M. B. TURNER.

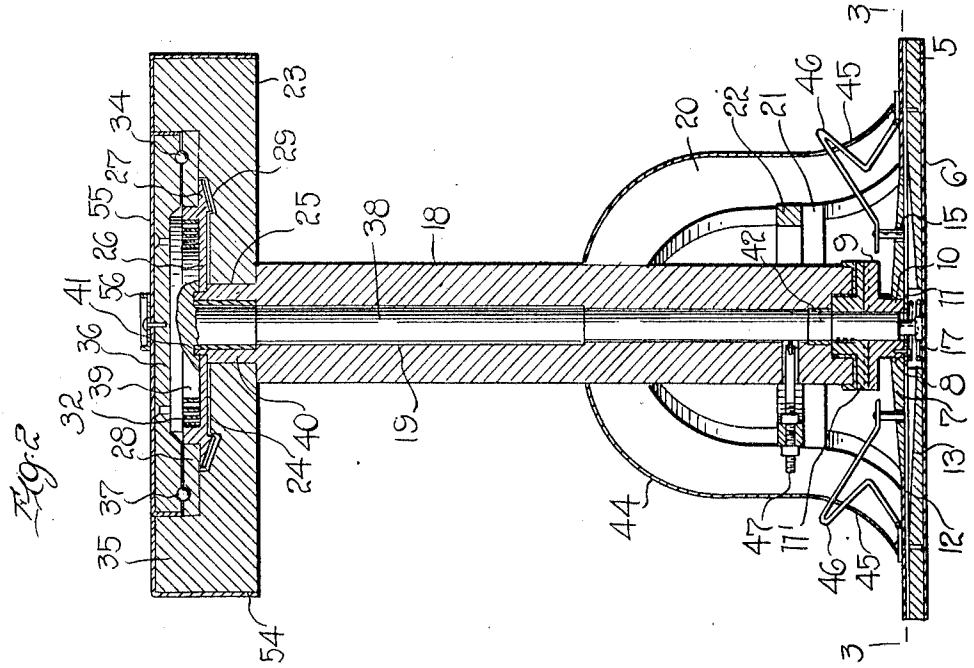
TABLE.

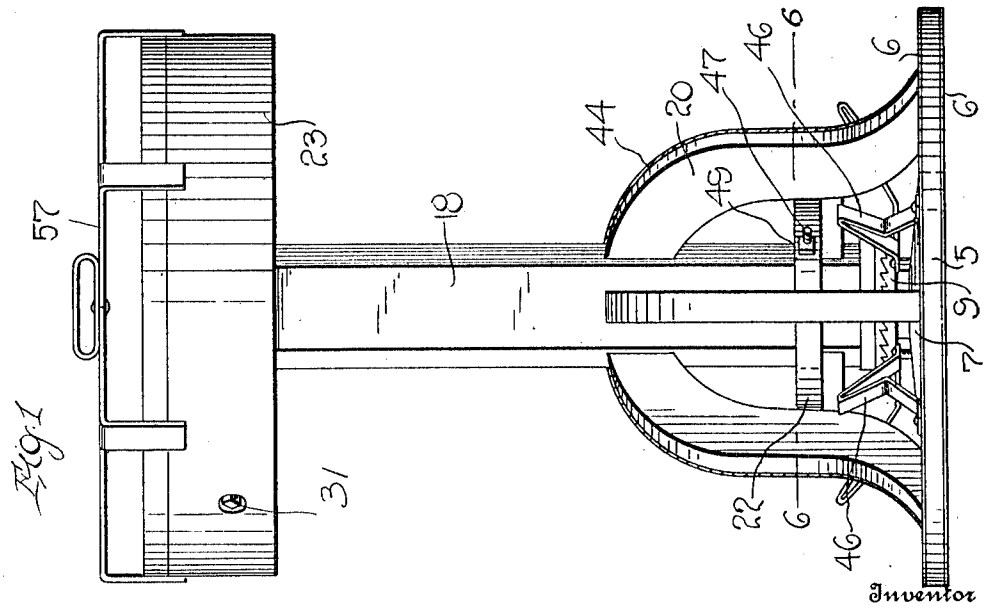
APPLICATION FILED APR. 11, 1914.

1,118,851.

Patented Nov. 24, 1914.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.





