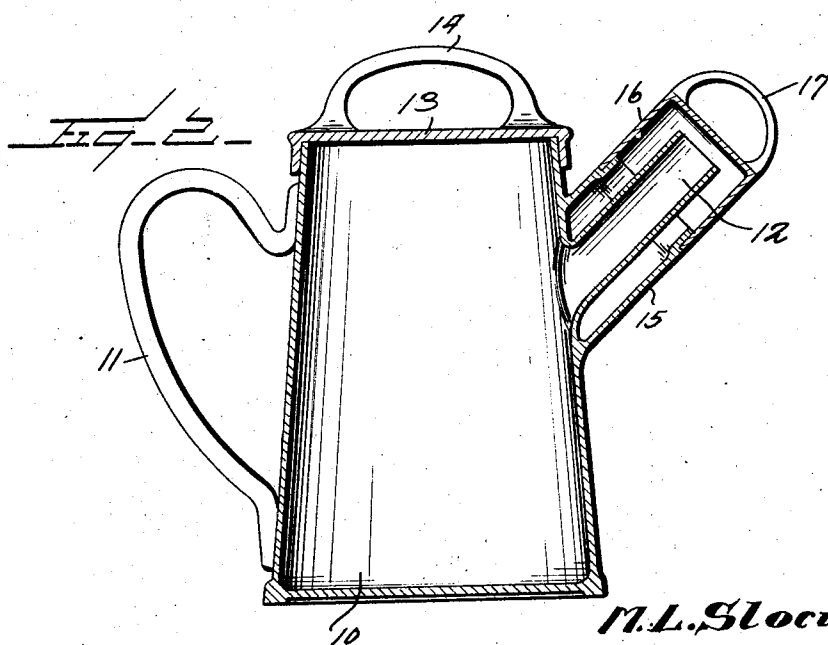
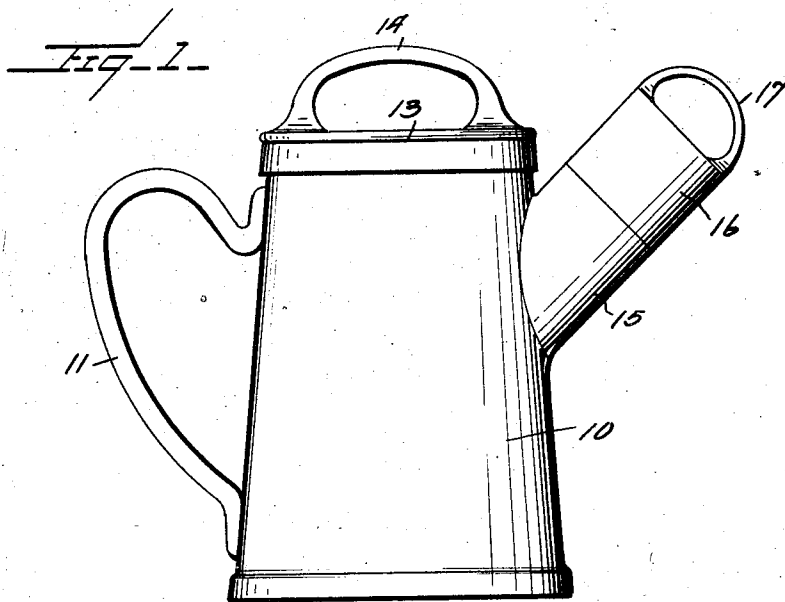


Aug. 30, 1927.

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M. L. SLOCUMB
PITCHER FOR STERILIZED WATER

Filed Jan. 13, 1927



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MARY LEE SLOCUMB, OF SHELBY, MISSISSIPPI.

PITCHER FOR STERILIZED WATER.

Application filed January 13, 1927. Serial No. 160,936.

This invention relates to pitchers and particularly to pitchers used for holding sterilized water used in operations.

