Oct. 10, 1944. C. H. DUELL 2,359,832

DISPENSING CONTAINER

Filed March 6, 1943 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

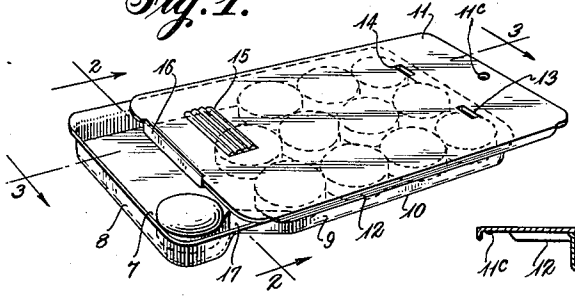


Fig. 2.

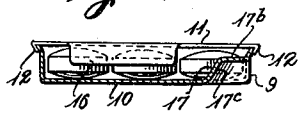


Fig. 3.

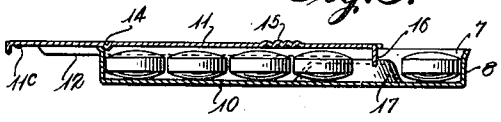


Fig. 4.

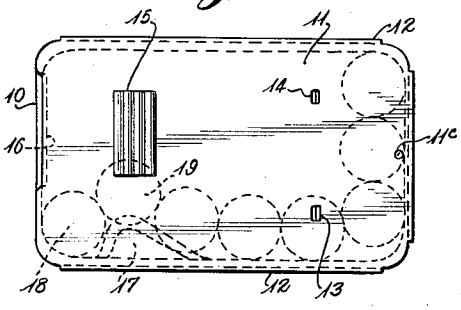


Fig. 5.

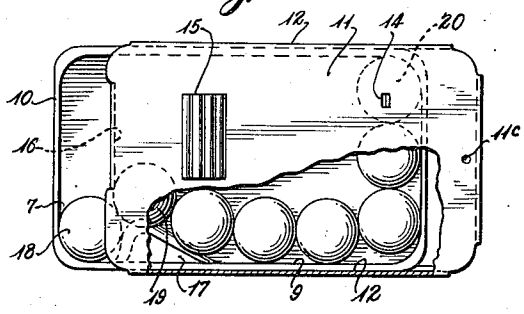


Fig. 6.

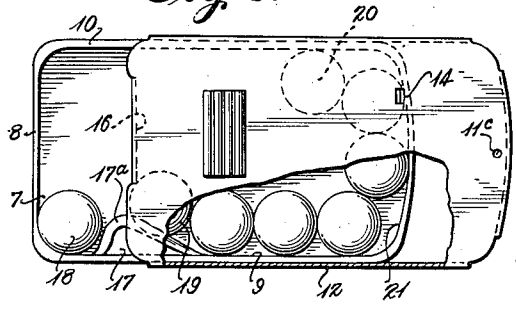


Fig. 7.

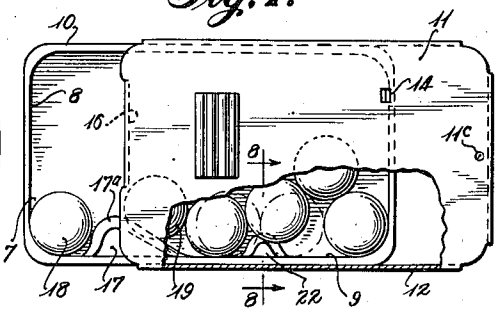


Fig. 9.

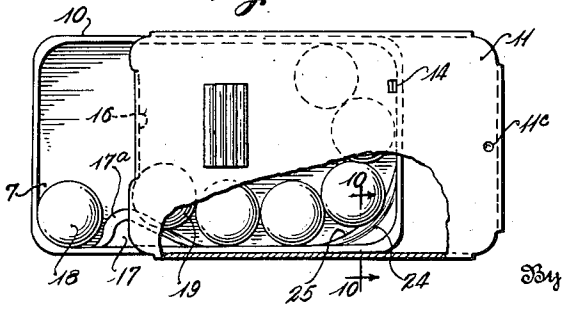


Fig. 8.

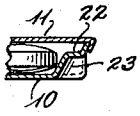
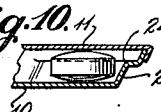


Fig. 10.



