Jan. 13, 1931. J. L. McATREE 1,788,399

CATCH MEANS FOR VANITY CASES

Filed March 17, 1928

FIG. 1.

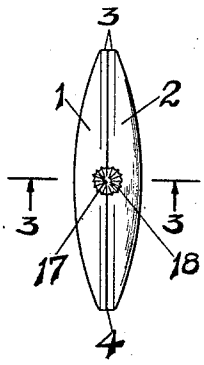


FIG. 2.

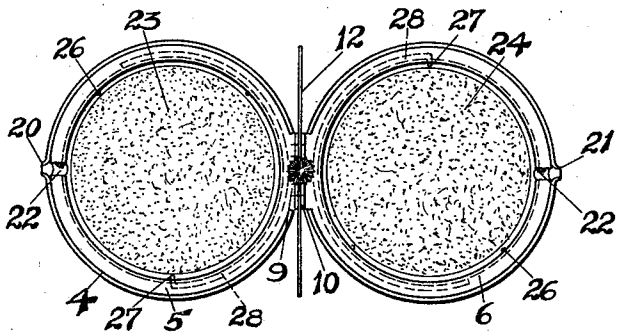
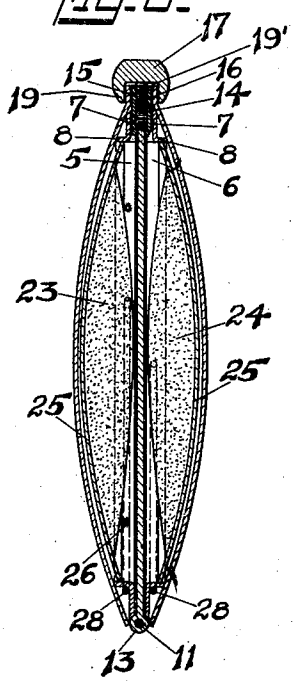


FIG. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CATCH MEANS FOR VANITY CASES

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This invention relates to certain improvements in small boxes or cases for holding cosmetics and other toilet articles now commonly known as vanity boxes.

One type of these boxes includes a body member forming a compartment for holding the desired toilet article, this body having a cover associated therewith, usually by means of a hinge. Another type of such box includes a body and cover members each designed to hold a cosmetic or other toilet article, these parts being usually associated on a hinge combined with an intermediate cover or partition member, which may be in the form of a mirror. It is desirable in this class of boxes that means be provided for holding the parts in closed relation when in non-use, but which means may be readily manipulated to permit the separation or opening of the parts of the box.

It is the especial object of the present invention to provide an improved catch or locking means for such boxes by which the parts of the box may be positively locked together but may be readily and easily released when it is desired to open the box.

A further object of the invention is to provide catch means of improved construction by which a simple rotary movement of small extent will move it to securing and release positions.

A further object of the invention is to provide such a box and locking means of neat and attractive appearance and of simple design so that the parts may be cheaply made and quickly assembled.

With these and other objects not specifically referred to in view, the invention consists in certain novel parts, arrangements and combinations which will be described in connection with the accompanying drawings and the novel features pointed out in the claims hereunto annexed.

In these drawings,—

Figure 1 is a front edge view of a vanity case made in accordance with the invention, the case being shown closed;

Figure 2 is a view of the case shown in Figure 1, the parts of the case being shown in open position, and

Figure 3 is a central sectional view on an enlarged scale of the case taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Referring now to these drawings in detail, the improved case may be made of light metal and of any convenient or desired shape, and the invention may be employed in either single cases, that is, a case adapted to hold one cosmetic, or double cases, that is, a case capacitated to hold two cosmetics. The case selected to illustrate the invention is one of the latter type and is provided with an interior partition and while a case made in this form is preferable, it will be understood that this is merely illustrative of the invention.

The case shown comprises two similar case sections 1, 2, which are the same in construction and so can be made by the same stamping operation. These case sections are, as shown, provided with side walls 3 which at their rims are slightly inturned, as indicated at 4 in Figures 1 and 2. The case sections are pivotally associated by a hinge. While this hinge construction may vary widely as to its specific details, this is formed in the box shown by a pair of bezels or rings 5, 6 each having a rim 7 and a flange 8 depending from the rim and engaging the bottom of the box. These bezels are of spring metal and are secured in place by snapping them past the inturned edge 4 of the shell members 1, 2, the bezels being thus securely held in position without the necessity of any further securing means. These bezels each have formed thereon hinge knuckles 9, 10, these knuckles being produced by turning up and over a part of the metal of the bezels, and these hinge knuckles are united by a pintle 11.

In the particular construction illustrated a central partition, which acts as a complementary cover for the box, is hinged between the sections and preferably on the same pintle 11 which connects the two bezels. This partition is shown in the form of a metal plate 12 highly polished on both sides, thus forming a double mirror, and this plate is provided with an integral ear 13 (Figure 3) by which it is hinged to the pintle.

In accordance with the invention, an improved catch means is provided for holding

the parts of the box together, which is manipulated by a short turning movement to securing and release positions. This catch member generally includes a socket and a cooperating rotary stem. Where, as in the present instance, the box is a double box, the socket is formed on the central partition. While the socket construction may vary to some extent, as shown, this socket includes a socket member 14 having a split end into which may enter the edge of the partition member, the socket being clamped or otherwise secured to the edge of the partition, preferably opposite the hinge pintle 11, before referred to.

