J. KRUCKEWITT.

CAFETERIA TABLE.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 17, 1921.

1,408,359.

Patented Feb. 28, 1922.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1

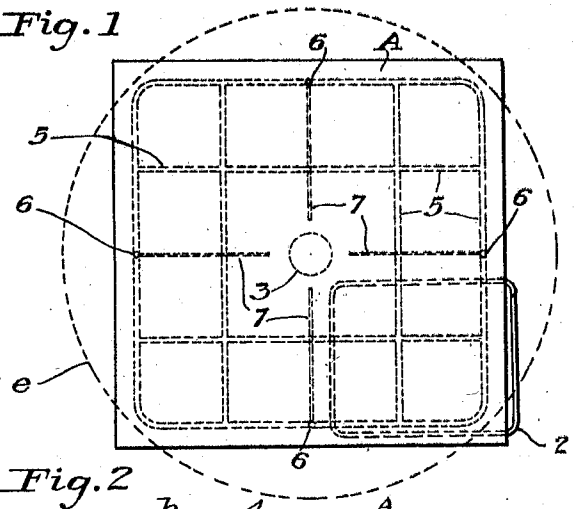


Fig. 6

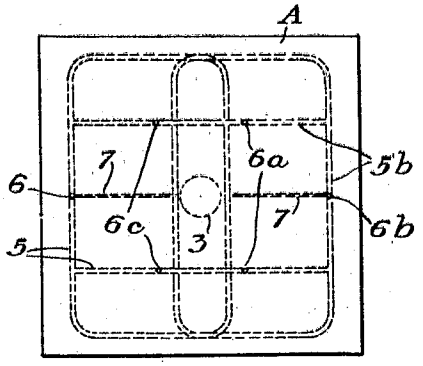


Fig. 2

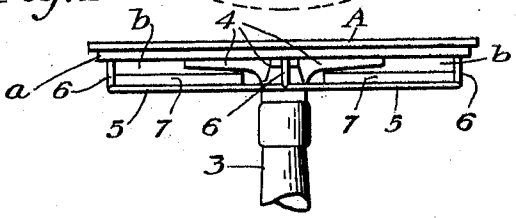


Fig. 7.

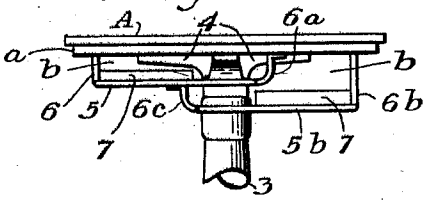


Fig. 3

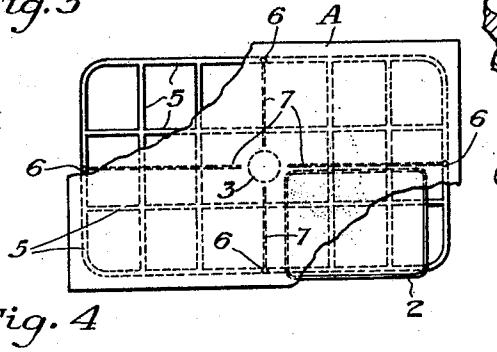


Fig. 5

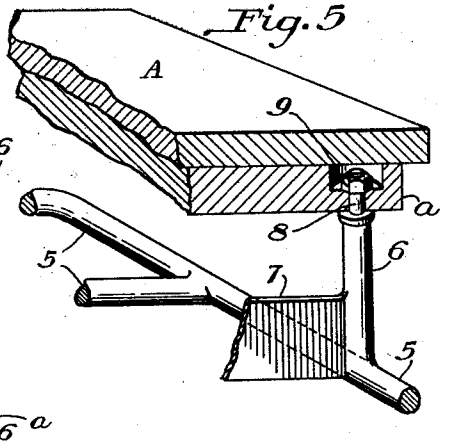
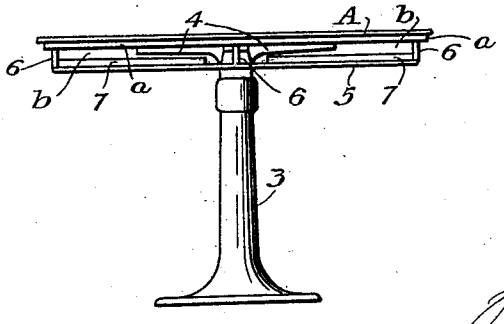


