June 6, 1944. C. R. MORRIS 2,350,799

PORTABLE ARTICLE

Filed Jan. 26, 1942 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

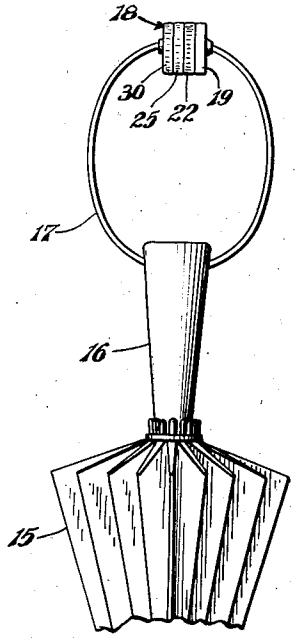


Fig. 1.

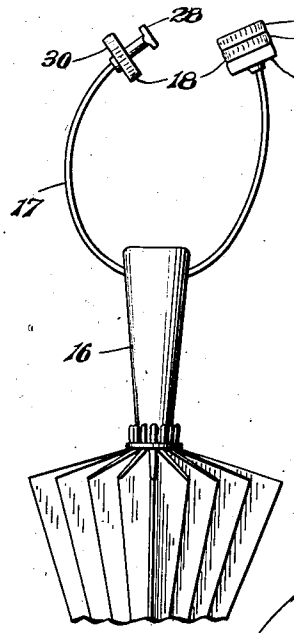


Fig. 2.

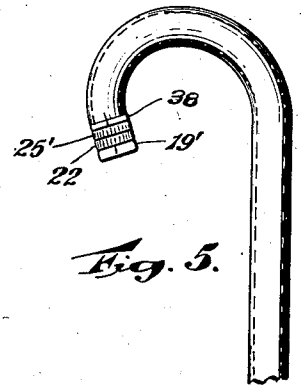


Fig. 5.

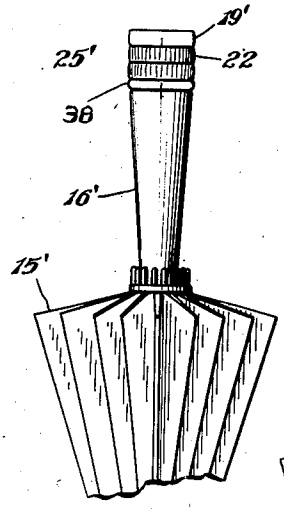


Fig. 3.

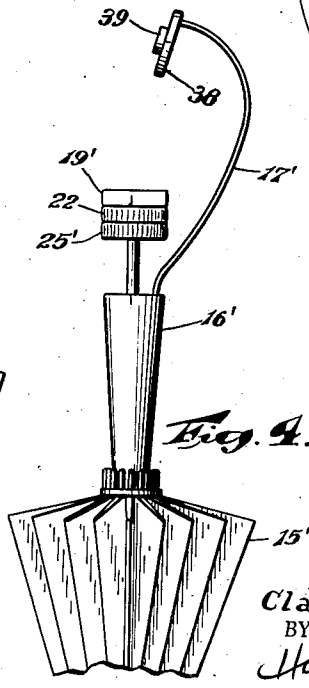


Fig. 4.

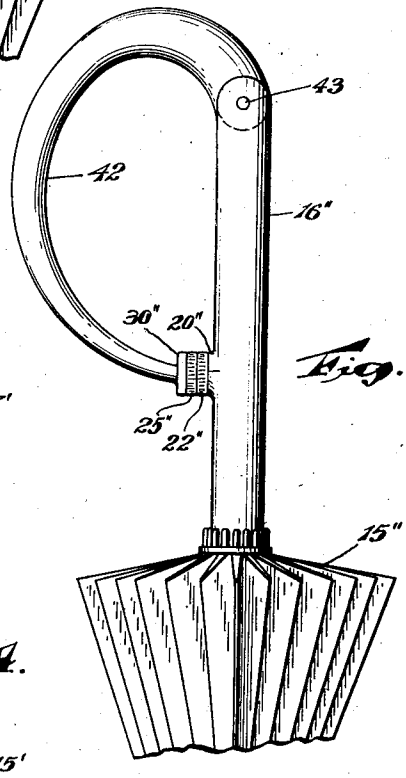


Fig. 6.

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PORTABLE ARTICLE

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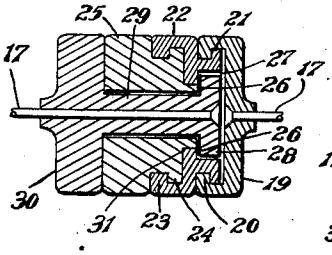


Fig. 7.

