No. 778,382. PATENTED DEC. 27, 1904.

F. J. STONE.

PUZZLE OR ADVERTISING MEDIUM.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 18, 1902.

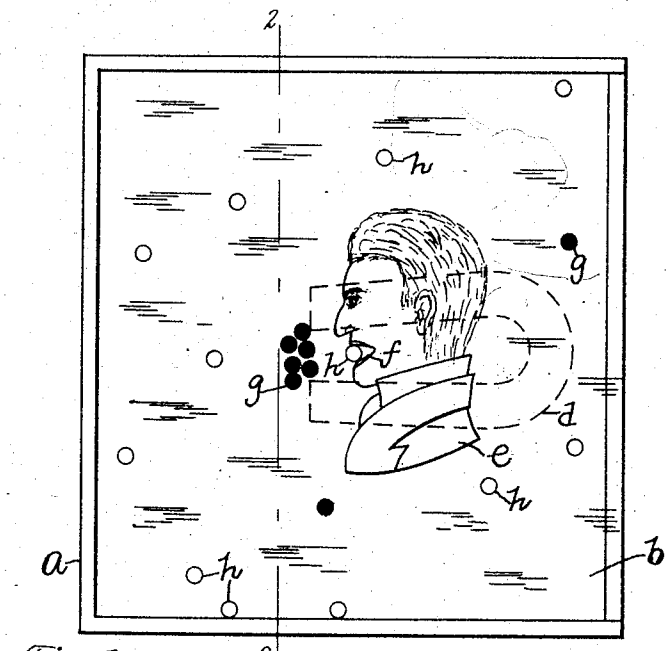


Fig. 1.

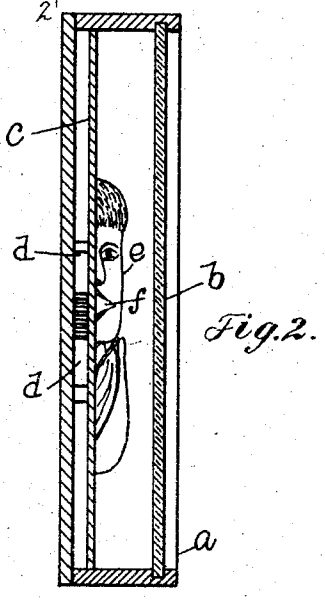


Fig. 2.

Witnesses.
C. H. Barnett
J. Murphy.

Inventor:
Frank J. Stone
by Jas. H. Churchill
Atty.

No. 778,382. Patented December 27, 1904.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK J. STONE, OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS.

PUZZLE OR ADVERTISING MEDIUM.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 778,382, dated December 27, 1904.

Application filed March 18, 1902. Serial No. 98,784.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK J. STONE, a citizen of the United States, residing in Somerville, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Puzzles or Advertising Mediums, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like letters on the drawings representing like parts.

This invention relates to a novel puzzle or advertising medium, and has for its object to provide a simple and attractive device for the purpose specified. For this purpose I employ a box or case provided with a transparent top and with a receptacle within the case having an entrance-opening through which it is desired one of two sets of balls should freely enter and the other set of balls should be rejected or prevented from entering the receptacle, or at least should enter therein with difficulty. The balls referred to may be made of magnetic and non-magnetic material, and the box or case may contain in a concealed position a permanent magnet which has its poles located in proximity to the entrance of the receptacle, so as to attract the magnetic balls and restrain them from entering the receptacle, while having no influence on the non-magnetic balls, which can enter freely into the receptacle. These and other features of this invention will be pointed out in the claims at the end of this specification.

Figure 1 is a plan view of a puzzle or advertising device embodying this invention; and Fig. 2, a section on the line 2 2, Fig. 1, looking toward the right with the balls omitted.

Referring to the drawings, *a* represents a box or case of wood or other suitable material which is provided with a removable top *b*, of glass or other suitable material. The box or case *a* may and preferably will be provided with a false bottom *c*, of wood or other suitable material, beneath which is located a permanent magnet *d* of any suitable form, it being shown as a horseshoe-magnet. The box or case also contains a receptacle, which in the present instance is represented as the bust *e* of a man, the mouth *f* being open and forming the entrance to the receptacle. The bust *e* is suitably secured to the false bottom *c* with the mouth *f* in proximity to the poles of the permanent magnet *d*. The box or case contains two sets of balls *g h*, one set, as *g*, being of iron or steel and the other set, as *h*, being of non-magnetic material, such as wood, celluloid, or other suitable material or composition of materials.

The device herein shown and described is especially useful as a medium for advertising pills, in which case the set *h* may represent those of the manufacture of the person whose name may be applied to the box or case or used in connection therewith and which readily enter the mouth *f*, and thus signify that the pills of this manufacture are easily taken, whereas the other set, *g*, of balls may represent all other makes of pills without discriminating against any particular make of pills, and as it is difficult for the metal balls to get into the mouth *f* owing to the attraction of the magnet the device illustrates the difficulty of taking all pills than those represented by the set *h* of balls.

I prefer to employ the permanent magnet and the steel or iron balls; but I do not desire to limit my invention in this respect, as they may be dispensed with and the set of balls made sufficiently large to be prevented from passing through the mouth or of such size as to retard their entrance into the mouth unless properly positioned with relation thereto. Furthermore, I prefer to make the receptacle after the form herein shown; but I do not desire to limit my invention in this respect, as the receptacle may be of other forms and provided with an entrance-opening for the passage of one set of balls.

As represented in the drawings, the most of the iron or steel balls *g* are assembled in front of the entrance-opening *f*, and by reason of the magnet being concealed the person operating the device is puzzled as to the reason why the balls *g* are held from entering the opening *f*.

I claim—

1. A puzzle or advertising device, comprising a box or case, a receptacle having an entrance-opening within said box or case, and a

plurality of sets of balls located within said box or case and one of which is adapted to pass freely through said opening into said receptacle and means to restrain the other set of balls from passing into said receptacle, substantially as described.

2. A puzzle or advertising device comprising a box or case, a receptacle having an entrance-opening within said box or case, a magnet located within said box or case in proximity to said receptacle and concealed from view, and a plurality of sets of balls, one of which is of magnetic material and the other set of non-magnetic material, substantially as described.

3. A puzzle or advertising device comprising a box or case provided with a false bottom and with a transparent top, a receptacle consisting of a hollow bust secured within said box or case and provided with an open mouth, a permanent magnet located below said false bottom with its poles in proximity to said open mouth, and a plurality of sets of balls one of which is of magnetic and the other of non-magnetic material, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

FRANK J. STONE.

Witnesses:
JAS. H. CHURCHILL,
J. MURPHY.