Inventor

Charles H. Duell

By J. Joseph Farley

Attorney

Oct. 10, 1944. C. H. DUELL 2,359,832

DISPENSING CONTAINER

Filed March 6, 1943 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 11.

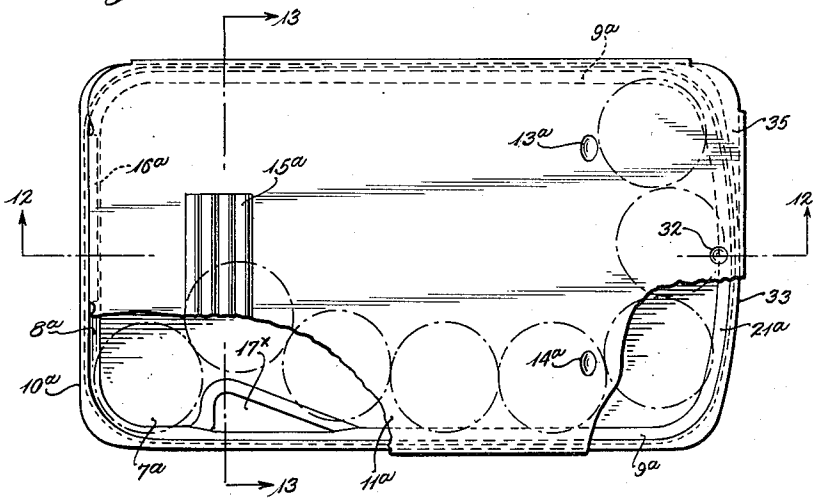


Fig. 12.

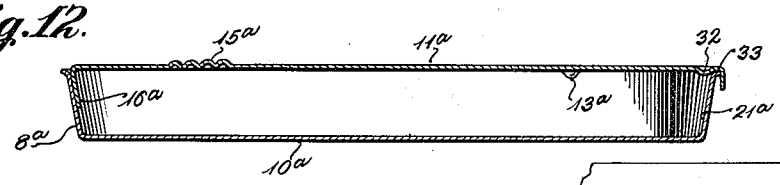


Fig. 13.

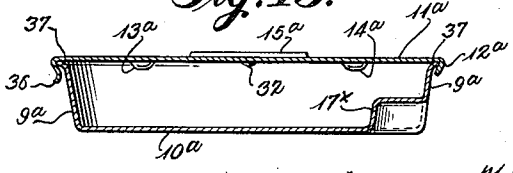


Fig. 14.

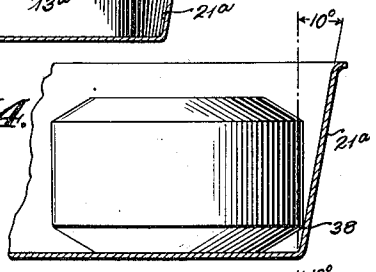


Fig. 15.

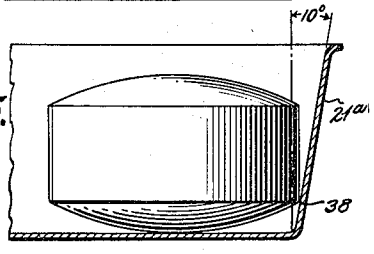


Fig. 16.

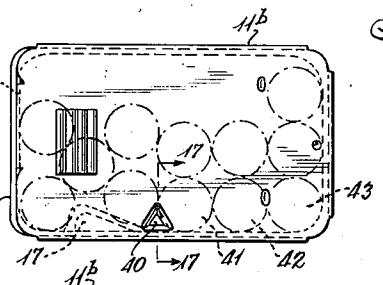
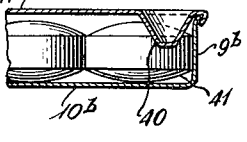


Fig. 17.



Inventor

Charles H. Duell

By J. Joseph Farley

Attorney

Patented Oct. 10, 1944

2,359,832

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,359,832

DISPENSING CONTAINER

Charles H. Duell, Sharpsburg, Pa., assignor to Brisbane Box Corporation, Detroit, Mich., a corporation of New Jersey

Application March 6, 1943, Serial No. 478,279

13 Claims. (Cl. 206—42)

This invention relates to dispensing containers and more specifically to a portable box for successively exposing or releasing one or more articles from the box while the remaining articles are retained therein.

