(No Model.)

H. M. WIRZ.

DEVICE FOR APPLYING BLACKING ON LADIES' SHOES.

No. 359,527. Patented Mar. 15, 1887.

Fig. II.

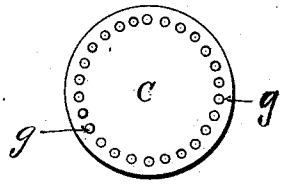
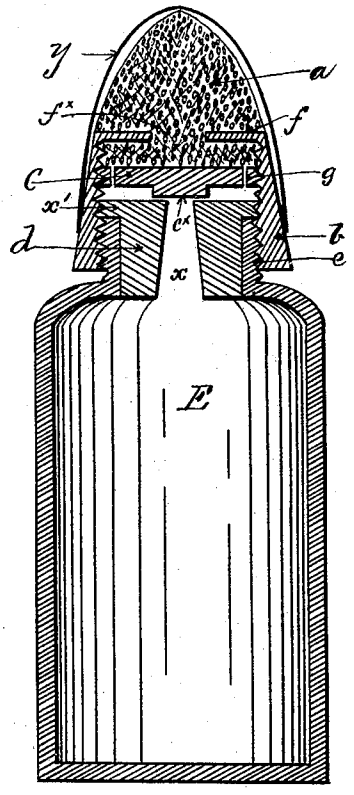


Fig. I.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY M. WIRZ, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

DEVICE FOR APPLYING BLACKING ON LADIES' SHOES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 359,527, dated March 15, 1887.

Application filed January 24, 1887. Serial No. 225,347. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY M. WIRZ, a citizen of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Devices for Applying Blacking on Ladies' Shoes; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to devices for applying blacking or ladies' shoe-dressing directly from the bottle. I accomplish the object by providing a valved opening or discharge-orifice and a sponge or other porous absorbent material placed and held over said valved opening, and means for opening, closing, or regulating said opening. Other fluid substances, such as mucilage, have had their containing receptacle or bottle provided with a sponge or other porous and absorbent substance over the mouth or opening without the interposition of a cap or valve, and with this sort of sluggish fluid or semi-fluid substance, such as mucilage, such construction may be used with good effect; but with a limpid and highly-fluid substance—like liquid blacking or ladies' shoe-dressing—the discharge from a sponge thus placed would be too free and the material would be wasted, while at the same time the superabundance applied to the shoe would be destructive of the effect sought. I have therefore devised a new and improved top for receptacles or bottles containing such blacking or shoe-dressing, which possess the capacity of being regulated as to the amount of liquid passed out into the sponge or other applying means, and which can, when desired, be entirely shut off, so that the sponge may be saturated to the required degree and then the outlet of the bottle closed while the application is being made of the blacking or dressing to the shoe.

The manner in which I carry my invention into practice is illustrated in the accompanying drawings and set out in the following detailed description, while the scope of the invention is pointed out in the claims.

In the said drawings, Figure I is a central vertical section of a bottle having my invention applied upon it. Fig. II is a plan view of the valve.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures where they occur.

E is the body of the bottle or receptacle, which is provided with an exteriorly-threaded neck, *e*, over which screws an internally-threaded cap, *b*, which cap is provided with a partially-closed top, *f*, having an orifice or opening, $f^{\times}$, of considerable diameter. Through this orifice $f^{\times}$ is pressed a piece of sponge or other suitable porous soft material, which will be held by the partially-closed top *f*. The sponge is marked *a*, and is inserted from the under side of the top before the cap is screwed into place upon the bottle.

Under the sponge is placed a valve-plate, C, whose periphery is threaded to be engaged by the internal threads in the cap, so that it can be screwed up against the base of the sponge and hold it against dropping back through the opening $f^{\times}$. The valve-plate C is provided with suitable openings, *g*, through which the blacking or other material passes. Its under side, which may be provided with a central swell or protuberance, $c^{\times}$, is adapted to fit snugly against the top of the bottle or against a cork placed therein.

In the drawings I have shown a cork, *d*, with a central channel, *x*, for the passage of the liquid, and with an annular flange, *x'*, which fits over the rim or top of the bottle-neck and projects out and is screw-threaded on its circumference to be engaged by the threads in cap *b*, which shoulder or projection serves to prevent the blacking or dressing from getting into the threads between the bottle and cap.

In case the stopper is made of elastic material—such as cork or soft rubber—as in most cases it will be, it will not of course be necessary to thread it, as the yielding character of the material will fill the threads of the cap, and thus thoroughly pack and seal the joint between the bottle and the cap, which, being made between glass and metal, is liable to be somewhat open.

As arranged in the drawings, the apertures *g* in valve-plate C are placed in a circular series, (see Fig. II,) with sufficient area inclosed by them to fit over and close the channel *x* in cork *d*, and the projection $c^{\times}$, which occupies this area, or a portion of it, on the under side of the plate, will embed itself in the yielding

top of the cork when the cap is screwed down, and completely shut off the flow of liquid.

When it is desired to use the device, the cap *b* is unscrewed a sufficient degree to raise plate C from the cork, as shown in Fig. I, and then the bottle is turned into a horizontal or inverted position, when the sponge *a* will become saturated with the fluid, when, if desired, the valve may be closed by screwing the cap down and the blacking or dressing applied by rubbing the saturated sponge over the boot or shoe; or the valve-plate may be opened just sufficient to permit enough fluid to pass to keep the sponge sufficiently, and just sufficiently, saturated to do satisfactory work when rubbed over the surface to which the material is to be applied.

This device is not only useful when the blacking is to be applied, but it is also very useful as forming a means for closing such receptacles equipped with the applying-sponge when they are to be shipped, as by simply closing the valve the device is ready for shipping, and as soon as removed from the packing-case it is ready for use by simply opening the valve.

A cover or hood, *y*, as shown in section in Fig. I, may be placed over the sponge when the bottle is set away.

Although I have described my invention in connection with blacking and ladies' shoe-dressing, it will be understood that I do not desire to be confined to such use, as it is applicable in all instances where sponges are applied to the tops of bottles.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination, with a bottle having a threaded neck, of a cap threaded to work upon said neck, a valve held and operated by the cap, and a sponge secured above said valve, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination, with the bottle having an externally-threaded top and an internally-threaded cap for screwing over said top, of a valve, as C, inserted in said cap, and a sponge held by said cap, as set forth.

3. The combination, with the stopper *d*, having the flange or shoulder, as described, the bottle E, having the externally-threaded neck, and the cap *b*, screwing over said neck, of the perforated plate C, screwed into the cap, and the sponge, as *a*, held by said cap.

4. As a new article of manufacture, the herein-described cover for bottles, consisting of the cap *b*, having the partially-closed top F, and a valve-plate, C, screwed into the said cap.

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

HENRY M. WIRZ.

Witnesses:

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FREDK. J. LAMBERT.