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ILLUMINATING DEVICE

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FIG. 1

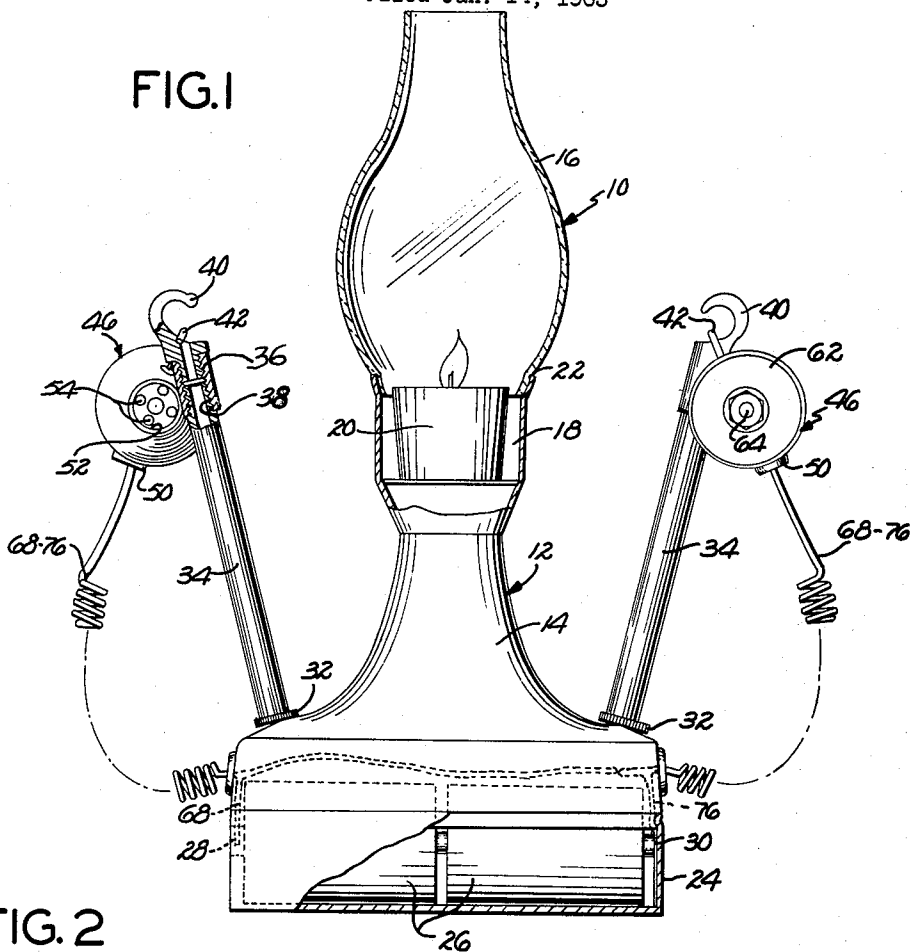


FIG. 2

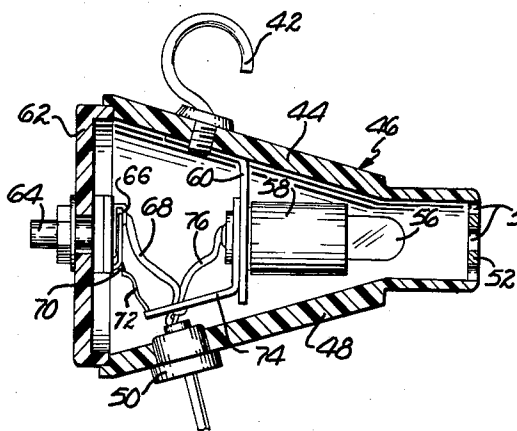
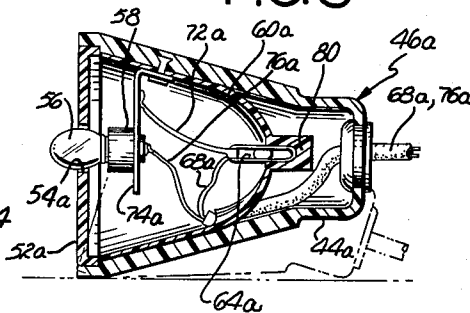


FIG. 3



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## ILLUMINATING DEVICE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 240—6.4)

The present invention relates to an illuminating device and, more particularly, to a device for illuminating tables and printed material in dimly lit rooms.