Dispensing containers of the type which expose and release a predetermined number of articles such as tablets or pills from a box while retaining the remaining tablets in the box have been previously constructed. In this connection, reference is made to United States Patent 1,962,860, issued June 12, 1934, in which Charles H. Duell, Edith E. Brisbane, and Douglas C. Clarke were the inventors. These dispensing boxes, such as shown in the aforementioned patent, have given satisfactory service, but one of the improvements which would be advantageous in such a container is a means to assure that the articles will never jam together in the box so that it would have to be shaken to produce satisfactory operation thereof. The operation of this type of box requires the movement of the cover from a closed to a partially open position, and it has been found with the previously used construction that this operation is not effected smoothly at all times without varying or changing the position of the box.

It is, therefore, a primary object of the present invention to provide a dispensing container which will expose and release, successively, a predetermined number of objects contained and which will assure satisfactory displacement and/or rearrangement of the several articles so that the movable cover may be operated to dispense articles successively without interference or blocking of the movement of the cover by the articles contained in the box.

It is another object to provide a dispensing container capable of exposing and releasing a desired number of articles and retaining the remainder, having its interior so shaped as to rearrange the articles remaining as some articles are dispensed from the box so that dispensing of remaining articles is readily effected.

It is a further object to provide a portable container having a cover adapted to be opened by a sliding motion and from which a certain number of objects may be dropped upon successive openings of the cover and having the interior of the box so formed that the articles contained therein will be rearranged by the sliding movement of the box, thereby producing at all times a smooth and satisfactory operation of the dispensing container.

It is another object of the invention to provide a dispensing container comprising a shallow box member (adapted to contain a plurality of adjacent longitudinal rows of articles to be dispensed one at a time) and a relatively slidable cover member associated with the box member and having a barrier extending therefrom into said box member: means operative upon movement of said cover member toward open position to effect displacement and/or rearrangement of the articles in the box member from a straight line position considered either transversely or longitudinally of said box member such as would interfere with or block the sliding movement of the cover to its fully open position.

It is a still further object of the invention to provide the box member of a dispensing container of the character mentioned above, with walls arranged to reduce the frictional surface contact between the articles and the box member to a minimum, thereby to enable the articles in the box member to be more easily shifted around by the sliding of the cover towards open position and thus further avoid any jamming action between the cover and contents of the box.

The above and other objects of the present invention will appear more fully from the following more detailed description and by reference to the accompanying drawings, forming a part hereof and wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a complete box showing the cover slid back so as to expose one article for release from the box and with the remainder of the contents covered and retained in non-dispensing condition in the box.

Fig. 2 is a transverse cross section taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a longitudinal cross section through the center of the box taken substantially on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a top view of the box with the cover in closed position and in which several articles contained in the box have been indicated by dotted lines.

Fig. 5 is a top view of a box with the cover partially open and partially broken away and showing the condition which might arise when articles position themselves in straight line manner at the end of the box such as to produce a jamming action between the contents of the box and the cover as would prevent free sliding movement of the latter to its opened dispensing position.

Fig. 6 is a view similar to Fig. 5, but showing the cover opened to dispensing position, of a dispenser in which one of the end walls of the box

is curved in such a manner as to allow the articles contained in the box to be displaced or rearranged by the movement of the cover of the box toward open position, thereby to prevent the unsatisfactory operation shown in Fig. 5.

Fig. 7 is a similar view of a modified form of the invention employing an indented projection in the side of the box which serves to cause the articles therein to rearrange themselves and which also prevents the articles from maintaining a straight line relation along the side of the box and causing the same sort of unsatisfactory operation.

Fig. 8 is a section taken on the line 8—8 of the Fig. 7 and shows one method of forming the projection in the inside of the box.

Fig. 9 is a view similar to Figs. 6 and 7 of a box having another modified form of construction wherein a corner of the rear end of the box is curved to assure that the articles will rearrange themselves as the cover is moved toward open position to prevent interference with the opening movement thereof.

Fig. 10 is a section taken on the line 10—10 of Fig. 9 and shows the manner in which the corner of the box may be formed to provide the curved surface shown in Fig. 9.

