June 22, 1926. 1,589,430

C. S. J. RUSSELL

THERMOMETER CASE

Filed March 8, 1926

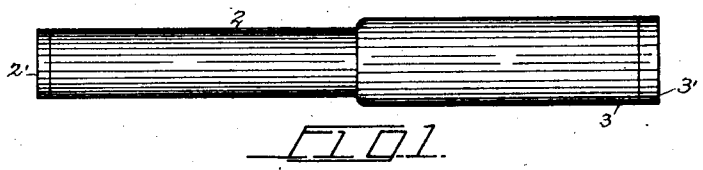


FIG 1.

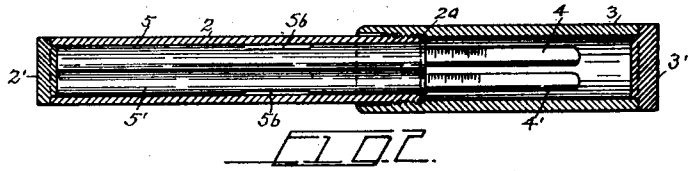


FIG 2.

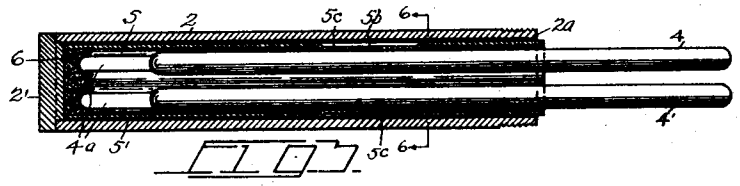


FIG 3.

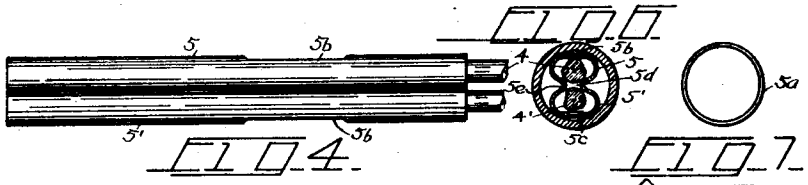


FIG 4.

FIG 5.

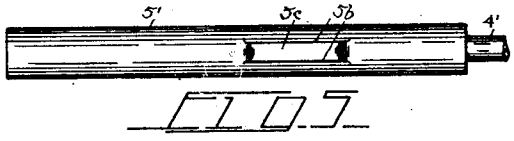


FIG 6.

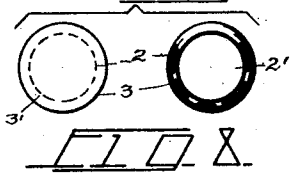


FIG 8.

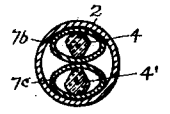


FIG 9.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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THERMOMETER CASE.

Application filed March 8, 1926. Serial No. 93,142.

This invention relates to improvements in thermometer cases, and has for its object to provide a novel and simple receptacle, comprising a single tubular body and a telescopic cap therefor, the interior of the body being fitted with a light metal bushing, which is formed with similar spaced compartments or pockets, in which two thermometers may be inserted and safely carried, and from which one thermometer may be withdrawn and replaced without disturbing or being hindered by the other thermometer. A further object is to provide twin sheaths that are equipped with tension means for gripping and holding the thermometers against accidental shifting or escaping from the case, when the latter is being carried in a pocket or handled, and the protecting cap is removed. A further object is to provide means for cushioning and sterilizing the delicate and fragile bulbs of the thermometers when the latter are sheathed. And a further object is to generally improve and simplify thermometer holders of this class.

I attain these objects by means set forth in the detailed description which follows, and as illustrated by the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is an elevational view of the complete case, with the cap attached. Fig. 2 is a central longitudinal section showing two thermometers supported by twin sheaths; the latter being in elevation. Fig. 3 is an enlarged central longitudinal section, with the cap removed; showing the thermometers held by tension exerted by portions of the sheaths; also showing cushion means for protecting the bulbs. Fig. 4 is a side elevation of the tubular sheath, Fig. 5 is an edge view of the same. Fig. 6 is a transverse section, taken on line 6—6 of Fig. 3, showing the formation of the sheath and the tension means. Fig. 7 is an end view of a plain tube from which the sheaths are made. Fig. 8 is respectively top and bottom end views of the complete case. And Fig. 9 is a transverse section through the case; showing the sheaths as separate parts.