Many restaurants employ a candle lamp on each table because the lamps are decorative and afford some limited illumination. However, it has long been a problem to read a menu in such a restaurant. When individual tables are set up in the dining area, it is not the usual practice to supply electrical wiring to each table. Therefore, it is necessary to have a portable lamp with its own power source. This is another reason for the popularity of candle lamps.

Therefore, it is one of the objects of the present invention to provide a candle lamp having a separate, extensible electric lamp attached thereto which may be scanned back and forth over a menu to facilitate the reading thereof.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a candle lamp having a base adapted to house battery means for electrically connecting a lamp to the base in such a manner that the electric lamp may be employed to read menus in dimly lit restaurants.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a lamp having a unique light diffuser which adapts the lamp to the reading of menus in dimly lit areas without annoying other diners.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a lamp of the type described having means which prevent the lamp from being illuminated except when it is in position for scanning reading material.

According to the present invention, a candle lamp is provided with a hollow base in which conventional dry-cell or mercury-type batteries may be housed. A lamp is connected to the batteries through an extensible, electrical cord. In one embodiment of the present invention, the lamp head includes an apertured plate which restricts the light emanating from the lamp. In another embodiment, a mercury-type switch is employed in such a manner that the lamp cannot be turned on except when it is in a reading position. A bracket may be attached to the base of the candle lamp and suitable means may be provided on the lamp head to attach it to the brackets. When the electric lamp is detached from the bracket, the extensible cord permits the lamp to extend over a menu or other printed material to be read.

The features of the present invention which are believed to be novel are set forth with particularity in the appended claims. The present invention, both as to its organization and manner of operation, together with further objects and advantages thereof, may best be understood by reference to the following description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a front, elevational view, partially in cross section, showing an illuminating device of the present invention;

FIGURE 2 is a cross-sectional view, with parts shown in elevation, of one of the electrical lamp heads of FIGURE 1; and

FIGURE 3 is a cross-sectional view, with parts shown in elevation, of a modified lamp head.

Referring again to the drawings, and particularly to FIGURES 1 and 2, an illuminating device constituting one embodiment of the present invention, generally design-

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ated 10, includes a candle lamp 12 having a body portion 14 and a chimney 16.

The body portion 14 includes an upper, cylindrical chamber 18 which houses a candle 20 and which includes a flared, open top 22 receiving the chimney 16. The body portion 14 also includes a base 24 which houses a pair of batteries 26 and electrical terminals 28 and 30.

A plurality of internally threaded connectors 32 may be rigidly affixed to the base 24 in circumferentially spaced relation to threadedly engage a plurality of externally threaded, tubular brackets 34 which extend upwardly and outwardly from the base 24. The upper ends of the tubular members 34 have external threads 36 which threadedly engage the internal threads 38 of hook members 40. The hooks 40 are adapted to receive similar hooks 42 rigidly affixed to the housing 44 of a menu-reading electric lamp 46. Each housing 44 includes a frusto-conical, encompassing sidewall 48 in which a grommet 50 is mounted. A first annular plate 52 is mounted in the forward end of housing 44 and includes a plurality of apertures 54 through which light from an electric lamp or bulb 56 may pass. The lamp 56 is mounted in a socket 58 which, in turn, is secured by means of a bracket 60 to the inside of housing 44.