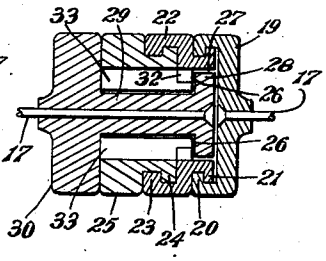


Fig. 8.

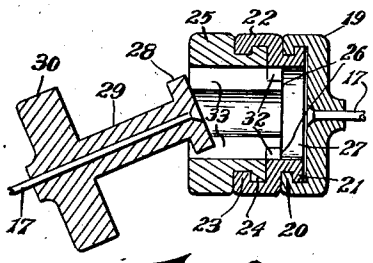


Fig. 9.

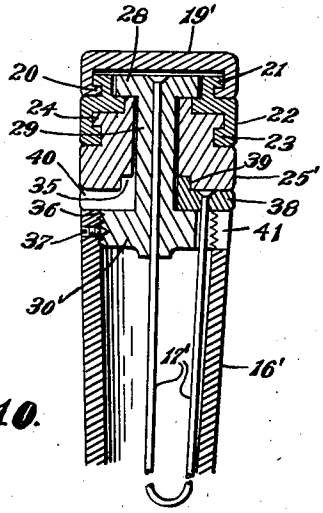


Fig. 10.

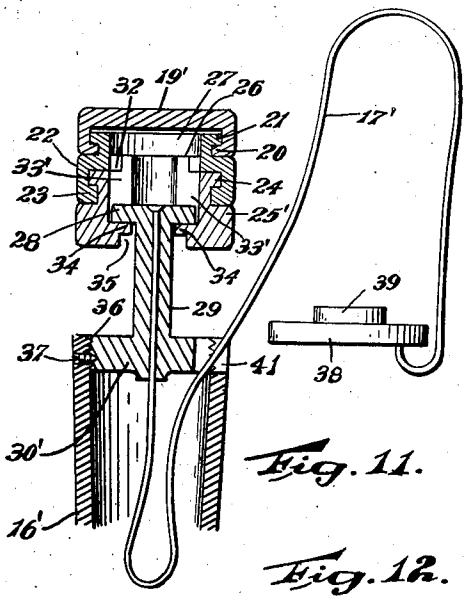
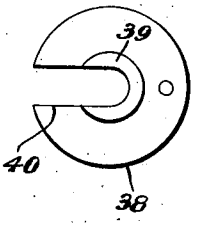


Fig. 11.

Fig. 12.



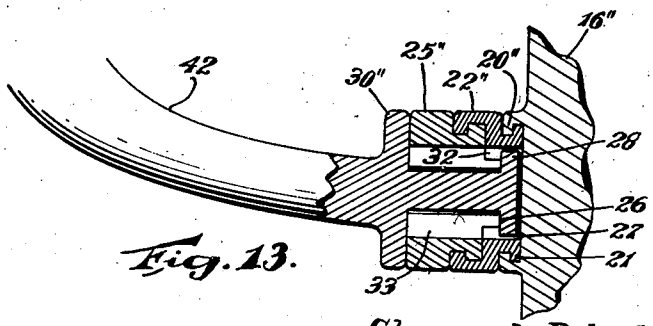


Fig. 13.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,350,799

PORTABLE ARTICLE

Claremont Robert Morris, New York, N. Y.

Application January 26, 1942, Serial No. 428,315

2 Claims. (Cl. 70—59)

This invention relates to portable articles, more especially of the staff type such as umbrellas, canes, crutches and the like.

One prevalent inconvenience in connection with carrying articles of the character indicated arises in public places, for instance in cafeterias, when attempting to carry said article and a tray of food at the same time. To avoid this inconvenience, a portable article, specifically an umbrella, is often left on a chair while the owner proceeds to the business of the moment elsewhere, and on return to the chair, the owner of the umbrella finds it has been taken, by mistake or otherwise.

It therefore constitutes an object of the present invention to provide a handy means for preventing loss of a portable article when left for a brief period.

Another object of the invention is to provide a securing means which is a part of the article.

A further object of the invention is to provide a simple, keyless locking mechanism adaptable to articles of various kinds and character.

Other objects of the invention will appear to those skilled in the art as the description progresses, both by direct statement and by implication from the context.

