Jan. 2, 1940. C. R. JONES 2,185,896

DISPENSING RECEPTACLE

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Fig. 1.

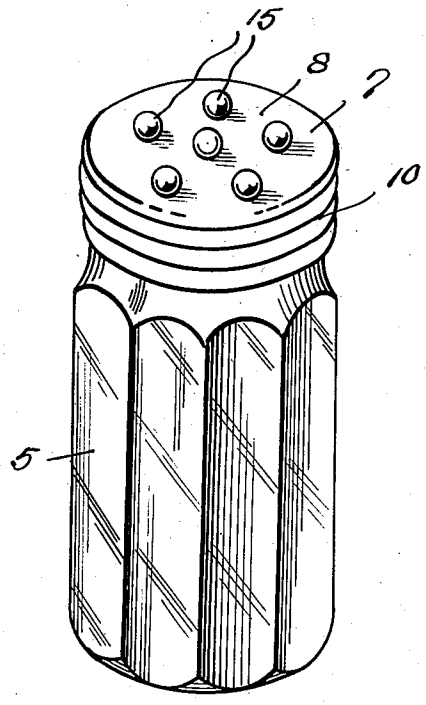
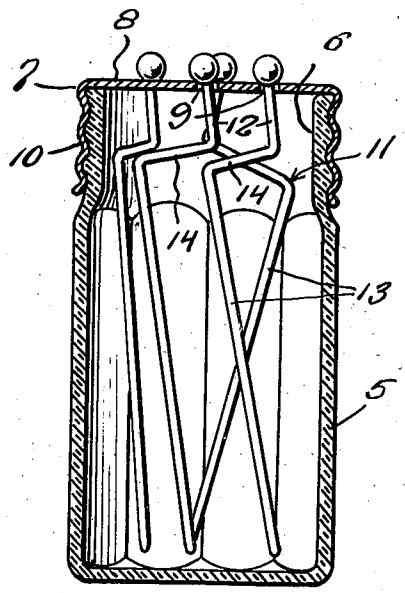


Fig. 2.



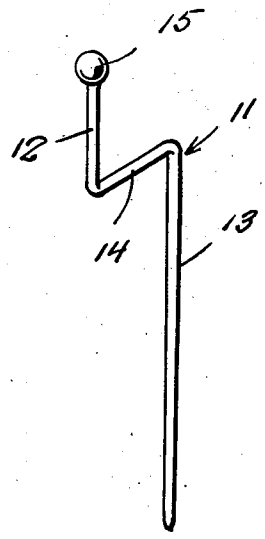


Fig. 3.

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DISPENSING RECEPTACLE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 65—57)

This invention relates generally to dispensing receptacles of the shaker type wherein a container for the salt or other fluent commodity to be dispensed is provided with a cap having a top portion provided with perforations through which the fluent commodity is dispensed when the receptacle is inverted.

More particularly, the present invention relates to an improved shaker top for dispensing receptacles of the above kind, and wherein simple and efficient means is provided for maintaining the perforations of the cap free of the fluent material which would clog the same.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a shaker top with means of the above kind that also serves to normally close the perforations of the top to prevent the entrance of moisture and foreign matter into the receptacle, and that embodies means for effectively stirring or loosening the contents of the receptacle incident to use of the latter.

With the above objects in view, and others which will become apparent as the nature of the invention is better understood, such invention consists in the novel form, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter more fully described, shown in the accompanying drawing and claimed.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a dispensing receptacle provided with a shaker top embodying the present invention.

Figure 2 is a central vertical sectional view thereof; and

Figure 3 is a perspective view of one of the rods or pins forming the means for clearing and normally closing the perforations of the shaker top, and for stirring the contents of the receptacle, in the construction of Figures 1 and 2.

Referring in detail to the drawing, I have shown in Figures 1 and 2 a conventional form of condiment holder in the nature of a jar 5 provided with an upper reduced and externally threaded neck 6 for reception of a cap 7 which includes a top portion 8 having a series of perforations 9, and a threaded flange or skirt portion 10 removably engaged with the threads of the neck 6. However, it is to be understood that the present invention is applicable to receptacles of the shaker type used for holding and dispensing any kind of fluent material and employing a cap which may be other than of the screw type.

