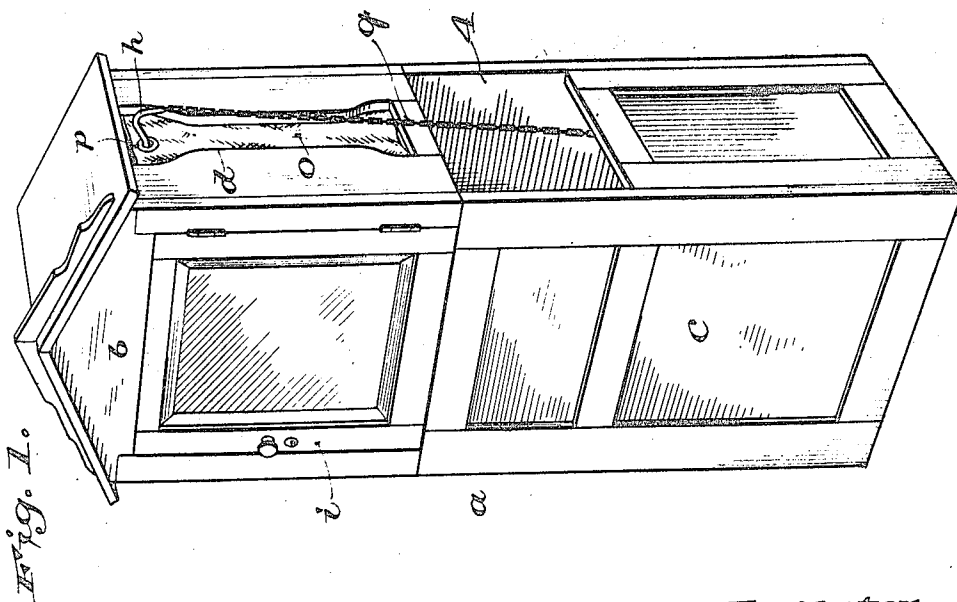
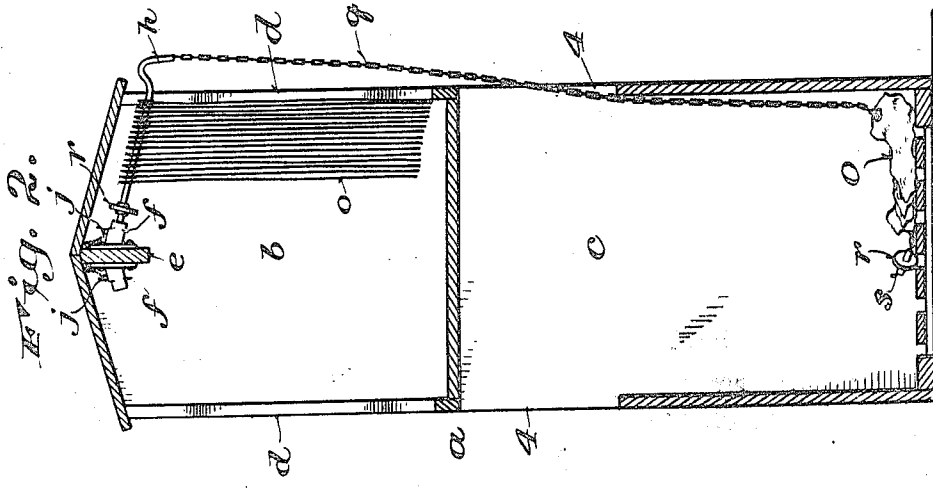


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TOWEL HOLDER.
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1,267,414.

