

(No Model.)

F. L. CLARK.
OIL CAN.

No. 251,832.

Patented Jan. 3, 1882.

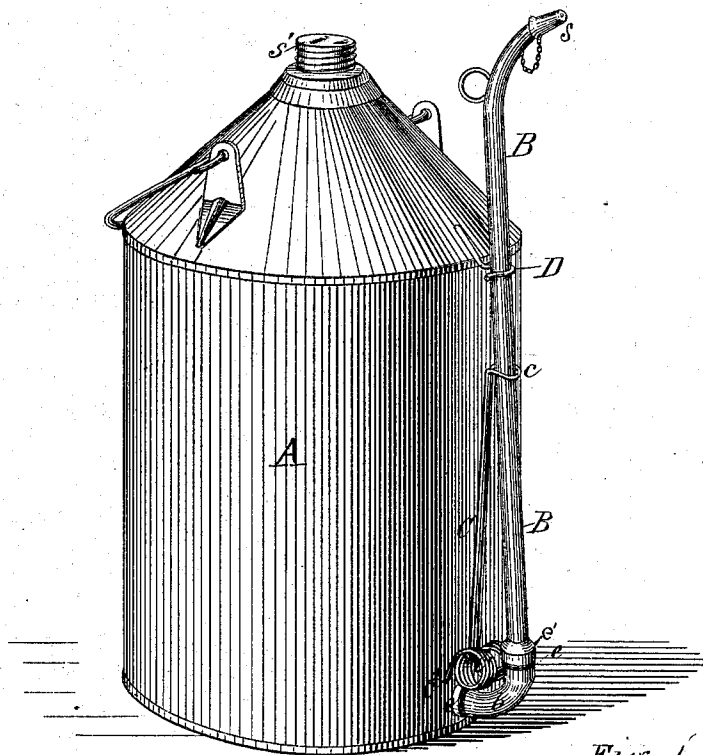


Fig. 1.

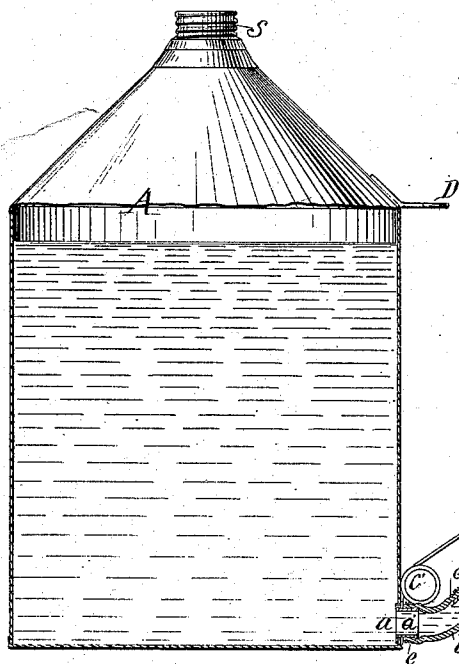


Fig. 2.

Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANCIS L. CLARK, OF SEWICKLEY, PENNSYLVANIA.

OIL-CAN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 251,832, dated January 3, 1882.

Application filed June 6, 1881. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANCIS L. CLARK, of Sewickley borough, county of Allegheny, State of Pennsylvania, have invented or discovered a new and useful Improvement in Oil-Cans; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, concise, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—like letters indicating like parts—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an oil-can embodying my invention, and Fig. 2 is a sectional view of the same.

With oil-cans as ordinarily constructed, having a fixed or inflexible discharge-nozzle, considerable difficulty is experienced, when filling lamps therefrom, in preventing overflow or spilling of oil, especially with cans of large size or when full, or nearly full, of oil. Such overflow or wastage is especially liable to occur when the can is first tipped for pouring, and also when pouring is arrested, and it causes much annoyance, inconvenience, and frequent damage, particularly when the duty of filling lamps devolves upon ordinary house-servants.