In the accompanying drawings wherein like numerals of reference indicate similar parts throughout the several views;

Figure 1 is a partial elevation of an umbrella showing my invention embodied as part thereof and in locked condition;

Figure 2 is a similar view but with the invention shown in unlocked condition;

Figures 3 and 4 are views of a modified construction, Figure 3 showing the invention in the normal position, and Figure 4 illustrating the locking mechanism extended;

Figure 5 is a view of a cane embodying the same structure of securing mechanism as in Figures 3 and 4;

Figure 6 is a view of an umbrella showing adaptation of the invention to a full-loop handle;

Figures 7, 8 and 9 are longitudinal sectional views of the locking mechanism of the embodiment of Figures 1 and 2 and showing several positions of the mechanism;

Figures 10 and 11 are longitudinal sections of the locking mechanism of the embodiment of Figures 3 and 4;

Figure 12 is a plan of the locking plate forming part of the mechanism of Figures 3, 4, 10 and 11; and

Figure 13 is a sectional view of the locking mechanism of the embodiment of Figure 6.

Exemplary of portable articles in general, Figures 1 and 2 illustrate the invention in connection with an umbrella 15 having a handle 16 of a usual construction and shape. A flexible member 17, such as a cord or the like, passes through a transverse hole near the upper end of the handle. Umbrellas with flexible cords through the handle are not uncommon, the cords, however, being formed as a continuous loop for carrying or other purposes. According to the present invention, the said flexible member or cord is rendered separable at one part of its length, and thereat is provided a locking mechanism 18 which has the character of a knob as a unitary and continuous part of the loop when closed. The loop and locking mechanism together form a securing means by which the umbrella or the like can be temporarily affixed to a chair or the like and thus secured against surreptitious removal. The locking mechanism is preferably of a keyless character and is shown as a combination lock, details of which are more clearly depicted in Figures 7, 8 and 9.

While the detail construction of lock may be considerably varied within the scope of my invention, the general features of the particular lock shown will be described for purposes of definite recitation of one operable arrangement. As shown, the several parts of the locking mechanism are cylindrical, and for brevity will be so described, but without limitation to that particular shape. Likewise the locking member is here shown as constituted by four parts, but here again no limitation is imposed, as any desired or greater number of parts may be employed. Furthermore no attempt is made to show the fabrication of the several parts enabling the same to be assembled, since it is within the realm of the mechanic to form the individual parts of appropriate sections and, after assembly, weld or otherwise unify the sections into the illustrated part interlocked operatively with a next adjacent part.

Final fabrication of the locking mechanism accordingly is shown as comprising a cylindrical head part 19 at the central axis of which is attached, as by extending axially through the head part and riveting at the inner face thereof, the end portion of the flexible member 17. Next the periphery of this head member is an inwardly projecting undercut circular flange 20 which interlocks rotatably with an outwardly directed flange 21 extending peripherally of the next adjacent end of a first dial member 22. At the other end of this first dial member is another undercut circular flange 23 which interlocks ro-

tatably with an outwardly directed flange 24 of a second dial member 25, which in this instance also constitutes the last of the series of dial members. Both of these dial members 22 and 25 provide shoulders 26 in a common plane normal to the axis thereof and facing toward the head member 19. There is a cylindrical space 27 thereby provided between the said shoulders and head member forming the end planes for said space and within the cylindrical end portion of the first dial member which provides the cylindrical wall for said space.

A T- or cross-bar 28 on the inner end of a cylindrical or other shank 29 projecting from a cylindrical member 30, is adapted to be inserted into and retained in said space until the dial members are properly set for its release. For convenience in referring to said member 30, the same will be identified as the releasable member of the locking mechanism. The other end of the flexible member or cord is suitably secured to this releasable member, this being accomplished in the present showing by extending the said flexible member axially through the said member and riveting it at its inner end.

The first dial member 22 has an inwardly directed flange 31 one flat face of which constitutes the aforementioned shoulder of that dial member. Said flange provides diametrically opposed channels 32 longitudinally thereof and of appropriate width to receive the cross-bar 28 therein. The second dial member likewise has diametrically opposed channels 33 adapted to register with the channels 32 of the first dial member. It is only at such position of registration of these channels that the cross-head 28 can pass through the channels and be released. Suitable dial markings on the exterior of the dial members and on the releasable member enable the owner, acquainted with the combination, to set the several members to releasing or non-releasing positions as desired.