Patented May 28, 1918.
2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

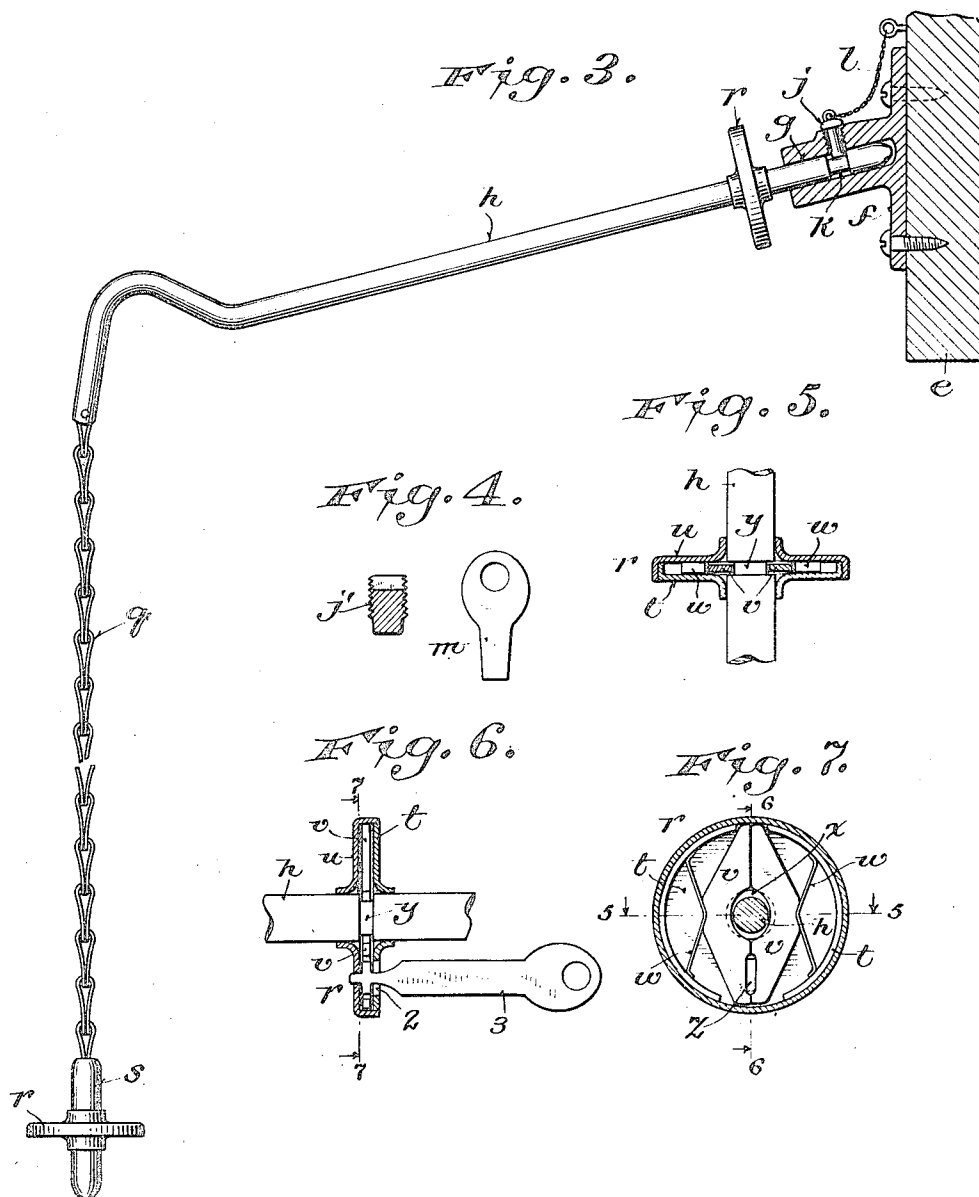


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1,267,414.

Patented May 28, 1918.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TOWEL-HOLDER.

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Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE M. HUBINGER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Milwaukee, in the county of Milwaukee and State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Towel-Holders, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming a part thereof.

This invention relates more particularly to individual towel service and supply devices.

Its main objects are to facilitate the delivery and collection of towels, to prevent misuse and loss of towels, and generally to improve the construction and operation of devices of this class.

It consists in the peculiar construction, arrangement and combination of parts as hereinafter particularly described and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawing like characters designate the same parts in the several figures.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a towel holder and cabinet embodying the invention; Fig. 2 is a vertical transverse section of the same showing the cabinet equipped with a single holder; Fig. 3 is a view partly in side elevation and partly in section on a greatly enlarged scale, of a holder without the cabinet; Fig. 4 is an enlarged sectional detail view of a screw stud for locking the hanger rod in the stationary supporting bracket, and a key for unscrewing the stud; Fig. 5 is an enlarged section on the line 5—5, Fig. 7, of one of the lock stops forming a part of the device; Fig. 6 is a section on the line 6—6, Fig. 7, in connection with a key for releasing the stop and removing the same from the holder; and Fig. 7 is a section on the line 7—7, Fig. 6.

In its most complete embodiment, the invention includes a cabinet *a*, which, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, is preferably made in two separate sections, an upper section *b*, forming a compartment for hanging clean towels, and a lower section *c*, forming a compartment for holding soiled towels. The two sections or compartments may however, be made inseparable, or the lower section or compartment may be omitted, and a basket or other receptacle used to hold the soiled

towels, or the cabinet may be dispensed with altogether and the hanger brackets attached to the wall of a lavatory, toilet or other room to be supplied with individual towels.

In case the lower section or compartment *c*, is omitted, the upper section *b* is secured to a wall or other support at a convenient height for use. When, however, the lower section is used, it serves as a base or support for the other section and the cabinet need not be fastened to the building.

