H. KROEDEL.

TOWEL BAR FIXTURE.

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1,280,244.

Patented Oct. 1, 1918.

Fig. 1

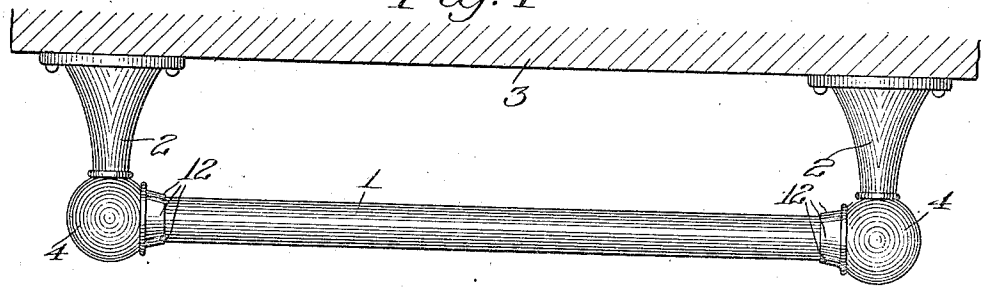



Fig. 2

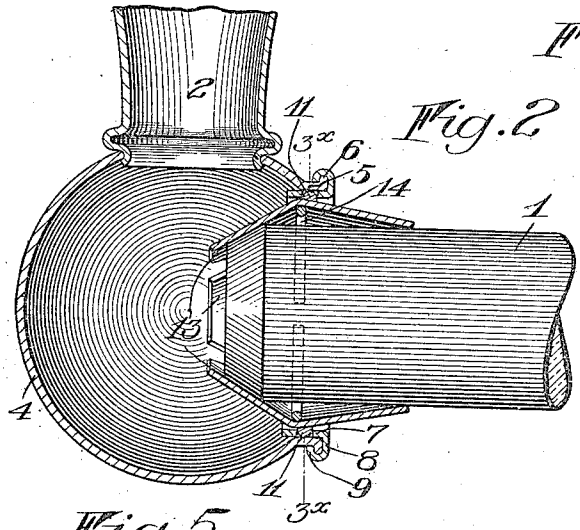



Fig. 3

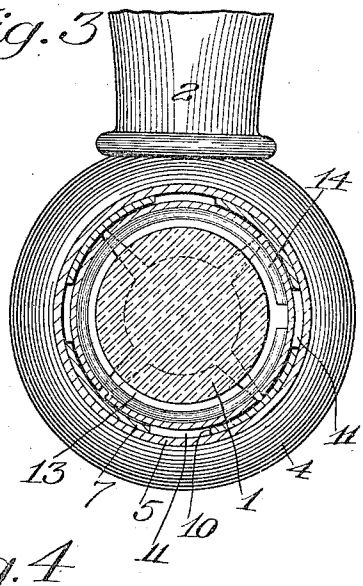



Fig. 5

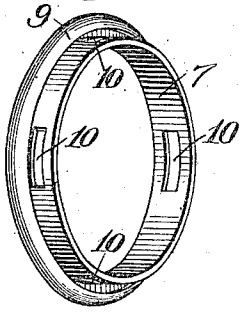
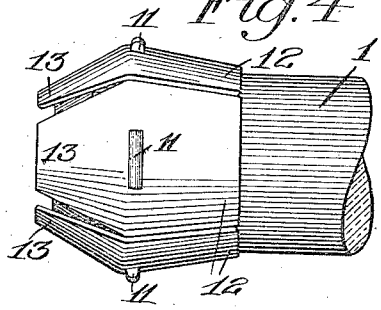



Fig. 4

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## TOWEL-BAR FIXTURE.

1,280,244. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 1, 1918.

Application filed November 11, 1916. Serial No. 130,759.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HANS KROEDEL, of Richmond Hill, Long Island, in the county of Queens, State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Towel-Bar Fixtures; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and to the reference-numerals marked thereon.

My present invention has for its object to provide a fixture or holder such as is used in bath rooms or similar locations for supporting towels and other toilet articles, and it relates particularly to a novel arrangement of parts for securing the ends of the rod or towel support in the posts or standards on which it is mounted. More specifically my invention has for its object to provide means which are adapted to coöperate with the glass rods which are customarily employed as towel bars for gripping their ends firmly and holding them on the supporting brackets or posts. To these and other ends the invention consists in certain improvements and combinations of parts, all as will be hereinafter more fully described, the novel features being pointed out in the claims at the end of the specification.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a towel bar fixture constructed in accordance with my invention;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged horizontal sectional view of one end of the bar and its supporting post or standard;

Fig. 3 is a cross sectional view taken on line $3^x$—$3^x$ of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a detail view of the clutch member shown in assembled position on one of the ends of the rod, and

Fig. 5 is a detail perspective view of the collar in which the clutch jaws are mounted.

