H. SOLOMON.

SAFETY TOWEL CABINET.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 31, 1912.

1,080,855.

Patented Dec. 9, 1913.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

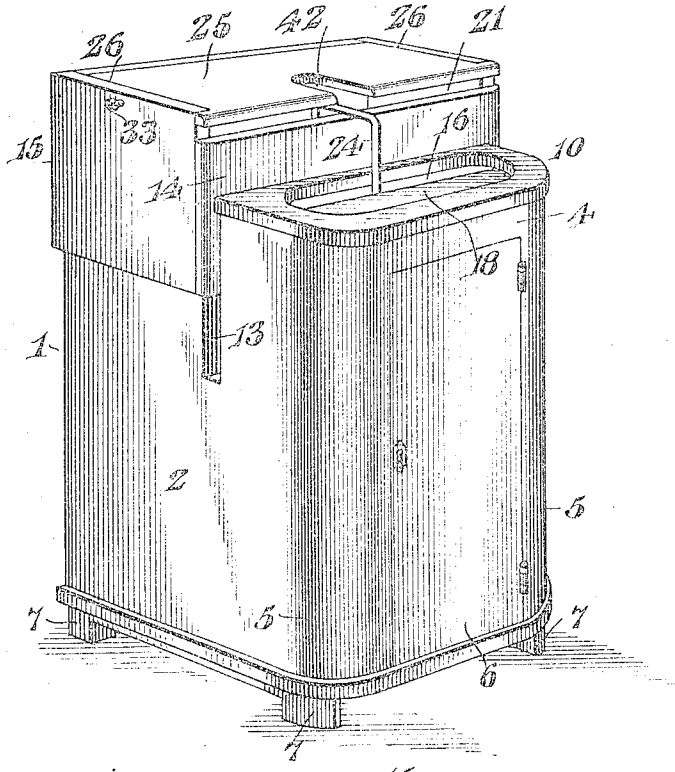
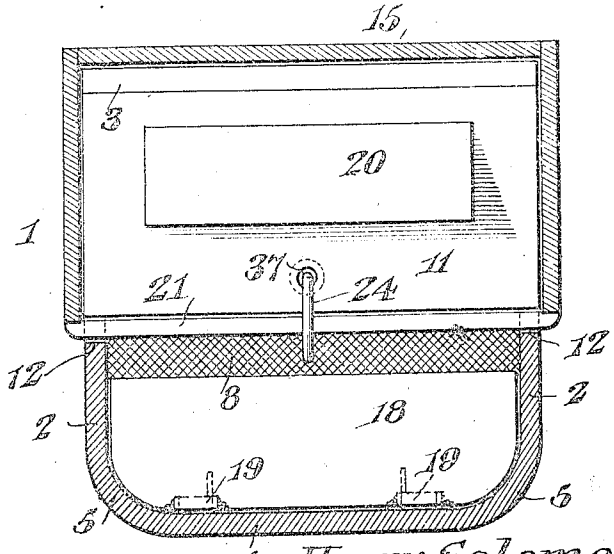


Fig. 4.



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 2.

