J. J. O'BRIEN.

SANITARY DRINKING CUP.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 6, 1911. RENEWED APR. 9, 1917.

1,245,610. Patented Nov. 6, 1917.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

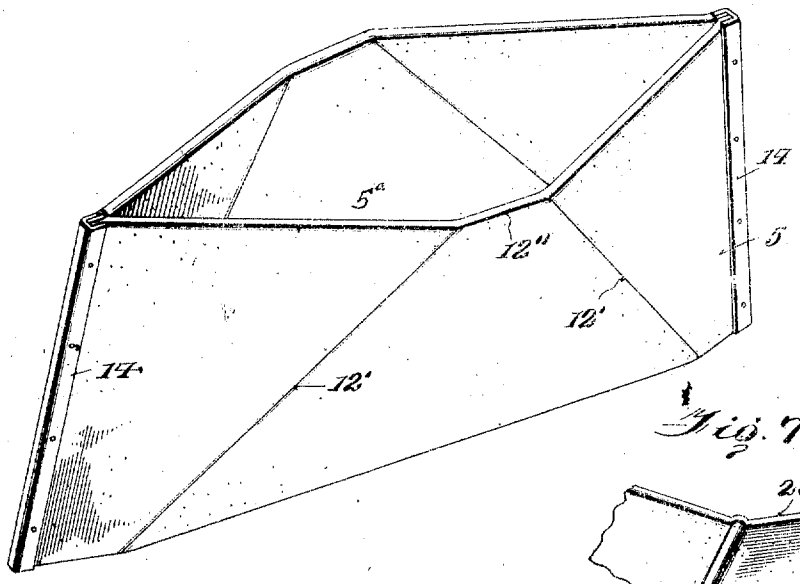


Fig. 7.

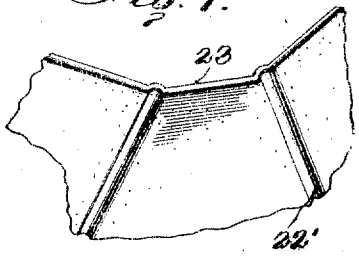
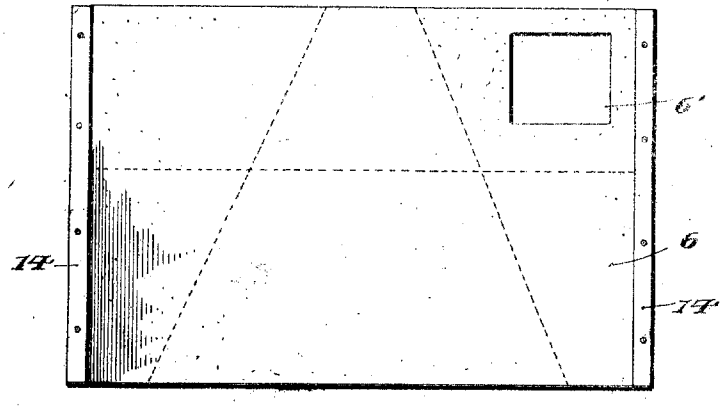


Fig. 2.



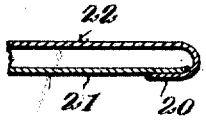


Fig. 8.

Witnesses

Helge A. Hansen.

Louis Comer.

Inventor

Joseph J. O'Brien

By

J. J. O'BRIEN.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 3.

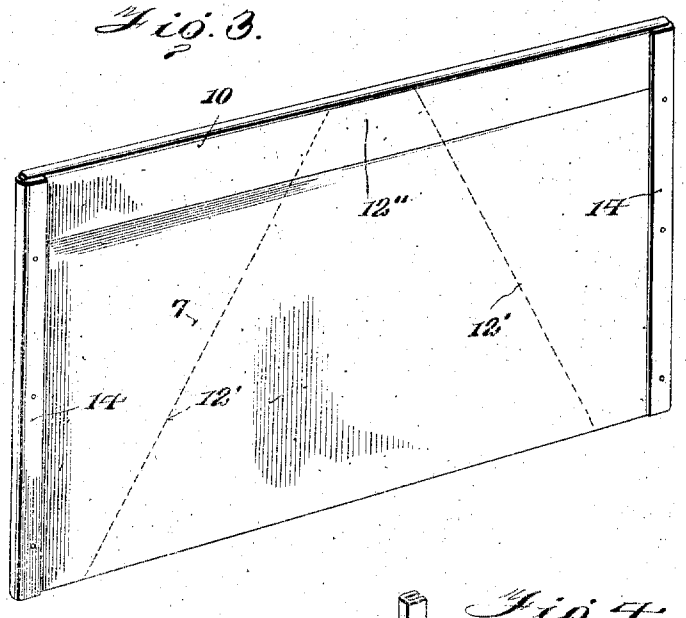


Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.