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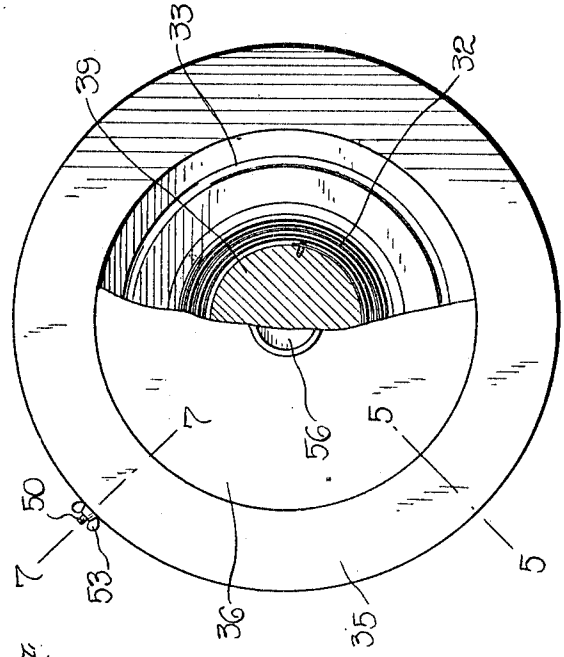

Fig. 4

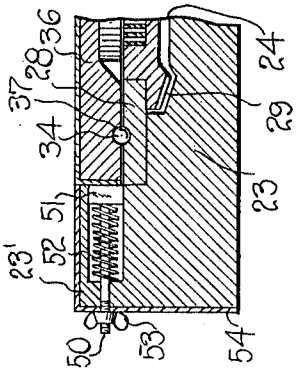

Fig. 7

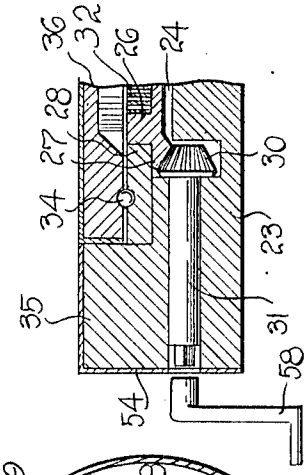

Fig. 5

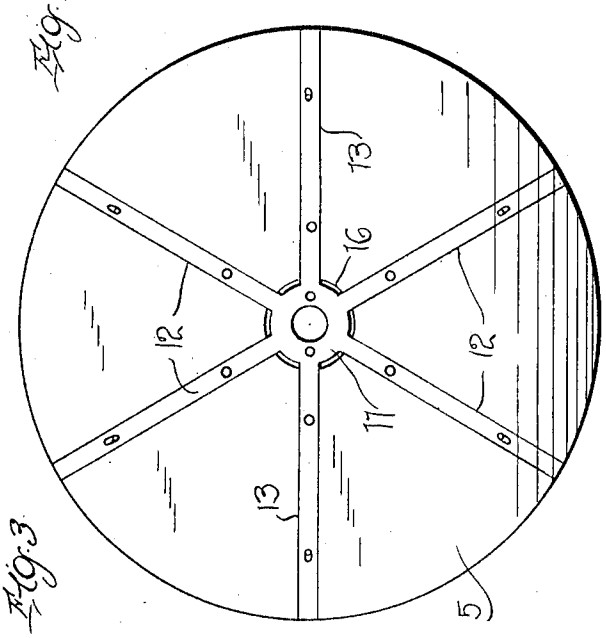

Fig. 3

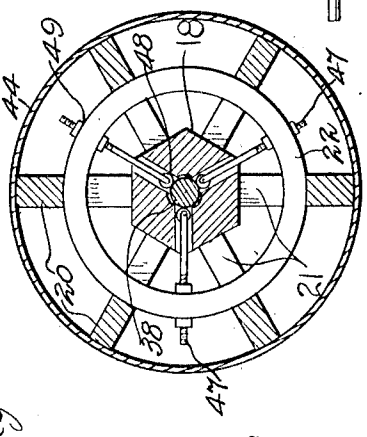

Fig. 6

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MONROE B. TURNER, OF FALCO, ALABAMA.

TABLE.

1,118,851. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Nov. 24, 1914.

Application filed April 11, 1914. Serial No. 831,226.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MONROE B. TURNER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Falco, in the county of Covington and State of Alabama, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Tables, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to tables and has for its primary object to provide an improved dining table provided with certain structural characteristics whereby the dishes containing the viands may be positioned within easy reach of the diner.

In its more specific aspect the invention provides a table top embodying a spring actuated rotary central member and a stationary outer circumscribing ring or leaf, and means releasable by any one of a number of persons seated at the table which normally locks the central portion of the table top against rotation under the action of its spring.

The invention has for a still further object to provide a central rotary top section for the table having a rod connected thereto extending through the hollow pedestal of the table, a ratchet disk mounted in the table base and yieldingly held in locked engagement with a disk on said rod, and additional means in the base of the table and operable by the foot of the diner to release the last named ratchet disk from engagement with said first named disk whereby the table top may be rotated.

