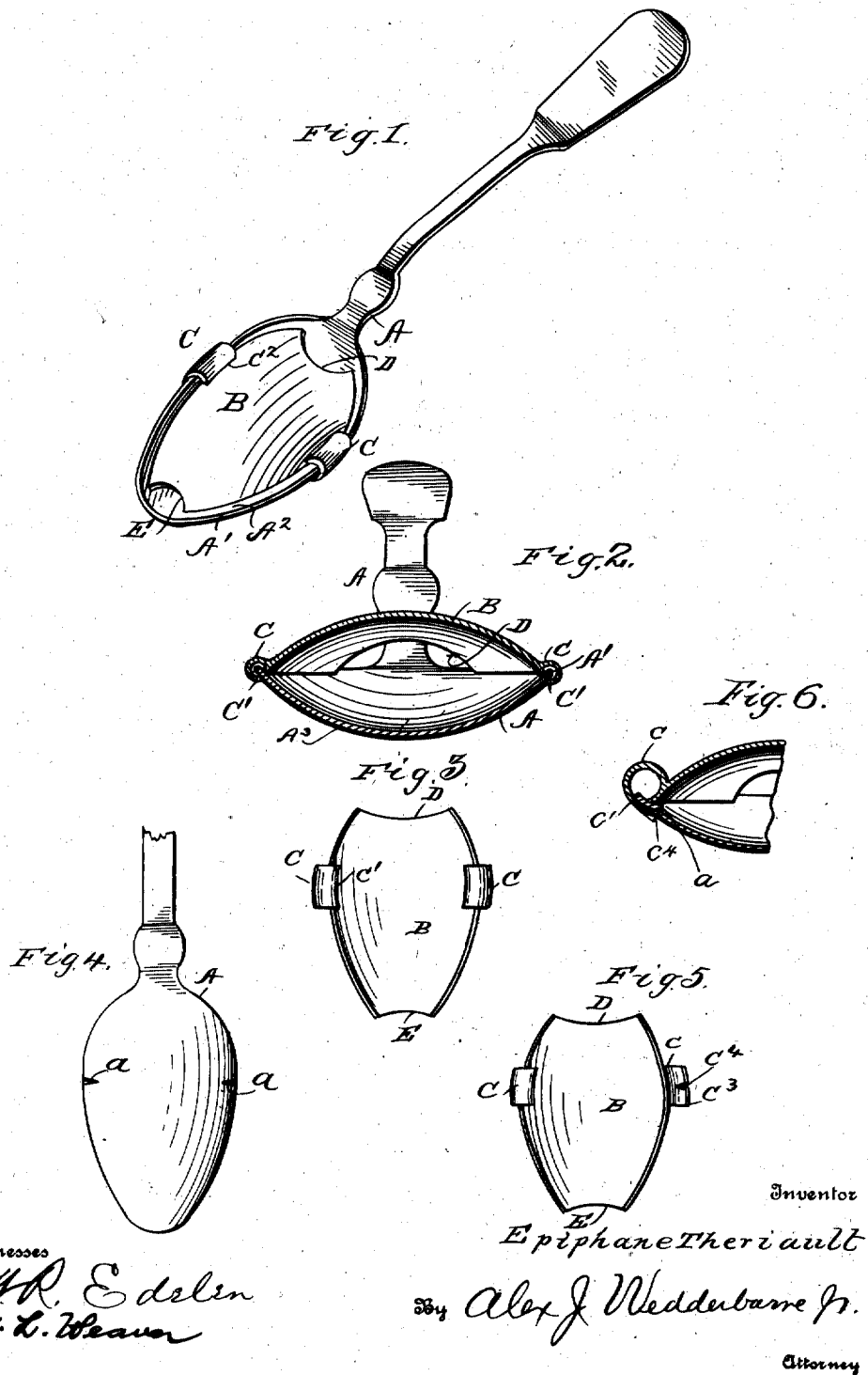


E. THERIAULT.
SPOON COVER.
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1,002,094.

Patented Aug. 29, 1911.



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EPIPHANE THERIAULT, OF TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

SPOON-COVER.

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Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EPIPHANE THERIAULT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Taunton, in the county of Bristol and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Spoon-Covers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in spoon covers, but more especially spoons which are adapted for use in giving medicine to infants or small children.

The object of this invention is to prevent the contents of a spoon from spilling and soiling the clothes or wasting the contents of the spoon when raised at an angle, causing the liquid to run gradually into the mouth, as the spoon cover will hold the liquid in the spoon, and consequently it will flow out of the small opening formed in the end of the cover adjacent to the point of the spoon. Most of medicines that are taken by children are mixed with a menstruum not only to weaken the strength of the medicine, but to overcome the taste of the same.

This spoon cover is perfectly sanitary, as there are no points or corners wherein microbes or other bacteria can lodge, as in some spoon covers which are hinged or have the covers integral therewith.

The present invention is so constructed and arranged that the cover which extends the entire length of the spoon is comparatively a rigid fixture, as it is held by friction on a spoon yet can be immediately removed.

