June 20, 1950 J. A. MEREDITH 2,511,864

BOTTLEHOLDER

Filed June 27, 1946

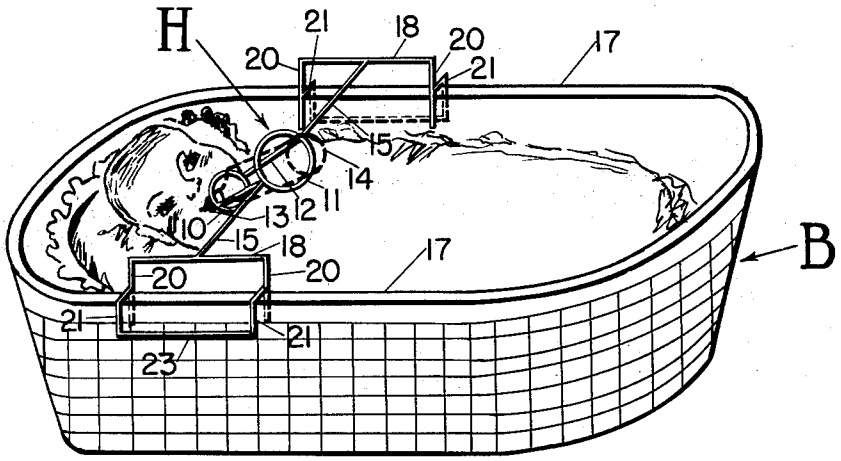


FIGURE 1

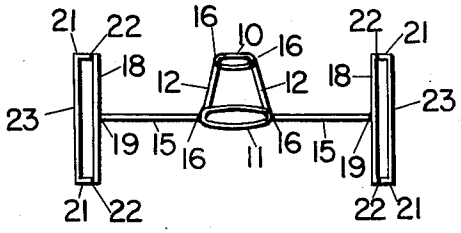


FIGURE 2

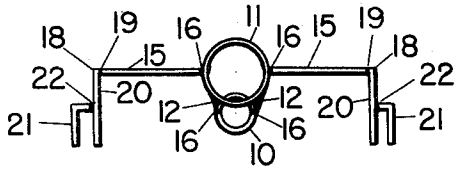


FIGURE 3

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Patented June 20, 1950 2,511,864

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,511,864

BOTTLEHOLDER

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Application June 27, 1946, Serial No. 679,781

1 Claim. (Cl. 248—102)

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This invention relates to holders for bottles and the like, and more particularly to a holder for an infant's feeding bottle or the like.

In supplying liquids such as milk, water, food formulae, and the like, as to infants who are unable to hold a bottle, it is often a tedious and time consuming operation for an adult to hold the bottle for the infant. Sometimes the bottle is propped upon a pillow or other support, but the position of the bottle is not any too secure and the bottle does not respond in the proper manner to the activities of the infant in extracing the liquid therefrom.

Among the objects of this invention are to provide a holder for an infant's bottle or the like which will maintain the bottle in a desired position during use by the infant; to provide such a holder which will permit a sufficient degree of movement so that the normal actions of the infant in extracting the fluid therefrom will not cause the bottle to fall out of the holder or be moved from the desired position; to provide such a holder wherein a limited degree of freedom in a lateral direction and a considerable degree of freedom in a longitudinal direction is provided; to provide such a holder in which the position of the bottle is maintained by the effect of gravity, yet the foregoing degrees of freedom are provided; to provide such a holder which is readily placed on a crib, basket, bassinet, carriage, cradle or other means for reception of the infant; and to provide such a holder which will be relatively simple in construction, light in weight and easy to manufacture. Other objects and the novel features of this invention will become apparent from the description which follows.

A holder for an infant's bottle or the like, constructed in accordance with this invention, may comprise means for retaining the bottle in a predetermined position and a support for the retaining means adapted to be placed on the edges of a basket or the like. The retaining means preferably includes a front ring and a larger rear ring, while the support may include a single wire extending laterally from each side of the retaining means, and a framework including spaced legs and hooks for engaging the basket edges. The bottle holder may be constructed of wire bent to the desired configuration, or sections of wire bent to shape and the sections welded or attached together in any other suitable manner. As will be evident, since the holder is preferably made of wire, it may be bent to fit any particular basket or the like within rather wide limits. A holder for an infant's bottle, which includes the foregoing and also additional features, is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:

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Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a bottle holder constructed in accordance with this invention, shown in use and placed on an infant's basket or the like;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the bottle holder of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 3 is a rear elevation of the bottle holder.

As in Fig. 1, a bottle holder H constructed in accordance with this invention may be placed on a basket or bassinet B in which lies an infant to whom milk, water or the like is to be administered. The holder H comprises a pair of rings 10 and 11, joined by converging longitudinal wires 12. Front ring 10 is sufficiently small to permit a nipple 13 and a portion of a bottle 14 to pass therethrough, yet is adapted to prevent the bottle from falling or sliding out of the holder. The rear ring 11 is larger, and permits a sufficient lateral freedom of movement of the bottle to accommodate normal side-to-side shifting of the infant during the feeding operation. The bottle 14 is also movable relatively freely longitudinally within rings 10 and 11, so that it permits forward and backward movements of the head of the infant during feeding, but the rings 10 and 11 are preferably so disposed that the bottle slants downwardly at a sufficient angle that it tends to slide into a forward position until restrained by front ring 10. Thus, should the infant push the bottle 14 back in the holder, it will slide forwardly again into proper position, so that even though the infant may lose the nipple 13, it can readily recover the same since the bottle tends to return always to its forward position.

