

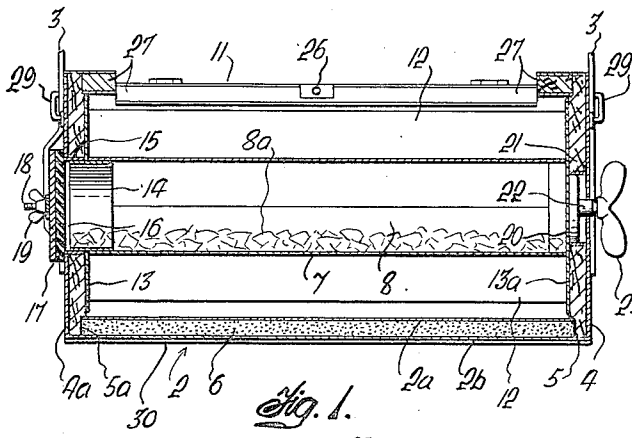
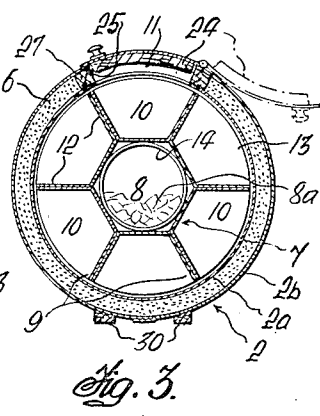
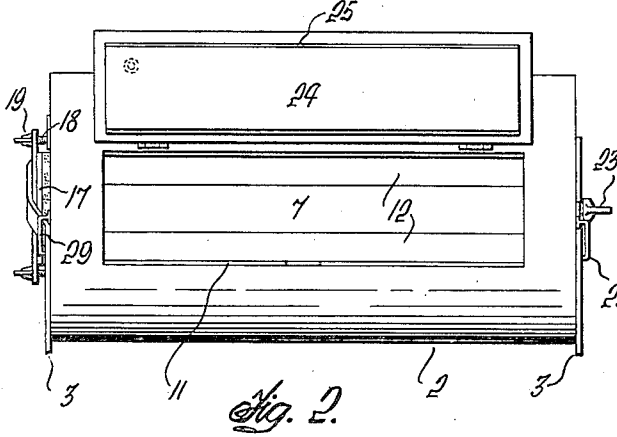
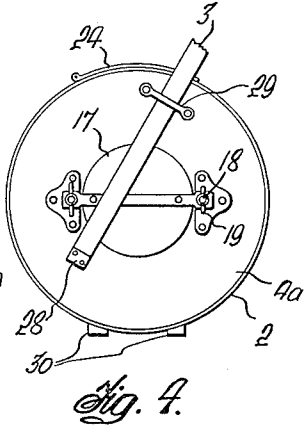
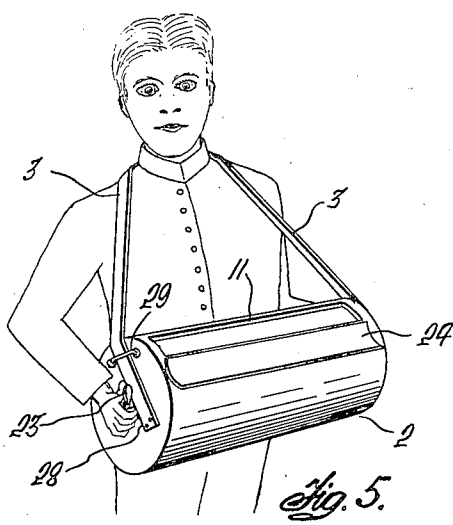
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SERVICE CONTAINER

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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SERVICE CONTAINER

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1 Claim. (Cl. 224—5)

At theatres, concerts, sports meetings and other such places where large numbers of persons congregate it is customary for attendants serving refreshments, confections, ice cream and the like to carry supplies thereof upon trays which are supported by straps passing around the attendant's shoulders. As the trays are devoid of any provision for maintaining the supplies at a desirably low temperature it is frequently found that the ice cream, for instance, has lost much of its desirable coldness and firmness before it is served.

Other disadvantages are that the carrying capacity of the trays is comparatively limited, that the supplies are exposed to dust and other harmful influences, and that it is generally impossible, owing to the unwieldiness of bulkiness of the trays, for attendants to pass conveniently between rows of persons.

The present invention aims to provide a device which overcomes the above and other difficulties associated with supplying theatre audiences and other congregations with ice cream, confections or refreshments.

A device according to the invention makes adequate provision for maintaining ice cream or other articles of refreshment at a desirably low temperature for a relatively long period. The improved device may also be of comparatively large capacity and yet at the same time is compact and of small compass so that an attendant carrying the device may readily pass between closely spaced rows or lines of persons without objectionable inconvenience.