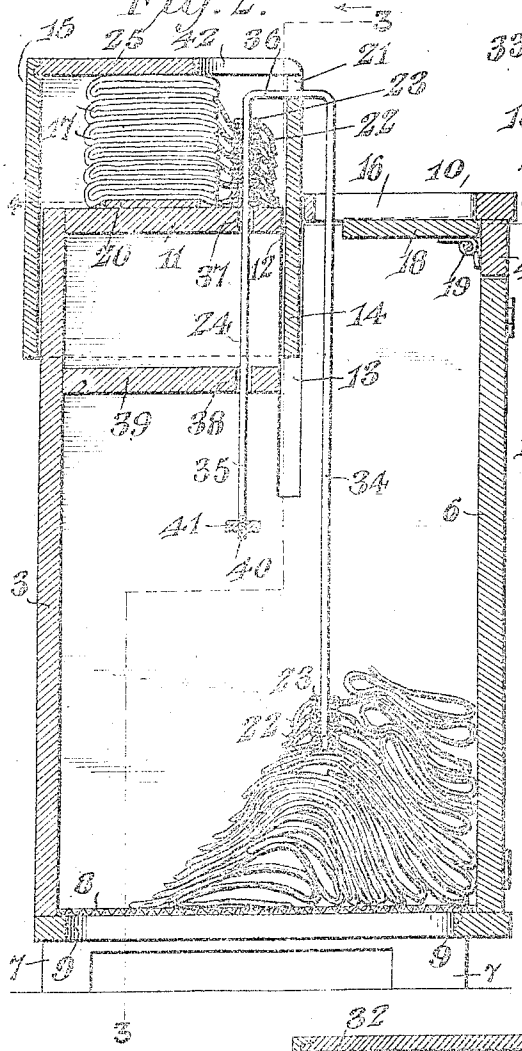


Fig. 3.

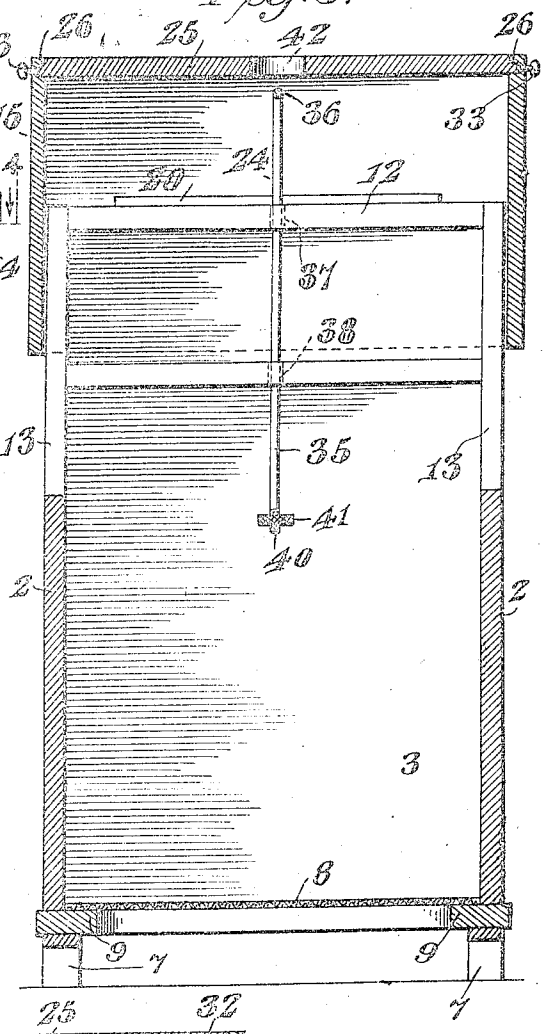
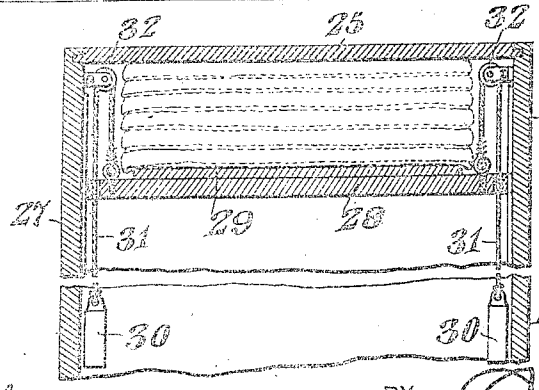


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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SAFETY TOWEL-CABINET.

1,080,855. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 9, 1913.

Application filed December 31, 1912. Serial No. 739,528.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HARRY SOLOMON, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Joseph, in the county of Buchanan and State of Missouri, have invented a new and useful Safety Towel-Cabinet, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to improvements in towel cabinets.

The object of the present invention is to improve the construction of towel cabinets, and to provide a simple and comparatively inexpensive towel cabinet designed for use in lavatories of hotels and various other places where it is desired to supply individual towels, and adapted to hold a relatively large number of clean towels and maintain the same in a sanitary condition, and equipped with means for exposing only a portion of a towel, and of enabling the towels to be readily removed one at a time without mussing or disarranging the clean towels contained within the cabinet, whereby an absolutely fresh and sanitary individual towel is assured.