In Figures 3, 4, 5, 10 and 11, the construction is modified so as to permit enclosing the flexible member and to utilize the locking mechanism as an end knob on the handle. With particular reference to Figures 10 and 11, it will be found the locking mechanism has definite similarity to the one above described, so that the differences only will be now elaborated. A head member 19' closely akin to head member 19 is provided, differing only in not having an end of the flexible member attached thereto. Within the head member is a cylindrical space 27 as before, the space adapted to receive a T- or cross-head 28 rotatably therein. Furthermore said head member has an inwardly projecting undercut flange 20 which interlocks rotatably with an outwardly directed flange 21 extending peripherally of the next adjacent end of the first dial member 22 all as in the previously described embodiment. At the other end of this first dial member 22 is another undercut flange 23 which interlocks rotatably with an outwardly directed flange 24 of the second dial member 25'. Both dial members provide channels adapted to register and release the cross-head from retention in the cylindrical space 27. Channels 32 in the first dial member are as previously described, but the channels 33' in the second dial member are modified to the extent they are closed, as at 34, at their far ends from the cross-head and head member. The cross-head is accordingly partially releasable but irremovable. The second dial member is also modified to provide a central and circular socket 35 beyond the channel closures 34, the purpose for which will presently appear.

Cross-head 28 in the construction being described (Figs. 10 and 11) is at one end of a shank 29 projecting from a cylindrical member 30' which in this instance is made fast to the article handle. As shown, said cylindrical member is screw threaded into said handle, as at 36, and retained permanently as by a set screw 37. Now it will be seen that when the combination is properly set to register the dial-member channels, the dial members and head as a unit may be moved up or down at will. A terminal member 38 is provided substantially circular in cross-section and having a diameter substantially that of the dial members. On the upper side of this terminal member is integrally formed a protuberance 39 of appropriate size to enter and substantially fit within aforementioned socket 35 of the second dial member. In order to introduce the said terminal member in axial alinement with the dial members, it is slotted inwardly, as at 40, with appropriate width and length of slot to pass shank 29 with a movement in a radial direction. The unit comprising the dial members and head member can be slid upward from the article handle far enough to admit the total thickness of said terminal member below the said unit. Then by sliding the unit downward, it engages protuberance 39 in socket 35 and in that position retains the terminal member against removal.

The terminal member has the flexible member 17' secured thereto and projecting from the under side thereof at a position opposite the end of the slot in said terminal member. Threaded cylindrical member 30' and the contiguous part of article handle 16' are slotted at 41 to provide for passage of said flexible member into and out of said handle which is made hollow for the purpose.

In use of the modification of Figures 3, 4, 5, 10 and 11, the lock mechanism is first unlocked, thereby permitting lateral withdrawal of the disc-like terminal member 38. Since the flexible member 17' is fast with respect to the terminal member, it is drawn from the handle, full withdrawal being prevented by attachment of the inner end, as for instance in the same manner as previously described. The end withdrawn can be looped through a chair-back or other place of attachment and the terminal member returned to place on the article. The dial members are then slid back to securing position, thereby holding the terminal member with the flexible member thus forming a closed loop. Locking the dial members thus obtains a locked closed loop of the flexible member which will prevent loss of the article by petty thievery or accidental removal.

The invention is not necessarily confined to use of flexible members or cords, and illustrative of other means, Figures 6 and 13 show a full loop handle the loop of which can be opened, engaged over a chair-back and then locked closed. Handle 16'' of the article, such as umbrella 15'', has a loop handle part 42 hinged thereto, as at 43, at the outer end of the handle. The loop curves back into end engagement with a lower part of the handle, and is there engaged by locking means of which said loop is a part.

The structure shown accomplishing the purpose forms the end of the swinging handle or loop part 42 with a cross-head 28 thereon. As the handle or loop part closes, this cross-head is adapted to enter registering channels of interlocked rotatable dial members in turn having

rotatable interlocked engagement with a circular flange **20''** constituting part of the handle and appropriately situated at the side thereof. The dial members are rotatable to retain the crosshead within a cylindrical space **27** by shoulders **26**.

Obviously other detail modifications and changes made be made without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention, and I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself except as set forth in the following claims when construed in the light of the prior art.

I claim:

1. A portable article providing a handle having loop means secured next an end of said handle, said loop means having a discontinuity enabling the loop to be open-ended when desired to apply the same to a temporary holding member, said loop projecting in part beyond the end of said handle, and locking mechanism having a part thereof a permanent part of said loop means, said locking mechanism also having a part thereof constituting an end knob for the handle.

2. A portable article providing a handle and said handle having loop means secured thereto, said loop means having a discontinuity enabling the loop to be open-ended when desired to apply the same to a temporary holding member and closable to re-establish the loop while so applied, said handle being hollow and said loop being flexible and adapted to be situated in its entirety in the hollow handle, and locking mechanism having a part thereof a permanent part of said loop means.

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