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FOOD DISPENSER

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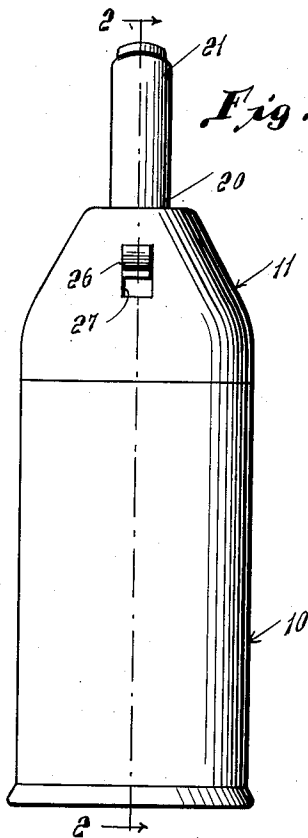


Fig. 1.

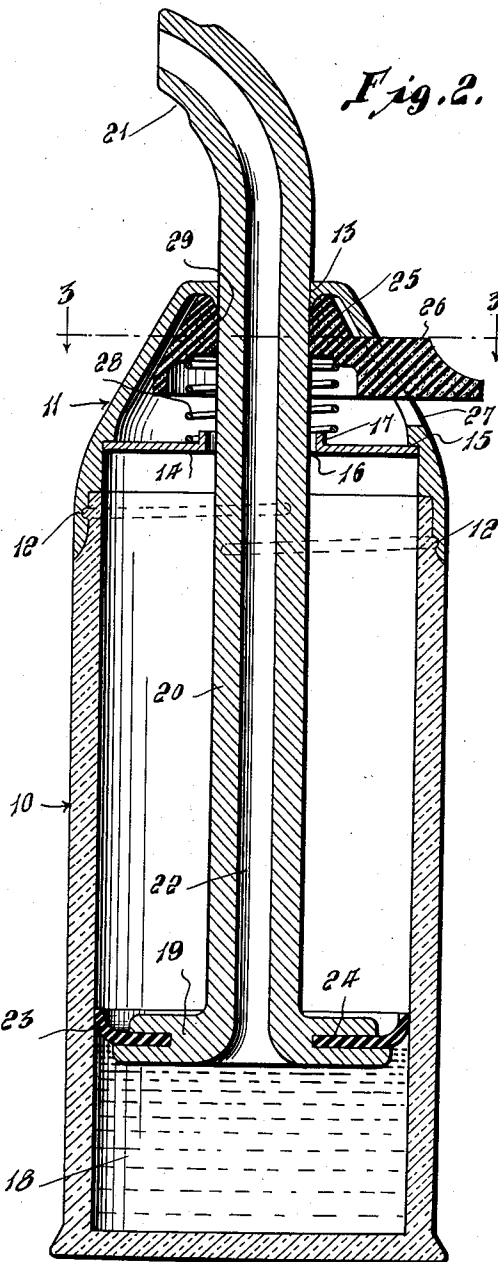


Fig. 2.

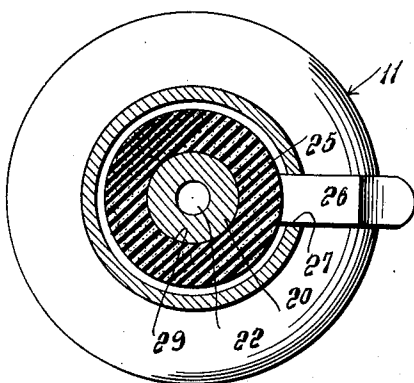


Fig. 3.

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FOOD DISPENSER

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5 Claims. (Cl. 221-78)

This invention relates to a food dispenser.

It is aimed to provide a novel structure primarily for table use in dispensing condiments or other food, and for instance ketchup, mustard, etc.

A particular object is to provide a construction having piston means to eject or discharge the desired quantity of material through successive depressions and particularly a construction wherein the ejecting means may be disposed at various elevations with respect to the operating means or device therefor, in order that effective discharge will result, according to the quantity of the material within the device and the diminution thereof.

It is also aimed to provide a construction which may be readily assembled and disassembled and maintained in a clean and sanitary manner.

Various additional objects and advantages will become apparent from a consideration of the description following taken in connection with accompanying drawing illustrating an operative embodiment.

In said drawing:

Figure 1 is a view of the device in elevation; Figure 2 is an enlarged central vertical sectional view taken on the plane of line 2-2 of Figure 1, and

Figure 3 is a horizontal sectional view taken on the plane of line 3-3 of Figure 2.