The sides of the upper section are formed with openings *d*, which are preferably enlarged at their upper and lower ends, as shown in Fig. 1, through which towels may be conveniently withdrawn one at a time, from the hanging compartment *b*. The top of the upper section is preferably made similar to a roof, in two parts sloping downwardly from the center to the sides, and a central vertical partition or hanger support *e*, extends from the front to the back of the cabinet just below the top. To opposite sides of this partition or support are attached metal brackets *f*, which are formed with oppositely projecting and downwardly inclined sockets *g*, the inclination of the sockets preferably corresponding with the slope of the top members. Metal hanger rods *h*, are removably fitted at one end in the sockets *g*, and are held therein by any suitable means. When the brackets *f* are inclined in a cabinet and are inaccessible except through a door *i*, which may be provided with a lock as shown in Fig. 1, or in case it is not necessary or desirable to prevent removal of the hanger rods from the brackets, the rods may be fastened in the brackets as shown in Fig. 3, by loose pins *j*, inserted in transverse holes in the sockets and engaging annular grooves *k* in the rods. To avoid losing or misplacing these pins, they may be connected by chains or cords *l*, with the cabinet or the support to which the brackets are attached. In case, however, it is desired to prevent the removal of the hanger rods *h* from the brackets except by those authorized to remove them, as for example, employees of a laundry which supplies the towel service, the transverse holes in the sockets *g* are threaded and provided with screw studs *j'*, one of which is shown in Fig. 4, and which can only be unscrewed

so as to release the rods, by means of a key *m*, with which the driver or collector for the laundry is furnished.

The end of the hanger rod *h*, which is fitted in the socket *g*, is preferably rounded or tapered, as shown in Fig. 3, so that it may be thrust into place and fastened in the socket when a loose pin *j* is used for the purpose, without touching the pin.

At their opposite or outer ends, which are made, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, to project through the openings *d* in the sides of a cabinet, when a cabinet is used, the rods *h* are bent upwardly and then downwardly, to retain the clean towels *o*, thereon, as shown in Fig. 2, the towels being formed or provided preferably at one end, with eyelets or metal gromets *p*, as shown in Fig. 1, and strung upon and suspended from the rods, on which they tend to slide downwardly toward the free ends of the rods against the sides of the cabinet, when a cabinet is used, or against the upward bend of the rods by which they are arrested, if no cabinet is used.

Flexible transfer holders *q*, which may be made of chains, as shown, or of wire or spiral metal tubing, are inseparably attached to the outer or free ends of the hanger rods *h*, for permitting the free use of the towels when they are withdrawn from the rods and for confining them and preventing their improper use, loss or abstraction after they have served their proper purpose.

To prevent the unauthorized removal of the towels from the holders and to facilitate their collection and delivery, each holder is provided, as shown in Fig. 3, with two lock stops *r*, one removably fitted on the hanger rod *h* adjacent to its rounded or tapered end, which is inserted in the bracket *f*, and the other removably fitted on a short bar or rod *s*, inseparably connected with the loose end of the chain or flexible transfer holder *q*. These lock stops are preferably constructed, as shown in Figs. 5 and 7, and consist of a casing made of two flanged circular disks *t* and *u*, one fitted within and secured to the other, and two opposing locking jaws *v*, which are movably confined in the casing, and are yieldingly pressed and held together by bow springs 2, interposed between them and the opposite sides of the casing or the intumed flange of the disk *t*, as shown in Fig. 7. The disks *t* and *u* are formed with outwardly flanged central openings freely fitting the rod *h* or bar *s*, and the inner edges of the jaws are centrally notched or cut away to form, when they are held by the springs *w* in contact with each other, an oblong opening *x*, which is in alinement with the openings in the casing, but whose shorter transverse diameter is less than the diameter of the rod *h* and bar *s*. The jaws are thus adapted to be sprung over the rounded or

tapered end of the rod *h* or bar *s* into locking engagement with an annular groove *y* therein, as shown in Fig. 5. The inner edges of the jaws are also notched or recessed at one side of the opening *x* to form an oblong key opening *z*, opposite a corresponding opening 2 in the casing. The jaws are confined in place in the casing to keep the opening *z* between them in proper register with the opening 2 in the casing by the engagement of their ends opposite said openings with a notch in the intumed marginal flange of the disk *t*, as shown in Fig. 7, the flange on the opposite side of the disk being cut away sufficiently to permit the jaws to be spread or separated by a key 3, to clear the groove *y* and release and permit the removal of the stop from the rod *h* or bar *s*.

The lower section or compartment *c* of the cabinet, is formed in the upper part of the sides with openings 4 through which the loose ends of the chains *q* or flexible holders are thrown with the soiled towels thereon, as shown in Fig. 2.

