(No Model.)

D. J. CORCORAN.

ENVELOPE AND FINGER MOISTENER.

No. 419,419. Patented Jan. 14, 1890.

Fig. 3.

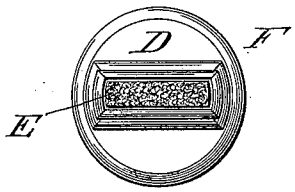


Fig. 1.

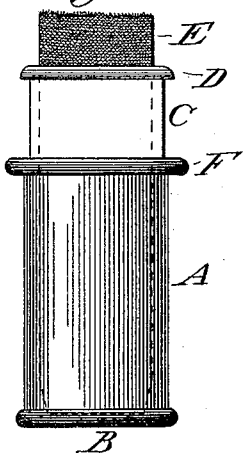


Fig. 4.

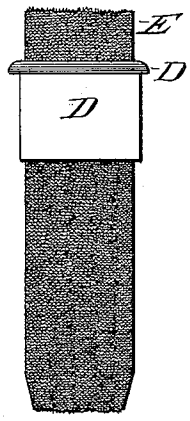


Fig. 2.

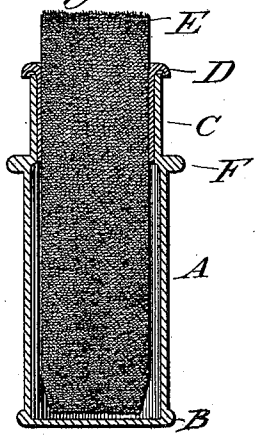
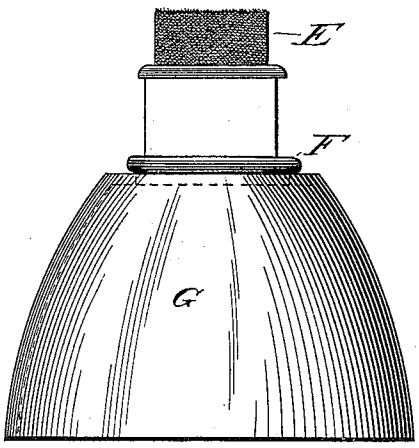


Fig. 5.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DANIEL JAMES CORCORAN, OF DEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS.

ENVELOPE AND FINGER MOISTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 419,419, dated January 14, 1890.

Application filed August 5, 1889. Serial No. 319,840½. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DANIEL JAMES CORCORAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Dedham, in the county of Norfolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Envelope and Finger Moistener, of which the following is a specification.

The nature of my invention is that of a vessel small enough to be easily handled, preferably of sheet metal, bearing in its top a flattened tube which holds a piece of felt, (or of cotton-wicking or other absorptive substance,) the vessel fitted to contain water and held in a pedestal, from which it may be at pleasure withdrawn; and the object is to furnish a device fitted at pleasure to moisten envelope-flaps, (for sealing,) postage-stamps, or letter-press copying-leaves, or to moisten the fingers in counting bills, &c.

In the drawings, Figures 1 and 2 are respectively a side view and a view in vertical section of one form of my device. Fig. 3 is a view of the same from above. Fig. 4 is a view in detail of a portion of my device hereinafter explained. Fig. 5 is a representation of my complete device in side view.

In the drawings, A, Fig. 1, (A A, Fig. 2,) is a vessel of cylindrical shape, tightly bottomed, and made preferably of tinned sheet-iron or of brass. This vessel bears round its lower end a beading B B, whose lower side forms an inclined plane, which plane is a continuation of the flat bottom of the vessel. At the top (which top is closely fastened to the upper end of the vessel, though I sometimes screw it on and off and sometimes slide it off and on, as with a blacking-box) is a flattened tube C, Fig. 1, (C C, Fig. 2,) called the "outer wick-tube," inside of which slides a smaller flattened tube D, Figs. 1 and 3, (D D, Figs. 2 and 4,) called the "inner wick-tube," which tube bears what I call the "moistener" E, a piece of felt preferably, but sometimes two or more lamp-wicks sewed together flatwise, so as to resemble a thick wick. This moistener projects usually about half an inch above the top of the inner wick-tube D and extends downward to close to the bottom of the vessel A. (See Figs. 1 and 2.)

F, Fig. 1, is a ring of wire (or sometimes a bead) on the side of the vessel A.

In Fig. 5 the device already described is seen to be placed in the center of a pedestal, which is a dome-shaped iron casting G G, which dome bears in its flattened top an aperture in which the vessel A hangs by means of the ring F F. This dome (sometimes I use instead the frustum of a hollow cone) is sometimes molded externally into an ornamental appearance.

Operation: To use my device, the vessel A being disposed as seen in Fig. 5, is taken out of the dome G G, and the inner wick-tube D, bearing the moistener E, is withdrawn, when the vessel A is filled with water and the tube and moistener replaced. If it is desired to use the device in counting bank-bills, the vessel A, with its attachments, is replaced in the dome-aperture, and the moistener is availed of by touching the fingers from time to time upon it. If envelopes are to be sealed, the vessel A is taken out of the dome and the moist end of the piece of felt E is drawn over the gummed flap of the envelope, when, the flap being put into its proper place, the smooth bottom of the vessel A is used similarly to a folder. The action of the operator is the same when my device is used to wet the leaf of a letter-press copying-book. If post-office stamps are to be moistened, the operation can be effected in the same way when the stamps are in a sheet, or if the stamps are separated the moistener may be drawn across the corner of the letter-envelope, where the stamp is afterward applied. The arrangement of the double wick-tube secures the important advantage that, inasmuch as the vessel A must, owing to its small capacity, (small for convenience in handling,) be frequently filled with water, and the frequent removal and replacement of the moistener would be troublesome and would also wear out the moistener, the inner wick-tube, carrying the moistener with it, can easily be removed and replaced, and the friction consequent thereon does no harm.

I do not claim any device in which a brush, sponge, or other absorptive substance held in a handle end is accompanied by a liquid-containing vessel from which the absorptive substance is charged with liquid.

I claim—

1. The combination and arrangement of a

vessel with an open top and a tight bottom, fitted to hold liquids, and bearing at its top a slab of felt or analogous substance whose upper end projects above the vessel and whose lower end is contained in the vessel, the latter being borne by substantially a ring, which is held up by an appropriate support, forming a pedestal, from which it is at pleasure removable, all substantially as described and shown.

2. The combination and arrangement of the vessel A and the moistener with the outer and inner wick or moistener tubes C and D, all substantially as described and shown.

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Witnesses:
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