Sept. 7, 1948. F. L. SESSIONS 2,448,918

PELLET CONTAINER AND SELECTOR

Filed Jan. 15, 1945 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

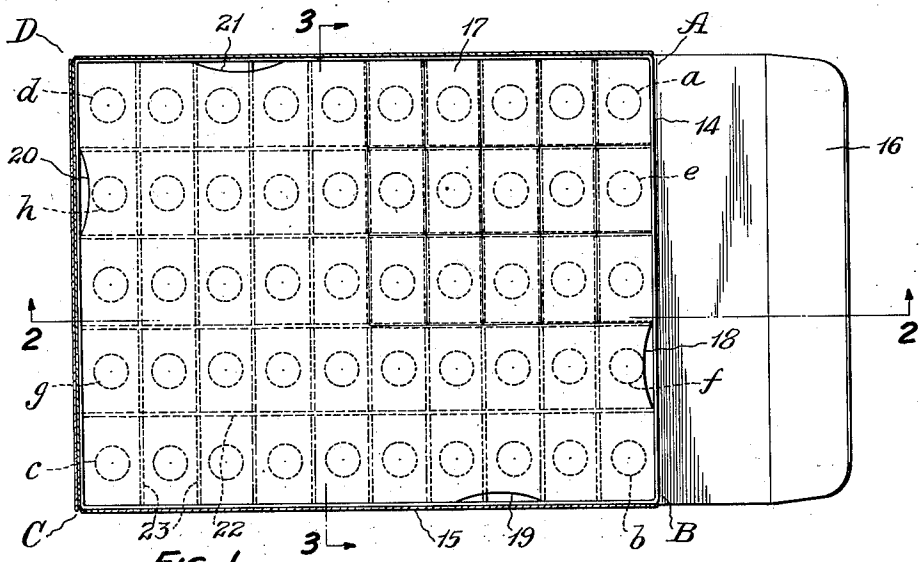


FIG. 1

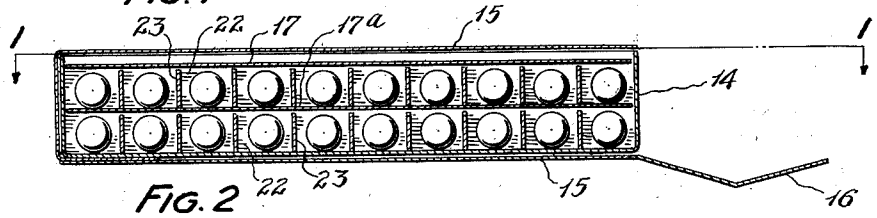


FIG. 2

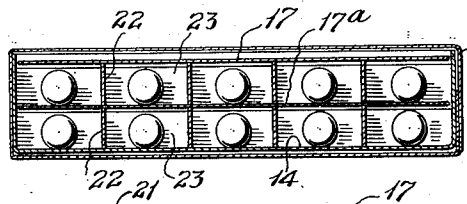


FIG. 3

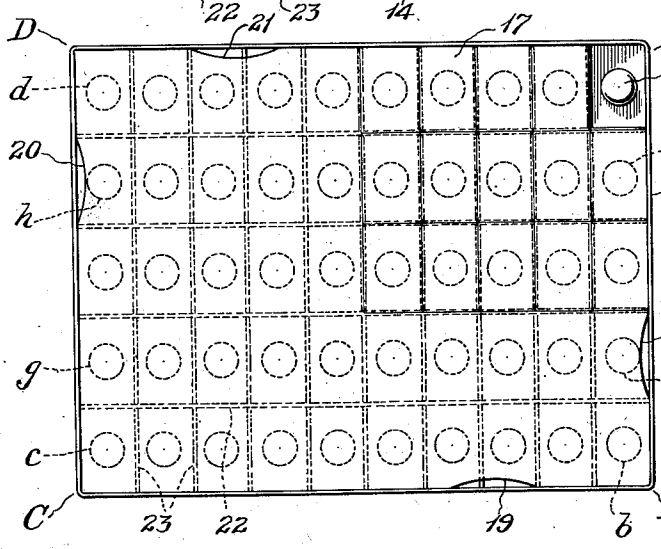


FIG. 4

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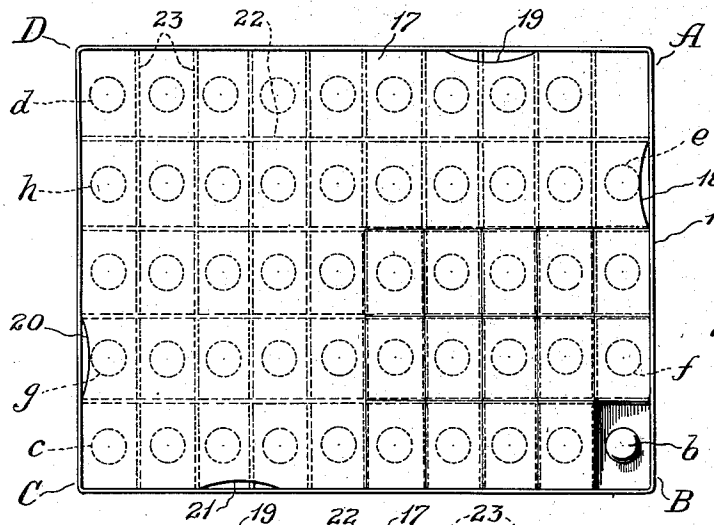


