

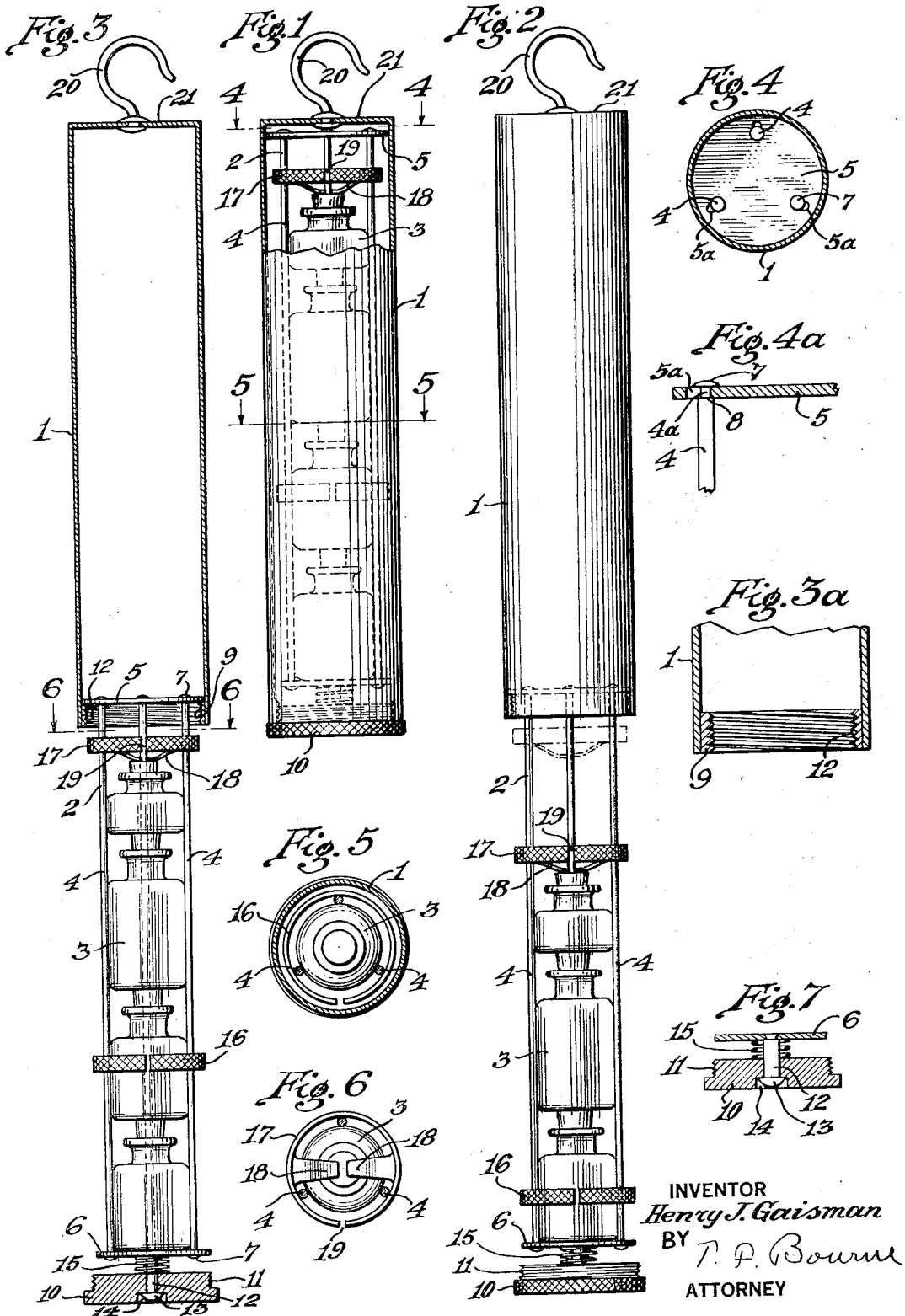
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CONTAINER

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CONTAINER

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An object of my invention is to provide simple and efficient means to retain a series or plurality of separate articles, in a relatively small compass, in such a way that any of the articles may be readily removed without removing any of the remaining articles, a protecting casing being provided in which to store the articles until ready for withdrawal.