Figs. 11 to 15, inclusive, illustrate a further modification of the dispenser shown in Fig. 6, wherein the upright walls of the box are flared or arranged in non-perpendicular relation to the bottom wall of the box member; Fig. 11 being enlarged plan view with portions of the cover member broken away to better illustrate certain details of the box member; Figs. 12 and 13 being sections taken on the lines 12—12 and 13—13, respectively of Fig. 11; Fig. 14 being a greatly enlarged view illustrating the manner in which the sliding and/or rolling peripheral line contact is effected between a conventional sulfanilamide tablet and the wall of the box member, whereby frictional resistance to movement of the tablet due to contact with the box wall is reduced to a minimum; and Fig. 15 a view similar to Fig. 14 but showing a conventional aspirin tablet contacting the box wall.

Fig. 16 illustrates a further embodiment of the invention in which means is provided on the cover member for effecting rearrangement of the articles in the box member upon movement of the cover to its open position.

Fig. 17 is an enlarged section taken on line 17—17 of Fig. 16.

Referring to the drawings and particularly to Figs. 1, 2 and 3, there is shown a sheet metal dispenser comprising a box 10 provided with a sliding cover 11. The cover 11 of the box 10 is secured for sliding movement by a suitable flanged construction shown at 12 in Fig. 2. By this construction the cover 11 may be snapped into place and will slide longitudinally from a closed position to an open or dispensing position such as shown in Fig. 1. The sliding movement, however, is limited by two projections 13 and 14 formed on the inside of the cover, the projections being formed in the box 10 illustrated by forming or denting the sheet metal as shown at 14 in Fig. 3. A relatively shallow detent 11^c retains the cover in place against inadvertent opening but does not offer sufficient resistance to prevent intended movement of the cover to its open position. A small portion of the top surface of the cover 11 is formed with transverse corrugations 15 as shown in Fig. 1 to provide a frictional surface to facilitate pushing the cover to open or closed position. The front edge of the cover 11, as shown in both Figs. 1 and 3, is provided with a downwardly projecting flange 16 which extends only a portion of the way across the width of the box 10 and which cooperates with a projection 17 formed in the box portion 10 of the container and positioned to extend from the side of the box toward and in alignment with the flange 16 when the box is in the open position, as shown in Fig. 1.

The space between the projection 17 and the front wall 8 of the box provides a dispensing pocket 7 for one of the articles to be dispensed. It will be seen from Figures 1 and 2 that the projection 17 is formed by a substantially triangular indentation extending inwardly from one of the side walls 9 of the box 10 and that the apex or innermost portion of said projection is generously curved or rounded as indicated at 17^a. The projection 17, as shown in Fig. 2, preferably, comprises a generally horizontal portion 17^b extending inwardly from the side wall and an upwardly inclined portion 17^c connecting said horizontal portion with the bottom wall of the container. The object of rounding the projection 17 is to prevent possible chipping or breaking of any article that may be caused to engage therewith as the cover is moved from closed to open position, as when the dispenser is improperly held and one of the articles has not completely gravitated into the dispensing pocket 7. The inclined portion 17^b also facilitates passage of an article past the projection 17^a by reducing the area of frictional contact between the article and said projection.

The distance between the side wall 9 and the nearest edge of the flange 16 is made at least equal to the diameter or greatest dimension of the article being dispensed, when one article is to be dispensed at a time. It is apparent, therefore, that when the box 10 is in the open position articles which are to the right of the barrier formed by the flange 16 and the projection 17 will be retained in the covered portion of the box while any articles which are in the open portion of the box will be exposed and released for dispensing on tilting of the box. It is evident, however, that the relative width of the flange 16 and the projection 17 may be made such as to assure that any definite number of articles are permitted to remain in the exposed portion when the cover 11 is moved to the position shown in Fig. 1.

Referring to Figs. 4 and 5 of the drawings, it is to be noted that with articles contained in the box such as shown in Fig. 4 and with the box held in substantially the position shown in Fig. 4 that if the cover 11 were moved toward an open position such as Fig. 5, the tablet marked 18 in Fig. 5 would be partly exposed, but the flange 16 would contact the tablet marked 19 and with the box formed as shown in Fig. 5 with substantially square corners, a jamming of the cover would result since the forces acting on the longitudinal row of tablets shown at the bottom of Fig. 5 would force them rearwardly of the box or to the right in the figure and so that the tablet marked 20 in Fig. 5 would be jammed into the upper right hand corner of the box thereby preventing further movement of the cover unless the position of the tablets is changed. It is also possible for the articles in a box, as shown in Fig. 5, to assume a straight line and cause jamming position longitudinally of the box and

thereby in either case it is not possible to release the tablet 18 without difficulty.

