

Nov. 21, 1944.

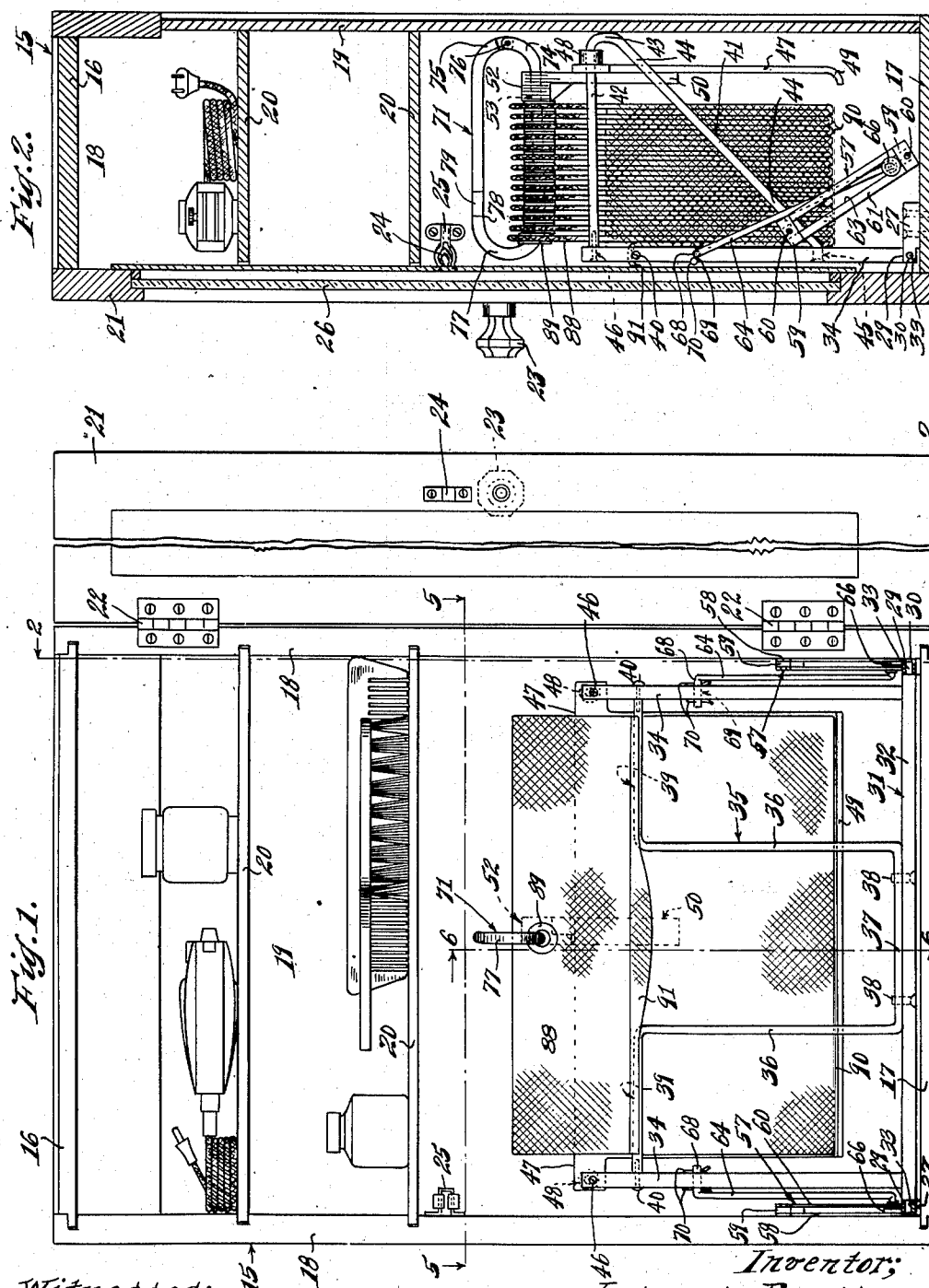
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2,363,149