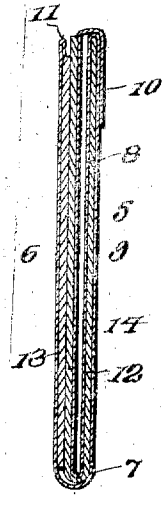
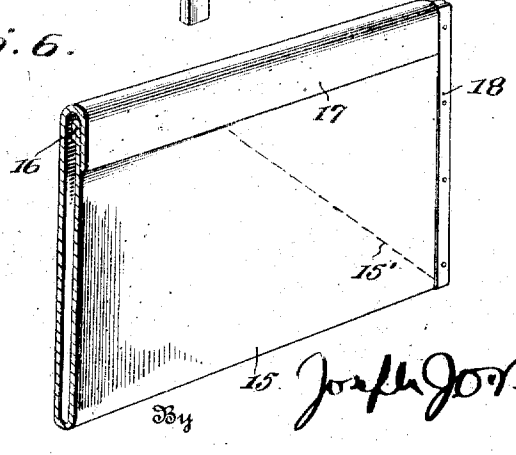


Fig. 6.



Witnesses

Helge W. Murray.

Louis Comer.

Inventor

Joseph J. O'Brien

By

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH J. O'BRIEN, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

SANITARY DRINKING-CUP.

1,245,610. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Nov. 6, 1917.

Application filed September 6, 1911, Serial No. 647,974. Renewed April 9, 1917. Serial No. 160,884.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH J. O'BRIEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Washington, District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Sanitary Drinking-Cups, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in sanitary drinking cups and the leading object is to provide a simple sanitary drinking cup adapted to be mailed as a postal card.

Another object of the invention is the construction of a sanitary drinking cup formed to hold a postal card and adapted to be mailed with said postal card.

A further object of the invention is the construction of a sanitary drinking cup adapted to fold perfectly flat when not in a drinking position and when pressure is released from its edge portions.

A further object of the invention is the construction of a sanitary drinking cup having a protecting flap held in place over the mouth thereof, whereby said mouth will be protected from contaminating influences.

A still further object of the invention is the construction of an envelop body or strip formed into a series of detachable envelops.

A still further object of the invention is the construction of an envelop or bag strip including a series of detachable envelops or bags, each having a flap and a thread formed out of the paper of which the envelop or bag is composed and adapted to be detached from the envelop or bag and when detached to open the envelop or bag.

With the above and other objects in view the invention consists in certain combinations, constructions, and arrangements of parts, clearly described in the following specification and clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the improved sanitary drinking cup in a drinking position.

Fig. 2 is a face view showing the postal card and the stamp window in the face wall of the drinking cup.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view showing the back face of the drinking cup and the protecting flap.

Fig. 4 is a horizontal sectional view showing the drinking cup opened.

Fig. 5 is a vertical sectional view.

Fig. 6 is a sectional perspective view of a modified form of the drinking cup.

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of another modified form of the drinking cup.

Fig. 8 is a detail sectional view of a corner of the modified form of the cup shown partly in Fig. 7.

Referring to the accompanying drawings illustrating the various forms of the invention and particularly to Figs. 1 to 5, 5 denotes a strip of waterproof material, preferably transparent waxed paper or other fiber material, and which is folded to form a face wall 6 and a back wall 7 and partitions 8 and 9. The partition 8 extends from the upper portion of the back wall 7 and is connected at its bottom portion with the portion 9, which has its upper edge portion extended to form the protecting flap 10, which is adapted to fold against the outer face of the wall 7 or against the outer face of the wall 6. The upper edge portion of the wall 6 is inturned at 11 to protect this wall against mutilation.

When the strip 5 is folded it forms an inner and an outer U and three spaces for receiving material. A stiffening strip 12 of card board is placed between the back wall 7 and the partition 8 and a postal card 13 is adapted to be removably positioned between the face wall 6 and the partition 9. The space 5^a between the partitions 8 and 9 constitutes the drinking space and is normally sealed or closed by the flap 10. The stiffening strip or member 12 may be extended to fill the space between the face wall 6 and the partition 9.

The stiffening strip 12 is formed with creases or fold grooves 12′, which extend in diagonally opposite directions from the central portion of the stiffening strip so as to form a delivery lip 12″. The walls 6 and 7, the partitions 8 and 9, and the stiffening strip 12 are held together by means of binding strips 14, which are folded and compressed upon the edge portions of said walls, partitions and strip. The binding strips 14 are preferably made of aluminum or other material protected against rusting or adapted to resist corrosion. The side edge portions of the sealing flap 10 are also secured by the binding strips 14, and are slightly weakened near the strips 14 so that the flap 10 may be readily opened.

The space between the face wall 6 and the partition 9 is normally open to receive the

postal card, which is held frictionally between the binding strips and said face wall and partition. The face wall 6 is formed with a stamp window 6′, whereby the stamp of the post office through which the drinking cup and postal card passes may be readily applied. If desired the side edge portions of the strip 5 may be folded on themselves so that leakage of water will be more effectively prevented.

