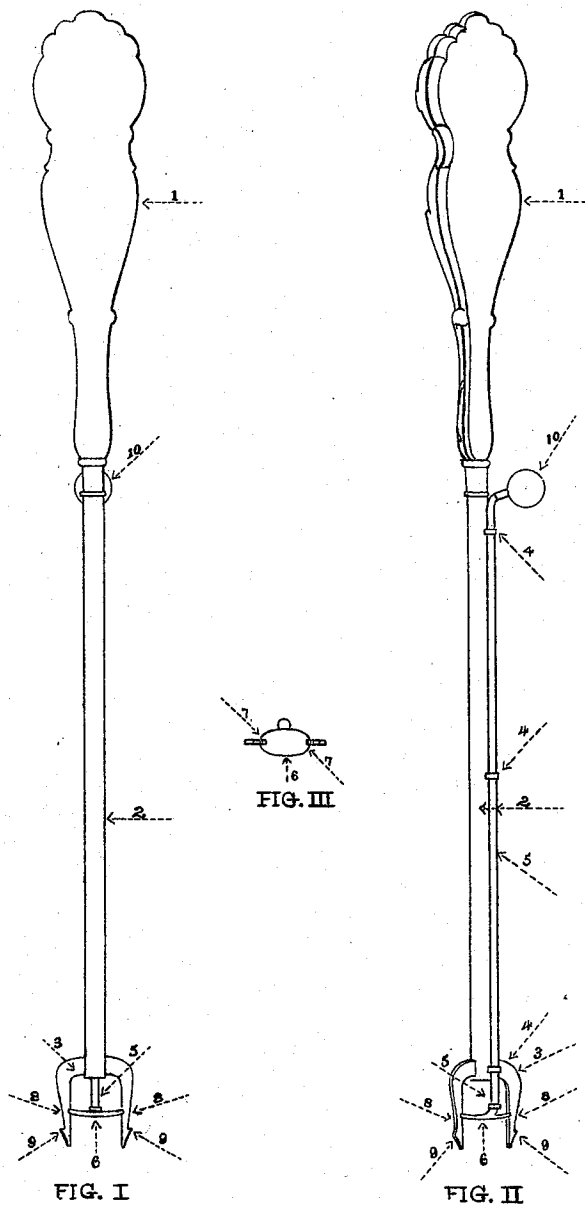


No. 858,429.

PATENTED JULY 2, 1907.

E. F. WEBB.
FORK.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 14, 1907.



WITNESSES:

Simmons
Philip E. Brady.

INVENTOR

Edmund F. Webb
BY
End. C. Briggs
ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDMUND F. WEBB, OF ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS.

FORK.

No. 858,429.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDMUND F. WEBB, a citizen of the United States, and residing in the town of Attleboro, in the county of Bristol and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Forks, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part thereof.

My invention relates to forks designed for lifting pickles, olives, etc. from containing vessels, and its object is to provide a fork which will release as well as hold an article, such as a pickle or olive, at the will of the user, without the necessity of said article coming in contact with one's hands or other implements. It is also intended to produce a fork which is sanitary and easily cleaned through the absence of interior working parts and recesses into which corroding liquids and other foreign matter can penetrate.

Referring to the drawings, Figure I is a view of what I term the reverse or under side of the fork. Fig. II is a view, in perspective, of the front or top side of the same fork. Fig. III is a view of the end of the fork showing the flange between the tines.

Like characters denote like parts throughout the drawings.

My fork consists of a handle 1, a stem 2 and a tine member 3. Upon the outer surface of the fork are attached a number of tubular bands or rings 4, through which slides a rod 5. To one end of this rod a flange 6 is firmly secured. This flange is fitted with grooves or recesses 7 which engage the inner edges of the tines 8 and slides longitudinally between them, they acting as guide rails. Upon the outer edges of the tines are formed barbs 9 which serve to increase the retaining power of the fork tines. At the end of the rod 5, adjacent to the handle of the fork, is fastened a combined handle and lever 10 at such an angle with the rod as to form a hook by means of which the entire fork may be suspended in an upright position against the side of a jar, bottle or other receptacle and when it is thus suspended all liquid matter will drip away, leaving it comparatively clean. This handle-lever 10, by means of its angular connection with the rod, co-operates with the band 4 to establish a limit to the movement of the rod in one direction. The movement of the rod in the other direction is limited by the co-operation of another band 4 with a

shoulder or angular formation of the rod at its junction with the flange 6. The handle-lever 10 acts further as a lever by which the rod can be made to slide within the bands 4, and its action be positively controlled in either direction. The close proximity of this handle-lever to the handle of the fork enables a person to operate it with the thumb or finger of the same hand that holds the fork.

The operation of my fork is very simple. The penetration of a pickle, olive or other substance by the tines, automatically causes the flange to slide to the base of the tines where it is held until the impinged substance is removed. The barbs on the outer edges of the tines prevent such substance from leaving the fork until, by a pressure of the thumb or finger upon the handle-lever 10, the rod is made to slide through the bands 4 and the flange is pushed out along the tines. The flange overcomes the retaining force of the barbs and projects the substance from the fork.

The construction of my fork is such that all parts of it are exposed and therefore easily cleansed and this feature together with the means described for suspending it in an upright position when not in use makes this article particularly sanitary.

It is apparent that my invention permits of any length of fork and any number of tines thereon, and it also can be adapted to a curved line fork as well the straight construction, so that, although the drawings show the preferred embodiment of my new fork, the invention is to be understood as covering all other variations of structure which are within the scope of the claims.

Having described my invention, what I claim is:—

A fork comprising in combination, a handle, a stem and a tine member, barbs upon the outer edges of the tine member, an integral push-rod longitudinally disposed upon the stem from the handle to the tine member deflected inwardly at its lower end where it is enlarged and fitted with grooves to engage and slide longitudinally between the inner edges of the tines, and deflected outwardly at its upper end forming a suspension hook, a boss at the upper extremity of the rod, eyelets upon the stem to guide the rod, and means for limiting its longitudinal movement.

In witness whereof I affix my name in the presence of two witnesses.

EDMUND F. WEBB.

Witnesses:

PHILIP E. BRADY,
HOWARD T. BATES.