Fig. 4



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 8

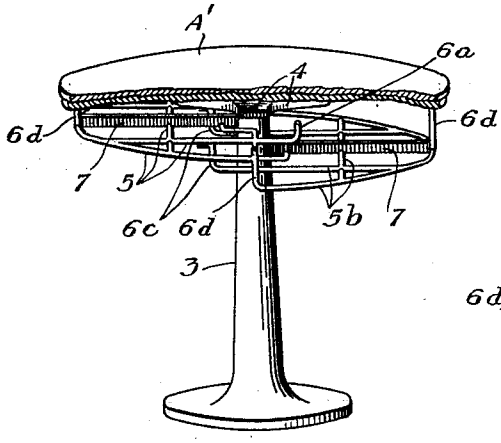


Fig. 9

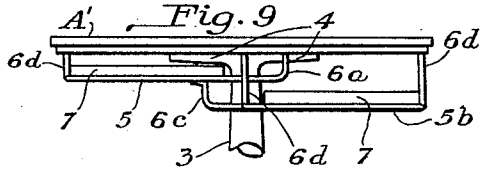


Fig. 10

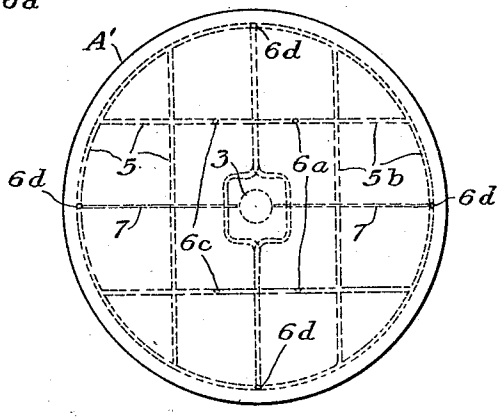


Fig. 12

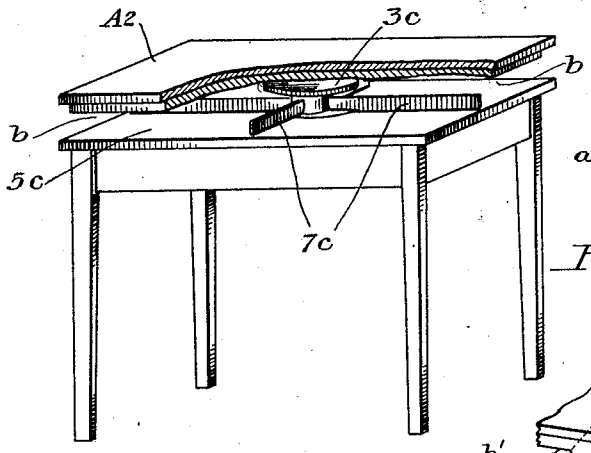


Fig. 13

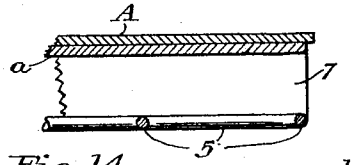


Fig. 14

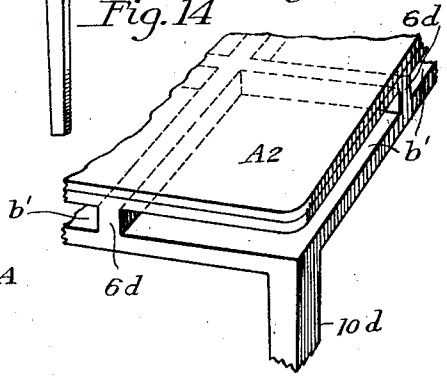
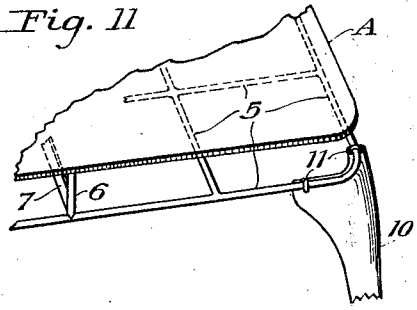


Fig. 11



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN KRUCKEWITT, OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO DONAHOE'S, INCORPORATED, OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA, A CORPORATION OF DELAWARE.

CAFETERIA TABLE.

1,408,359. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Feb. 28, 1922.

Application filed May 17, 1921. Serial No. 470,249.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN KRUCKEWITT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Pittsburgh, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Cafeteria Tables, of which the following is a specification.

My invention refers to improvements in cafeteria dining tables, and relates particularly to means embodied with the table for stowing away empty trays therein. In cafeteria practice and service, it is customary for guests to collect articles of food, in dishes, plates, or saucers, with other articles, on a self-serving tray, from which these are taken and placed upon a table at which the guest is seated. The disposition of the empty tray ordinarily involves considerable confusion, interference, and trouble in dispensing with it pending its final removal by a waiter.