The above and other objects and advantages of the invention will, however, be more readily appreciated from the following description and accompanying drawing relating to a practical embodiment of the invention.

In the drawing Figure 1 is a longitudinal section of a device according to the invention.

Figure 2 is a plan of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a cross section of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a view looking on the left hand end of Figure 1.

Figure 5 illustrates the device in use.

A device according to the invention includes outer casing 2 which may be suspended by straps 3 passing around the shoulders of a person so that the device extends horizontally and about waist high at the front of the person as in Figure 5. The casing is preferably elongated longitudinally and may advantageously be of cylindrical form.

According to the drawing, the casing comprises inner and outer sheet metal shells 2a, 2b and end

closures, comprising outer sheet metal discs 4, 4a, and inner members 5, 5a of wood, compressed fibre or other suitable material. The annular space between the inner and outer shell may be packed with heat suitable insulation material 6 such as ground cork.

Extending lengthwise and centrally within the outer casing, preferably from end to end thereof, is an inner casing 7 providing a chamber 8 for accommodating a suitable refrigerant or cooling agent 8a. Dry ice (compressed carbon dioxide, CO₂) is preferably utilized as the refrigerant on account of its exceptionally low temperature.

A substantially annular storage space for the articles to be dispensed exists between the inner and outer casings and this space is preferably occupied by a series of containers 9 forming separate compartments 10 which extend longitudinally.

Provision is made for rotating the containers so that any one may in turn be brought into registry with an access opening 11 formed in the outer casing and extending longitudinally in the upper part thereof, whereby any article in any container may be readily withdrawn when required.

Various internal constructions may be adopted. For example, the inner casing may consist of a sheet metal cylinder provided with outstanding fins forming the sides of the containers 9, but according to the construction illustrated, the inner casing and the fins are built up from a series of sheet metal strips of trough shape cross section, the sides 12 of each strip being welded, riveted or otherwise secured to the sides of adjacent strips. The bottom or intermediate portions of the strips constitute the inner casing 7, and the bottoms of the containers. In such constructional form, the inner casing may be of hexagonal, or other polygonal shape in cross section. Discs 13, 13a may be secured to the ends of the inner casing and the sides 12.

In both of the foregoing constructional forms the inner casing and the containers constitute a unit, and this unit is rotatably mounted within the outer casing. For this purpose, the inner casing may be provided at one end with a ring portion 14 accommodated by a bearing ring 15 fitted in the respective end closure of the outer casing. The resulting opening 16, which is utilized for charging the inner casing with the refrigerant, may be normally closed by a rubber or like faced cap 17 having associated clamping means such as screws 18 and wing nuts 19.

The inner casing may be permanently closed at its other end by the disc 13a which may have a collar 20 rotatable within a bearing ring 21 fitted

ted in end closure 5. A spindle 22 may project from disc 13a through end closure 5 and be provided with a handle 23 for turning the casing and container unit.

5 The access opening 11 in the upper part of the outer casing may be provided with a hinged door 24 normally held in closed position by a catch device such as a ball 25 adapted to be spring projected from the door into a cavity 26 in one of
10 the edges of the opening 11. This opening may be defined by a wooden or suitable frame 27 fitted into the space between the double walls of the outer casing.

Straps may be secured as at 28 to the end
15 closure of the outer casing and pass through guides 29 so that the device may be conveniently supported at the front of an attendant, the turning handle 23 being preferably located at the right hand end of the device for convenience of
20 operation.

The individual containers or compartments may be readily loaded by way of access opening 11 with supplies of the articles to be dispensed, and any desired container may be speedily
25 brought into registry with the access opening to the exclusion of the other containers in order to permit of deliveries being made.

Battens 30 may be applied to the lower part of the outer casing to enable the device to rest
30 with stability upon a flat surface.

It will be evident from the foregoing that the invention provides an efficient and convenient device for the purposes indicated. The devices

may be constructed to hold comparatively large quantities of supplies and yet on account of their compactness permit attendants carrying the devices to pass with comparative ease and convenience between seated or standing rows of persons. 5

Having now described my invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

A service container comprising a cylindrical casing of double wall type, insulating material between the walls, end walls for the casing, a chamber mounted axially of the casing, means for rotatably supporting the chamber in each end wall of the casing, means carried by one end wall
15 of the casing to permit access to the chamber to utilize the chamber as a refrigerant receptacle, means connected with the chamber and extending through the opposite end wall thereof for rotating the chamber, and a series of walls radiating from the chamber into substantial contact with the casing and substantially coextensive in length with the distance between the end walls of the casing, whereby to provide merchandise receptacles surrounding the chamber and
20 open toward the casing, the casing being formed with an opening extending longitudinally thereof for substantially the full length of a merchandise receptacle, whereby access is had to all the articles in a merchandise receptacle in registry
25 with said opening in the casing. 30

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