TOWEL CABINET

Filed Sept. 26, 1941

5 Sheets-Sheet 1



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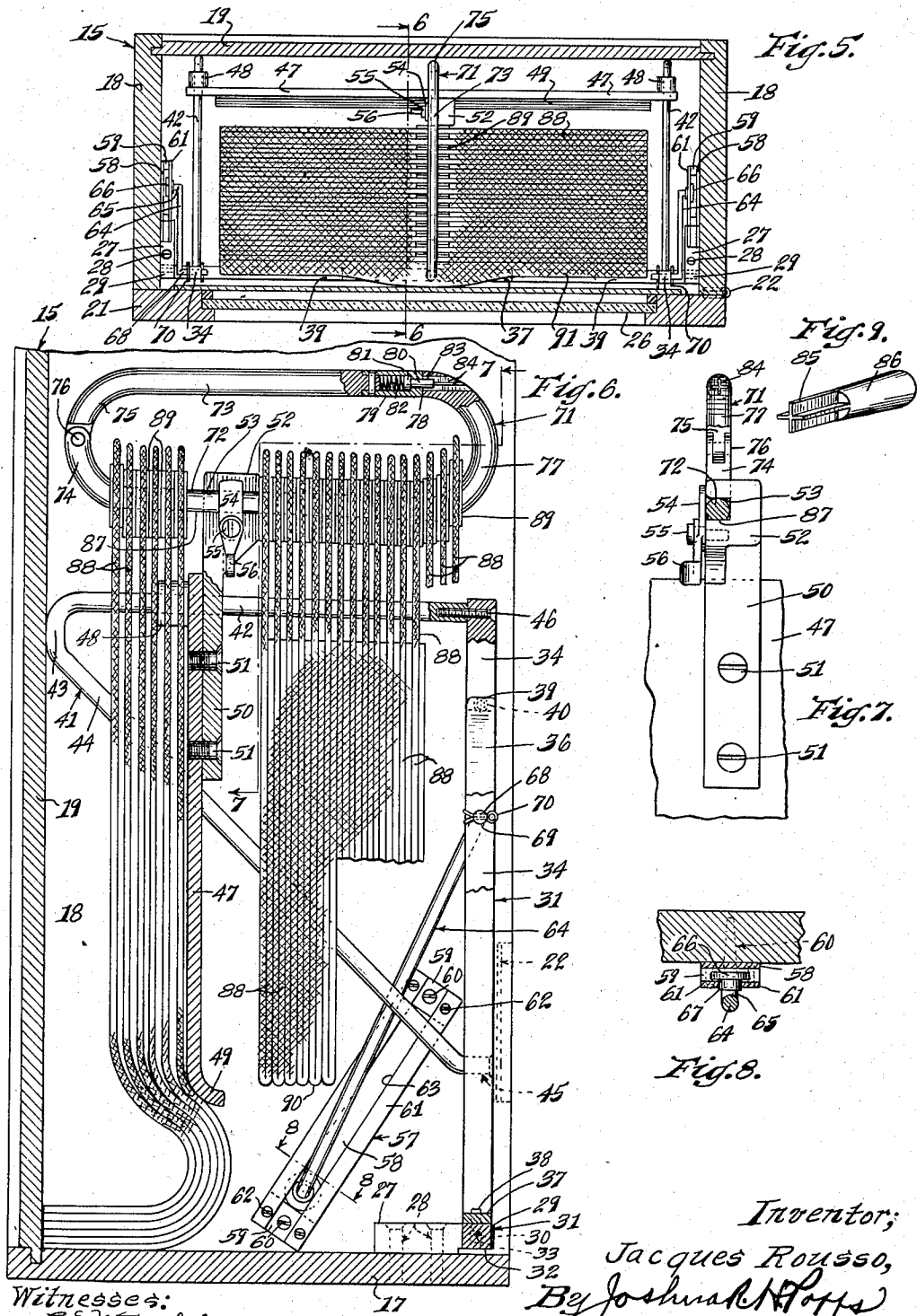
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TOWEL CABINET