The one important feature of this invention is the opening formed in the back portion of the cover, which allows the air to escape from the spoon as it is being filled with liquid from a vessel, by this means the spoon becomes filled with liquid; otherwise if the opening was not in the spoon the compressed air therein would retard the flow of incoming liquid, when the spoon would be only partly filled with medicine.

The edges of the cover of this invention are on the inside of the spoon and fit closely therein by means of clasps embracing the edge of the spoon on top and under surfaces thereof, by this construction liquids cannot escape from the sides of the spoon, but only from the small opening at the front end thereof. The clasps of this invention can also be provided with slight projections

to engage notches on the under side of a spoon.

Spoons that have their covers extending over the edges thereof are objectionable, as they do not fit closely along the edges of a spoon, consequently the liquid therein is deposited on the garments when used for medical purposes.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, the invention consists in the details of construction and in the arrangement and combination of parts to be hereinafter more fully set forth and claimed.

In describing the invention in detail, reference will be had to the accompanying drawings forming part of this specification, wherein like characters denote corresponding parts in the several views, in which—

Figure 1—represents my improved spoon cover attached to a spoon in a perspective view. Fig. 2—represents an exaggerated view in cross section of the spoon cover and spoon. Fig. 3—represents the spoon cover detached from a spoon. Fig. 4—represents a bottom view of a portion of a spoon. Fig. 5—represents an inside view of the spoon cover having one of the clasps distended exhibiting the projection thereon. Fig. 6 is an enlarged detail cross sectional view through the spoon and cover.

This improved spoon cover can be adapted for any spoon, and used for other purposes than taking medicine. The spoon A, is of ordinary construction and provided with a smooth continuous arc shaped edge or rim A²— and a bowl A³—. Mounted immediately over the bowl of the spoon is a concavo-convex cover B, which is removably secured by means of clasps C, on opposite sides of the spoon cover. These clasps are bent inwardly as indicated at C', so as to envelop the edges A' of the spoon.

It will be observed that the clasps C, have a quick upward turn from the top of the cover, as indicated at C²— in Fig. 1— of the accompanying drawings, the object of which is to allow the edge of the cover to drop down inside of the spoon, thus forming a space A²— around the edge of said spoon to catch any liquid that may remain on the top of the cover B, when removing the spoon from a glass containing liquid; in which case the liquid would flow down the edges A²— of the spoon and into the opening E, or if medicine is being admin-

istered, it will mingle with the liquid flowing from said opening E, for the purpose in view.

The arc shaped opening E, at the forward 5 end of the cover B, is designed to allow the contents of the spoon to escape therefrom when the spoon is tipped at an angle, and which can be made any size desired in accordance with the dimensions of the spoon, 10 or for the purpose in which the contents therein is to be utilized. The arc shaped opening D, at the rear end of said cover B, is somewhat larger in size than the opening E, referred to, which is designed to allow 15 the air to pass out quickly so as to fill the spoon entirely full when putting the spoon into a glass of water or other liquid. If the opening D, did not exist the spoon would become only partly filled, as the 20 compressed air therein would retard the flow of liquid within the covered spoon, and would be detrimental to the object in view.

In the figures illustrating this invention the clasps C, project some distance from 25 the body of the cover, which has been partly explained, and they are large in their circular contour whereby they can yield at their edges C', when being slipped over a spoon, by this means they will have a greater frictional contact, and also seal the edges of 30 said cover more closely around the inside A²— of the spoon. When necessary to remove the cover from the spoon, a slight pull will cause it to slide along the edges of the 35 spoon.

The main object in having a removably secured cover, is to clean the parts thoroughly after being used, as any particles 40 from milk or similar products will soon germinate, which is detrimental to health.

Those covers which are a permanent fixture on a spoon cannot be so thoroughly cleaned as applicant's removable cover.

In Fig. 5, one of the clasps C, is bent backward, exhibiting the edge C²— and also 45 a projecting point C⁴— the latter is designed to engage the recesses formed in the bottom of a spoon, as indicated at *a*, in Fig. 4, of the drawings. It is not absolutely 50 necessary to have the point C⁴, nor the recesses *a*, in the spoon as the friction of the clasps is considered sufficient for holding the cover in a fixed and permanent position.

I do not limit myself to the exact construction as shown, as other devices of a 55 somewhat similar character may be employed and come within the scope of my invention.

Claim.

In combination with a spoon having an 60 oval bowl with a convex under surface, a convex-concave cover smaller than the bowl and adapted to fit in said bowl, the ends of the cover being cut-away to form passages when the cover is in place in the bowl and 65 the sides of the cover snugly engaging the inner side walls of the bowl, and clasps integral with the cover sides, said clasps being curved to fit the edges of the bowl and snugly engage the under convex surface of 70 said bowl, the terminals of the clasps being provided with projections and the under surface of the bowl being provided with recesses to receive the projections.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature 75 in presence of two witnesses.

EPIPHANE THERIAULT.

Witnesses:

ALPHONSE F. MILOT,
WM. THERIAULT.