Jamming, however, can be avoided by suitably constructing either the box or the cover. Referring to Fig. 6, a construction is shown for a box of the general type disclosed in Figs. 1 to 5 but which is designed to obviate the defect above discussed with reference to the jamming of the articles. The feature of construction of the box which accomplishes this result is a curve shape for the rear wall 21 of the box as shown in Fig. 6. It will be apparent on inspection of Fig. 6 that on sliding movement of the cover from its closed position and with the articles arranged as shown in Fig. 4, the downwardly projecting flange 16 will contact the tablet marked 19 and push the remaining tablets as it attempted to do in the form shown in Fig. 5, but in this case the tablets would take up positions such that the tablet marked 20 in Fig. 6 which, in the form shown in Fig. 5 had been jammed into the corner of the box, will be free to move to the forward end of the box. In other words, the tablets can no longer assume a straight line position at the end 21 of the box 10. Therefore, the tablets will be automatically released or rearranged by the sliding action of the cover 11 as it is moved to its open position substantially as shown in Fig. 6 and will also permit release of the tablet 18 while retaining the remaining tablets under the cover of the box.

Fig. 7 shows another modified form of the invention wherein an additional projection 22 is provided extending inwardly from the side 9 of the box. This projection 22 prevents the tablets from assuming definite straight line positions such as would result in jamming so that as the cover is opened the tablets are free to rearrange themselves in positions such as to offer no obstruction to a free opening of the box. As shown in Fig. 8, the projection 22 can be formed by an indentation formed in the side wall 9 with the walls thereof arranged as shown in cross section at 23. This type of construction may be accomplished easily by suitable dies, when a sheet metal box is used. The projection 22 preferably extends inwardly a distance less than the radius of the articles to be dispensed so that it acts as a displacing means for the articles rather than an obstruction.

Fig. 9 shows another modified form wherein the lower corner of the rear edge of the box 10 is formed with a curve 24 having a radius preferably greater than the radius of the article dispensed and which may be formed on inwardly projected wall portion 25 as shown in Fig. 10.

Referring now to Figures 11 to 13, inclusive, of the drawings, a dispensing container is here shown which is somewhat similar to that illustrated in Fig. 6, but which incorporates certain additional advantageous features which facilitate the operation of the dispenser. The box member indicated at 10a differs principally from the box 10 of Fig. 6 in that the side and end walls are flared outwardly on an angle of about 10°, thereby to reduce the surface contact of the articles with the walls of the box to a minimum and facilitate their shifting and rearrangement in the box member upon movement of the cover member 11a toward open position. Thus, the opposite side walls 9a of the box member 10a flare outwardly as best illustrated in Fig. 13. The end wall 21a, in addition to being formed upon a suitable arc, is also flared upwardly and outwardly as shown in Figs. 11 and 12. The end wall 8a, which cooperates with the projection 17x to form the dispensing pocket 7a, may also be flared as indicated in Fig. 12, although the flaring of this particular end wall is not essential. However, when the end wall 8a is flared, the flange 16a carried by the cover member 11a is also preferably bent upon a complemental angle in order to permit the cover member 11a to completely close the box member 10a.

The cover member 11a is held in place against inadvertent opening by a shallow detent 32 cooperating with the upper edge 33 of the arcuate end wall 21a, as best shown in Fig. 12. The shallow detent 32 is such that it can be easily moved across the edge 33 by slight flexing or displacement of the cover member 11a, when said cover is moved either toward open or closed position. The cover 11a is further provided with relatively deeper projections 13a and 14a adapted to serve as stops to limit the opening movement of the cover 11a. The projections 13a and 14a are adapted to engage the inner surface of the arcuate end wall 21a adjacent the edge 33 to limit the sliding movement of the cover 11a to its open position as will be readily understood and are so spaced from the adjacent end 35 of the cover 11a that sliding movement of said cover toward its full open position will dispose the flange 16a in alignment with the projection 17x and thereby expose the article which happens to be in the dispensing pocket 7a.