A further object of the invention is to provide a towel cabinet of this character, adapted to keep clean and soiled towels separate, and capable of admitting free use of the towels without permitting the same to be removed from the cabinet, whereby loss and abuse of towels are prevented.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists in the construction and novel combination of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and pointed out in the claims hereto appended; it being understood that various changes in the form, proportion, size and minor details of construction, within the scope of the claims, may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

In the drawings:—Figure 1 is a perspective view of a towel cabinet, constructed in accordance with this invention. Fig. 2 is a central vertical longitudinal sectional view. Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a horizontal sectional view on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a transverse sectional view, illustrating another form of the invention in which the towel holding and supporting platform is vertically movable to present the towels successively at the slot through which the towels are removed.

Like numerals of reference designate corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawings.

In the accompanying drawings in which is illustrated the preferred embodiment of the invention, 1 designates a cabinet or casing designed to be constructed of any suitable material, and comprising spaced vertical sides 2, a vertical rear wall 3 and a vertical front wall 4, preferably curved or rounded at 5 adjacent to the side walls to present a bowed or swell front and provided with a hinged door 6, which affords access to the interior of the casing or cabinet. The casing or cabinet is preferably supported above the floor by feet 7 to provide an intervening air space for ventilating the cabinet or casing, which in the form shown in the drawings, is equipped with a foraminous bottom 8, constructed of woven wire or other suitable material, suitably secured upon a supporting ledge 9, as clearly illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3 of the drawings. The circulation of air under the cabinet or casing and through the bottom thereof will evaporate the moisture resulting from damp towels and will prevent such dampness from injuring the cabinet or rendering the same insanitary. Any other portion of the cabinet may be made foraminous so as to provide the amount of ventilation necessary to maintain the cabinet in a dry or sanitary condition. If desired, the feet of the cabinet may be equipped with casters to enable it to be conveniently moved.

The top of the cabinet or casing is composed of front and rear portions or sections 10 and 11, separated by an intervening transverse slot 12, and the sides 2 are provided in their upper portions with transversely alined vertical slots 13, extending downwardly from the ends of the transverse slot 12 to provide a passageway for a front wall 14 of a vertically movable automatically adjustable hood 15. The front portion or section 10 is provided with a relatively large opening 16 adapted to enable the towels 17, after use, to drop into the cabinet, which forms a receptacle for soiled towels, as clearly illustrated in Fig. 2 of the drawings. The cabinet is preferably equipped at the said opening 16 with a guard 18 hinged to the front wall 4 above

the door 6 and extending rearwardly from the front wall to within a short distance from the rear wall of the opening 16, and yieldably supported in a horizontal position by spring hinges 19. Any other suitable means, however, may be employed for maintaining the guard normally in a horizontal position, and the said guard conceals the soiled towels from view and at the same time prevents free access to the same through the top. Any suitable means may also be employed for limiting the downward or opening movement of the guard, should it be desired to positively prevent persons from reaching the soiled towels through the opening 16.

The rear section 11 of the top of the cabinet constitutes a towel receiving and supporting platform, and the towels are arranged in a vertical stack in a folded condition upon a raised portion 20 of oblong form, as clearly shown in Fig. 4 of the drawings. The raised portion prevents the towels from sagging and maintains them in a convenient position to be readily removed one at a time through a slot 21 in the hood 15. Although the cabinet is described as a towel cabinet, yet it will be readily understood that napkins or similar articles may, of course, be substituted for ordinary towels, and the term "towel" is to be construed broad enough to contemplate such articles. Each towel when ironed is folded with one end 22 projecting beyond the folds, and such projecting end is equipped with an eye 23 reinforced with metal, or other suitable means and adapted to have a guide rod 24 pass through it to prevent the towel from being removed from the cabinet by the individual user. Any kind of towel may, of course, be employed and if desired the towels may be done up in separate envelops or packages to insure a sanitary condition of the same.