The pitcher generally used in operations is an ordinary enameled pitcher and before an operation is entirely sterilized. This pitcher is ordinarily covered with a towel which has been sterilized in an auto-clave to keep the towel dry. When the pitcher is to be used, the towel must be raised from over the mouth of the pitcher to allow sterilized water to be poured into it, and to again close the pitcher, the towel must be dragged down over the mouth of the pitcher. Inasmuch as the exterior of the pitcher which is touched by the hands becomes contaminated, it is obvious that the towel is also likely to become contaminated and the next time water is needed, the towel must be raised again, thus rendering it likely that the mouth of the pitcher will be contaminated and thus contaminate the sterilized water. This results in an infection of the patient, the source of the infection being, however, unknown. Not only is this method of holding sterilized water ineffective as far as sterilization goes but it is also very difficult to pour water into the pitcher and avoid spilling the water on the towel. Between each operation the towel must be changed and pitcher resterilized in an auto-clave. This requires much extra linen and considerable waste of time.

The general object of the present invention is to provide a pitcher for containing sterilized water which is provided with a cover and with a spout, the spout being also provided with a cover which does not touch the spout itself but which fits over an auxiliary spout concentric to the pouring spout. Thus the spout does not come in contact with anything which would contaminate it and the cover may be readily removed or replaced without the inner portion of the cover being contaminated in any way. The pitcher and all parts may be thoroughly boiled, thus saving time and reducing the number of pitchers required in an operating room. As no towels are used, the amount of linen required in an operating room is greatly decreased.

My invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings wherein:—

Figure 1 is an elevation of my improved pitcher;

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view thereof.

In these drawings 10 designates the body of an ordinary pitcher having a handle 11 and a spout 12. The pitcher has a flat top without any lip and is kept covered by a lid or cover 13 fitting tightly against the flat top of the pitcher and having a handle 14 on the top of the lid whereby the lid may be manipulated without the hands touching the inner face of the lid or the rim thereof.

Surrounding the spout 12 but less in length than the spout, is the shield or auxiliary spout 15. This is integral with the body of the pitcher and extends upward and outward in spaced relation to the spout 12 and is adapted to receive upon it the tight fitting cover 16, the spout 15 being preferably formed with a rabbeted upper end having tight connection with the cover. The cover is provided with the handle 17.

In using this pitcher, the pitcher is boiled for twenty minutes and after removing the pitcher from the water all enclosed or inner parts of the pitcher are sterile. The top 13 may be removed to permit sterile water to be poured into the pitcher and the top then replaced. Of course, the cover 16 must be removed in order to permit water to be poured from the pitcher. This cover 16 is then replaced and the spout 12 remains sterile. The advantages of this device are that the pitcher and all its parts may be readily boiled and completely sterilized. The boiling of the pitcher is a relatively easy matter, much easier than sterilizing the pitcher and towel in an auto-clave, thus saving time and reducing the number of towels and pitchers in an operating room. Furthermore, the parts of the pitcher are more durable than the towels and the laundry work of a hospital is greatly decreased.

Pitchers for sterilized water are used principally in operations where water which is absolutely sterile is required for the soaking of sponges, cleansing wounds, etc. The ordinary pitcher with the lid and spout does not have any proper protection from contamination as the spout is uncovered and the top does not cover the rim around the top of the pitcher. It will be seen that my pitcher has a top which not only covers the opening of the pitcher but extends down outside of the pitcher. This renders contamination unlikely. The special feature of the pitcher, however, is the enclosed spout. If a cover were fitted directly over the spout there still might be danger of the cover

becoming contaminated and thus contaminate the water but it will be seen that the spout 12 is not touched by anything, even the cover, after sterilization so that all danger
5 of contamination is entirely eliminated.

I claim:—

1. A pitcher of the character described comprising a body, a lid closing the body, the body having a spout below the lid and
10 integrally connected to the body and a relatively short shield approximately concentric to the spout but spaced therefrom and integrally connected to the body, and a cover fitting over the spout but not touching the
15 same and engaging with the shield.

2. A pitcher of the character described

comprising a body having a handle and open at its upper end, the opening being defined by a rim, a lid having a downwardly extending flange engaging around the outside
20 of the rim defining said opening, the body having a spout disposed below the opening of the body and integral therewith, and a shield concentric to the spout but spaced therefrom and integral with the body, and
25 a cover fitting over the spout and engaging with the shield, the cover being held at all points in spaced relation to the spout by the shield.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my
signature.

MARY LEE SLOCUMB.