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R. S. WHITMAN

GUARD FOR CHICK FOUNTS

Filed April 19, 1924

Fig. 1.

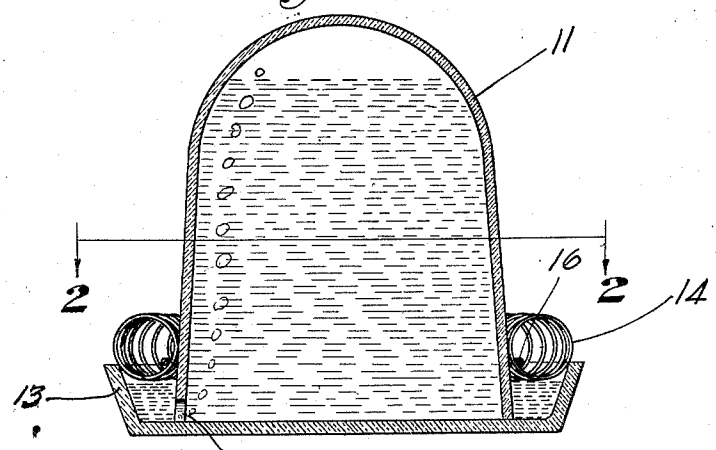


Fig. 2.

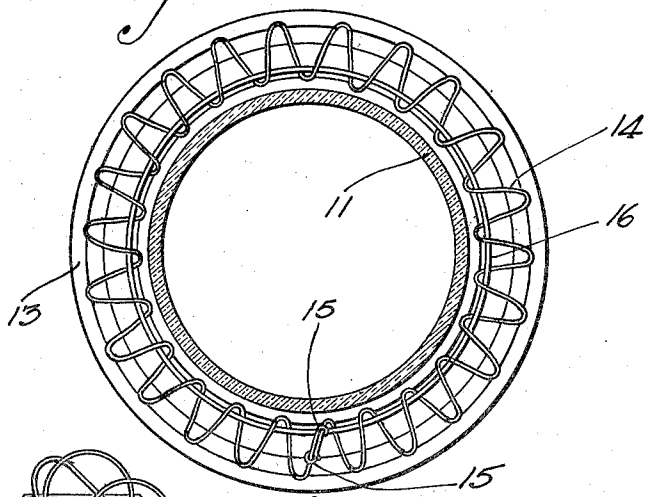
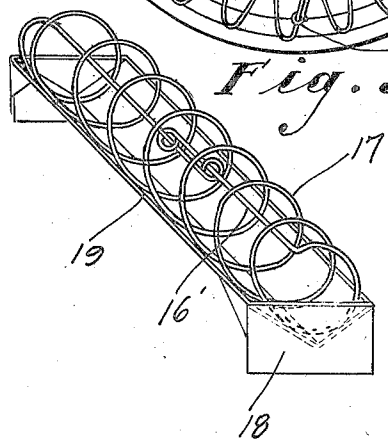


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT S. WHITMAN, OF VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA.

GUARD FOR CHICK FOUNTS.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT S. WHITMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Van Nuys, in the county of Los Angeles and State of California, have invented a new and useful Guard for Chick Founts, of which the following is a specification.

Although my present invention is referred to as a guard for a drinking fountain for chicks, it should be understood that guard elements of the novel type herein disclosed are suitable for use in connection with feeding troughs as well as drinking fountains; and it should also be understood that while my invention is intended primarily to prevent young chicks from becoming wet and chilled or killed as a consequence of their getting into or being pushed into drinking fountains, it is also an important object of this invention to provide means tending to prevent the fouling of drinking water or foods rendered accessible to chicks by the exposure thereof in basins or troughs or other utensils of any preferred shape.

It is an especial object of my invention to provide a very simple guard suitable for use in connection with drinking fountains of a familiar type comprising an inverted bowl or receptacle adapted to be disposed centrally within a basin of somewhat larger diameter, a hole being provided near or at the edge of said inverted bowl in such manner as to permit entrance of air thereto whenever the water in the surrounding basin falls below a predetermined level; and, in a preferred embodiment of my invention, this guard may comprise a helical coil of wire whose ends are connected to form a ring of a size suitable to be resiliently retained at any level to which it may be adjusted upon the outer wall of the mentioned inverted bowl. The helical circular coil of the character referred to may optionally be of such diameter that its inner side shall contact with the outer wall of the mentioned bowl or any equivalent receptacular element, its outer side optionally contacting with the inner wall of the basin or dish in which the receptacular element may be inverted; and a resilient guard of the character referred to may thus be effective not only to prevent young chicks from wetting themselves, or one another, by crowding into a drinking fountain, and to prevent fouling of water or food contained in any dish or trough, but when used in connection with an inverted bowl, or the like, disposed within a basin of larger diameter, this guard may be of use also in maintaining the central position of the inverted bowl within the basin; and such a guard may either be permitted to contact with the water or food provided for young chicks or it may be maintained at any desired level thereabove, the resiliency of a helical coil of the character described being sufficient not only to maintain it at any desired level upon the exterior of a slightly tapered central bowl, but also sufficient to permit of the use of such a coil upon bowls having slightly differing diameters.