The hood, which exteriorly telescopes the rear portion of the cabinet or casing and incases and protects the stack or pile of clean towels, is rectangular being composed of front, rear and end walls and a removable top or lid 25, slidable in grooves or ways 26 in the end walls and having its front edge arranged in spaced relation with the upper edge of the front wall 14 to provide the said slot 21 for the removal of the towels. The upper rear portion of the cabinet or casing forms a guard for the hood, which rests upon the pile or stack of towels, and as the towels are used, the hood automatically descends by gravity to maintain itself upon the top of the pile or stack. Instead of employing a vertically movable hood, a stationary hood 27 and a vertically movable towel carrying or supporting platform 28 may be used, as illustrated in Fig. 5 of the drawings. The platform 28, which has a raised portion 29, is guided in the stationary hood 27 and is supported by weights 30 secured to cords 31, passing over guide pulleys 32 and connected with the towel carrying platform or support. Any other suitable means may, however, be employed for yieldably urging the movable platform or support 28 upwardly to present the towels successively at the slot of the hood.

The slot or opening through which the towels are drawn may be arranged at any other desired point on the hood, and the removable top thereof is designed to be secured in the grooves or ways by any suitable fastening means to prevent it from being drawn outwardly by persons using the towels. In the accompanying drawings set screws 33 are shown for this purpose. These screws 33, which are arranged at the ends of the hood, pierce the end walls at the grooves or ways 26 and engage the end edges of the removable top 25.

The guide rod 24 is composed of front and rear vertical portions 34 and 35 and a top connecting portion 36. The rear vertical portion 35, which passes through the alined eyes of the stack or pile of towels, extends downwardly through an opening 37 in the towel carrying platform or support, and through an alined opening 38 in a horizontal shelf or partition 39, spaced from the platform or support 11 and forming a guide for the inner or rear vertical portion of the rod and also providing an upper compartment adapted to hold a quantity of clean towels. The lower end 40 of the inner or rear vertical portion 35 is threaded and receives a disk or nut 41 having a threaded opening to engage the threads of a guide rod and forming a head to prevent the guide rod from being pulled out of the alined guiding openings of the platform or support 11 and the partition or shelf 39. The top connecting portion 36 extends forwardly from the upper end of the rear vertical portion and passes through the slot 26 at the center thereof, and the front vertical portion extends downwardly through the top opening 16 into the soiled towel receiving portion of the casing or cabinet. It passes between the rear edge of the guard 18 and the rear wall of the opening 16 and is of a length to reach to within a few inches of the bottom of the casing or cabinet when the guide rod is at the limit of its downward movement. The top connecting portion of the guide rod is adapted to rest upon the upper edge of the front wall of the partition, and the removable top 25 of the hood is provided at the front with a central opening 42, located directly above the top connecting portion of the guide rod and adapted to expose the uppermost towel of the stack or pile to enable the same to be readily grasped and drawn through the front

slot 26. The uppermost towel of the stack is drawn forwardly or outwardly through the slot 26, the top connecting portion of the guide rod permitting such movement, and after the towel has been used, it is allowed to fall and the front vertical portion of the guide rod will guide the towel through the opening 16 into the front towel receiving portion of the cabinet. The automatic adjustment of the guide rod maintains the top connecting portion at the said slot 16 in position to permit the towel to be readily drawn outward so that the guide rod will not interfere with the free removal of the towels from the hood. The eye of the towel is arranged at the bottom portion of the folded towel, the folds being located above the plane of the said bottom portion, and this with the raised central portion of the platform or support positions the towels so that the top one may be easily grasped and removed without disturbing or mussing the rest of the stack or pile.