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5 Sheets-Sheet 3



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TOWEL CABINET

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5 Sheets-Sheet 4

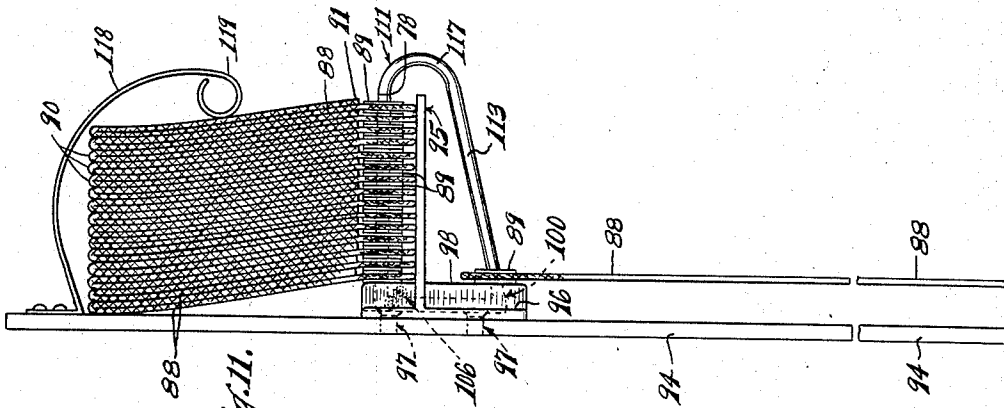


Fig. 11.

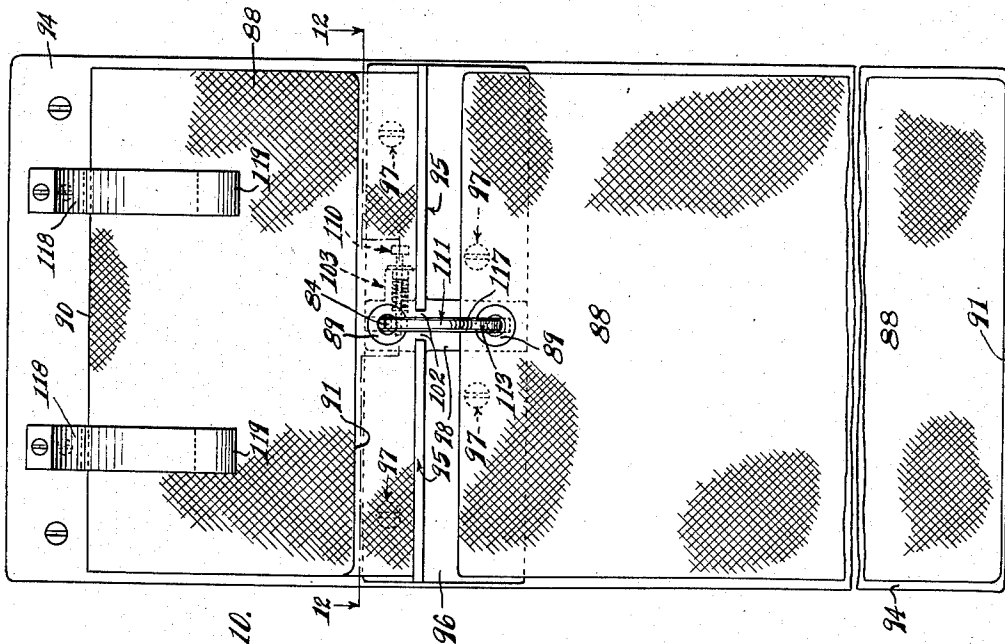


Fig. 10.