The invention has for another object to provide adjustable means for regulating the speed of rotation of the table top under the action of its spring.

The invention has for another object to generally improve and simplify the construction of tables of the above character whereby their convenience and serviceability is greatly increased without materially adding to the cost of manufacture thereof.

With the above and other objects in view as will become apparent as the description proceeds, the invention consists in certain constructions, combinations and arrangements of the parts that I shall hereinafter fully describe and claim.

For a full understanding of the invention, reference is to be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation, the housing being shown in section, of a table constructed in accordance with the preferred embodiment of my invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical section therethrough. Fig. 3 is a section taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a top plan view partly in section. Fig. 5 is a section taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4. Fig. 6 is a section taken on the line 6—6 of Fig. 1. Fig. 7 is a section taken on the line 7—7 of Fig. 4.

Referring in detail to the drawings, 5 indicates a wood base of the table to the upper and lower surfaces of which the annular plates 6 of zinc or other metal are secured. A disk 7 is centrally secured upon the wood base 5 and is provided with a central rectangular opening 8 to receive the similarly shaped shank 10 of a ratchet disk 9. This shank is fixed upon the central portion of a spider 11, the radial arms 12 of which are seated in grooves 13 provided in the upper face of the wood base 5. To each of these arms the lower end of a pin 14 is fixed, said pins projecting upwardly and being loosely movable in openings 15 formed in the disk 7. The wood base 5 is also formed with a central circular opening 16 into which the inner ends of the grooves 13 open. In this opening 16 a coil spring 17 is arranged, said spring bearing at one of its ends upon the bottom plate 6 on the under side of the base 5 and engaging at its other end with the spider 12. It will thus be apparent that this spring acting against the spider normally forces the ratchet disk 11 upwardly.

The pedestal 18 of the table may be of any desired form in cross section, and said pedestal is provided with a central longitudinal bore indicated at 19. This pedestal is supported by means of a plurality of legs 20 which have their lower ends suitably fixed upon the table base. Radially extending bars 21 connect said legs intermediate of their ends to the table pedestal and brace the same. Upon these radial bars the annulus 22 is secured, the particular purpose of which will be later explained.

The table top includes a body portion 23 which is centrally provided with a circular recess 24 in its upper face, with which the

rectangular opening 25 extending through said body communicates. In the recess 24, the cup member 26 is arranged, said member being provided with a flange 27 extending beneath a retaining flange 28 formed upon the body 23 of the table top. At its outer edge, the lower face of this cup member is provided with an annular series of rack teeth 29 for engagement by a pinion 30 which is fixed upon the inner end of a rod or shaft 31 suitably mounted in the table top. In the cup member 26 a spiral spring 32 is arranged, one end of said spring being fixed to the annular wall of the cup member. In the upper surface of the body 23 of the table top an annular race way 33 is formed to receive the bearing balls indicated at 34 and an annular marginal rim 35 is also secured upon the upper surface of said body.

36 designates the rotary section of the table top which is also provided in its bottom face with an annular race way 37 to receive the bearing balls 34. To this rotary section of the table top the upper end of the rod 38 is fixed, said rod being provided with a cylindrical enlargement 39 which is adapted to be received within the cup member 26 and to which the other end of the spring 33 is secured. The upper end of the table pedestal 18 is provided with a rectangular portion 40 to be received within the square opening 25 in the stationary body of the table top, and above this rectangular portion the pedestal is also provided with a cylindrical portion 41 for engagement in an opening formed in the base of the rotary cup member 26. The bore of the hollow pedestal is provided with metallic bearing sleeves with which similar sleeves 42 on the rod 38 engage. The rod 38 extends through the ratchet disks 9 and 11′, the disk 11′ being secured in any suitable manner upon said rod. The lower end of the rod is conically formed in a step bearing plate secured to the metallic bottom plate 6 on the table base.

The table legs 20 are connected by means of a sheet metal plate, preferably of zinc indicated at 44. This plate is provided between the table legs with openings 45 to accommodate the foot levers 46 which are pivotally mounted upon the base of the table at one of their ends and connected at their other ends to the upwardly extending pins 15. It will be apparent that as these pins are connected to the arms of the spider 11 by simply engaging one of the levers with the foot and pressing inwardly upon the same, the spider will be forced downwardly against the action of the spring 17 thereby disengaging the ratchet disk 10 from the disk 11′ on the lower end of the rod 38. The spiral spring 32 by its expansive action will then rotate the circular portion 36 of the table top as will be readily understood. When the desired dish is positioned opposite to the diner the pressure of the foot upon the lever 46 is released so that the ratchet 10 again engages the disk 11′ and locks the circular top section against further turning movement.