By applying pressure upon the upper and lower edge portions of the drinking cup, when the sealing and mouth protecting flap is opened the partitions 8 and 9 will be moved apart from each other so that the area of the water receiving space 5^a will be increased, and the triangular corner portions of the stiffening strip will be bent inwardly so as to form a spout, whereby water can be safely directed over the lip 12″ to the mouth of the drinker. On releasing pressure from the cup it will immediately collapse, and by folding the flap 10 over the mouth of the cup said mouth will be protected.

The stiffening member 12 may be printed on for advertising purposes or may be formed into a postal card. When the postal card is left in its place between the wall 6 and the partition 9 it serves to stiffen said wall and partition and, owing to its tendency to resist bending, to promote the collapsing action of the cup. The cup may be mailed with the postal card, like an ordinary envelop, and may be repeatedly used, with or without the postal card being in position. The drinking space 14 does not have communication with the postal card space, and in this way the postal card is preserved against contact with the water.

In Figs. 7 and 8 I show a modified form of the drinking cup, wherein the body of the cup is formed of rubberized silk. The material of the cup is folded to form a U-shaped body, the rear wall 22 of which is extended to provide a joint flap 20, which is cemented or otherwise united to the front wall 21. The front wall 21 is formed with relatively deep creases 21′, arranged in diagonally opposite directions, and which provide a spout 23, as shown in Fig 7.

When a brightly colored postal card is positioned between the partition 9 and the face wall 6 it will be visible through the partition 9, which is transparent, and the drinker will be able to study the postal card, with consequent pleasure and amusement. Any postal card may be positioned between the face wall and the partition 9, and after the usual postal stamp has been placed on the card the combined card and drinking cup may be mailed. The sealing and protecting flap 10 is in no way disturbed.

When the recipient of the combined cup and postal card receives the combined article he may leave the postal card in its pocket, tear the sealing flap, and use the drinking cup.

Fig. 6 shows a drinking cup made of a single strip 15 of waterproof card board or material and folded into a U, with one of its edges inturned at 16 and the other edge extended to form a sealing and mouth protecting flap 17. Binding strips 18 secure the side edge portions of the strip 15. The strip 15 is formed with creases 15′, extending diagonally in opposite directions from the central portion of the wall 19 to the lower opposite corners thereof.

Fig. 7 shows a drinking cup made out of rubberized silk, and having edge portions 20 of the face wall 21 cemented or molded to the back wall 22. The back wall is formed with diagonal creases 22′ extending in opposite directions to form the drinking lip 23.

Having described my invention I claim:—

1. A drinking cup comprising a transparent waterproof body formed into an inner and an outer U-shaped portion, one inner wall of the inner U-shaped portion being joined to one wall of the outer U-shaped portion, the side edges of the walls of the outer and inner U-shaped portions being joined to each other by a common sealing means on each side of the body, the space between the opposing walls of the inner U-shaped portion providing a compartment for water and the space between the terminal walls of the outer and inner portions providing a compartment for a postal card insertible therein, the two compartments being out of communication with each other, a postal card located between the terminal walls of the inner and outer portions, and a sealing flap connected to the inner terminal wall and secured over the mouth of the water compartment.

2. A sanitary drinking cup comprising a sheet of water proof material bent upon itself to provide opposing side flat walls, binding means holding the confronting side edge portions of the walls toward each other, each of the side walls being formed with diagonal creases extending from the lower side portions thereof toward the upper central portion thereof, the inner ends of the creases being spaced from each other to provide a spout forming portion, the side walls being normally flat and in contact with each other and being separable from each other by hand pressure exerted on the upper and lower edges of one end of the cup, whereby the upper side portions of each wall will be bent at an angle to the central portion of said wall and a three walled spout will be formed.

3. A sanitary drinking cup constructed of flexible water proof material and formed with two opposing side flat walls, the walls being substantially coextensive with each

other, and means for securing the confronting lower edge and the side edge portions of the walls to each other, each of said walls being formed with diagonal creases extending from the opposite lower portions thereof toward the upper central edge portion thereof and providing normally collapsed water delivery spouts, the walls being separable from each other by hand pressure on the opposing edge portions of the cup, whereby the side walls will be shaped to provide opposing spouts, the water discharging passages of which will be contracted by continued pressure.

4. In combination, a sanitary drinking cup formed of water proof material and provided with normally flat walls separable from each other to provide a water holding compartment, a transparent element for holding a postal card on said cup, whereby the addressed face of the postal card will be visible for postal inspection without removing the card from said cup; said element forming with said cup a distinct pocket and being provided with an opening through which the postal stamp carried by the postal card will be accessible for postal cancellation without requiring the postal card to be removed from said cup, said postal card serving to stiffen said cup, and a sealing flap secured over the mouth of the drinking cup to protect the interior of said cup during its transit through the mail, said sealing flap being adapted to be detached from its covering position and movable over the mouth of the pocket containing the postal card.

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

JOSEPH J. O'BRIEN.

Witnesses:
DUDLEY B. HOWARD,
JOHN E. BANGS.