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TOWEL CABINET

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5 Sheets-Sheet 5

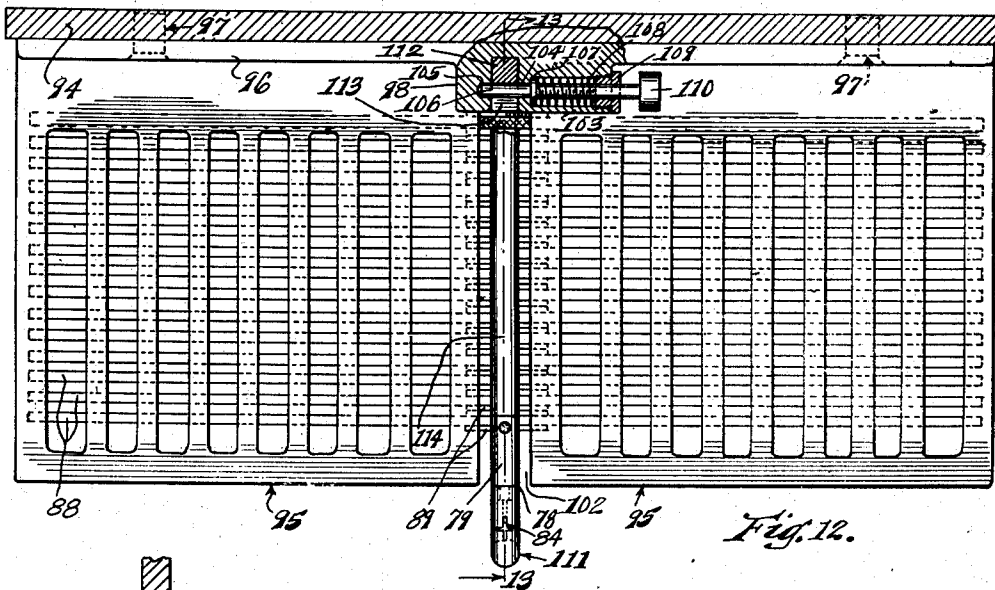


Fig. 12.

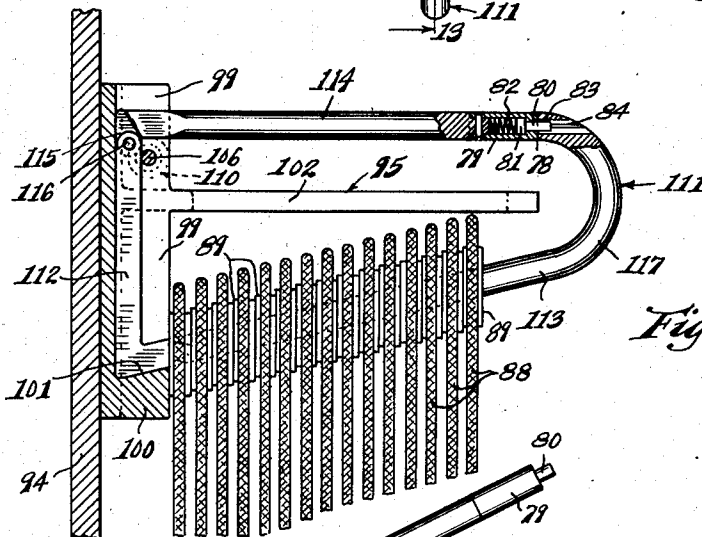


Fig. 13.

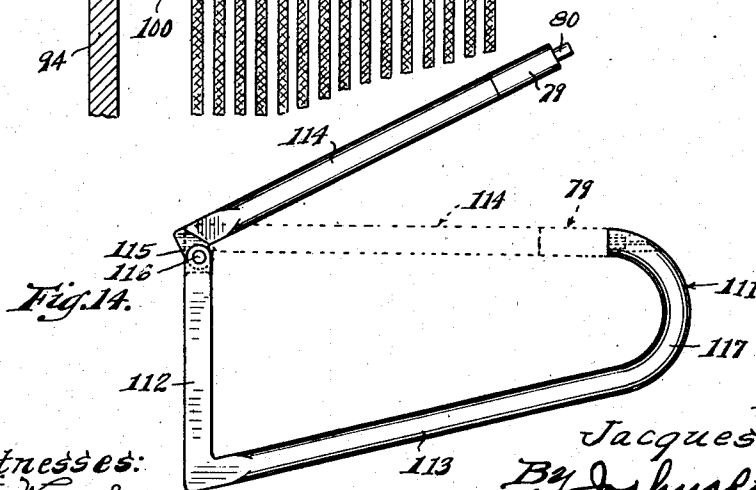


Fig. 14.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,363,149

TOWEL CABINET

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15 Claims. (Cl. 211-6)

My invention relates to towel cabinets or racks adapted to support and hold a plurality of clean individual towels usually arranged in a stack or pack, in convenient position to be easily grasped for use with facility and to permit the used or soiled towels to be moved or slid to an out of the way position and out of contact with the clean towels, after use, to prevent the contamination of the clean towels.

Another object of the invention is to provide a holder or retaining loop for a supply of individual towels to facilitate delivery of the towels from the laundry and mounting thereof for use, as well as removal and return of the same to the laundry without removal or loss of towels from the loop or holder.

Another object is to provide a simple and practical means for compactly supporting and retaining a supply of individual towels in position for use and for moving and supporting the same out of contact with the clean towels after use and for renewing the supply when the same is exhausted.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a novel retaining loop for slidably supporting a supply of clean towels of the individual type and for supporting the same in position for readily accessible and convenient use or to facilitate the use thereof over a wash basin and for storing the same after use, such as in a cabinet, which also serves to store medicines, toilet articles and the like such as a razor, comb and brush, etc., and by which the retaining loop may be easily placed in position for use of the towels or removed as a unit for replacement by a new clean supply and for sliding the individual towels back out of the way after use.