In the ordinary use of a dispensing receptacle of this type, the container or jar 5 normally rests in an upright position with the perforations 9 entirely open so that moisture and foreign matter may freely find their way into the container or jar with unsanitary results and clogging or lumping of the fluent material in cases where the latter is of granular or powdered form.

In carrying out the present invention, a series of rods or pins is provided, one for each of the perforations 9, and each rod or pin including a relatively short upper end portion 12 loosely extending through the associated perforation 9, a relatively long lower end portion 13 adapted to extend well into and adjacent the bottom of the container or jar 5, and a laterally extending intermediate portion 14 connecting the end portions 12 and 13 in laterally offset relation, the end portions 12 and 13 being straight and parallel. These rods or pins 11 are entirely independent of each other and are therefore capable of free lateral swinging and rotary movement, in addition to having their upper end portions 12 freely slidable through the perforations 9. In sliding through and swinging and turning in the perforations 9, the upper end portions 12 of these rods or pins act to prevent the commodity in the container 5 from clogging said perforations 9 and maintain the latter free and open, such movement of the pins or rods 11 taking place automatically in the use of the shaker receptacle when the latter is alternately inverted and returned to an upright position. The rotation or turning of rods or pins 11 naturally takes place due to the offset relation of the lower end portions 13 thereof with respect to the upper portions 12 of the same which are engaged in the perforations 9. Thus, the pins or rods 11 will also act to stir the commodity in or contents of the container or jar 5, and this, in the case of a powdered or granular material, will prevent lumping of the latter. The intermediate connecting portions 14 of the rods or pins 11, in addition to forming stops engageable with the top portion 8 of the cap 7 for limiting the outward sliding movement of said rods or pins 11, will also engage the lower face of said top portion 8 of the cap 7 and serve to scrape the same for removing any of the commodity in the container 5 which might adhere thereto.

The upper end of each rod or pin 11 is provided with an enlarged head 15, preferably of spherical form as shown, which acts to limit the downward movement of the associated rod or pin 11 and forms a closure for the associated perforation 9. Thus, the heads 15 of the pins or rods 11 will normally prevent entrance of moisture and foreign matter into the container or

jar 5 to promote sanitation and minimize likelihood of lumping of the contents of container or jar 5 when the latter is of powdered or granular form. The present receptacle is used in the usual way by inverting the receptacle and shaking the same to effect discharge of the commodity through the perforations 9. When the receptacle is so inverted, the rods or pins 11 will gravitate so as to cause the heads 15 of the rods or pins 11 to move away from the perforations 9 and permit passage of the commodity outwardly through the perforations 9 about the upper end portions 12 of the rods or pins 11.

From the foregoing description, it is believed that the construction and operation, as well as the advantages of the present invention, will be readily understood and appreciated by those skilled in the art. Minor changes in the exact form and arrangement of parts illustrated and described may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed.

What I claim as new is:

1. A dispensing receptacle of the shaker type, including a container provided with a cap having a top portion provided with a plurality of perforations, and a plurality of pins, one of said pins being associated with each of said perforations, each pin having its upper portion extending loosely through the associated perforation and having its upper outer end provided with an enlarged head adapted to close the perforation when the pin falls by gravity, each of said pins including a straight upper end portion longitudinally slidable in the associated perforation of the cap and a relatively longer straight lower end portion integrally connected in substantially parallel laterally offset relation by a transversely extending intermediate connecting portion, said intermediate portion being engageable with the top of the cap to limit the outward movement of the pin when the receptacle is inverted, the lower end portions of the pins extending adjacent the bottom of said container, said pins being freely and independently slidable and rotatable and swingable laterally relative to the cap by normal use of the receptacle and without manual operation of said pins.

2. A dispensing receptacle of the shaker type including a container for the commodity to be dispensed, said container having a top provided with a plurality of perforations, and a plurality of pins, one of said pins being associated with each of said perforations, each pin extending loosely through the associated perforation and having its upper outer end provided with an enlarged head adapted to close the perforation when the pin falls by gravity with the receptacle in an upright position, each pin including a relatively short straight upper end portion and a relatively long straight lower end portion integrally connected in substantially parallel offset relation by an intermediate transversely extending portion, the lower end portions of the pins being of a length to extend near the bottom of the container, and said pins being unconnected for free independent rotation and longitudinal sliding and lateral swinging movement relative to the container by normal use of the receptacle and without manual operation of said pins.

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