In the operation of the device the rods *h* are supplied with clean towels which are strung and fastened thereon by lock stops *r*, at the laundry, and wrapped with the chains or flexible holders *q*, ready for delivery and use. Drivers or employees of the laundry distribute the packages of clean towels, thus wrapped on the hanger rods, to customers, collecting the soiled towels with the holders on which they have been used and from which they are removed at the laundry, which keeps the key or keys 3 for unlocking the stops *r*, only the drivers or distributors and collectors of the towels being furnished with keys to the cabinets *a* or keys *m* for operating the locking studs *j* and removing the hanger rods *h* from the brackets *f* when cabinets are not used.

As they are required for use, the towels are drawn one at a time through the openings *d* of the cabinet, when a cabinet is used, over the bends at the outer free ends of the hanger rods *h* upon the chains or flexible transfer holders *q*, which are of sufficient length to permit of the free and convenient use of a single towel by one person, or a number of towels by several persons at the same time.

The cabinet may be made in different sizes and provided with one or more hanger brackets *f*, and the hanger rods *h* may be made of different lengths for more or less towels according to the requirements of the service.

The cabinets *a*, or hanger brackets *f*, may be located at such an elevation, and the chains *q* made of such length as to prevent the use of the towels for wiping shoes or other improper uses.

Various changes in the details of construction

tion and arrangement of parts other than those hereinbefore mentioned, may be made, without departure from the principle of the invention as defined in the following claims.

5 I claim:

1. A towel holder comprising a bracket adapted for attachment to a vertical wall and formed with an outwardly and downwardly inclined socket, a towel supporting rod removably fitted at one end in said socket and formed at the other end with an upward and downward bend, a flexible transfer holder attached at one end to the free end of the rod and provided at its other end which is unconfined with a removable stop, and means for fastening the rod in the bracket.

2. In a towel holder the combination of a wall bracket formed with a socket, a portable hanger rod removably fitted at one end in said socket, a flexible transfer holder inseparably attached to the other end of the rod, and lock stops removably attached to the free end of the transfer holder and to the rod adjacent its opposite end.

3. In a towel holder the combination of a bracket formed with a socket, a rod fitted at one end in said socket and formed adjacent to that end with an annular groove, a flexible transfer holder inseparably attached to the other end of the rod and provided at its loose end with a bar formed with an annular groove and lock stops removably fitted on said rod and bar and having movable jaws adapted by engagement with the grooves therein to hold the stops thereon.

4. In a towel holder the combination of a bracket formed with a socket, a towel supporting rod tapered and removably fitted at one end in said socket and formed adjacent to that end with an annular groove, a flexible transfer holder inseparably attached at one end to the other end of the rod and provided at its other end which is unconfined with a bar having a tapered free end and an annular groove, and spring lock stops removably fitted on said rod and bar and adapted to automatically engage with said grooves and to be disengaged therefrom by a key.

5. In a towel holder the combination of a portable rod adapted to be detachably fastened at one end to a support, a flexible transfer holder inseparably attached at one end to the other end of said rod, and lock

stops removably attached to the free end of the transfer holder and to the opposite end of the rod.

6. In a towel holder the combination of a portable rod removably fitted at one end to a support for dispensing towels, a flexible transfer holder inseparably connected at one end with the other end of said rod, a lock stop removably connected with the rod adjacent its end opposite the transfer holder, and a stop on the transfer holder.

7. In a towel holder the combination of a cabinet having upper and lower compartments with side openings for the withdrawal of clean towels from the upper compartment and the insertion of soiled towels in the lower compartment, a towel hanging rod removably fastened at one end in the upper compartment of said cabinet and inclined downwardly toward the opening therein, the side of the cabinet serving to hold the towels on said rod until they are withdrawn therefrom, a flexible transfer holder attached at one end to the free end of said rod and unconfined at the other end, and lock stops removably connected with said rod adjacent to its supported end and with the loose end of the flexible holder, which is adapted to be thrown with soiled towels into the lower compartment of the cabinet through the opening therein.

8. In a towel holder the combination of a cabinet having a vertical opening with an enlarged upper portion in a side wall for removal of towels as they are required for use, and a door for the insertion of a supply of clean towels, a hanger rod adapted to be detachably fastened at one end in said cabinet at a downward inclination toward the enlarged upper portion of said opening, the side of the cabinet in which the delivery opening is formed serving to hold the towels on the hanger rod until they are withdrawn therefrom, and a flexible transfer holder fastened at one end to the free end of said rod and provided at its other unconfined end with a stop for retaining soiled towels thereon.

In witness whereof I hereto affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

GEORGE M. HUBINGER.

Witnesses:

CHAS. L. GOSS,
ALICE E. GOSS.