Further objects and advantages will appear and be brought out more fully in the following specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of an individual type of towel cabinet in accordance with the invention and showing the door opened;

Fig. 2 is a vertical section taken on the line 2-2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a vertical section similar to Fig. 2, but showing only the lower portion of the cabinet, with the towel holder swung out and down in position for use of the towels and the relation thereof to a wash basin;

Fig. 4 is a side elevation of one of the towel retaining loops with the towels thereon;

Fig. 5 is a horizontal section taken on the line

5-5 of Fig. 1, but with the door of the cabinet closed;

Fig. 6 is an enlarged vertical section taken on the lines 6-6 of Figs. 1 and 5, after some of the towels have been used and turned back into the rear of the cabinet;

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary vertical section taken on the line 7-7 of Fig. 6;

Fig. 8 is a section taken on the line 8-8 of Fig. 6;

Fig. 9 is a detailed perspective view of a key employed;

Fig. 10 is a front elevation of a modified towel support;

Fig. 11 is a side elevation;

Fig. 12 is an enlarged horizontal section taken on the line 12-12 of Fig. 10 with the towels used and swung down;

Fig. 13 is a vertical section taken on the line 13-13 of Fig. 12; and

Fig. 14 is a detailed side elevation of one of the towel retaining loops as employed in the modified form, in open position.

Referring more particularly to the drawings and the form shown in Figs. 1 to 9, inclusive, the device may be housed within a cabinet 15 having a top wall 16, a bottom wall 17, sides 18 and a back 19. The bottom 17 constitutes an elevated horizontal shelf or support adapted to be placed in a conveniently accessible position for use inside or outside of a wash cabinet or closet or over a wash basin and the back 19 constitutes an upright support which may conveniently be a wall. The cabinet is shown provided with shelves 20 adapted to support suitable toilet articles or accessories such as shown. The cabinet is shown provided with a front door 21 hinged as at 22 and having a handle or knob 23 on the outside and a projection 24 on the inside designed to engage a catch or keeper 25 fastened to one of the side walls 18 and may have a mirror 26 at the front.

The bottom or horizontal support 17 supports a pair of bearings 27 shown in the form of metal blocks fastened to the bottom adjacent the sides as by means of screws 28 and having reduced ends 29 spaced from the bottom adjacent the door and provided with bearing sockets 30 at the inside. A supporting frame 31 adapted to swing vertically on a horizontal axis is pivoted in the bearings 27, and for this purpose, has a bottom cross bar 32 with reduced pivot trunnions 33 at the ends bearing in the sockets 30. At the sides of the frame are uprights 34 mounted on the cross bar 32 adjacent the ends thereof

and having a slotted front member or frame 35 with a central-depending U-shaped portion or frame 36 forming spaced sides or legs with a slot or opening in the center and having its bight or bottom portion 37 anchored as at 38 to the cross bar 32. The upper ends of the front member or frame 35, that is the vertical legs 36, extend outwardly as at 39 and connect to the uprights 34 as at 40 but below the upper ends thereof. Substantially V-shaped or angular side members 41 are provided on the uprights 34 and form abutments to engage the back or upright support 19 to limit the swinging movement of the pivoted frame to an upright position and form guiding and retaining means for the towels at the vertical side edges thereof. The side members 41 have substantially horizontal upper portions or guide bars 42 which, however, are preferably inclined slightly forwardly and are then bent as at 43 to form angular abutment portions adapted to engage the upright support or back wall 19 when the supporting frame 31 is raised to a vertical position while the lower portions are inclined forwardly as indicated at 44 and anchored horizontally to the upright side members 34 as indicated at 45. This connection may be made through holes in the uprights 34 and then by upsetting the ends of the horizontally extended portions at the lower ends of the inclined portions 44 and fastening the upper ends detachably as by means of screws 46. An upright separator plate 47 is slidably mounted on the forwardly inclined portions 42 which serve as a substantially horizontal support and guides therefor, and, for this purpose, the plate 47 is preferably provided with apertured bosses 48 forming bearing sleeves to slide on the portions 42 without binding. The lower edge of the plate 47 may be curved forwardly as indicated at 49. An upright supporting bar or post 50 is provided on or secured to the plate 47, as indicated at 51, and extends above the portions 42 and the top edge of the plate 47. This post has a forwardly inclined supporting arm 52 at its upper end and is disposed off center laterally and provided with a forwardly inclined squared recess 53 in one side open toward the center and forming a substantially rectangular seat for a towel retaining unit to be later described. A latch 54 closes the recess 53 and may be pivoted on the post 50 as indicated at 55 and provided with a finger piece 56 at its lower end by which it may be manipulated while the upper portion extends across the recess 53 and may be swung down to open the same.