The towels after use are allowed to fall through the opening 16, and they accumulate at the bottom of the front portion of the cabinet or casing, as illustrated in Fig. 1 of the drawings, and in practice the last of the towels of the stack will remain on the lower portion of the guide rod so that even if a person should reach through the opening 16 and draw out a soiled towel, his hand will come in contact with one of the top ones connected with the rod, so that there is no liability of the towels becoming separated from the cabinet. The hood, which adjusts itself automatically to the diminishing size of the stack or pile of towels, is movable independently of the guide rod, the opening 42 permitting the upper portion of the guide rod to project above the hood should the towels accumulate at the bottom of the cabinet or casing and thereby interfere with the downward movement of the guide rod. The front door, which affords ready access to the interior of the cabinet, will enable the soiled towels to be quickly removed and when the door or head is detached from the lower end of the inner vertical portion of the guide rod, the latter may be withdrawn from the cabinet. The removal of the top or lid 25 of the hood allows the latter to drop down into the slots of the casing and telescope the rear portion of the same, thereby affording free access to the platform and enabling the same to be easily reloaded. The guide rod may then be easily replaced and returned to its normal position, the hood raised and the lid or cover thereof replaced.

The cabinet may also be used without the rod.

What is claimed is:—

1. A cabinet of the class described including a flat platform adapted to receive a stack of towels and being of greater area than the stack and provided with a raised portion located at an intermediate point between opposite edges of the towels and adapted to elevate an intermediate portion of the latter to enable the top towel of the stack to be easily grasped, and a hood having an opening exposing the uppermost towel of the stack.

2. A cabinet of the class described including a relatively fixed platform adapted to support a stack of towels, a hood exteriorly telescoping the cabinet and slidable upwardly and downwardly thereon with respect to the platform and removable therefrom to expose the said platform, said hook being provided with a slot arranged to permit the removal of the top towel of the stack, and a receptacle arranged to receive the soiled towels removed from the platform.

3. A cabinet of the class described provided at the top with an opening and having a platform located in rear of and adapted to support a stack of towels, and a vertically movable hood guided on the casing and forming a cover for and adapted to rest upon and be supported by the stack of towels, said hood having a slot arranged to permit the top towel of the stack to be removed from the hood.

4. A cabinet of the class described provided with a front towel receiving portion and having a rear guiding portion and provided at the top thereof with a towel receiving platform, and a hood open at the bottom and fitted over and slidable vertically on the said rear guiding portion of the cabinet and covering the platform or support, said hood being adapted to rest upon a stack or pile of towels and provided with a slot or opening arranged to permit the towels to be removed successively from the stack or pile.

5. A cabinet of the class described provided at the top at a point intermediate of its front and back with a transverse slot and having vertical slots located at opposite sides of the cabinet and extending downwardly from the transverse slot, a vertically movable hood fitting over and embracing the rear portion of the cabinet and slidable vertically in the said slots, said hood forming a cover for and adapted to rest upon a stack of towels, and provided with an opening arranged to permit the towels to be removed successively from the stack or pile.

6. A cabinet of the class described including a soiled towel receptacle located at the front of the cabinet, a platform arranged at the back of the cabinet and adapted to support a stack of towels, a hood telescoping the rear portion of the cabinet and forming a cover for and adapted to rest upon the stack of towels, means for guiding the towels from the platform to the soiled towel

receptacle, and a hinged yieldably supported guard normally arranged with its free edge adjacent to the said guiding means to prevent soiled towels from being drawn out of the said receptacle.

7. A cabinet of the class described provided at the front with an opening to permit soiled towels to be dropped into it and having a towel receiving platform arranged in rear of the said opening and adapted to hold a stack of towels, a hood telescoping the rear portion of the casing and forming a cover for and adapted to rest upon the stack of towels and provided with an opening arranged to expose the top towel and permit the towels to be successively removed from the stack, and means for guiding the towels from the said platform to the soiled towel receiving opening, said guiding means being vertically movable to adjust itself to the movements of the hood and the decreasing size of a stack of towels.

8. A cabinet of the class described having a front opening to permit soiled towels to drop into it and provided in rear of the said opening with a platform or support adapted to receive a stack of towels, a vertically movable automatically adjustable hood arranged to rest upon and cover the stack of towels and having a slot or opening to permit the towels to be removed successively from the stack, and means for guiding the towels from the stack to the opening of the cabinet to prevent the towels from being removed from the same, said guiding means being automatically adjustable with the hood.

