May 10, 1927. 1,627,883

R. S. BLAIR

HUMIDOR

Filed May 9, 1919

Fig. 1.

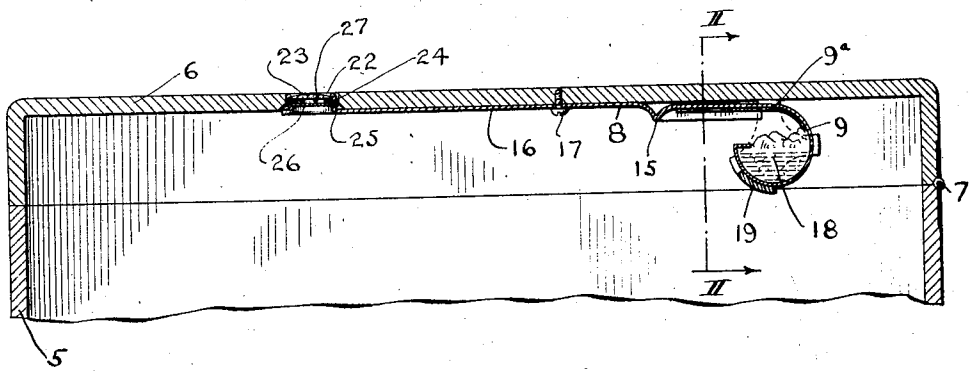


Fig. 2.

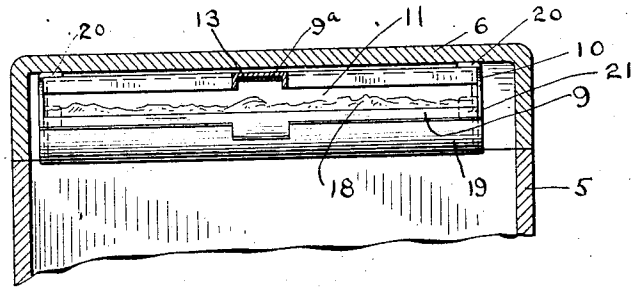
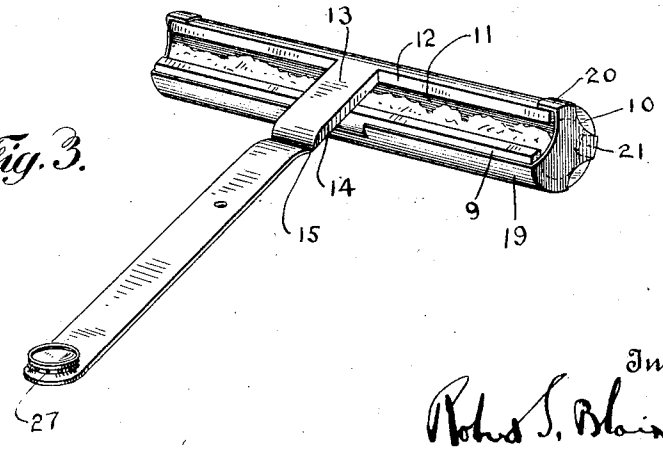


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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HUMIDOR.

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This invention relates to humidors and the like. One of the objects thereof is to provide a simple and compact device of the above nature which shall maintain tobacco in a properly moist condition.

Another object is to provide a practical device of the above nature which shall be adapted to remain in action for a considerable time without attention. Other objects are to provide means whereby the condition of the air within a humidor or the like is readily ascertained and simple means for remedying an excess or deficiency of moisture therein. Other objects will be in part obvious and in part pointed out hereinafter.

The invention accordingly consists in the features of construction, combinations of elements and arrangement of parts which will be exemplified in the structure hereinafter described and the scope of the application of which will be indicated in the following claims.

In the accompanying drawings in which is shown one of various possible embodiments of this invention,

Figure 1 is a central transverse sectional elevation through Figure 2;

Figure 2 is a similar view taken along the line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a detail perspective view of a device removably mounted within a humidor.

Similar reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the several views of the drawings.

Referring now to the drawings in detail there is shown at 5 the body of a receptacle for cigars or other form of tobacco, provided with the lid 6 hinged at 7. Mounted upon the inner surface of this lid or cover is a device 8 which may be formed of sheet metal as by stamping. This member comprises a cylindrical portion 9 flanged as at 10 so as partially to enclose its ends, and provided with a cut-away portion 11 on its upper forward side, that is, the side away from the hinge 7. The edge of the cylinder 9 at the upper side of its opening is downwardly flanged as at 12, and this flange is carried outwardly along the edges of a forwardly extending arm 13, as shown at 14. This arm is bent downwardly to form the shoulder 15 and thence upwardly to rest flat against the underside of the lid of the box, as at 16; the device being held in position as by means of a screw 17.

In this manner there is provided an inner chamber which may contain a small amount of liquid in substantially any desired position of the lid without danger of over-flow as it is retained by the various flanges above described.

