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U. L. RIFE.

SPONGE HOLDER.

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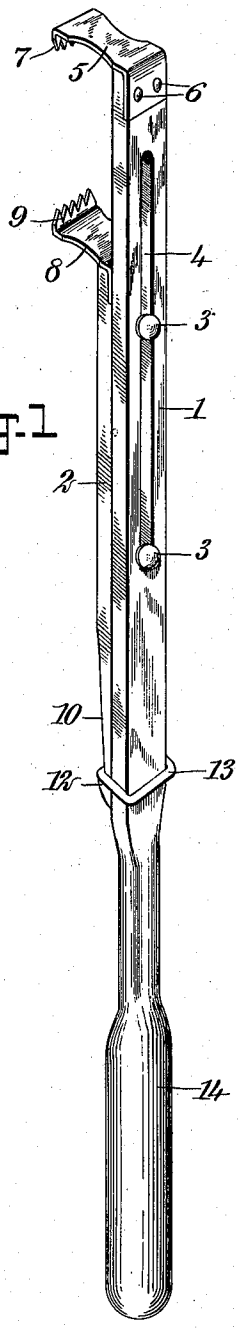

Fig. 1

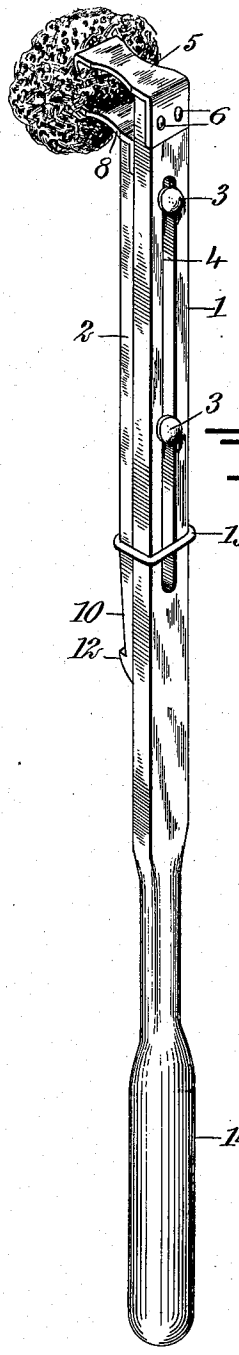

Fig. 2

WITNESSES

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SPONGE-HOLDER.

No. 867,080. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 24, 1907.

Application filed October 18, 1906. Serial No. 339,489.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, URIAH L. RIFE, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Sound Beach, in the county of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and Improved Sponge-Holder for Washing Purposes, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to certain improvements in devices for holding sponges, cloths, or other articles, with which it is desired to wash or wipe windows or other objects not readily reached by the hand, and the object of the invention is to provide an extremely simple device easy to manipulate and capable of gripping the sponge or cloth as tightly as desired when in use, and from which the sponge or cloth may be instantly removed when desired.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in both the figures, in which

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the holder with the jaws in the open position; and Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the holder with a sponge inserted therein.

In the specific embodiment of my invention which is illustrated in the drawings, the device is composed of two longitudinally slidable members, each having a jaw for engagement with the material or article to be held, and having means for locking the jaws in any desired position.

One of the members 1 is provided with a flat face against which the flat face of the second member 2 contacts, and one of the members is provided with means for engaging with the other member and preventing any movement of one in respect to the other save a longitudinal movement. Any suitable guides for accomplishing this end may be employed, but preferably these guides are in the form of two or more pins 3 carried by the movable member 2 and extending through a slot 4 in the member 1 and having enlarged heads contacting with the opposite surface of the member 1 to prevent the separation of the two members but permitting longitudinal movement of the member 2, the limit of said movement being determined by the length of the slot 4.

Each of the members 1 and 2 is provided at its outer end with a jaw extending substantially at right angles thereto and having teeth extending toward the opposite jaw, whereby a sponge or cloth may be firmly gripped. The jaw of the member 1 is preferably in the form of a piece of metal 5, extending across the end of the member and rigidly secured to the rear side thereof by rivets 6. The length of the jaw will be determined by the size of the object which it is desired to hold, and the size of the teeth 7 will be determined by the nature of said object. The jaw of the movable member 2 is likewise formed of a piece of metal 8, extending across the end of the movable member and rigidly secured to the rear side thereof. The length of the member 8 is such that the teeth 9 of said member are in alinement with the teeth 7 of the opposite jaw. By moving the member 2 longitudinally of the member 1, the jaws may be brought as closely together as desired, and the sponge or cloth firmly gripped between the teeth.

For holding the jaws in an adjusted position, I preferably provide the movable member 2 with a tapering portion 10, leading to a shoulder 12, and surround the member 1 and the member 2 at the tapered portion by a ring 13 having a diameter less than the combined thicknesses of the two members at any point save at the tapered portion, but greater than the combined thicknesses of the two members at the tapered portion adjacent the shoulder 12. By inserting a sponge or roll of cloth between the two jaws and moving the member 2 in respect to the member 1 until the teeth of both jaws are firmly engaged with the object, I adjust the object in the desired position. The ring 13 is then moved toward the jaws or up the inclined surface 10 until the ring firmly binds the two members together and prevents any longitudinal movement of the member 2. Pressure upon the member 2 in the direction of the ring would merely tend to tighten the two parts together even more firmly than they were, while the object between the teeth prevents any longitudinal movement of the jaws toward each other, which movement would tend to loosen the ring 13. When it is desired to remove the sponge or other object from between the jaws, the ring 13 is moved backward to the shoulder 12 and then a further movement of the ring would also draw back the member 2 until the teeth would be entirely free from the object.

Either of the members 1 and 2, but preferably the member 1, is provided with a handle 14 of any suitable form or size and of a length suited to the purposes for which the holder is to be employed. In the particular form shown the members 1 and 2 are of wood, although it is evident that metal or any other suitable material may be employed.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. In combination, a longitudinal member, a handle secured to one end thereof, a jaw carried by the opposite end thereof, a second member carried by said first mentioned member and longitudinally adjustable in relation thereto, a jaw carried by said second member and adapted to co-act with the first mentioned jaw, one of said members being cut away to form a tapered portion, and a ring surrounding said members at said cutaway portion, whereby the

two members may be locked in their adjusted position by the longitudinal movement of said ring.

2. In combination, a longitudinal member, a handle carried thereby, a jaw carried by one end thereof, a second member carried by said first mentioned member and longitudinally adjustable in relation thereto, a jaw carried by said second member and adapted to coact with the first mentioned jaw, one of said members having the surface oppositely disposed to the other member tapered away from said jaws, and means surrounding said members at said tapered portion, whereby the two members may be locked in their adjusted position.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

URIAH L. RIFE.

Witnesses:

FRANK I. PALMER,

VALENTINE F. FITZJOHN.