My invention provides means for supporting a plurality of trays underneath the table top, upon supporting racks or platform frames, adapted to receive a number of trays corresponding to the guest capacity of the table, without interference, and in convenient locations for removal without disturbing the immediate guests, or others surrounding them.

Several preferred forms of the invention are shown in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a square table provided with my invention;

Fig. 2 is a partial side elevation thereof;

Fig. 3 is a plan view, partly broken away, showing an oblong form of rectangular table;

Fig. 4 is a side elevation thereof;

Fig. 5 is a perspective sectional view showing a detail of construction of the rack support;

Fig. 6 is a plan view showing an arrangement providing overlapping spaces;

Fig. 7 is an elevation thereof;

Fig. 8 is a partial perspective view of a circular form of table;

Figs. 9 and 10 are views of the same in side elevation and plan respectively;

Fig. 11 is a perspective detail view, showing the framing construction;

Fig. 12 is a perspective view, partly broken away, showing the invention in a modified construction, providing the several tray-receiving cavities;

Fig. 13 is a sectional detail view showing a modified construction of the underframing; and

Fig. 14 is a partial view showing a further modified construction.

In all of the several constructions illustrated, the object in view is to provide between the upper main table top A of whatever form, and a lower supporting rack or framework, an intervening cavity *b* for reception of the tray 2, shown in partially inserted position in Fig. 1. The supporting rack may be on the same general level, where there is sufficient area of table, or on two overlapping levels, when the area is limited.

In the construction of Figs. 1 and 2, the table is supported centrally at the top of a standard 3 of any suitable construction having a broad floor base for stability, and fixedly connected underneath the table top by lateral bracing arms 4. The supporting rack or platform is made of a skeleton framework 5 of metal bars, or their equivalent, of any suitable construction as to number and strength for necessary rigidity and compactness, as indicated in the drawing. This framework is suspended sufficiently below the table top for insertion space for the tray 2 by a plurality of depending brackets or arms 6, located midway of the width of the table at each side. Such location of these supports is of especial advantage, because the corner portions of the table and of the insertion space are thereby left free and unobstructed so that the several trays may be easily inserted or withdrawn without interference with the several guests, who are ordinarily seated midway of the width of the edge of the table at one or more sides.

Extending inwardly towards the center from each bracket arm 6 is a thin partition member 7 of sheet metal or other suitable material which serves to limit the inward movement of the tray and prevents interference with other trays and to retain each tray in its particular location, when inserted. One practicable construction in this respect is clearly shown in detail in Fig. 5. Partition 7 may, if desired, be of the full width of the tray space and itself serve as

the supporting bracket instead of brackets 6, utilizing suitable connections.

As shown, the main top A is mounted upon a subfoundation or lower top *a*, which may be of wood, facilitating the connection of the bracket 6 by a terminal 8 and nut 9 in a recessed socket. The upper top A may thus be of marble, glass, or suitable porcelain composition, of sanitary construction, such as is commonly used in similar cases, and laid down flush with the upper surface of the base *a*.

It will, of course, be understood that the top may also be of any usual commercial table top form, and of any suitable material. Also, that with the same arrangement and relative size of the several tray cavities, the table top may be circular instead of square, as suggested by the annular dotted line *e*, Fig. 1.

In Figs. 3 and 4, the construction just described is the same and shown as applied to a rectangular oblong table, the several parts being similarly identified, and it will be seen that square tables may be used with square tops, and oblong tables with oblong ones, where the spacing of one kind or the other is a matter of importance.

In Figs. 6 and 7, I show a further modification in which the table is of relatively reduced area, in which case the individual tray spaces *b* overlap each other from two opposite sides, as shown. This effect is secured by utilizing additional bracket arms 6^a of the upper frame located sufficiently beyond the middle of the table, to provide the normal depth and width of the tray space *b*, and lengthening the opposite outer arms 6^b correspondingly so as to provide a lower level for the tray rack section 5^b. Such section, as shown, extends beyond the middle of the table to the same extent as the upper level section, for the necessary width, and is supported below it by bracket connections 6^c which are conveniently connected to the rack members 5. By this construction, space is provided at opposite sides of a comparatively small table for insertion of two pairs of trays on different overlapping levels without interference and retaining the advantage of corner insertion and removal.