Although I may prefer to form my novel guards exclusively of a single piece of wire, I may optionally provide an interior loop tending to prevent expansion thereof beyond an elastic limit; or I may employ sheet metal or other materials, provided the same be cut in such manner as to avoid danger that young chicks shall be trapped therein, and in such manner as to permit the resilient retention of a guard in substantially the way described.

Other objects of my invention will appear from the following description of alternative embodiments thereof, taken in connection with the appended claims and the accompanying drawings, in which—

Fig. 1 is a vertical section through a drinking fountain equipped with an embodiment of my invention.

Fig. 2 is a horizontal sectional view, taken substantially as indicated by the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of an adaptation of my invention to use in connection with a rectilinear trough for water or feed.

Referring to the details of that specific embodiment of my invention shown in Figs. 1 and 2, 11 may be an inverted bowl or other receptacular element having downwardly extending or substantially vertical walls, this bowl being shown as provided at 12 with an opening through which water may escape into an outer basin 13 whenever the level of the water in the latter shall fall so low as to permit bubbles of air to enter through the aperture 12. The type of fountain here referred to is already in extensive use, and my present invention relates only to an organization comprising a suitable guard, such

as the helical coil 14, adapted to be resiliently retained in contact with supporting or confining walls. As a simple and effective means for excluding young chicks from a drinking fountain or the like, avoiding danger to said chicks and avoiding contamination of water or food, I may employ a mere helical coil having its ends united in such manner as to form a complete ring or annulus; and the ends of the coil may be united in any suitable way, as by merely forming in each wire a loop surrounding the other wire in proximity to the loop thereon, as best illustrated at 15, 15′, in Fig. 2. A coil of the character referred to may be of any preferred size, and the respective turns of wire may be spaced as desired, provided that the intervals therebetween be large enough to permit the head of a chick to move freely therebetween and yet close enough together to prevent the body of a chick or its wings from becoming wet; and it is an important advantage of the simple construction just referred to that although my novel guard may be formed from a single piece of wire, the article produced involves no sharp angles or intersecting elements by which a chick might be entrapped.

In Fig. 3 is shown an adaptation of a helical coil to the exclusion of chicks from a rectilinear receptacle in the form of a trough, which may be either a watering trough or a feed trough, the expansive tendency of the guard being sufficient to retain the same in place; and I may optionally provide either the annular guard shown in Figs. 1 and 2 or the alternative form shown in Fig. 3 with means such as an additional wire 16 extending therethrough and tending to prevent the expansion thereof beyond an elastic limit, the restraining wire 16′ of that embodiment of my invention illustrated in Fig. 3 being integral or continuous with the rectilinear helix 17 extending between the ends 18 of the trough 19. In either of the described forms of my invention, the ends of a wire comprising a helix may be connected by loops, each loop surrounding a wire below the loop thereon, and these loops may either be closed so tightly as to prevent longitudinal movement, or left loose enough to permit such movement, in response to longitudinal compression.

It will be understood that the form of my invention illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 is intended to comprise a guard of sufficient resiliency to render the same substantially self-retaining at any predetermined level; but the coils of the same may advantageously be of such diameter as to interfit between the walls of the bowl 11 and the basin 13 without permitting actual contact of the guard element with the drinking water; and the guard element may, when used in this manner, serve as an aid in centering the bowl 11 within the basin 13.

My guards are sufficiently elastic to permit the same to be used upon receptacles of various sizes, and all forms of my invention are effective, in an obvious manner, not only for the protection of chicks, or the like, but to preserve the purity of water or food provided for the same.

Although I have herein described several alternative embodiments of my invention, it will be understood that various features thereof might be independently employed; and also that various additional modifications might be devised by those skilled in the art, without the slightest departure from the spirit and scope of my invention as the same is indicated above and in the following claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. In a poultry appliance, a guard formed of resilient material and adapted to be supported by engagement with a wall of a receptacle, said guard comprising a single wire coiled in a helix and having its ends connected.

2. In a poultry appliance, a guard formed of resilient material and adapted to be supported by engagement with a wall of a receptacle, said guard comprising a single wire coiled in a helix and having its ends connected by loops, each loop surrounding a wire below a loop therein.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand at Los Angeles, California, this 8th day of April, 1924.

ROBERT S. WHITMAN.