Similar reference numerals throughout the several views indicate the same parts.

In the manufacture of towel bar fixtures, especially those in which glass rods are employed, as the supporting member, considerable difficulty is experienced in obtaining a tight fit between the ends of the bars and the posts or standards by means of which they are secured to a wall or other support. This is due particularly to the fact that the glass rods are not of uniform diameter throughout, and while the parts may be closely fitted in the first instance at the factory, this adjustment may be disturbed at least so far as one end of the rod is concerned, if the purchaser shortens it.

In carrying out my invention I employ a clutch composed of a plurality of members, each of which comprises an outer gripping portion and an inner angularly disposed end which coöperates with the end of the rod, so that the greater the force expended in pushing the support or standard onto the rod the greater is the gripping action, irrespective of slight variations in the diameter of the rod. In the illustrations 1 indicates the towel bar proper held at its ends in the posts or standards 2—2 secured by suitable fastening devices to a wall or other object indicated by 3. The outer ends 4 of the supporting members are hollow and may be made in spherical form as shown, although it will be understood that the general shape or configuration of the head is unimportant, and further it may be made either of a sheet metal stamping or as a solid casting, although I prefer to form the parts of sheet metal. In making the head 4 it is provided with a circular opening or aperture bounded by the flange 5 having an outwardly extending lip or rim 6. Secured axially in the aperture is a collar 7 which is held in place by the radially extending rim 8 having the edge or bead 9 which is pressed or spun over the rim or lip 8. The collar 7 defines the size of the aperture, is preferably made in a separate piece and is provided with a plurality of elongated slots 10 which are utilized as recesses or dentures in which the fulcrum points 11 of the clutch members are seated.

The several clutch members, of which four are shown, extend axially of the aperture in the head or supporting member 4 and each comprises a curved plate comprising an outer end 12 and an inner end 13 disposed angularly thereto, thus providing the clutch member with an inner recess and a point or hip on its exterior, by which it may have pivoted contact with the wall of the aperture. The inner ends 13 converge toward the axis of the aperture and are of sufficient length to overlap the extremity of the bar 1, so that they act as levers for forcing the ends 12 into close engagement with the periphery of the rod. The several segments of the clutch members are assembled within the collar 7 and each preferably has a lug or

projection 11 on its outer surface resting in one of the recesses 10 to prevent its longitudinal displacement. The several parts are held in this position independently of the towel bar by means of an expansible spring ring 14, the diameter of which is greater than that of the bar 1, and is accommodated in the angular space provided by the inner recesses in the jaws formed by their angular shape which makes it possible to assemble these members at the factory and to allow them to remain in operative position at all times, thus obviating the necessity of the purchaser exerting any skill in assembling the parts in the first instance, or in the event he should at any future time wish to remove the fixture and remount it in a new position.

Towel bar holders embodying my invention may be made in various sizes. They present a neat appearance and at all times hold the bars firmly and by their adoption and use it is unnecessary to exert either great care in the manufacture of the glass bars, to have them of uniform diameter or in fitting the apertures in the standards to the ends of the bars. Furthermore, the standards and bars of given sizes are interchangeable.

I claim as my invention:

1. In a towel bar fixture, the combination with a hollow supporting member having an opening surrounded by a flange, and a bar arranged with its end within said opening, of a plurality of jaws projecting partly within the support surrounding and engaging the bar and held by the latter in contact with the periphery of the opening in the support.

2. In a towel bar fixture, the combination with a support having an aperture, a collar seated in said aperture, of a bar positioned with its end in the aperture and a clamping jaw pivoted in said collar having an outer gripping end, and an inner angularly disposed end adapted to be engaged by the end of the bar to effect a tilting of the jaw and cause its outer end to bear against the periphery of the bar when the parts are moved relatively toward each other.

3. In a towel bar fixture, the combination with a support having an aperture, of a plurality of gripping members each comprising outer and inner angularly disposed portions forming an exterior hip adapted to coöperate with and form pivotal points in engagement with the wall of the aperture, means within said hip for holding the jaws expanded in contact with the wall of the aperture, and a rod inserted within said jaws.

4. A holder for towel bars comprising a supporting member having an aperture, of a plurality of jaws formed of plates curved transversely and bent longitudinally to form an outer hip portion and an inner recess, and an expansible ring fitted in the recess and serving to hold the hips in pivotal contact with the wall of the aperture.

5. A holder for towel bars comprising a hollow support having an aperture, a collar therein having recesses, and a plurality of clutch jaws positioned within the collar and provided with projections pivotally engaging said recesses.

6. A holder for towel bars comprising a hollow sheet metal support provided with an aperture surrounded by an annular lip, a collar disposed axially in the aperture provided with recesses and having a radially projecting flange arranged with its edge embracing said lip, and a plurality of clutch jaws located within the collar and having portions thereon journaled in said recesses.

HANS KROEDEL.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."