Slide brackets 57 in the form of slotted guides or guideways are mounted on the opposite sides 18 and each consists of a wear plate 58 with spacing blocks 59 adjacent the upper and lower ends thereof. The slide brackets, and thus the plates, are disposed in inclined positions and the plates and spacing blocks are secured to the sides 18 as by means of screws 60, the blocks forming stops, as will be subsequently described. Spaced parallel guide strips 61 are mounted on the plates against the inner faces of the blocks 59 and secured thereto as indicated at 62, thus forming guide slots 63 therebetween. Links 64 have out-turned lower ends 65 providing pivot trunnions engaged in the slots 63 and are adapted to slide therein. These ends are provided with flanged collars or enlargements 66 which ride in the spaces between the strips 61 and the plate 58 limited by the stop blocks 59 and having hubs 67 at the slots 63. The upper ends of the links

64 are turned inwardly as at 68 and engage bores 69 in the uprights 34 where they are held as by means of cotter pins 70.

The retaining units for a supply of individual towels each consists of an elongated continuous or endless loop or separable link 71, the lower portion 72 of which is inclined forwardly parallel to the guide bars 42 and an upper portion or section 73. The lower section 72 has a curved end 74 and the upper section 73 has a similar curved end 75 which curved ends are hinged or pivotally connected as at 76, and the forward end of the lower section 72 is curved upwardly as indicated at 77 meeting the end portion of the upper section 73 as at 78. A sleeve 79 is pinned or otherwise mounted or formed on the reduced forward end of the section 73 and has a reduced bore in its free end through which a plunger 80 is adapted to operate. This plunger has an enlargement 81 at its inner end to engage an internal end shoulder within the end of the sleeve and prevent displacement of the plunger therefrom under the action of a compression spring 82 mounted in the sleeve to force the plunger outwardly. The meeting end of the curved portion 77 has a pocket or latch recess 83 with a suitable key slot 84 adapted to take the bit 85 of a key 86 for depressing the plunger and permitting the loop or link 71 to be opened. The lower section 72 of the loop is preferably provided with one or more flat sides 87, particularly at the bottom, or may be of squared or other polygonal cross section to engage the squared recess 53 and support the loop in an upright position, as well as to prevent turning thereof. The loop is designed to take a supply of individual towels 88 having eyelets or grommets 89 by which the towels are slidably mounted on the loop. These towels are preferably folded upwardly as indicated at 90, so that their free edges 91 may hang over the upper portions 39 of the frame 35 and at the center opening or slot between the portions 36 so as to be readily grasped and pulled down through the slot for use. By having the supporting frame 31 pivotally mounted to swing forwardly to an inclined position as indicated in Fig. 3 of the drawings, the device is adapted for convenient accessibility and use over a wash basin 92 having the usual faucets 93. When this is done, the front towel is used and the frame 31 swings forwardly on the pivots 33 with the lower ends of the links 64 riding in the slots 63 until the flanges or enlargements 66 engage the upper ends of the guideways formed by the stop blocks 59 to limit the swinging movement and support the device in the inclined position shown in Fig. 3. After use of the towel, the latter is slid over the top section 73 after passing over the curved portion 77 and the meeting ends of the sections to ride down the curved portions 75 and 74 to the lower portion or section 72 where it is suspended in back of the separator 47 out of contact with the clean towels, thereby preventing contamination of the latter. This position is shown more particularly in Fig. 6 of the drawings with the towels resting on the bottom 17 of the cabinet forming the horizontal shelf or support. It will also be observed that as the towel supply is used up by withdrawing the clean towels from the front and depositing the same at the rear, the separator plate 47 will ride forwardly on the forwardly inclined guides 42 with the supporting post 50 moving forwardly on the lower section 72 of the loop 71 which is held against movement by the front

