Dec. 10, 1929. W. R. WILLAUER 1,739,431

APPARATUS FOR DISPENSING ICE CREAM

Filed April 4, 1928

Fig. 1.

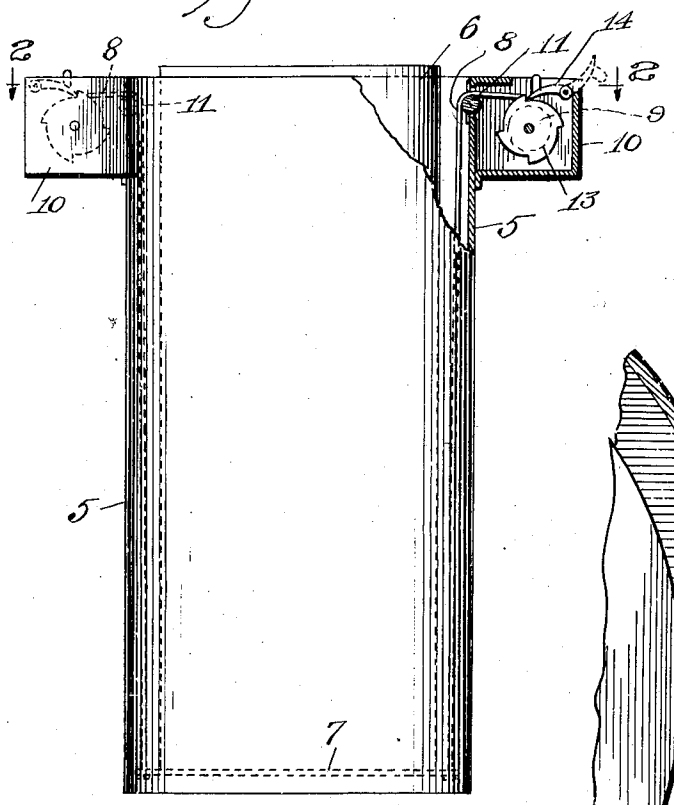
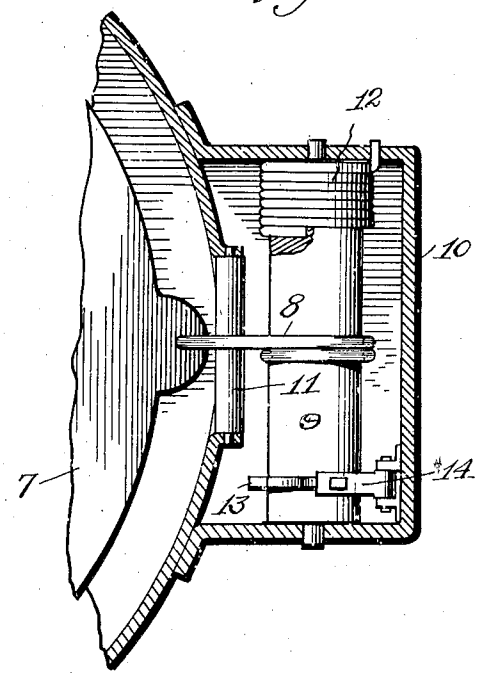


Fig. 3.



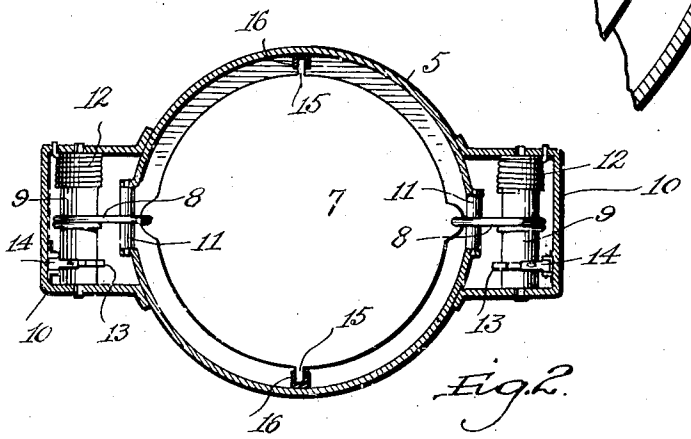


Fig. 2.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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APPARATUS FOR DISPENSING ICE CREAM

Application filed April 4, 1928. Serial No. 267,466.

