

M. M. LOORAM.

RECEPTACLE.

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1,014,601.

Patented Jan. 9, 1912.

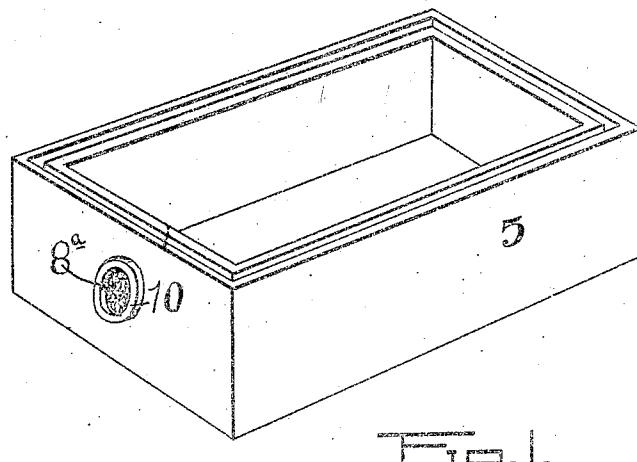


Fig. 1.

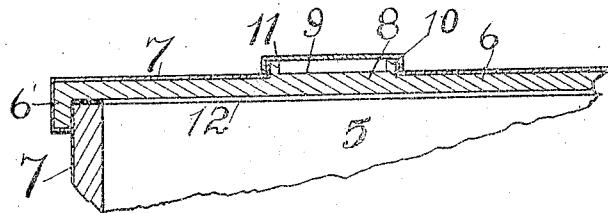


Fig. 2.

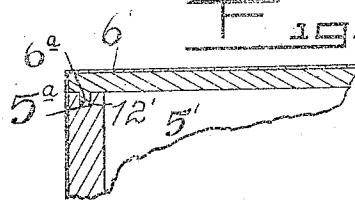


Fig. 3.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MATTHEW M. LOORAM, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## RECEPTACLE.

1,014,601.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 9, 1912.

Application filed November 28, 1911. Serial No. 662,834.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MATTHEW M. LOORAM, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Receptacles, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to special moisture conserving receptacles, the object of the invention being to provide a receptacle in which articles to be maintained in a moist or humid condition may be placed, and one in which the degree of moisture may be ascertained at any time without the necessity of removing the cover of the receptacle.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a device of the character above indicated in which the additional moisture may be readily supplied when desired without exposing the contents of the receptacle to the atmosphere.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of a device of the character set forth, the exterior walls of which comprise glazed and unglazed portions, which by virtue of the fact that they are glazed and unglazed are respectively impervious to moisture and moisture absorbent. The proportion of the glazed to the unglazed area may be varied at will, it being apparent that the area of the unglazed portion relative to the glazed portions will determine the rate of evaporation. Since an unglazed or absorbent earthenware surface becomes darker when thoroughly moistened, it is apparent that the shade of the exposed unglazed areas will indicate to the user the presence or absence of moisture within the receptacle. It is also intended to provide means for controlling the rate of evaporation from the unglazed areas as hereinafter set forth.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will be set forth in the detailed description which now follows.

In the accompanying drawing Figure 1 is a perspective view with the cover removed of a receptacle constructed in accordance with the invention and adapted to receive the cover shown in Fig. 3. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of a slightly modified form of receptacle, and Fig. 3 is a sectional view illustrating a seal between the cover and the body of the receptacle.

Like numerals designate corresponding parts in all of the figures of the drawing.

Referring to the drawing numeral 5 designates a receptacle which may be of any size and shape, and which may have a cover 6 of any form. The exterior faces of portions of walls of the receptacle are glazed, as at 7, but at some point, either in the body of the receptacle as shown in Fig. 1, or in the cover thereof, as shown in Fig. 2, I provide an unglazed moisture absorbent portion 8 with its outer face 9 exposed to the atmosphere. There may be one or more of these unglazed portions, and their area may vary at will. Preferably, these unglazed portions are surrounded by an upstanding flange 10, upon which a cap 11 is adapted to fit, though it is to be understood that these flanges and caps may be omitted when desired.

The cover shown in Fig. 2 is provided with a, preferably, rubber band 12, which, when the cover is fitted in position upon the body portion 5 with a flange 6' of the cover 80 fitting down over said body portion, rests upon the upper edge of the body portion to form an air-tight seal about the upper edge of said body portion.

Instead of the seal just described, a seal 85 such as is shown in Fig. 3 and adapted to serve the same purposes, may be employed. In this case the body 5' is provided with a groove 5<sup>a</sup> about its upper edge, in which is seated a felt or rubber air excluding band 90 12'. The cover, 6', is provided with a depending flange 6<sup>a</sup> which enters the recess 5<sup>a</sup> and bears upon the band 12' in order to provide an air-tight seal, as above described.

The upstanding flange 10 serves the double 95 function of receiving the air excluding cap 11 and of retaining water poured upon the unglazed face 9 of the moisture absorbent portion 8, such water being gradually absorbed by the moisture absorbent portion 8. 100 In Fig. 1, the moisture absorbent portion indicated at 8<sup>a</sup> is indicated in the end wall of said receptacle, instead of at the top, but the principle of operation is the same.

It will be understood that the receptacle 105 may have a number of glazed and unglazed areas, and the unglazed areas may be proportioned relatively to the glazed areas so as to regulate the amount of moisture to be given off or exuded and the rate or relative 110 rapidity of such exudation; also that the glazed areas will act as reservoirs to retain

moisture as it is given off by the unglazed areas. It is also apparent that the degree or extent of moisture absorbed and retained will be indicated by the change of color or shade of the unglazed areas as such color or shade deepens with an increase of moisture absorbed, and lightens as absorbed moisture is given off or exudes, and thus indicates the relative humidity of the receptacle and its contents.

From the foregoing description it will be seen that in a structure constructed as herein described, the humidity of the contents of the receptacle may be varied at will. By placing the cap 11 in position, moisture is retained, by removing the cap, moisture is permitted to more rapidly escape, while by employing receptacles of any nature in which the areas of the glazed and unglazed portions respectively vary, the humidity of the contents may be still further controlled. It is to be understood, however, that the invention is not limited to the precise structure set forth, and that I do not limit myself to any precise form, size or shape or nature of receptacle, but that upon the contrary, the invention includes within its purview such changes as may be made within the scope of the appended claims.

Having described my invention what I claim is:

1. A receptacle of porous material with glazed and unglazed areas on its surface, the unglazed areas adapted to absorb moisture and give off the same and indicate by the change in color the extent of absorption of such moisture, and the glazed areas serving as reservoirs for absorbed moisture.

2. A receptacle of porous material with integral bottom and sides having glazed and unglazed areas on its surface, the unglazed areas being adapted to absorb moisture and give off the same and indicate by the change in color the extent of absorption of such moisture and the glazed areas serving as reservoirs for absorbed moisture.

3. A receptacle of porous material with glazed and unglazed areas on its surface one of such unglazed areas being surrounded by an upstanding integral flange, and a removable cover fitting such flange.

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

MATTHEW M. LOORAM.

Witnesses:

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