The socket member projects outwardly from the partition to the outside of the box and is provided with an interior thread 15. Cooperating with this threaded portion of the socket is a catch member shown in the form of a screw stem having a threaded portion 16 and a head 17, this head being preferably roughened or knurled, as indicated at 18. to give a good grip to the fingers in operating the catch.

The head 17 is recessed to form a depending skirt 19 under which are arranged to extend projections formed on the edges of the cover and body sections of the box. While the projections may take various forms, in the particular construction illustrated these projections are in the form of lips 20, 21 formed by bending out the metal of the walls of the body and cover members 1, 2, these lips being clamped under the socket 19′ of the head 17 by the rotation of the head, as shown in Figure 3. The fingers then are released by rotating the head in the opposite direction until the socket is clear of the lips, and this movement need be but a very slight one.

Where cases embody the bezel construction described for securing the two parts of the box together, the rims 7 of these bezels will be provided with grooves 22 which receive the socket so that the parts can be clamped together.

In the particular case shown each section is capacitated to receive a powder compact, indicated by the numerals 23, 24, these compacts being mounted on the usual metal bases 25. These compacts are arranged to snugly fit the interior of the bezels 5, 6, before referred to, and may be secured in these bezels in any suitable manner. In the particular construction illustrated the bezels are each provided with fixed indentations or nibs 26 and a movable projection 27 which is conveniently formed on the end of a spring wire 28 positioned under the rims 7 of the bezels before referred to. The compacts are placed in position by snapping them past these nibs, and by pressing in the nib 27 the compacts may be readily removed from the members and replaced by fresh ones if desired.

It will be seen with the construction shown and described that very simple and at the same time very effective latching means have been provided for boxes of this character, and also a box of improved type in which the shell members may be identical and conveniently held in place, as may also the compacts or other toilet articles carried in the body and cover members.

While the invention has been shown and described in its preferred form, it will be understood that various changes may be made in the specific construction shown and described without departing from the invention as set forth in the claims hereunto appended.

What I claim is:

1. In a vanity case, a body member forming a compartment, a cover member for the compartment, bezels secured in the body and cover pivotally associated on a hinge and acting to pivotally associate the body and cover, a socket located between the bezels, said bezels being formed with depressions to receive the socket when the box is closed, a catch member movable in the socket and having a flange, and a projection on each of the members engaged and released by the movement of the flange for holding and releasing the members.

2. In a vanity case, a body member forming a compartment, a cover member for the compartment, bezels secured in the body and cover pivotally associated on a hinge and acting to pivotally associate the body and cover, a socket located between the bezels and having a screw thread, said bezels being formed with depressions to receive the socket when the box is closed, a catch member rotatable in the socket and having a flange, and a projection on each of the members engaged and released by the rotation of the flange for holding and releasing the members.

3. In a vanity case, a body, a cover pivotally associated with the body, a thin partition member between the body and cover, a socket formed on the edge of the partition member, a catch member rotatable in the socket having an annular skirt, and projections on the body and cover engaged and released by the movement of the skirt for holding and releasing the parts.

4. In a vanity case, a body, a cover pivotally associated with the body, a partition member between the body and cover, a socket secured on the edge of the partition member and having a screw thread, a threaded stem engaging with the socket and having an annular depending skirt, and projections on the body and cover engaged and released by the movement of the skirt for holding and releasing the parts.

5. In a vanity case, a body, a cover pivotally associated with the body, a partition member between the body and cover, a socket secured on the edge of the partition member and having a screw thread, a threaded stem engaging the socket and having an annular

depending skirt, and lips formed by striking up the walls of the body and cover engaged beneath the skirt and released therefrom by the movement of the stem for holding and releasing the parts.

6. In a vanity case, a body, a cover pivotally associated therewith, members having rims located in the body and cover and provided with grooves, a partition between the body and cover, a socket member having a split end secured to the edge of the partition having a screw thread, a threaded stem engaging with the socket and having an annular skirt, and lips struck up from the body and cover for engaging under the skirt for holding and releasing the parts on the rotation of the stem, said socket lying in the grooves when the box is closed.

7. In a vanity case, a body, a cover pivotally associated therewith, a metal partition member forming a mirror between the body and cover, a socket member secured on the edge of the partition and having a threaded end, a threaded stem having engagement in the socket and provided with a finger grip for rotating it, a skirt on the stem for holding and releasing the parts on the rotation of the stem, and lips on the body and cover for engaging under the skirt.

8. In a vanity case, similar shallow body and cover shells forming compartments, bezels secured in the shells and united by a hinge and pivotally associating the shells, a socket located between the bezels, said bezels being provided with depressions formed by punching in the material of the bezels and acting to receive the socket when the box is closed, a catch member movable in the socket and having a flange, and a projection on each of the shells engaged and released by the movement of the flange for holding and releasing the members.

9. In a vanity case, similar shallow body and cover shells forming compartments and pivotally associated, a thin partition member between the shells, a socket formed on the edge of the partition, a catch member rotatable in the socket having an annular flange, and projections on the shells engaged and released by the movement of the flange for holding and releasing the parts.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand.

JOHN L. McATREE.