and back walls of the cabinet, until the entire supply is used up and all of the soiled towels are deposited at the back. When it is desired to renew the supply of clean towels, one of the loops with the towels thereon assembled at the laundry is delivered as a unit. The delivery man has no access to the individual towels since the key is retained at the laundry, and thus the towels cannot be removed from the loop. He merely removes a unit by opening the latch 54 which releases the loop and permits the insertion of another one with a clean towel supply thereon and returns the soiled towel unit to the laundry where the towels may be removed by inserting the key 86 to permit the loop to be opened and the towels removed therefrom for laundering. The pivoting of the towel support or holder also facilitates the placing and removal of the units but it is not necessary to move the holder out of the cabinet to a forwardly inclined position in order to use the towels.

In the modified form shown in Figs. 10 to 14, inclusive, an upright support or wall 94 is provided corresponding to the back 19 of the cabinet and may be a board or plate or used with a cabinet. The horizontal shelf or support is indicated at 95 from which the upright support may depend and this shelf may be in the form of an open or reticulated frame, or otherwise, and rigidly mounted on the upright support. A bracket plate 96 may be secured to the upright support as indicated at 97 and has a vertical rib 98 in the center with a vertical slot 99 having a bottom lug or wall 100 closing the same and forming a rearwardly inclined seat 101. The horizontal support or shelf 95 has a central slot 102 in front of the slot 99 and the bracket plate 96 is provided with suitable means for detachably holding a towel unit in position. As shown, this means is in the form of a cylinder counter-bored portion or housing 103 at one side of the rib 98 and having a reduced bore 104 in one wall of the rib 98 communicating with the slot 99 and an opposed registering socket 105 in the opposite wall of the slot 99. A spring-pressed pin, bolt or plunger 106 extends through the cylinder and is designed to engage through the bore 104 and with the socket 105. This plunger 106 has an enlargement or flange 107 limiting its inward movement under the action of a compression spring 108 disposed in the cylinder between the flange or enlargement 107 and a screw collar or aperture plug 109 in the outer end of the cylinder with the plunger extending therefrom and designed to adjust the tension of the spring. The plunger has an operating head or finger piece 110 by which it may be released.

The towel unit includes a separable loop or link 111 corresponding to the loop 71 but of slightly modified form. The loop 111 is shown provided with a vertical portion 112 which is rectilinear and of square or other polygonal cross section to fit in the slot or groove 99 in back of the plunger 106. The lower section of the loop 111 is rigid with the portion 112 and inclined as at 113 and the end thereof, which engages the seat 101, is also preferably of rectangular cross section. In this instance, the portion 113 is inclined rearwardly instead of forwardly as is the portion 72 in the previously described form and the top section 114 has a depending end 115 pivoted at 116 to the upper end of the vertical portion 112. The forward portion of the bottom section 113 is curved upwardly as indicated at 117 and the meeting ends of the

sections 113 and 114 at the top are separably joined or detachably connected in the same manner as previously described in connection with the loop 71 and the parts thereof at such point are designated by the same reference characters. The clean towel supply units are thus detachably mounted, the towels 88 having the eyelets or grommets 89 slidably mounted on the loop 111, but extending upwardly as indicated in Figs. 10 and 11 of the drawings and folded downwardly as indicated at 90 so that the ends 91 are freely accessible above the shelf to draw the towel outwardly from the upper to the lower section of the loop 111 on the curved portion 117 when in use. Upon release of the towels after use, they ride down the inclined lower section 113 and are suspended out of contact with the clean towels. If desired, a follower, such as spring arms 118, may be mounted against the upright support 94 above the towels 88 with curved ends 119 pressing against the front of the towel supply to retain them in position. In each instance, a stack or pack of towels is mounted on a loop which is separable in order to mount the towels in furnishing a clean supply which are handled as separate units and to permit removal of the soiled towels for laundering, thus not only providing a compact arrangement, but also facilitating the mounting, use and removal of the towels without being unsightly in appearance, whether housed in a cabinet, or not. In replacing a supply of towels in the form shown in Figs. 10 to 14, inclusive, it is only necessary to withdraw the plunger 106 from the socket 105 and from in front of the vertical portion 112 to permit removal of the loop and soiled towels therewith so that another loop with a supply of clean towels thereon may be placed in position and held in the manner described.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred form of construction for carrying my invention into effect, this is capable of variation and modification without departing from the spirit of the invention. I, therefore, do not wish to be limited to the precise details of construction set forth, but desire to avail myself of such variations and modifications as come within the scope of the appended claims.