In Figs. 8, 9 and 10, the invention is illustrated in connection with a circular top table, in which case the conditions are somewhat similar to those of a small square table, and it is desirable that the trays shall not project beyond the peripheral edge. In such case, the two level rack framework 5—5^b is supported below the circular top A′ by four equally spaced outermost bracket arms 6^d, and the tray platform 5 and 5^b overlap beyond the middle at each side and are supported by inner arms 6^a and 6^c respectively, the partitions 7 being correspondingly located. The inner depending arms 6^a and 6^c serve to engage the inner edges of the trays when inserted, to limit their inward movement.

Fig. 11 shows the mounting of the tray platforms, of the metal rod construction of the several forms above described, as it may be incorporated with a four leg table, as well as with a central pedestal. In such case, each corner leg 10, which may be of cast iron, is in interfitting engagement at the corners with the outer surrounding member of the platform structure 5 and connected therewith in any suitable way, as by clips 11. The tray platform 5 in such construction supports the table top A by the upwardly extending brackets 6, in the same general manner as already described, except that these now act as posts. The limiting partitions 7 in such case may extend clear across the area, intersecting at the center. It will be understood, of course, that the brackets 6 may be dispensed with, and partitions 7 may themselves be used to support the table top, serving the double function of carrying the table top and also of limiting the movement and separating the several trays and their cavities, as in Fig. 13.

In Fig. 12 I show a table top A^2 superimposed above an ordinary table 5^c and supported thereon by a central pedestal post 3^c of suitable rigid construction.

The intervening tray receiving space *b* is separated into the several individual tray receptacles by upwardly extending thin strips or partitions 7^c located midway of the table width at each side, thereby leaving the corner portions free and unobstructed for insertion and removal of the trays, in the manner described.

In Fig. 14, I show a further modification in which a tray space *b*′ is provided at the corner of a table of ordinary construction, by providing transverse supporting piers or brackets 6^d converging towards the middle, providing the insertion cavities between the guest positions.

The table is supported on ordinary legs 10^d with the top A^2 thus supported above and providing for the insertion of one or more trays, by making the tray cavity of sufficient vertical depth.

With any of the several constructions shown, I provide a very compact, convenient, and available means for quickly and easily disposing of the empty trays, and for their removal and collection. The table is comparatively simple, economical of manufacture and durable, while providing for easy and thorough cleaning at all times.

While the design, proportions, or specific details of construction may be variously changed or modified by the skilled mechanic or builder to suit different conditions of use, all such changes are to be understood as within the scope of the following claims.

What I claim is:

1. A dining table of the class described having an upper top portion and tray supporting platforms below the top separated by intervening radial partitions providing a laterally arranged series of outwardly open closely adjacent tray receiving spaces.

2. A dining table of the class described having an upper top portion and tray supporting platforms below the top separated by intervening radial partitions, providing a plurality of laterally arranged outwardly open equally spaced tray receiving cavities.

3. A dining table of the class described having an upper top portion, a lower supporting platform portion spaced therefrom to provide intervening tray receiving cavities, separating limiting strips between adjacent cavities, and centrally arranged means for supporting said parts in fixed relationship with outwardly open unobstructed insertion openings.

4. A cafeteria dining table having an upper top portion, a tray-supporting rack portion of skeleton framework construction spaced below and fixedly connected with the table portion and having radial limiting stops, and a center post supporting the top portion and the rack portion of the structure upon a floor surface and in fixed relationship providing a series of regularly spaced laterally arranged inwardly converging insertion and removal openings.

5. A cafeteria dining table having an upper top portion, a tray-supporting rack portion spaced below and fixedly connected with the table portion, intervening radially arranged partitions extending upwardly from the rack portion dividing the space into tray-receiving cavities and providing limiting stops therefor, and means for supporting and holding said parts in fixed relationship providing a series of regularly spaced laterally arranged inwardly converging insertion and removal openings.

6. A cafeteria dining table having an upper top portion, tray-supporting rack portions spaced below the top portion at different levels providing overlapping tray spaces, and means for supporting the structure upon a floor surface.

7. A cafeteria dining table having an upper top portion, tray-supporting rack portions spaced below the top portion at different levels providing overlapping tray spaces and each having a dividing partition and an inner tray arresting stop, and means for supporting the structure upon a floor surface.

8. In a cafeteria dining table, the combination with a table top and means for supporting it, of a series of depending tray racks located at different levels and providing vertically overlapping space, said racks being supported adjacent the outer edge of the table at intervals providing entrance space for a tray and having inner limiting stops.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

JOHN KRUCKEWITT.