In view of the fact that the cover 11a is preferably applied to the box 10a after the articles to be dispensed have been deposited therein, said cover is preferably arranged so that it can be snapped over the edge of said box. To facilitate such mounting of the cover 11a, one side edge of said cover is provided with a reversely bent flange 36 (Fig. 13) arranged so that when a flange 12a on the opposing edge of the cover is engaged with the outwardly flanged edge 37 of one of the side walls 9a of the box 10a, said reversely bent portion 36 will engage with the opposing outwardly turned edge 37 and permit easy snapping of the cover onto the box. Similarly, the reversely bent portion 36 will permit ready removal of the cover 11a in the event that it should be necessary to gain immediate access to the entire contents of the container, or in the event that it should be desired to quickly reload the box 10a when it is empty. The cover 11a is corrugated as shown at 15a to provide a portion engageable by the thumb to slide said cover to open position.

Figs. 14 and 15 diagrammatically illustrate the flaring of the end wall 21a of the container on an angle of approximately 10° from the vertical. It is preferable to make the angle of inclination of the end wall 21a (and side walls 9a) not substantially less than 10° and preferably not more than 20° with respect to a vertical plane, the objective in any instance being to have the walls inclined upon such angle that the tablets will engage the walls with a substantially rolling and/or sliding peripheral line contact as indicated at 38, instead of with a substantial peripheral surface area of contact as shown in Fig. 3. This reduces the frictional surface contact between the tablets or pills so that they can more readily be displaced and rearranged within the box 10a. In any event, the angularity of the inclination of the end wall 21a and the side walls 9a should be such that frictional contact is mini-

mized while avoiding any tendency for the tablets or pills to "ride up" onto the wall and engage the inner side of the cover 11a. Fig. 14 indicates the peripheral contact obtained when conventional sulfanilamide tablets are dispensed and Fig. 15 indicates the contact obtained when conventional aspirin tablets are dispensed.

Fig. 11, like Fig. 6, clearly indicates the manner in which the curved end wall 21a of the box 10a precludes the articles within the box from assuming a straight line jamming relationship that would interfere with the movement of the cover 11a toward open position. As will be seen from an inspection of Fig. 11, the end wall 21a thereof is curved upon a radius which is substantially equal to the length of the box. This radius of curvature has been found to be preferable to a shorter radius, as for example, a radius equal to half the width of the box; the latter reducing too much the volume of the box.

Fig. 16 illustrates another embodiment of the invention in which means similar to the projection 22 is provided on the cover member 11b instead of on the box as shown in Fig. 7 for effecting displacement and/or rearrangement of the articles in the box member 10b so as to prevent such jamming of the articles as would preclude movement of the cover to its open position. Thus, the cover 11b is provided with an inwardly extending projection 40 located at such predetermined point that such projection will be disposed in a space between two adjacent tablets in the row next to the side wall 9b of the box member 10b when said cover is in closed position. The projection 40 may have any configuration desired and is preferably formed by a generally triangular indentation in the cover, as shown. The projection 40 may be formed during the stamping operation and its lower end is shaped so that no sharp edges are presented which would cause breaking or chipping of the tablets as the cover member is moved toward open position. It will be noted from Fig. 17 that the projection 40 extends into the box 10b to a point below the top surface of the tablets so as to be engageable with the periphery of the tablet on the right side thereof upon movement of the cover 11b toward open position.

Assuming that the tablets, prior to dispensing, are positioned in the box member 10b, as shown in Fig. 16, it will be apparent that upon movement of the sliding cover 11b toward open position, the flange 16 will shift the tablets as aforedescribed and the projection 40 will engage the lower arcuate peripheral portion of the tablet marked 41 and displace it laterally from the side wall 9b and thus prevent any straight line formation along the side wall 9b that would cause jamming. In some instances the tablet may be moved longitudinally of the box member 10b by effecting displacement of either one of the tablets marked 42 and 43 in the same horizontal row. However, the usual operation is the positive lateral displacement of the tablet 41 by the projection 40 and the incidental rearrangement of other tablets to permit such movement. In any event, the tablet 41 will take the course of least resistance and the tablets in the covered portion of the box member 10b will be effectually rearranged and/or displaced so that it is impossible for said tablets to assume a jamming relation that would prevent the cover 11b from being moved to its open position.