In carrying out my invention, I provide a casing and a retainer for the articles movable into and from the casing, said retainer having means to permit the articles to be removed, if desired, and to keep the remaining articles in snug or secure relation within the retainer, and means to keep the retainer within the casing for storage of the articles.

My invention also comprises novel details of improvement that will be more fully hereinafter set forth and then pointed out in the claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawing in which:—

Fig. 1 is a partly broken side view of my container, showing the parts assembled for storage or transportation;

Fig. 2 is a side view illustrating the retainer for the articles in exposed position for removal of one or more articles therefrom;

Fig. 3 is a vertical section through part of Fig. 2;

Fig. 3a is an enlarged sectional detail of part of Fig. 3;

Fig. 4 is a section on line 4, 4, in Fig. 1;

Fig. 4a is an enlarged detail section of part of Fig. 4;

Fig. 5 is a section on line 5, 5, in Fig. 1;

Fig. 6 is a section on line 6, 6, in Fig. 3; and

Fig. 7 is a sectional detail of part of Fig. 3.

Similar numerals indicate corresponding parts of the several views.

My improved container includes a suitable casing or shell 1, which may be in tubular form and made of suitable material, such as metal, and at 2 is a retainer slidable telescopically into and from the casing. The retainer is adapted to contain bottles, jars, or other packages of goods 3, such as medicines, cosmetics, powders and the like, particularly adapted for medicinal or toilet uses. The retainer includes means to permit ready removal of one or more of the articles 3 without the removal of the remaining articles.

I have illustrated the retainer as comprising a plurality of laterally movable members comprising suitably spaced wires or rods 4, preferably arranged in circular relation, and connected at opposite ends by means of disks or heads 5 and 6.

Wires or rods 4 are sufficiently resilient to permit them to bend to enable a package 3 to be withdrawn from between two of the rods. The ends of the rods 4 are shown provided with reduced portions at 4a located in slots 5a, radially disposed in the disks 5 and 6, the rods having heads at 7 and shoulders at 8 as stop means on opposite sides of the adjacent disk, whereby the rods are loosely connected with the disks to enable the rods to move a limited distance in a lateral direction.

The disk 5 is of sufficient diameter to permit it to slide within and be guided by the casing 1, and the rods 4 are so spaced that they may slide into and out of the casing with said disk. The disk 6 is also adapted to enter the casing at its open outer end when the retainer is pushed into the casing for storage. A ring-like stop 9 is secured at the open end of the casing after the disk 5 has been inserted into the casing, serving as an abutment for said disk to limit its outward movement and to permit the retainer to hang from the casing, as illustrated in Fig. 3. To keep the retainer detachably within the casing, I provide a nut 10 which is rotatively attached to the disk 6 and provided with threads at 11 to engage threads at 12 at the open end of the casing, the threads 12 being shown formed in the stop or abutment ring 9. The nut 10 is journaled upon a stud 12 that may be riveted to the disk 6, and is provided with a head 13, preferably in a counter-sink or recess 14 in the outer surface of the nut, whereby, when the retainer is entered into the casing, the nut may be screwed to the part 9 to keep the retainer in position in the casing. By preference a coiled spring 15 encircles the stud 12 and is located between the disk 6 and the nut 10, serving as a resilient seat for the retainer when the latter is within the casing. When the retainer is pulled out of the casing the nut will hang on the projecting stud 12.

To keep the rods or wires 4 from undue expansion, to avoid the tendency of the articles or packages 3 to spontaneously spread the wires and become released, I provide a ring 16 that encircles the rods 4 and is adjustable along said rods. The ring 16 is preferably split and made resilient, of suitable spring metal, tending to inwardly grip the rods whereby to remain in a set position. The ring 16 may be set along the rods 4 in a desired position to stiffen them, both above and below the center to resist their outward spring tendency, and when the ring is moved to a suitable distance from an article the rods will have sufficient freedom to bend outwardly when the article

is pushed or pulled from between adjacent rods.

