

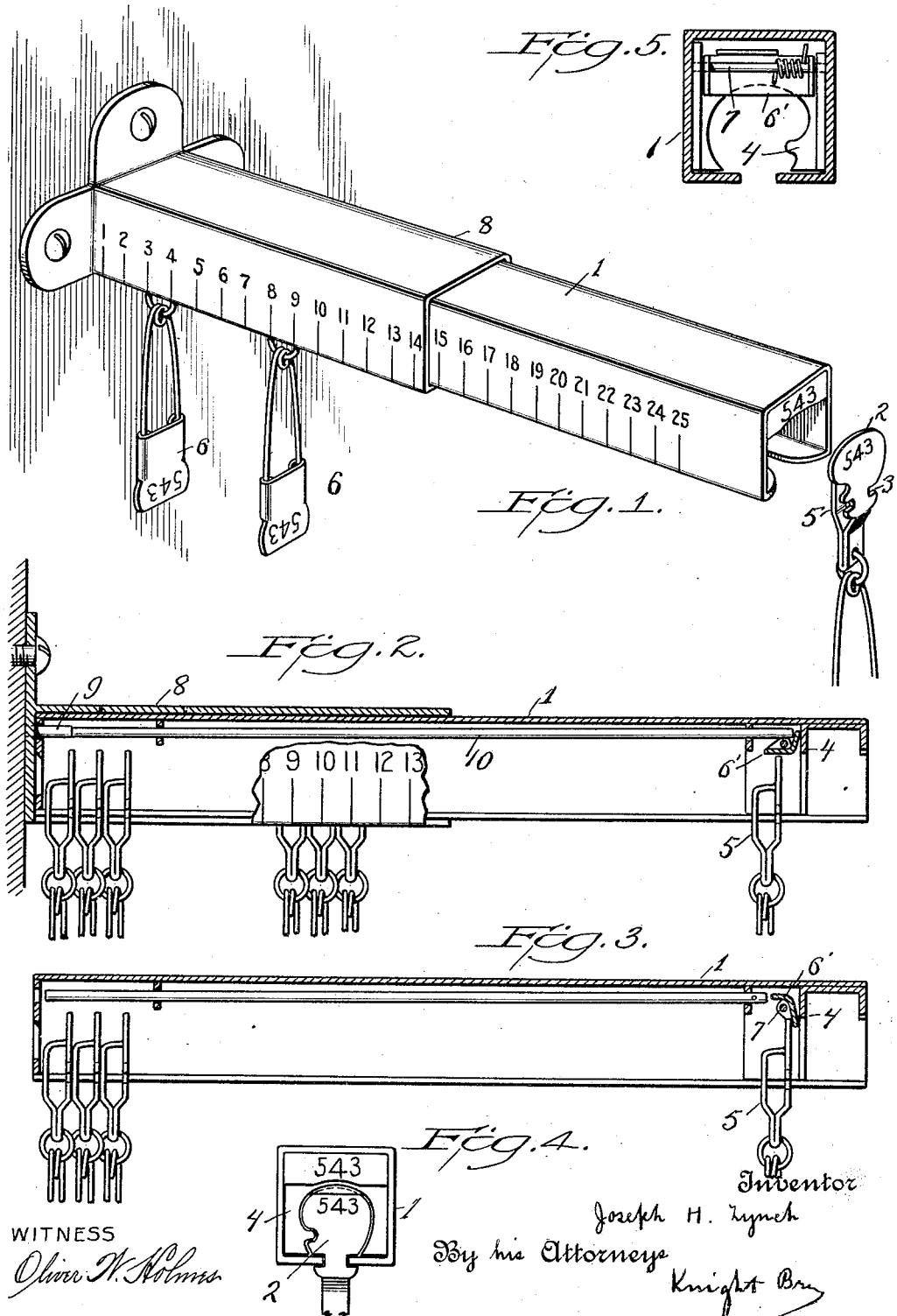
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LAUNDRY ASSORTING APPARATUS

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LAUNDRY ASSORTING APPARATUS

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This invention relates to the tag system of keeping articles in process of being laundered properly identified for each customer and recoverable in customer groups when the laundry processes are completed.

A common practice is to sort each customer's laundry as it comes in, putting articles of various kinds requiring different treatments in separate nets, then have attached to them identification tags which have identical numbers stamped thereon. The nets may then be put through the laundering processes with other nets having similar kinds of articles but tagged with different identification numbers with the certainty that when the laundering is completed, the various kinds of articles of a particular customer may be brought together again through the medium of the identification tags.

To facilitate the reassembly of the articles in customers' groups, tag holders are provided, and to make confusion impossible, these holders are provided with characteristic admittance means, the tags having similar characteristic admittance means so that only the tags of a certain number (and therefore of a certain customer) may be assembled on the holder having that number.

The present invention relates to improvements on such apparatus and comprises a portable holder with means on the holder for admitting only tags having a number the same as that of the holder, and provided also with means for preventing the removal of the tags when once inserted in the holder, said means being releasable only when the holder is applied to a holder support, which may be a fixture on a wall or table, the support being provided with means for accomplishing this release by the act of inserting the holder in the support.

The invention further comprises means for giving an instant count of the number of tags and therefore of the number of articles of that group going through the laundry, said means comprising a calibration on the sides of the holder, or of the holder and support, with tags having a uniform thickness so that when the tags are pressed together and up against the end of the holder, each tag will

be in line with a number of the calibration, so that the number opposite the last tag will be numerically equal to the number of tags in the holder. In reassembling it becomes an easy matter, therefore, to make sure that all 55 the articles sent out to the laundry have been returned.

An embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a tag holder and a wall support for the same;

Figure 2 is a longitudinal vertical section of the same;

Figure 3 is a similar section of the tag 65 holder removed from the support;

Figure 4 is an end view of the tag holder; and

Figure 5 is a transverse section through the tag holder looking toward the front end. 70

The tag holder 1 is preferably made in the form of a square tube, the bottom of which is slotted longitudinally through the middle. Identification tags 2 are provided with slotted parts 3 that are adapted to engage with the edges of the slotted base of the holder, so as to insure the registry of the tag with an admission plate 4. The upper part of the tag and the admission plate have characteristic contours that act as lock and key, each plate and therefore each holder permitting the admission of only one form of tag. The tags and the matching holders are stamped with identical numbers. To prevent the tag from turning, I provide a rear portion 5, which also fitting closely in the slot in the bottom of the holder gives a longitudinal dimension to the tag that keeps the same at right angles to the carrier. The tags may 80 have the usual safety pins, shown at 6, with corresponding numbers stamped thereon for the attachment of the tag to a garment or a net holding garments. To prevent the tags from coming out of the holder, or from being 85 taken out of the holder when once they have been placed therein, I provide a latch 6' adjacent the admission plate 4, which latch is pivoted at 7 in the sides of the holder and normally hangs in a vertical position to part- 90

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ly close the orifice in the admission plate, as shown in Figures 3 and 5.

The tags, however, in being pushed through the admission plate, tip the latch out 5 of the way, which then falls behind them preventing their removal. When, however, it is desired to remove the tags to place them on incoming laundry, the tag holder is inserted in a tag support 8 which may be secured to the wall or the assorting table, and into which the tag holder closely fits. At the base of the support I provide a pin 9 which, upon the tag holder being shoved clear in, 10 impinges against a rod 10 which, extending throughout the length of the holder, 15 operates against the upper part of the latch to trip or open the same to permit the extraction of the tags.

On the side of the holder 1 and the support 8, I place a calibration in the form of numbers, the spacing of which accurately corresponds to the spacing of the tags when they are pushed close together. The number opposite the end tag will, therefore, indicate 20 the number of tags in the holder, and gives a ready means of determining whether the assembly of the laundry of a particular customer is complete.

In using the apparatus, the operator will 30 sort incoming laundry into different classes, putting each kind into a separate net bag. Each bag will then have attached to it by means of the safety pin 6 a tag, the tag holder being supported in the support at this time 35 so as to enable the operator to withdraw the tags. When the laundry of this particular customer has been thus sorted, and the nets all tagged, the number of tags left in the holder will be an indication of the number of 40 tags that are being used in the laundry processes. The net filled with the laundry will then go through the laundry with other nets holding similar kinds of laundry for other customers. When the laundry process is 45 complete, the operator taking the tag holders from their supports will place the different tags in their appropriate holders being aided in this by the fact that tags can only go in holders having admission plates correspond- 50 ing to the contour of the tag being inserted. When the full number of tags belonging to any particular customer have been inserted in the holder, a fact easily ascertained by the calibration above described, the articles 55 may be unpinned from the tags and made ready for delivery, whereupon the tag holder may be reinserted in the support for further use.

I claim:

1. A laundry tag holder comprising a body having an inlet at one end, means for limiting the admission through said inlet to tags of predetermined contour, means for preventing the removal of the tags from the holder, a support, adapted to receive the

holder, said support being provided with means for unlocking said preventive means when the holder is inserted in the support.

2. A laundry tag holder having an admission plate at one end with an opening therethrough having a contour adapted to act as a selective means for admitting only a tag having a corresponding contour, a latch adjacent the admission plate permitting the admittance of tags to the holder and preventing their retraction through the admission plate, and means for holding the latch open to permit the removal of the tags.

3. A laundry tag holder having an admission plate at one end with an opening therethrough having a contour adapted to act as a selective means for admitting only a tag having a corresponding contour, a latch mechanism permitting the admittance of tags to the holder and preventing their removal, and means for holding the latch open to permit the removal of the tags, said means comprising a support for the holder and means in the support for impinging against the latch mechanism to hold the latch open when the holder is in the support.

4. A laundry tag holder having a selective plate for selectively permitting admission to the holder of tags having corresponding selective means, a pivoted latch back of the selective plate for preventing the removal of the tags from the holder, a rod connected to the latch and extending through the holder to the rear thereof, a wall support for the holder, said wall support being provided with an abutment for unlocking said preventive means by impinging on the said rod when the holder is inserted in the support.

5. A laundry tag holder having calibration numbers on the outside thereof, the intervals between calibrations corresponding to the thickness of the tags to serve as a means of ascertaining the number of tags in the holder, and a support adapted to receive said holder, said support having corresponding calibrations coacting with the calibrations on the holder when the latter is completely inserted in the support to indicate the total number of tags in the holder.

6. A laundry tag holder comprising a portable tubular member having a longitudinal slot forming a guide-way for tags and obstructed at both ends, one of the obstructions being movable to free the opening at that end, and having at the end controlled by said movable obstruction, an admission plate having a contour adapted to act as a selective means for admitting only a tag having a corresponding contour.

7. A laundry assorting apparatus comprising in combination, a fixed tubular member and a portable tubular member, one of said tubular members adapted to be slid endwise upon the other and be supported thereby and both members having a longitudinal slot

forming when the two members are assembled
a single slotted guide for laundry tags, the
portable member obstructed at both ends, the
obstruction at one end being movable to open
5 to allow passage of the laundry tag, and
having at its said end an admission plate
with an opening therethrough having a contour
adapted to act as a selective means for
admitting only a tag having a corresponding
10 contour.

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