(No Model.)

D. H. MATHIAS.

EGG HOLDER.

No. 437,706. Patented Oct. 7, 1890.

Fig. 1.

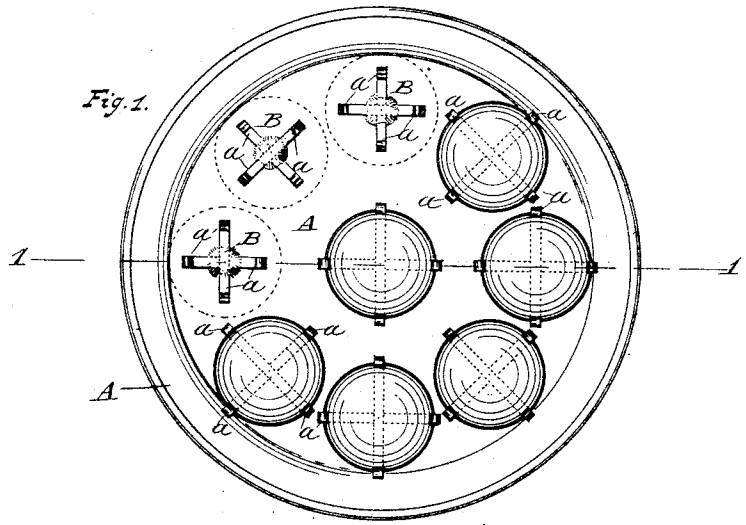


Fig. 2.

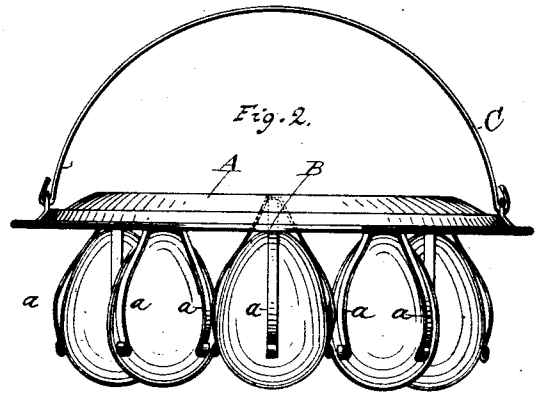
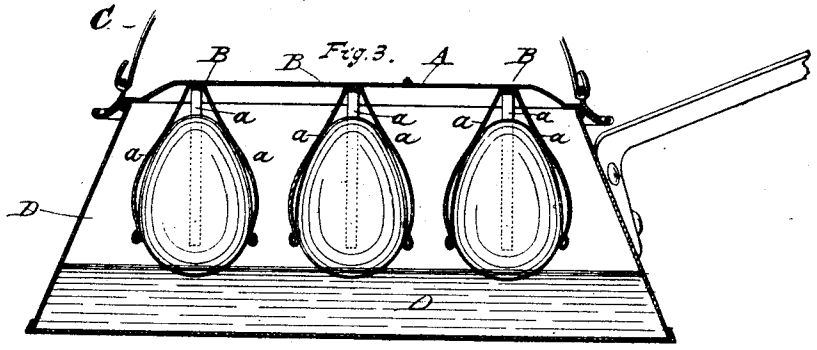


Fig. 3.



Witnesses. Cornelius Van Dezee
J. H. Simonson

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Inventor.

THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID H. MATHIAS, OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO JAMES H. SIMONSON, OF SAME PLACE.

EGG-HOLDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 437,706, dated October 7, 1890.

Application filed June 13, 1890. Serial No. 355,383. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DAVID H. MATHIAS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Albany, in the county of Albany and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Egg-Holders, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in egg-holders; and it consists in the combinations of the devices and elements hereinafter described, and specifically set forth in the claims.

The objects of my invention are, first, to combine with a supporting piece or web a group of three or more elastic metallic egg-retaining arms which converge at their place of union with said piece or web and are curved toward each other, so as to be capable of receiving and retaining an egg by their coaction; second, the combination, with a supporting piece or web, of a series of groups of three or more elastic metallic egg-holding arms, in which the said arms of each group diverge from their common point or place of union with said supporting piece or web and are curved toward each other, whereby several eggs can be introduced into the holder and be retained in store or in carriage or while being boiled and be removable at will; third, the combination, with a supporting piece or web and a handle, of a series of groups of three or more elastic metallic egg-holding arms, in which the said arms diverge at their place of union with the said supporting piece or web and are curved toward each other, with each end free and independent of the others, and the several free ends on a circle of less diameter than that of the eggs, whereby a number of eggs can be held in place with the said supporting piece or web without shifting and be readily immersed into water and withdrawn at will; and, further, to combine with a water-holding vessel and a disk, which can operate as a cover to said vessel, a series of groups of three or more elastic metallic egg-holding arms which diverge from their points of union with said disk and curve toward each other with their individual outer ends free and on a circle of smaller diameter than that of the eggs, whereby the latter can be introduced within a vessel holding boiling water while they are held separately and be covered within said vessel and be readily removed at will. I attain these objects by the means illustrated in the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a view from above of an egg-holding device embodying some of the features of my invention and illustrating the device in position with the egg-holding elastic arms, and eggs held therein projected upwardly from the web or piece serving in such a case as the base or bottom of the device. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same, and illustrating it provided with a handle when the holder is intended to be used partly or wholly for boiling eggs; and Fig. 3 is a sectional elevation of the egg-holder and a vessel for holding water for boiling eggs.

The several parts throughout the several views are indicated by similar letters of reference.

