To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, George M. Stafford, a subject of the King of England, residing at Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented and useful Improvements in a Milk-Bottle-Cap Lifter, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to new and useful improvements in a milk bottle cap lifter, and has for its object to construct such a device from a single piece of wire so bent as to produce U shaped clip having a barb projecting from one arm thereof at one end and a finger piece projecting from the other arm at the same end so that said barb and finger piece are in substantially endwise alignment.

Another object of this invention is to produce a cap lifter that will be simple in construction, small and compact though strong and durable and which will be relatively inexpensive in the cost of manufacture.

With these ends in view, this invention consists in the details of construction and combination of elements hereinafter set forth and then specifically designated by the claim.

In order that those skilled in the art to which this invention pertains, may understand how to make and use the same, I will describe its construction in detail, referring by numerals to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this application, in which:

Fig. 1, is a fragmentary sectional view of a milk bottle with a cap therein showing the cap lifter in elevation and in the position to insert in the cap.

Fig. 2, is a similar view illustrating the cap lifter inserted in the cap.

Fig. 3, is a side elevation of the cap lifter at right angles to the showing in Figs. 1 and 2.

In carrying out my invention as here embodied I represent a milk bottle of any ordinary or well known construction the mouth of which is closed by a cap 3 or disc of paper or other suitable material.

The cap lifter as a whole is designated by the numeral 4 and consists of a single piece of wire so bent as to produce a substantially horizontal U shaped clip 5 including two parallel spaced arms 6 and 7. From one of these arms, as 7, at the open end of the clip projects a barb 8 at right angles to said arm so as to lie in a substantially vertical position, the free end of said barb being pointed, while from the other arm, also at the open end of the clip, projects a finger piece 9 at right angles to its arm so as to lie in a substantially vertical position. This arrangement brings the barb and finger piece into practically endwise alignment and therefore the pressure necessary to cause the barb to pierce the paper cap is directed in a straight line although the U shaped clip is offset therefrom. The finger piece is preferably in the form of a loop of substantially triangular shape as will be obvious from Fig. 3.

In practice the cap lifter is held in a tilted position as shown in Fig. 1, during the operation of piercing the cap thus bringing the open end of the clip downward when the cap is in the cap lifter is moved into a vertical position as shown in Fig. 2, so that said cap will lie between the arms of the clip giving sufficient bearing surface on both sides of the cap to enable the same to be readily removed or replaced.

The cap lifter may be left in the cap after the latter has been removed from the bottle and said lifter used as a support for the cap which will prevent it from falling flat on the table or other surface on which it is resting.

Of course I do not wish to be limited to the exact details of construction as herein shown as these may be varied within the limits of the appended claim without departing from the spirit of my invention.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new and useful is:

As an article of manufacture, a bottle cap lifter formed from a single piece of wire so bent as to produce a horizontal U shaped clip one arm of which is adapted to underlie the bottle cap when the cap lifter is inserted therein and give a movement lengthwise of the clip while the other arm is adapted to overlie said bottle cap, said arms being of the same length to provide equal
bearing surfaces on opposite faces of the cap, a relatively long barb projecting at right angles from the lower arm at the open end of the clip for piercing the bottle cap and a finger piece projecting at right angles from the other arm at said open end of the clip and in substantially endwise alignment with said barb whereby the pressure on the finger piece to cause the barb to pierce the cap will be directed in a straight line. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto affixed my signature.

GEORGE M. STAFFORD.