April 25, 1933. M. B. CUNNINGHAM 1,906,135

CONDIMENT SHAKER

Filed Sept. 13 1932

Fig. 1.

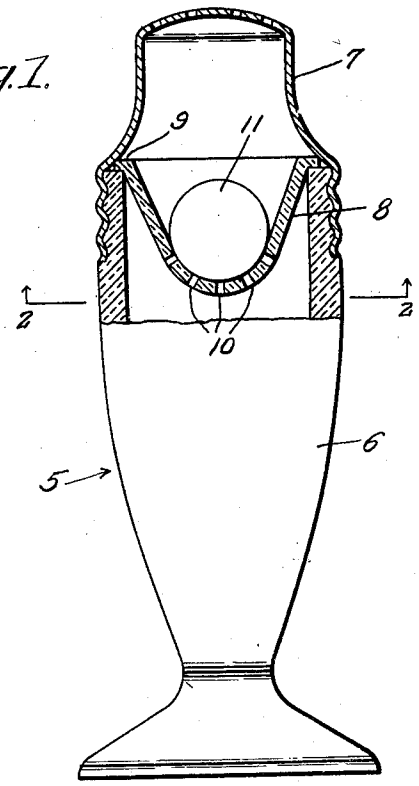
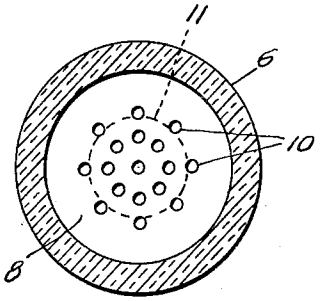



Fig. 2.




Inventor

Melville B. Cunningham,

By Clarence A. O'Brien

Attorney

Patented Apr. 25, 1933

1,906,135

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

MELVILLE BOYD CUNNINGHAM, OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS

## CONDIMENT SHAKER

Application filed September 13, 1932. Serial No. 632,969.

This invention relates generally to condiment shakers but more particularly to an attachment for the usual form of condiment shakers.

In accordance with the present invention, an attachment for a receptacle or holder of the character above mentioned is provided for ready application to the holder without material alterations in the construction thereof, and which, when applied to the holder, will provide valve means for normally retaining the shaker closed and which further, when the shaker is in use, will serve as a medium for crushing coarse grains of salt or the like, thus preventing the formation of encrustations, and thereby insure a free flow of the salt or other condiment.

The invention together with its numerous objects and advantages will be readily understood by a study of the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, wherein:—

Figure 1 is a view partly in section and partly in elevation showing the attachment applied to a conventional condiment shaker, and

Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional view taken substantially on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

With reference more in detail to the drawing, it will be seen that 5 designates generally a conventional condiment shaker including the body or receptacle part 6 and cap 7. In this form of the invention the cap 7 is adapted to be screwed upon the body as is shown.

My atachment per se comprises a funnel-like member or diaphragm 8 provided at its upper edge with an annular flange 9 adapted to be clamped between the upper edge of the body 6 and a portion of the cap 7 as shown in Fig. 1. In this manner the member 8 is securely retained within the body or receptacle member 6. The member 8 may be formed of glass or any other suitable material and the bottom of the member 8 is concave, and provided with a plurality of orifices 10. A ball-like valve member 11 is accommodated by the member 8 and normally seats in the concave bottom of the member for closing the orifices 10, the ball 11 being preferably made of metal, and of sufficient weight to crush coarse particles of salt or other condiments, but is not so heavy, as when shaken, to injure either the walls of the member 8, or of the cap 7.

Ordinarily the ball valve 11 rests within the funnel 8, being disposed at the bottom of the funnel for closing the orifices 10 and thereby prevents any dirt or moisture from getting into the receptacle. When the shaker is used, the same will of course be inverted, at which time the ball 11 moves from its seat to allow the contents of the body portion 6 of the shaker to pass through the perforations 10 and also through the perforations usually provided in the cap 7.

It will also be apparent that whenever desired, the member 8 and ball 11 may be readily removed from the shaker by first removing the cap 7.

Even though I have herein shown and described the preferred embodment of the invention, it is to be understood that the same is susceptible of further changes, modifications and improvements coming within the scope of the appended claim.

Having thus described my invention what I claim as new is:—

In combination with a condiment shaker including the usual perforated cap threaded on the shaker body; of a funnel member having a body portion extending into the upper end of the shaker body, and a flange on the body portion clamped between the shaker body and the cap, said body portion at the bottom of the funnel being substantially hemispherical and provided with a plurality of perforations, and a ball operating in the space between the body of said funnel member and said cap, and normally snugly seated within the hemispherical bottom portion of the funnel member for closing said perforations.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

MELVILLE BOYD CUNNINGHAM.