The projection 40 may be disposed between adjacent tablets 41 and 42 and effect good results, but it is preferred to locate said projection on the cover 11b so that when said cover is in closed position said projection is on the left of tablet 41 and near the point of juncture of the inclined projection 17 with the side wall 9b of the box member 10b.

It is to be understood that the flaring of the walls of the box is not limited to use in a container of the type shown in Fig. 6 and that such flaring can be advantageously employed in other forms of boxes, for example, such as shown in Figs. 7, 9 and 16.

In using the several forms of the invention disclosed herein the closed dispenser is held generally vertically in one hand with the dispensing pocket lowermost. The articles will then gravitate toward the end of the dispenser containing the dispensing pocket. Upon retraction of the cover by the thumb, the flange on the cover will permit a single article to remain in the dispensing pocket, and all other tablets will be retained in the covered portion of the box and positively prevented from falling out of the dispenser by the barrier formed by said flange and the projection adjacent the dispensing pocket. After the article has been removed from the dispensing pocket, the cover is returned by the thumb to its closed position and this will permit another article to gravitate into the dispensing pocket. Successive articles can then be dispensed one at a time by repeating the aforedescribed operation. In all forms of the invention shown, the article deflecting or directing means will effect displacement and/or rearrangement of the articles in the box so that no jamming will occur which would interfere with moving the cover to its open position.

Although sheet metal dispensers have been illustrated herein, it is contemplated that the principles of the invention may be employed in other types of boxes and dispensing containers. It is to be understood that while the projections and forms illustrated will lend themselves most advantageously to a forming from sheet metal, the invention is not limited in its application to sheet metal boxes, but that any suitable material could be used for its fabrication, and that various alternative structures may be employed to accomplish the objects of the invention without departing from the spirit thereof or the scope of the appended claims.

This application is a continuation-in-part of my co-pending application Serial No. 320,717, filed February 24, 1940, and entitled "Dispensing containers."

I claim:

1. In combination, a shallow box adapted to contain a plurality of adjacent horizontal rows of articles to be dispensed; a cover slidably mounted upon said box; means for dispensing said articles one at a time upon movement of said cover to open position including a flange extending downwardly from said cover into said box; and means carried by said box and cooperating with said flange and operative upon movement of said cover toward open position to effect displacement and re-arrangement of said articles in said box to preclude said articles from assuming a straight line relationship and blocking the movement of said cover to its open position.

2. In a dispensing container for small articles normally arranged in a plurality of adjacent horizontal rows, including a shallow box member

having a projection spaced from one end wall thereof to provide a pocket to receive only a given number of articles and a cover member slidably mounted upon said box member and provided with a depending flange at one edge thereof cooperating with said projection to push all but said given number of articles into a closed portion of said box member and leave only said given number in said pocket: article directing means forming a portion of the inner surface of one of said members arranged to cooperate with said flange when said cover is slid from closed to open position to effect displacement and/or rearrangement of the articles in said closed portion of said box member as said cover member is moved toward open position to thereby prevent a plurality of said articles from assuming a straight line relation that would block movement of said cover to open position.

3. In a dispensing container for small articles normally arranged in a plurality of adjacent horizontal rows, including a shallow box member having a projection spaced from one end wall thereof to provide a pocket to receive only a given number of articles and a cover member slidably mounted upon said box member and provided with a depending flange at one edge thereof cooperating with said projection to push all but said given number of articles into a closed portion of said box member and leave only said given number in said pocket: inwardly extending means on one of said members arranged to effect displacement and/or rearrangement of the articles in said closed portion of said box member as said cover member is moved toward open position to thereby prevent a plurality of said articles from assuming a straight line relation that would block movement of said cover to open position.

4. In a dispensing container for small articles, including a shallow box member having a projection spaced from one end thereof to provide a pocket to receive only a given number of articles and a cover member slidably mounted upon said box member and provided with a depending flange at one edge thereof cooperating with said projection to push all but said given number of articles into a closed portion of said box member and leave only said given number in said pocket: means extending inwardly from the side wall of said box member provided with said projection, arranged to effect displacement and/or rearrangement of the articles in said closed portion of said box member as said cover member is moved toward open position to thereby prevent a plurality of said articles from assuming a straight line relation that would block movement of said cover to open position.