Within the cylinder 9 is an absorbent member 18 of any desired material which may be saturated with water, and in fact which may rest in a small amount of water at the bottom of the cylinder. There is thus provided an ample and lasting source of humidity for the contents of the container 5, and the evaporating surface may be increased by extending the member 9 up as at 9a. In order to adjust the evaporation to suit the conditions of use, there is provided a sheet metal member 19 which extends throughout the length of the cylinder and fits its outer surface for a fraction of its circumference. This member is bent to embrace and hook over each end of the cylinder at the additional points 20 and 21 and can thus be rotated about the cylinder to close any desired portion of the opening 11.

Opposite the extreme outer end of the arm 13 there is provided in the lid 6 an opening 22 which is closed as by means of the glass 23. The end of arm 13 is shaped to provide an annular flange 24 recessed as at 25 to retain an indicating element 26. The latter element may be formed of absorbent paper which has been soaked in a suitable chemical solution of such nature that is color will vary with the moisture to which it is exposed. For example, such a solution may comprise

	Parts.
Cobalt chloride	1
Gelatine	10
Water	100

Openings are provided at 27 to permit air from the interior of the container to pass to the upper side of member 26.

In the use of the device a suitable quantity of water or other liquid is inserted within the cylinder 9, such amount being used as would preferably leave a portion of the free liquid at the bottom of the cylinder after the pad 18 has become saturated. The shutter 19 is then adjusted so as to ex-

pose the desired amount of evaporating surface. The member 26 will immediately indicate the humidity of the interior of the receptacle and it is so positioned that it will not only give a fair indication but is out of danger of contact with the moistening element. If the color of the indicator shows that the humidity is too great, the shutter is closed to a slightly greater extent, whereas upon the color indicating an unduly dry state, this shutter is proportionately opened. In this manner the humidity is readily maintained at precisely the desired degree. The state of humidity in the container, moreover, is readily ascertained without the necessity of opening the latter and it is to be especially noted that the mounting of the indicator insures a registry or indication of the contents of the air within the container without the chance of false indications, such as might be due to contact with moist surfaces.

It will thus be seen that there is provided a construction in which the several objects of this invention are achieved.

As various possible embodiments might be made of the above invention and as various changes might be made in the embodiment above set forth, it is to be understood that all matter herein set forth or shown in the accompanying drawings is to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

I claim as my invention:

1. In apparatus of the general nature of that herein described, in combination, a container, and a member adapted to change color on changes in its dampness, mounted in such container and having one surface thereof exposed to the interior of said container, said container being formed to expose said member to view from the outside of said container.

2. In apparatus of the general nature of that herein described, in combination, a container, a flat member adapted to change color on changes in its dampness, and means mounting said member parallel to and adjacent an upper wall of said container with one of its surfaces exposed to the interior thereof, said container being formed to expose said member to view from the outside.

3. In apparatus of the general nature of that herein described, in combination, a container, a flat member adapted to change color on changes in its dampness, and means mounting said member parallel to and adjacent a wall of said container with one of its surfaces exposed to the interior thereof, said container being formed to expose said member to view from the outside, and said member being held out of contact with the walls and contents of said container.

4. In apparatus of the general nature of that herein described, in combination, a flat member adapted to change color on changes in its dampness, a transparent opening in an upper wall of said container, and means mounting said member opposite said opening and substantially parallel to said wall with one surface exposed to said opening and the opposite surface exposed to the interior of said container.

5. In apparatus of the general nature of that herein described, in combination, a container, a member exposed to the air within said container and constituted to change its color with changes in the dampness of said air, means adapted to moisten the air within said container, and means by which said moistening means may be rendered operative upon said member indicating a deficiency in such moisture said moistening means being spaced from said member.

6. In apparatus of the general nature of that herein described, in combination, a container, means adapted to indicate the dampness of the air within said container, means adapted to moisten said air, and means adapted to vary the rate of action of said moistening means to maintain the indication of said first means substantially constant, said moistening means being spaced from said first mentioned means.

7. In apparatus of the general nature of that herein described, in combination, a container having opaque walls, a window formed in one of the walls of said container, and a member constituted to change its color in accordance with variations in its dampness and positioned to be exposed to the air within said container and visible through said window.

8. In apparatus of the general nature of that herein described, in combination, a portable container having an opening in one of its walls, a member constituted to change its color in accordance with variations in its dampness, and means mounting said member within said container opposite said opening.

9. In apparatus of the general nature of that herein described, in combination, a container, and a member adapted to change color on changes in its dampness mounted in such container and having one surface thereof exposed to the interior of said container, said container being formed to expose said member to view from the outside of said container and said member being adjacent to and substantially following as a whole the direction of the portion of the container through which it is visible.

10. In apparatus of the general nature of that herein described, in combination, a container, a member adapted to change color on changes in its dampness, means comprising a part having openings to permit the air of the interior of the container to pass therethrough and mounting in such con-

tainer said first member with one surface exposed to the interior of said container, said container being formed to expose said member to view from the outside of said container.

11. In apparatus of the general nature of that herein described, in combination, a container, a member adapted to change color on changes in its dampness, means mounting said member in said container in a position adjacent to and substantially following as a whole the direction of the portion of the container which it is opposite and with one surface of the member exposed to the interior of the container, said container being formed to expose said member to view from the outside thereof, and moistening means within said container at a point spaced from said member.

Signed at New York city in the county of New York and State of New York this 8th day of May A. D. 1919.

ROBERT S. BLAIR