In the drawing, 2 represents the tubular body of the case, having a closed end 2′, and a normally open end 2^a, the latter being externally threaded. 3 represents the cap, having a closed end 3′, and the opposite end being open and internally threaded for engaging the threads of the body 2. The body 2 has a relatively large bore for accommodating two thermometers as 4—4′, the latter being preferably disposed in similar pockets or sheaths as 5—5′, which are preferably snugly applied to the body 2, as shown in Figs. 2, 3 and 6. The twin sheaths 5—5′ preferably comprise one part, and according to the present showing, the said part is formed from a plain pliable tube of any suitable material as 5^a (see Fig. 7), which may be rolled, molded, or otherwise operated upon, for providing similar flattened or elliptical tubular guards or sheaths, as best seen in Fig. 6. In practice, the spacing of the sheathes 5—5′, when the latter are constructed is such that, the span of the two sheaths is slightly greater than the diameter of the body 2, and requires some force, in order to insert the connected sheaths into the bore of the body 2. To this end, the metal of the tube 5^a is preferably relatively thin, and of a springy nature, whereby the sheaths 5—5′ may be flexed toward each other when they are installed. By this arrangement, the normal tension of the sheathing member tends to hold the said member in place without any other fastening means. The opposite edges of the double holder 5—5′ is preferably sheared or slitted, as at 5^b, for providing similar narrow integral longitudinal tension portions 5^c, which are afterwards bent inwardly, as shown in Figs. 2, 3, 4 and 5, for frictionally and resiliently engaging and holding the thermometers from accidental detachment or escape from the sheaths. The springs 5^c also tend to force and hold the thermometers in the corresponding crotches 5^d, that are formed by the oppositely facing longitudinal flutes 5^e, and thereby prevent shifting or floating of the thermomenters in the relatively roomy pockets 5—5′. The inner end of the sheathing member 5—5′, is preferably stuffed with absorbent cushion material 6, like felt, which affords a soft and yielding seat for the fragile bulbs 4^a. The cushion 6, furthermore, tends to preserve the axial alignment of the thermometers and the sheaths, as shown in Fig. 3, and obviates danger of breaking the bulbs or allowing the heads of the thermometers to cant and contact with the hard inner

walls of the cap 3. The cushion 6 is preferably saturated with suitable sterilizing liquid for guarding against infection.

The provision of the single case 2, and the twin sheaths 5—5′ greatly simplifies the construction, and also reduces the number of parts of the case and enables a physician, surgeon or nurse to conveniently carry two thermometers that occupy but little more space than heretofore required for a single thermometer. By the use of the novel and simple sheathing means, as herein shown and described, two thermometers such as are commonly employed by doctors and nurses may be compactly encased and readily and safely handled, and there is no danger of either of the instruments being returned, after using, to the wrong pocket or sheath. This is a very desirable provision, since it permits the use of one thermometer for contagious diseases, and a second thermometer for the ordinary non-contagious ailments.

Obviously separate sheaths, as 7^b—7^c shown in Fig. 9, may be used instead of the unitary sheathing member 5—5′, and also other modifications and changes may be made without departing from the scope of my invention.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, is—

In a thermometer case, a hollow body, a telescoping cap therefor, and a tubular member adapted for insertion in said body having opposed spaced longitudinal flutes extending throughout the length of said tubular member to provide longitudinal sheaths to receive a pair of thermometers, said sheaths having their opposed faces slitted intermediate their ends and the slitted portions being displaced inwardly to provide tensioning means adapted to cooperate with the opposed fluted portions for exerting pressure upon and to prevent accidental displacement of the thermometers in the case.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

CLAUDE S. J. RUSSELL.