In the drawings, A is a suitable piece or web, to which is secured the several egg-holding devices used in this invention. This piece or web can be made of any suitable material, yet sheet metal, preferably sheet-tin or galvanized iron cut to any suitable shape and size, is preferred. When sheet-metal pieces or webs A are used, I would stiffen such pieces by corrugations, beads, or their equivalents by suitable means, as practiced by workers of sheet metal. The drawings show this piece A to be made with a circular form, and shaped (by striking up) somewhat like a cover of a culinary vessel.

B B are egg-holders, each formed by a group of elastic metal arms *a a a*, made, preferably, of steel or spring-brass. These arms are of suitable length and have their ends or portions at piece A secured to the latter by any suitable means, as by solder, rivets, or otherwise, and they diverge from their common point of connection with the piece A and are curved inwardly, as shown, with their outer ends free and separate from each of the others and on a circle of less diameter than that of the eggs to be held. The outer or free ends of these arms are turned outwardly and preferably over on the body of the strips forming these arms, as shown.

The piece A is provided with any suitable handle for convenience for carrying this egg-holder and the eggs held therein; but when the holder is to be used exclusively for transportation, the handle can be dispensed with and the piece or web A can be inverted from situation above, as shown, to below the elastic arms, so that the latter will appear to project upwardly from said web instead of downwardly, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. This piece or web A and the several egg-holders B, composed each of the elastic metal arms *a a a*, as described, form a device which can be employed with advantage by housekeepers, farmers, dealers, and others for holding large numbers of eggs in store, with each egg held separate from the others and in position best adapted to preserve it in good condition and protect it from liability of breakage. When this device is of capacity for holding from twenty to fifty or more or less eggs each for use for storage and transportation, as by farmers or shippers or dealers, these devices can be used in numbers of from two to five or more together, when filled with eggs, within an outer box or crate, (not shown,) as is the practice with egg-holders of other constructions, for their protection and for convenience for handling.

Although the web or piece A can be made of wood to serve as a base or bottom to the device when it is to be used for storage or transportation of eggs, yet for domestic uses in homes, hotels, &c., I construct the said web or piece A of sheet metal of such size and form as may be suitable to afford it capacity for holding the number of egg-holders B desired to be used in a single device, and such a metal piece or web can serve as a base or bottom for the device when placed on a table or shelf, with the elastic arms *a a a* and eggs held therein projecting upwardly, as illustrated in Fig. 1. This web or piece A, when made of sheet metal, can be made with such a form as will adapt it to serve as a cover for a pot or kettle or sauce-pan D for boiling water, so that when placed over and on the top of such vessel with the egg-holding arms *a a a* with the eggs therein projected downwardly within the chamber of the same, as illustrated in Fig. 3, the eggs will be securely held in the embrace of the elastic arms *a a a* and be supported within the said vessel each separate from the others and at the same distance from the bottom of the same, so as to be evenly boiled therein.

When this egg-holding device is to be used in homes for holding eggs in store, and also for boiling the same, the web or piece A is provided with a suitable handle for convenience of handling the device while heated, and preference is given to the handle C, made in the form of a bail, jointed to the side of piece A opposite from that from which the egg-holding arms *a* project.

The web or piece A is illustrated as being composed of a single piece, yet it can be made up of several pieces or sections suitably secured together, and the several groups B of elastic arms *a a a* may be inclosed about by suitable pieces, which will operate as guarding sides, as is practiced in some cases with egg-holders of other constructions.

For transportation of eggs this egg-holder can be used in any suitable number when inclosed within a suitable crate or other receptacle, and in such a case I would employ with the egg-holders and the crate or receptacle bars or suitable devices, with either, to hold the neighboring egg-holders apart, or the eggs in one holder from contact with the piece A of the neighboring holder.

The advantages attending the use of these curved elastic arms *a a a* in groups of three or more, constructed and secured as described, are that an egg can be readily placed in the embrace of each group of said curved and independent elastic arms and be securely held therein in all the positions the holder may have given to it without requiring any mechanical manipulations of parts by the operator; also, that by the independence of each arm in the same group of the others the weakness of one of the arms in the group is not liable to affect the embracing strength of the others; also, because of the freedom of each one of the curved elastic arms from the others in the group and from connection with any ring from pieces pivoted to the outer ends thereof these curved elastic arms are allowed to be separately or independently expanded for placing an egg, and freely contract on the same when placed, so as to tightly hold it from falling out of the embrace of said arms when they are in a pendent position below the piece A. A further advantage is that the several groups of these curved elastic and independent metal arms when secured to a single web A, also made of metal, can be used by housekeepers for holding eggs in store in best position until used, and also be employed to hold eggs within a vessel of boiling water until cooked, and then readily withdrawing the same and immersing them in cold water to check further cooking.

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

1. The combination, with the piece or web A, of a group of three or more elastic metal arms *a a a*, secured to said web or piece and curved inwardly and having their outer ends free, separate, and independent of each other and contracted to within a circle of less diameter than that of the outer throw of the curvature of said arms, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

2. The combination, with a supporting piece or web A, of a series of groups B B of three or more elastic metal arms *a a a*, which converge at their respective places of union in groups with said piece or web and are curved inwardly with their free ends separate and independent each of the others and capable

of being expanded at will for receiving eggs within their embrace, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

3. The combination, with a piece or web A, having a handle secured to a side thereof, of a series of groups B B of three or more curved elastic metal arms *a a a*, which are projected from the side of the said piece opposite to that the handle is secured to and diverge in each group from their respective points of union with said piece, and have their outer ends free and each separate and independent of the others and set to a circle of less diameter than that at which the outer throw of the curvature of said arms occurs in each group, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

4. The combination, with a vessel for boiling water, of a piece or web A, having a handle pivoted to one side thereof and having secured to the opposite side a series of groups B B of three or more curved elastic arms *a a a*, having their outer ends free and each separate and independent of the others and bent inwardly toward the center of their respective groups and capable of being expanded outwardly at will, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

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