The purpose of my invention is to avoid the trouble and inconvenience incident to the use of oil-cans with rigid or fixed discharge-nozzles, and this I do by connecting the discharge nozzle or tube to the body or reservoir of the can at or near the bottom of the latter by a flexible rubber tube, and providing means for moving and securing such nozzle or tube, whereby its discharge end may be raised above the level of oil in the can to arrest discharge or lowered more or less below the level of the oil to permit discharge without tipping or moving the body of the can.

In the drawings, A represents an oil-can body, of the usual form and construction, employed for holding illuminating-oil for household or domestic use. Near the bottom of such can-body is made a discharge-opening, *a*, with a short pipe end, *a'*, extending therefrom. A discharge tube or nozzle, B, of tin or other suitable material, is connected with pipe *a'* by a flexible rubber tube, *b*. The ends of this rubber tube are fitted tightly onto the pipe *a'* and onto the end *b'* of the nozzle, respectively. To secure these parts against leakage and prevent them from being pulled apart, the pipe ends *a'* and *b'* may be corrugated or roughened circum-

ferentially in the usual or any desired manner, and the hose ends may be wrapped exteriorly with wire, as at *e*, to bind them tightly upon the pipe ends; also, as a guard to the outer end of the rubber tube, a flange or cap, *e'*, is provided on the lower end of tube B, which both covers and protects the tube end and gives the connection a more finished appearance. The length of discharge-tube B is, by preference, equal to or a little greater than the height of the can-body A, so that when raised to vertical position, as in Fig. 1, its upper end may be a little above the top of the can, and thereby prevent flow of oil from the can. In order to raise the discharge-tube to such vertical position, I make use of a wire spring, C, the center or loop of which is passed under or around the tube, as at *c*. Toward the two ends the wire is coiled, as at *c'*, and its extremities are rigidly fastened to the can-body by solder or otherwise, as at *c''*. Such a spring can be made with trifling expense, and is well adapted to the purpose mentioned, having a considerable range or extent of motion and uniformity of action. Such a spring both insures the immediate raising of the tube and stoppage of flow of oil as soon as the tube is released, and it also causes the tube or nozzle to retain the same plane of motion, and thereby assists materially in directing the same as it is pulled or brought down for drawing off oil.

In order to prevent accidental depression of the discharge-tube, a hook or catch, D, is secured to the body of the can, and is extended outward in position to engage the nozzle when raised, as in Fig. 1. By a slight backward and sidewise movement the nozzle or tube may be released from the hook and pulled or pressed downward against the pressure of spring C, as in Fig. 2, until its discharge end is below the level of oil in the can, when the oil will flow steadily and in uniform direction from the nozzle in a convenient manner for directing it into a lamp.

The usual caps or stoppers, *s s'*, may be employed for closing the nozzle-opening and also the supply-opening to the body of the can.

An important feature of my invention is the flexible connection between the can-body and the discharge-tube, and the spring C, by which the discharge-tube is held, lifted, and guided.

I am aware that it is not new with me to make

a hinged, jointed, or flexible connection between a can-body and its discharge-tube, nor to counterweight such a discharge-tube, so as to be raised thereby when released, and I do not claim such features of construction, alone considered.

I have found by extended use and tests that a can constructed as shown and described is well adapted to hold illuminating-oils without leakage; and in the operation of filling lamps therefrom, and especially the reservoir of student-lamps, which is held usually in one hand while being filled, my improved can possesses many advantages. By drawing oil from the bottom of the can I avoid to a great degree escape of gas, which is liable to accumulate in the upper part of the can. The discharge-tube may be manipulated easily with one hand, while the lamp or other vessel to be filled may be held in the other hand. The oil may be drawn off without danger of spilling or over-

flow, but slight labor is required, and a large can may be employed instead of the usual small one without additional labor or risk in filling a lamp.

I claim herein as my invention—

A can for holding illuminating-oil for domestic use, having in combination a body, A, with a short discharge-pipe, *a'*, near its bottom, a discharge-tube, B, flexible rubber tube *b*, connecting the pipe and discharge-tube, and a spring, C, secured to the can-body and discharge-tube, and adapted to raise the free end of the tube when released and to cause it to move in a given plane, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

FRANCIS L. CLARK.

Witnesses:

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R. H. WHITTLESEY.