Referring specifically to the drawing wherein like reference characters designate like or similar parts, we provide a jar or container as at 10, of any suitable material and for instance of glass. To the top of the glass jar 10 a cap 11 is detachably connected as by means of screw threads at 12. Said cap may be of any desired material and for instance is made of "lucite." Said cap is generally frusto-conical as shown. At the frustum or top, the cap has a central opening 13 and spaced below the same is a wall or partition 14, for instance of Bakelite, which is secured tightly in any suitable manner against a shoulder 15 on the interior of the cap 11. The wall 14 has a central opening as at 16 surrounded by an upwardly extending flange 17.

The glass jar 10 is adapted to contain any suitable material such as a fluid or nearly fluid condiment at 18, like ketchup or mustard, above which a follower or piston 19 is disposed. Such piston 19 is preferably integral with a discharge tube or nozzle 20 which extends upwardly loosely through the opening 16 and slidably through the opening 13, the upper or discharge end of which nozzle is preferably curved as at 21. From end to

end of the piston or tube, a discharge passage or bore 22 is provided. A gasket 23, of rubber or other suitable flexible material is carried by the piston 19 to wipe the interior wall of jar 10 and such gasket is adapted to be stretched so as to enter and occupy an annular groove 24 of the piston 19 as shown.

An operating head for the piston and nozzle is provided at 25 which is also substantially frusto-conical and disposed within the cap 11 above the wall 14 and which head has an outwardly extending lug 26, disposed in an opening 27 in the cap, which is enlarged with respect to the cross section of the lug. Said lug is normally maintained in uppermost position through the expansive action of a coil spring 28 which engages the same and is seated on the wall 14 in surrounding relation to the nozzle.

Said head 25 may be made of a somewhat resilient rubber composition in order that the wall 29 in its central opening, and through which opening the nozzle 20 extends, will frictionally and slidably engage the nozzle. The engagement of the wall 29 with the nozzle is such that when the lug 26 is depressed, the tube 20 will be depressed to the extent permitted by engagement of head 25 with wall 14, thereby depressing the piston 19 and forcing or ejecting the contents 18 through the passageway 22. The amount ejected upon each depression is relatively small, so that a number of successive depressions are usually necessary to obtain the amount of material desired. At the same time, it is to be realized that the degree of friction between wall 29 and the nozzle 20 is such, that the nozzle 20 may be drawn upwardly or pushed downwardly through the head 25 in order to adjust the piston 19, according to the quantity of material 18 applied within the jar and according to the necessity for adjustment of the piston as the quantity of material 18 diminishes.

It is to be understood, that while we have described the head 25 as made of somewhat resilient rubber, in order to afford the necessary friction fit at the wall 29 with the nozzle, it is to be understood that other materials may be substituted.

It is also to be realized, that while we have disclosed the use of the device in connection with the dispensing of food, that it may be used generally in dispensing materials.

Various changes may be resorted to provided they fall within the spirit and scope of the invention.

We claim as our invention:

1. A dispenser having a container body, a pis-

ton operable therein having a discharge nozzle extending through one end of the body, an elastic head adjustable along the nozzle operable to depress the nozzle to eject the contents of the container body, a removable cap on said body mounting the head, said head having friction contact with the nozzle of a degree to normally cause the nozzle to normally move unitarily with the head in both directions but to permit the nozzle to be adjusted relatively to the head, spring means abutting and urging the head to uppermost position, a partition in the cap abutted by the spring means, said cap having an opening, and a lug extending from said head through said opening for engagement to depress the head.

2. Apparatus of the class described including a container, means having a part slidable within the container to eject contents of the latter, a head within the container having a friction fit with said means of a degree to normally slide unitarily with said means in opposite direction through sliding of the head, said degree of friction being such as to permit adjustment of said means relatively to the head, the container being abutted by the head while the slidable part moves through the latter and is projected from the container.

3. A dispenser having a container body, a piston operable therein having a discharge nozzle extending slidably through one end of the body, a head through which the nozzle is slidable, said head having a portion projecting from the container body and which is depressible to depress the nozzle to eject the contents of the container

body, said head being disposed within the body whereby it will abut and be held by the body during projecting movement of the nozzle.

4. A dispenser having a container body, a piston 5 operable therein having a discharge nozzle extending slidably through one end of the body, a head through which the nozzle is slidable, said head being depressible to depress the nozzle to eject the contents of the container body, means 10 connected to the head and projecting from the body for manually depressing the head, said head being disposed within the body whereby it will abut and be held by the body during projecting movement of the nozzle, spring means within 15 the container urging said head upwardly into contact with the container, and supporting means for the spring means within the container.

5. A dispenser having a container body, a piston operable therein having a discharge nozzle 20 extending slidably through the body, a head through one end of which the nozzle is slidable, said head being depressible to depress the nozzle to eject the contents of the container body, said head being disposed within the body whereby it 25 will abut and be held by the body during projecting movement of the nozzle, spring means within the container urging said head upwardly into contact with the container, supporting means for the spring means within the container, said 30 container having an opening in its wall, and a lug extending from said head through said opening for engagement to depress the head.

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