5. A dispensing container for small articles normally arranged in a plurality of adjacent horizontal rows, including a shallow box member having a projection adjacent to and spaced from one end wall and extending inwardly from one side wall thereof to provide a pocket to receive only a given number of articles and a cover member slidably mounted upon said box member and provided with a depending flange at one edge thereof cooperating with said projection to push all but said given number of articles into a closed portion of said box member and leave only said given number in said pocket: characterized by having the rear wall of said box member connected with said one side wall of said box member by an inner convex wall portion having a radius greater than that of said articles to prevent a plurality of said articles from assuming a straight line relation adjacent said convex wall portion and thereby blocking movement of said cover member toward its open position.

6. A dispensing container for small articles normally arranged in a plurality of adjacent rows, including a shallow box member having a side wall with a projection spaced from one end wall thereof to provide a pocket to receive only a given number of articles and a cover member slidably mounted upon said box member and provided with a depending flange at one edge thereof cooperating with said projection to push all but said given number of articles into a closed portion of said box member and leave only said given number in said pocket: characterized by a second projection on said side wall spaced from said first-mentioned projection, said second projection having a transverse dimension less than half of the corresponding dimension of the articles being dispensed and being arranged to effect displacement and/or rearrangement of the articles in said closed portion of said box member as said cover member is moved toward open position thereby to prevent a plurality of said articles from assuming a straight, horizontal line relation along said side wall that would block movement of said cover to open position.

7. A dispensing container for small articles normally arranged in a plurality of adjacent rows, including a box member having a side wall with a projection spaced from one end wall thereof to provide a pocket to receive only a given number of articles and a cover member slidably mounted upon said box member and provided with a depending flange at one edge thereof cooperating with said projection to push all but said given number of articles into a closed portion of said box member and leave only said given number in said pocket, characterized by having a portion of said side wall remote from said end wall projected inwardly on an arc to effect displacement and rearrangement of the articles in said closed portion of said box member as said cover member is moved toward open position to thereby prevent a plurality of said articles from assuming a straight line relation along said side wall that would block movement of said cover to open position.

8. In a dispensing container for small articles normally arranged in a plurality of adjacent rows, including a shallow box member having a projection spaced from one end wall thereof to provide a pocket to receive only a given number of articles, and a cover member slidably mounted upon said box member and provided with a depending flange at one edge thereof cooperating with said projection to push all but said given number of articles into a closed portion of said box member and leaving only said given number in said recess; inwardly extending means on the cover member arranged to effect displacement and/or rearrangement of the articles in said closed portion of said box member as said cover member is moved toward open position to thereby prevent a plurality of said articles from assuming a relation that would block movement of said cover to said open position.

9. A dispensing container of the type defined in claim 8, in which the means extending inwardly from the cover member comprises a projection on the inner surface of said cover member arranged to project into the container in

spaced relationship to said pocket forming projection and having an inclined rear face for engaging and imparting transverse movement to an article in the closed portion of said box.

10. A container comprising a shallow box having two parallel side walls and a front and rear wall, a cover mounted on said box for sliding movement in parallelism with said side walls, means cooperating with one of said side walls and said front wall to provide a dispensing pocket, the edge of said cover adjacent said front wall being provided with a depending flange extending part way across said cover for engaging circular articles within said box to push said articles toward the rear wall of said box, and cooperating with said means to prevent entry of more than one of said articles into said dispensing pocket, and a projection extending inwardly into said box adjacent said one side wall and spaced rearwardly from said dispensing pocket, said projection having a front wall arranged at an acute angle to said one parallel side wall so that when the circular articles are moved rearwardly of said box by the depending flange of said cover, as said cover is moved to open position, engagement of any of said circular articles with the inclined front face of said projection will impart a transverse movement to said circular article and re-arrangement of said articles within the closed portion of said box to prevent jamming of said articles and a consequent blocking of the movement of said cover to open position.

11. A container as set forth in claim 10 in which said projection extends inwardly of said box from said one side wall a distance less than half the diameter of the circular articles.

12. A container as set forth in claim 10 in which the projection extending inwardly from said one parallel side wall has the inclined front face thereof curved upon a radius greater than the radius of the circular articles contained within said box.

13. A container as set forth in claim 10 in which the rear wall of said box is of arcuate configuration curved outwardly and upon a radius substantially equal to the length of said box.

CHARLES H. DUELL.