To keep the articles 3 within the retainer in an end-to-end contacting relation, I provide a stop member 17 that is fitted on and adapted to slide along the rods 4, said stop member being shown provided with inwardly extending means, such as one or more fingers 18, that are adapted to engage an article or package 3 at the inner end of the pile of packages. The stop member 17 is preferably made in the form of a spring-like ring of suitable resilient metal and split at 19, having an inward spring tendency to grip the rods 4 to remain in set position on said rods and resist the tendency of the packages 3 to slide inwardly with respect to the casing.

To place articles 3 within the retainer, the ring 16 and the stop member 17 may be moved toward opposite ends of the retainer, as indicated in full and dotted lines, respectively, in Fig. 2, when the retainer has been drawn out of the casing, whereby the articles 3 may be pushed between the rods 4, and the stop member 17 may be set against an adjacent article 3 as in Figs. 1 and 2. The ring 16 may be adjusted along the rods 4 to a suitable position to resist outward movement of said rods by any of the articles 3. After the retainer has been charged with desired articles, it may be pushed into the container and fastened therein by means of the nut 10 which will be screwed against the part 9. When it is desired to remove one or more articles from the container, the nut 10 will be unscrewed and the retainer may be pulled out from the casing, as illustrated in Fig. 3, so that it may depend from the casing. I have illustrated the casing 1 as provided with means to suspend it from a suitable support, such as a hook 20 attached to the upper closed end 21 of the casing. By moving the ring 16 along the retainer to a desired position, its resistance against the rods 4 will be reduced to enable a desired article or package 3 to be pushed or pulled from between the rods. When an article 3 has been removed from the retainer, the remaining articles may be snugged together in end-wise manner and the stop member 17 may be set against the innermost article, as illustrated in Fig. 2, to keep articles from sliding in the retainer.

Having now described my invention what I claim is:—

1. A container comprising a casing, a retainer for articles movable into and from the casing, and means to detachably keep the retainer within the casing, said retainer comprising annularly disposed flexible members providing a space within for articles and means at opposite ends of the members to retain them in relative positions, said members being so spaced apart as to permit said articles to be pulled laterally between adjacent members.

2. A container as set forth in claim 1 provided with means at the bottom of the casing and at the top of the retainer to suspend the retainer from the casing, the retainer being slidable within the casing.

3. A container comprising a casing, a retainer for articles movable into and from the casing, said retainer comprising laterally movable members providing a space to receive articles therebetween, means to detachably keep the retainer within the casing, said retainer including means to detachably retain articles therein, and a stop member adjustable along the members of the retainer to engage articles therein.

4. A container comprising a casing, a retainer movable into and from the casing, the retainer including spaced rods to receive and retain articles therebetween and means at opposite ends of the rods to keep them in spaced relation, and means to detachably keep the retainer within the casing.

5. A container as set forth in claim 4 provided with a ring mounted on and adjustable along the rods.

6. A container as set forth in claim 4 provided with a ring mounted on and adjustable along the rods, said ring being split and resilient.

7. A container as set forth in claim 4 provided with an abutment stop mounted on and adjustable along the rods, said stop being provided with means to engage an article within the retainer.

8. A container as set forth in claim 4 provided with an abutment stop mounted on and adjustable along the rods, said abutment stop being provided with a finger to engage an article within the retainer.

9. A container comprising a casing, a retainer movable into and from the casing, said retainer including spaced rods, disks attached to the ends of the rods, and means to detachably keep the retainer within the casing.

10. A container as set forth in claim 9 in which the disks have slots and the rods have reduced portions movable in said slots, the rods being provided with stop means on opposite sides of the disks to retain the latter in connection with the rods.

11. A container comprising a casing having an open end, a ring at said open end of the casing, a retainer slidable into and from the container, said container comprising spaced rods and disks attached to the rods, one of the disks being adapted to rest against said ring to suspend the retainer from the casing, and means to detachably keep the retainer within the casing.

12. A container as set forth in claim 11 in which the retainer is provided at its outer end with a nut rotatively carried by the retainer, the casing having means to cooperate with the nut to keep the retainer within the casing.

13. A container comprising a casing having an open end, a retainer slidable into and from the casing, said retainer having a stud at its outer end and a nut journaled on the stud, and a spring interposed between the retainer and the nut, the container and the nut having cooperative means to detachably keep the retainer within the casing.

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