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

1. A towel supply means including a continuous elongated loop adapted to mount individual towels thereon and means to slidably support said loop on edge.

2. In a towel supply means, a towel holder for individual towels having grommets including an endless separable loop arranged vertically on edge and means to slidably support said loop on one side against turning, said side being inclined forwardly.

3. In a towel retaining means for individual towels having eyelets, an upright support, a separable elongated continuous loop smooth throughout its continuity slidably mounted at one side on said support with its long sides at the top and bottom to slidably mount the towels thereon.

4. In a towel retaining means for individual towels having eyelets, an upright support, a separable elongated loop slidably and releasably mounted at one long side on said support so as to be readily releasable bodily and with its long sides at the top and bottom to slidably mount the towels thereon and means to prevent said loop from tilting to either side.

5. In a towel retaining means, a horizontal support, a frame pivoted on the support and adapted to swing from an upright to a forwardly inclined position and having means to limit the movement of the frame in the latter position and a horizontally elongated separable towel supporting loop detachably mounted at one side on the top of the frame in an inclined position.

6. In a towel retaining means, a horizontal support, a frame pivoted on the support and adapted to swing from an upright to a forwardly inclined position, said frame having means to limit said movements, a follower slidably mounted on the frame and an elongated loop mounted on the follower and having separable portions to slidably mount individual towels thereon through the medium of eyelets.

7. In a towel support, a slotted member, a loop supported in said member on edge and having separable portions, said towels being slidable on the loop and adapted to be drawn through said slot, the soiled towels being separated from the clean towels after use.

8. A towel supply means including a horizontal shelf and an upright support, a frame pivoted on the shelf and adapted to swing forwardly to an inclined position, means to support the frame when swung forwardly, means to detachably mount a separable loop on the frame, means to slidably mount towels on said loop and means for separating clean towels from soiled towels.

9. A towel supply means including a horizontal shelf and an upright support, a frame pivoted on the shelf and adapted to swing forwardly to an inclined position, means to limit the forward movement of the frame, means to detachably mount a separable loop on the frame, said loop being elongated horizontally and slidable relative to the frame and being supported on edge, the towels being folded and adapted to be slid from one portion of the loop to another portion thereof when used.

10. A towel supply means including a horizontal shelf and an upright support, a frame pivoted on the shelf and adapted to swing forwardly to an inclined position, means to limit the forward movement of the frame and support the same in its forward position, means to detachably mount a separable loop on the frame, said loop being mounted in an inclined position and adapted to automatically move the tow-

els to one position as used upon drawing a clean towel.

11. A towel supporting means including an upright support, a horizontal support and a loop having elongated sides arranged with its elongated sides above and below the horizontal support and comprising hinged sections with meeting ends, key operated means joining said ends, one side of the loop being adapted to receive a supply of a clean towels for sliding movement thereon to the other side after use.

12. A towel supply and supporting means including a slotted member and an elongated loop supported in and adjacent said member and comprising hinged sections, key operated means for joining and releasing said sections, said loop designed to slidably mount towels thereon having eyelets to be drawn through said slotted member and slid to another portion of the loop after use.

13. A towel rack, including an elongated substantially horizontally separable loop for slidably receiving and retaining a stack of individual towels with eyelets, means to support the loop in a vertical position elongated horizontally, and a slotted member arranged in juxtaposition to the loop and through which slot the towels are drawn for use, said loop adapting said towels to be slid to an out of the way position after use.

14. A towel holder including an elongated loop comprising hinged sections having abutting free ends, a bottom portion and a flat portion, key-operated release means connecting said ends longitudinally thereof, and a support having an inclined polygonal recess slidably fitting said bottom portion for free sliding movement and supporting the same in an inclined position, said loop adapted to slidably receive and mount individual towels by means of eyelets, and said towels being adapted to automatically slide forwardly on the inclined bottom portion toward one end of the loop as the towels are used and turned on the loop to the other side of the support.

15. In a towel supply device, a continuous loop for holding a plurality of grommeted towels, said loop formed of a pair of hinged sections having abutting ends and a key controlled lock securing said abutting ends, in combination with a partition to separate the used and unused towels, and means connected to said partition for releasably holding said loop in position.

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