A second plate 62 is mounted in the other end of housing 44 and supports a push-button type switch 64. The switch 64 includes a first terminal 66 which is connected to the terminal 28 in base 24 by means of a lead 68. A second terminal 70 on switch 64 is connected to the socket 58 by a lead 72 and a bracket 74. A lead 76 connects the lamp 56 with the terminal 30 in base 24.

In use, the candle lamp 12 may be placed on a table in a restaurant as part of its decorative decor. A diner desiring to read a menu, removes the electric lamp 46 from tubular support 34 and moves it into position over the menu to be read. The flexible nature of leads 68 and 76 permits the lamp to be extended across a table for ease in scanning a menu with lamp 46.

As lamp 46 is scanned across a menu, switch 64 is activated to complete a circuit through batteries 26 and illuminate electrical bulb 56 which directs a beam of light through the apertures 54 onto the menu. The plate 52 blocks most of the light from bulb 56, but sufficient light will pass through the apertures to facilitate reading a menu without any danger of stray beams of light irritating other diners at the same or adjacent tables.

Referring now to FIGURE 3, a modified lamp head 46a is shown wherein the push button switch 64 is replaced with a mercury-type switch 64a which is positioned within lamp head 46a by means of a bracket 60a in such a manner that bulb 56 can only be illuminated when lamp head 46a is held in a menu-reading position. This is an important feature of the invention because it prevents the bulb 56 from casting a light beam about the room to annoy fellow diners. The housing 44a is of frusto-conical shape and is modified in such a manner that bulb 56 extends through an aperture 54a in end plate 52a so that the lamp head 46a will not lie flat on a table with switch 64a activated. Thus, bulb 56 will tip head 46a sufficiently to deactivate switch 64a and extinguish bulb 56 when lamp head 46a is unattended. Also, the frusto-conical shape of housing 44a causes the lamp head 46a to assume the position shown in broken lines in FIGURE 3.

The switch 64a may be cushioned in a resilient, plastic member 80 and is connected to bulb 56 through a lead 72a, a bracket 74a and the socket 58. A lead 68a may be employed to connect switch 64a to terminal 28 and a lead 76a may be employed to connect bulb 56 with terminal 30.

While the particular illuminating devices herein shown

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and described in detail are fully capable of attaining the objects and providing the advantages hereinbefore stated, it is to be understood that they are merely illustrative of the presently preferred embodiments of the invention and that no limitations are intended to the details of construction or design herein shown other than as defined in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A candle lamp comprising:

a body portion having a hollow base and an open top; 10  
a candle mounted in said open top for illuminating the area immediately adjacent said lamp;

a plurality of upstanding members rigidly affixed to said base and circumferentially spaced therearound; 15  
an electric lamp removably connected to each of said upstanding members, each said lamp including an open ended housing, an electric light bulb mounted in said housing for directing a beam of light out said open end onto a menu to be read, an apertured plate mounted in said open end adjacent the end of said bulb for confining said beam of light to an area adjacent said open end; 20

battery means housed in said hollow base;

electrical conduit means connecting said bulb in a circuit with said battery means; and 25

switch means connected in said circuit to actuate said bulb when it is desired to scan printed material with said lamp.

2. The candle lamp of claim 1 including a first hook mounted on each of said housings and a second hook 30 mounted on each of said upstanding members for removably connecting said lamps thereto.

3. A candle lamp comprising:

a body portion having a hollow base and an open top; 35  
a candle mounted in said open top for illuminating the area immediately adjacent said lamp;

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battery means housed in said hollow base;

electric lamp means connected with said battery means by circuit means and movable relative to said body portion;

said lamp means including a housing having an end wall and an electric light bulb located in said end wall; and

switch means connected in said circuit means to actuate said electric bulb when it is desired to scan printed material with said lamp;

said switch means comprising a mercury switch mounted in said housing and oriented therein in a position to close said circuit means only when said lamp is in a scanning position.

4. A candle lamp as defined in claim 3 wherein said housing is shaped to assume a resting position on a horizontal surface in which said switch means is deactuated.

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