In order to regulate the speed of rotation of the rotatable top section of the table under the action of the spring 32, I provide the adjustable rods 47 which are mounted in the annulus 22. These rods extend through openings in the lower end of the hollow pedestal 18 and are provided with rollers 48 for bearing engagment upon the rod 38. Nuts 49 are threaded upon the outer ends of these rods for engagement with opposite sides of the annulus 22 to secure said rods in their adjusted positions and thereby regulate the pressure of the rollers on the inner ends of said arms against the rotatable rod 38. In this manner it will be appreciated that the speed of rotation of the table top section may be regulated as desired. I have also provided means for positively locking the circular table top section against rotation. To this end, a rod 50 is loosely mounted in the marginal top section 35 of the top of the table and is provided upon its inner end with the head 51. A spring 52 is arranged upon said rod and bears at one of its ends against the head to force the same inwardly into frictional binding engagement with the periphery of the rotatable table top section. Upon the outer end of this rod a wing nut 53 is arranged whereby the rod may be moved outwardly by the adjustment of said nut upon the rod to release the top section for rotary movement.

The outer edge or periphery of the stationary section of the table top is preferably covered with sheet zinc indicated at 54, while the central rotary section of the table top is covered with a sheet of aluminum 55. A suitable lamp seat or support indicated at 56 is centrally secured upon this aluminum sheet. When the table is not in use, a suitable guard frame shown at 57 is arranged over the rotary central top section and rests upon the outer stationary marginal section of the table.

A suitable crank 58 is provided with the table for operating the pinion 30 to rotate the spring containing cup member 26 to wind the operating spring.

From the above description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, it is believed that the construction, manner of operation and several advantages of my improved table will be readily and fully understood. The central rotary section of the table top may be easily and quickly released for rotation under the action of its operating spring by simply pressing upon any one of the several foot levers, thus enabling a diner to easily reach any one of the several dishes

contained upon said movable table section. It will of course be understood that the outer stationary section of the table may be of any desired width, and the rotatable section of various diameters.

The device as a whole is extremely simple in its construction, and may be shipped in a knocked down condition and the parts thereof readily assembled for proper operation by the consignee without necessitating the employment of skilled labor. While I have shown and described the preferred construction and arrangement of the several elements employed it is to be borne in mind that the invention is not limited to such specific structural details but may be variously modified within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. The combination of a table base, a hollow pedestal mounted thereon, a rotatable top mounted upon the upper end of said pedestal, a rod fixed in said table top and rotatable in the hollow pedestal, a ratchet disk fixed upon the lower end of said rod, a spring pressed ratchet disk centrally mounted for vertical movement in the base and normally engaged with the disk on said rod to lock the table top against rotation, means for positively rotating said table top upon the release of the locking means, and manually operable means mounted wholly within the table base and coöperating with said second named ratchet disk whereby the same may be moved out of locking engagement with the ratchet disk on said rod to release the table top for rotary movement.

2. The combination of a table base, a hollow pedestal mounted thereon, a rotatable top mounted upon the upper end of said pedestal, a rod fixed to said table top and rotatable in the hollow pedestal, a ratchet disk fixed upon the lower end of said rod, a spring pressed ratchet disk centrally mounted in the base for vertical movement and normally engaged with the disk on said rod to lock the table top against rotation, means for positively rotating said table top upon the release of the locking means, a spring member mounted wholly within the table base and fixed to the same at one of its ends, the other end of said member being connected to the latter ratchet disk, and manually operable means mounted upon the table base and connected to said spring member to actuate the same and move the ratchet disk out of engagement with the disk on said rod to release the table top for rotary movement.

3. The combination of a table base, a hollow pedestal mounted thereon, a rotatable table top mounted upon the upper end of said pedestal, a rod fixed to said table top and rotatable in the hollow pedestal, a ratchet disk fixed upon the lower end of said rod, a spring pressed ratchet disk mounted in the base and normally engaged with the disk on said rod to lock the table top against rotation, means for positively rotating said table top upon the release of the locking means, a spider arranged in the table base and secured to the ratchet disk therein, a pin fixed to each arm of the spider and projecting upwardly through the table base, and a plurality of foot levers mounted upon the table base and engaging the respective pins whereby, upon the operation of any one of said levers, the ratchet disk in the base is moved out of locking engagement with the disk on said rod to release the table top for rotary movement.

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

M. B. TURNER.

Witnesses:
J. N. CHESTNUT,
J. D. STEWART.