For supporting the rings 10 and 11 in the desired position, suitable means such as lateral wires 15, extending from each side of the rear ring 11 and attached thereto at longitudinal wires 12, may be utilized. Or, lateral wires 15 may be formed as extensions or continuations of longitudinal wires 12, preferably being joined to rings 10 and 11 at suitable points, as by welds 16. Also, welds 16 may join the abutting ends of circular pieces forming the rings 10 and 11 together.

The central structure, including rings 10 and 11 and longitudinal wires 12, may be twisted to retain the bottle at any desired angle, but the lateral wires 15 are preferably sufficiently stiff so that the bottle will be maintained at the desired angle.

Each lateral wire 15 also extends to a suitable support, preferably adapted to fit over the edges 17 of basket B, as in Fig. 1. The support for each lateral wire 15 may comprise a frame work

having an upper bar 18 to the center of which wire 15 may be attached, as by a weld 19. Upper bars 18 may be formed integrally with side bars 20, and a hook 21 may be attached to each side bar 20, as by welds 22. The ends of hooks 21 may be formed integrally with a lower bar 23, one of which joins each pair of hooks. Hooks 21 are adapted to rest upon the edges 17 of the basket B, as in Fig. 1, with lower bars 23 outside edges 17 and the lower ends of side bars 20 inside the same. It will be understood, of course, that the ends of side bars 20 may be joined by a lower bar, if desired, and also that lower bars 23 joining hooks 21 may be omitted, if desired.

As will be evident, relatively wide latitude is possible in the construction and manufacture of the bottle holder of this invention. For instance, the entire holder may be made of a single piece of wire and only two welds used in attaching the ends to other portions of the wire, such welds being made at any desired point, such as the junction between lateral wires 15 and upper bars 18. Thus, beginning at one such point and proceeding outwardly along one upper bar, it can be seen that a single piece of wire may be bent to form one-half of an upper bar 18, then bent to form one side bar 20, the lower half of which may be formed by a double wire twisted together, and then bent to form one hook 21, a lower bar 23, and the opposite hook 21. The lower half of the opposite side bar 20 may be formed in the same manner as before, and then the remainder of the upper bar 18 produced. At the junction between upper bar 18 and lateral wire 15, a weld or other suitable attachment to the starting end may be made. This leaves the lateral wire 15 extending toward the center, and the wire may be bent in any one of several different ways to form the central structure. Thus, the wire may be bent to form one longitudinal wire 12, and then front ring 10 formed by a one and a half circle, the upper half, for instance, of ring 10 being made double and the wire also looped around the ring previously made. The wire is then bent to form the opposite longitudinal wire 12. The rear ring 11 may then be formed, and the end of the wire bent laterally to form the opposite lateral wire 15. The opposite support may be formed in the same manner as the first.

However, the preferred construction is by welding, as the rings 10 and 11 may be bent to shape; the wires 12 and 15 formed as a single piece and bent to shape; the upper bars 18 and side bars 20 bent to shape as a unit; and the hooks 21 and lower bars 23 formed as units. Such units may then all be placed in a jig and then attached together, as by spot or resistance welding or any other suitable form of welding or brazing. While the welds are preferably placed at the places described, it will be understood that other weld or attachment positions may be found suitable.

The material of which the holder is made may vary considerably. Thus, the wires may be iron, copper, stainless steel, aluminum or magnesium alloys, and the like, and certain portions of the holder may even comprise tubing in lieu of wires. Also, certain portions of the holder, such as the supports engaging the edges of the basket may be formed of relatively light magnesium alloy castings, for instance. The wire of which the holder is constructed is preferably sufficiently stiff to hold the bottle without depreciable sag, yet able to be bent to raise or lower the position of the bottle in accordance with the height of the edges of the basket, and the size and position of the infant.

From the foregoing, it will be evident that the bottle holder of this invention has many and numerous advantages. The hooks 21 are wide enough so that the holder may be readily moved to any desired position along the edges of the basket B, but the hooks 21 are spaced far enough apart at each side so as to insure stability and prevent the holder from being tipped over by any unusual movement by the infant in the basket. The front and rear rings of different diameters permit a bottle to be readily inserted and to be removed from a holder, yet maintain the bottle sufficiently accurately so that it remains in substantially the desired position at all times. The position of the bottle may be adjusted readily in the manner indicated previously, to accommodate various conditions. Furthermore, the construction is such that the side supports can readily be bent outwardly or inwardly in order to accommodate different widths of the basket, and also can be twisted so that the holder can be placed conveniently on a basket or the like, the edges or the sides of which are not circular.

It will be evident that various changes may be made in both the material and the manner of constructing the holder of this invention, and that other embodiments of this invention may exist, all without departing from the spirit and scope thereof.

What is claimed is:

A holder for an infant's bottle or the like, comprising a front ring, a larger rear ring, a wire at each side thereof connecting said rings and extending normally in substantially a horizontal plane laterally from each side of said rear ring, a support for said wires including a framework at each side having a top bar and side bars formed integrally and having spaced legs and hooks for engaging the edges of a basket or the like, welds joining each said wire with said rings and with said framework at approximately the center of said top bar thereof, said rings being relatively larger than the corresponding portions of the bottle which they support whereby to permit tilting, rotating and lengthwise movement in a limited range of the bottle when in use, said hooks extending laterally outward and then downward from said side bars, each said framework also including a lower bar formed integrally with and joining the lower ends of each pair of hooks, and a weld joining each hook to a side bar.

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