9. A cabinet of the class described having a front opening to permit soiled towels to drop into it and provided in rear of the said opening with a platform or support adapted to receive a stack of towels, a vertically movable automatically adjustable hood arranged to rest upon and cover the stack of towels and having a slot or opening to permit the towels to be removed successively from the stack, a guide rod extending from the platform or support and passing through the slot or opening of the hood and also through the opening of the platform and forming a guide for the towels.

10. A cabinet of the class described having a front opening to permit soiled towels to drop into it and provided in rear of the said opening with a platform or support adapted to receive a stack of towels, a vertically movable automatically adjustable hood arranged to rest upon and cover the stack of towels and having a slot or opening to permit the towels to be removed successively from the stack, a guide rod consisting of an inner vertical portion arranged to pass through the towels and slidable through the platform or support to permit the guide rod to adjust itself automatically with the hood, a front or outer portion extending through the opening of the cabinet, and a top connecting portion passing through the slot or opening of the hood and arranged to guide the towels in their removal from the said hood.

11. A cabinet of the class described having a front opening to receive soiled towels and provided in rear of the same with a platform or support adapted to receive a stack of towels, a vertically movable hood arranged to rest upon and cover the stack of towels and provided at the front with a slot and having an opening extending rearwardly from the said slot, and a guide rod composed of an inner portion adapted to pass through the towels and extending through the platform or support, an outer portion arranged to guide the towels into the opening of the cabinet, and a top portion connecting the inner and outer portions and passing through the slot of the hood and arranged beneath the opening thereof.

12. A cabinet of the class described provided with an opening to permit soiled towels to drop into it and having a platform or support in rear of the said opening adapted to receive a stack of towels, a hood covering the stack of towels and having a removable top spaced from the front wall of the hood to provide a slot for the removal of the towels, said top having an opening extending rearwardly from the slot to expose the uppermost towel of the stack, and a guide rod extending from the hood to the opening of the cabinet.

13. A cabinet of the class described having an opening to permit soiled towels to drop into it and provided in rear of the opening with a platform or support adapted to hold a stack of towels, an automatically adjustable hood arranged to cover and be supported by the stack of towels and having a slot for the successive removal of the same, a guide rod extending from the platform or support through the said slot to the opening of the cabinet and including an inner vertical portion passing through the platform, and a combined shelf and guide arranged in spaced relation with the platform and having an opening receiving the inner portion of the guide rod.

14. A cabinet of the class described having an opening to permit soiled towels to drop into it and provided in rear of the opening with a platform or support adapted to hold a stack of towels, an automatically adjustable hood arranged to cover and be supported by the stack of towels and having a slot for the successive removal of the same, a guide rod extending from the platform or support through the said slot to the opening of the cabinet and including an inner vertical portion passing through the platform, fixed guiding means arranged within the cabinet in spaced relation with

the platform or support and receiving the inner portion of the guide rod, and detachable means mounted on the lower end of the inner portion of the guide rod and arranged to engage the said fixed guiding means to prevent the removal of the said guide rod.

15. A cabinet of the class described including a platform located at the rear portion of the cabinet and adapted to support a stack of towels, a soiled towel receptacle arranged at the front portion of the cabinet in advance of the platform, and a hood telescoping the rear portion of the cabinet and slidable vertically thereon and removable therefrom to expose the said platform, said hood resting upon and forming a cover for the stack of towels and having an opening to expose the uppermost towel for removal.

16. A device of the class described including a support having a relatively fixed platform adapted to support a stack of towels, a hood slidable upwardly and downwardly with respect to the platform and removable to expose the same and adapted to rest upon and form a gravity acting cover for the said stack of towels, said hood being provided with a slot arranged to expose and permit the removal of the top towel of the stack.

17. A device of the class described including a support having a relatively fixed platform adapted to support a stack of towels, a hood slidable upwardly and downwardly with respect to the platform and removable to expose the same and adapted to rest upon and form a gravity acting cover for the said stack of towels, said hood being provided with a slot arranged to expose and permit the removal of the top towel of the stack, and a vertically movable guide rod slidable through the platform to adjust itself automatically with the hood and forming a guide for the towels.

In testimony, that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

HARRY SOLOMON.

Witnesses:
JOHN A. MCGEE,
T. P. DOYLE.