The object of this invention is to provide a simple mechanism for reducing the expense and increasing the sanitariness of handling ice-cream in its transmission from the manufacturer through the retail dealer to the retail customer, and the object of the present invention is to cover a type of mechanism for handling the ice-cream cartons other than that which is covered in my copending applications Serial No. 264,770, filed March 26, 1928, and Serial No. 264,771, filed March 26, 1928.

In the drawing annexed—

Fig. 1 is a side elevation, partly in vertical section, of my improved apparatus;

Fig. 2 is a horizontal sectional view on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged plan view of one of the drum mechanisms.

Referring to the drawing annexed, 5 designates the usual metallic can or other receptacle set down in a refrigerator and adapted to hold the ice-cream receptacle 6. As an ice-cream receptacle, I prefer using a paper carton of the type illustrated and claimed in my aforesaid copending cases.

This ice-cream receptacle 6 rests on a platform 7 which is adapted to be raised and lowered within the refrigerator-receptacle 5 by means of a pair of cables 8 which, at their lower ends, are attached to lateral lugs on the platform 7 and at their upper ends are wound upon the drum 9 journaled in a receptacle 10 attached to or arranged adjacent to the upper end of the refrigerator-can 5. Each of the cables passes over a roller 11 journaled at the upper end of the receptacle 5 and extends outwardly over the aforesaid drum, upon which, as stated, it is wound. A coil-spring 12 connects this drum to the casing 10 in such manner that it tends to automatically wind up the cable 8, this winding-up operation being resisted by a ratchet-wheel 13 and a pawl 14, the ratchet-wheel being affixed to the drum 9 and the pawl being pivotally mounted within the casing 10. The spring need not be strong enough to elevate a full carton of ice-cream, but it is essential that it be strong enough to automatically raise a carton partly filled with ice-cream, so that, as the ice-cream is removed from the top part of the container 6 and said upper part is torn off or otherwise removed, the surface of the ice-cream can be brought nearer to the top of the refrigerator, so as to be within convenient reach of the clerk who does the dipping.

It will be observed that when the filled carton is placed on the bottom-plate 7, which plate is at that time, of course, at the top of the can 5, the plate 7 will be depressed against the action of the spring 12 by the weight of the carton, assisted perhaps a little by downward pressure of the hand of the attendant applied to the top of the carton. As the can is depressed, the pawls 14 will click over the ratchet-wheels and permit the cables to unwind and the spring 12 to wind up. The ratchets will hold the ice-cream can at whatever point the operator desires it held which at the start, of course, will be on the bottom plate at the bottom of the can 5. As the ice-cream is taken out and the level in the carton 6 lowers, the top part of the carton is torn off or otherwise removed, and then the carton may be raised to bring the level of the ice-cream up so as to be more convenient for dipping. This is done by releasing the pawls 14 by throwing them back, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1. When the pawls are thus thrown off the ratchet-wheels, the springs will raise the carton automatically under control of the attendant who will govern the speed of the rise and the distance by hand pressure on the top of the carton. It is desirable that the base-plate 7 shall be guided truly in its vertical movement and, with that end in view, I provide the plate 7 at its opposite edges with lugs 15 which extend radially outwardly and work in vertical guides 16 affixed to the interior of the refrigerator well 5.

What I claim as new is:

In combination with a refrigerator receptacle, a support mounted therein adapted to support an ice-cream container, cables attached to said support extending to the upper part of said vessel, spring-drum means connected to the upper ends of the cables adapted to normally raise the platform carrying the

ice-cream container, and manually-controlled ratchet means for permitting the supporting plate to be depressed into the receptacle and automatically preventing the lifting of the plate, for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

WILLIAM R. WILLAUER.