FIG. 5

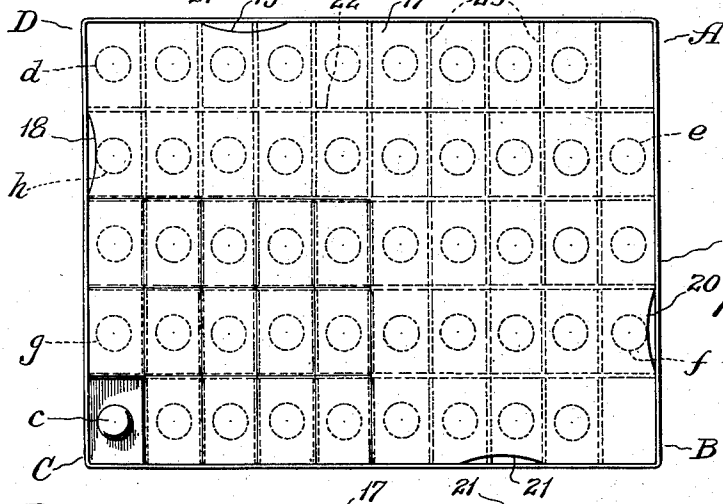


FIG. 6

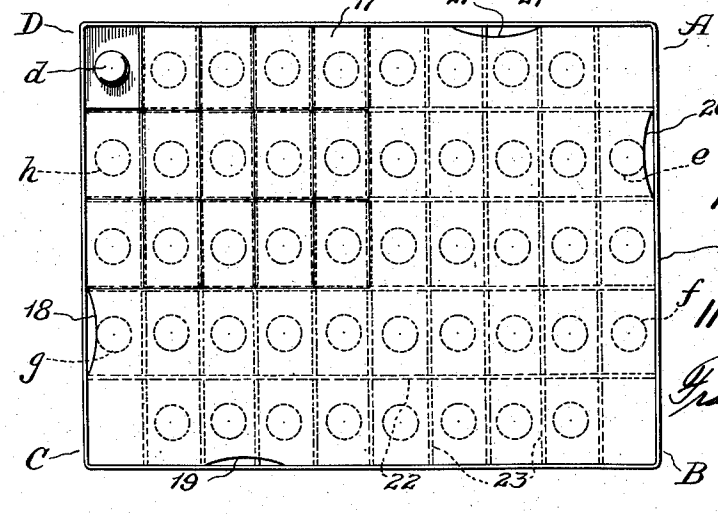


FIG. 7

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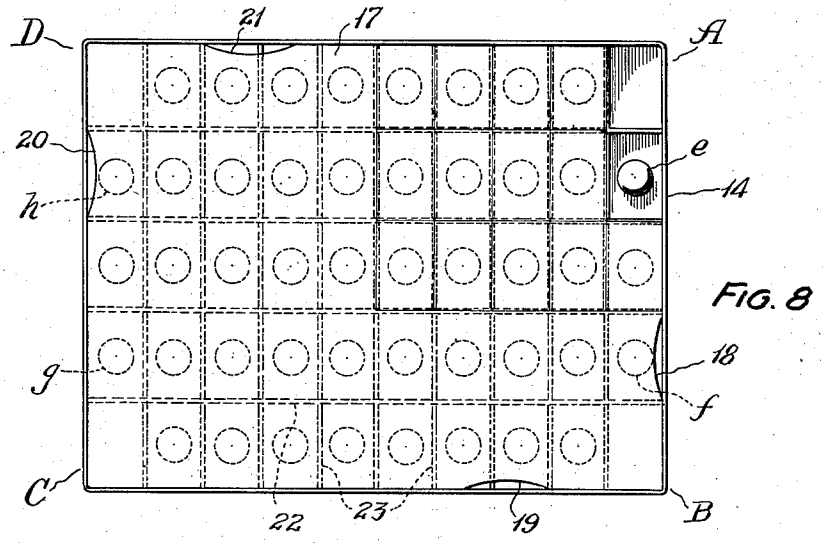


FIG. 8

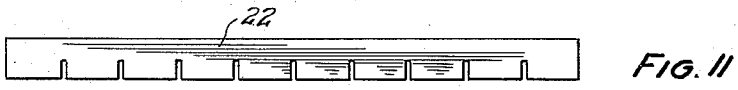


FIG. 11

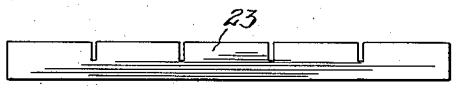


FIG. 12

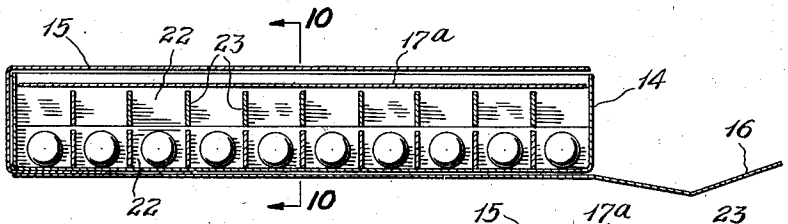


FIG. 9

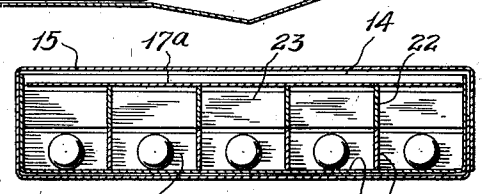


FIG. 10

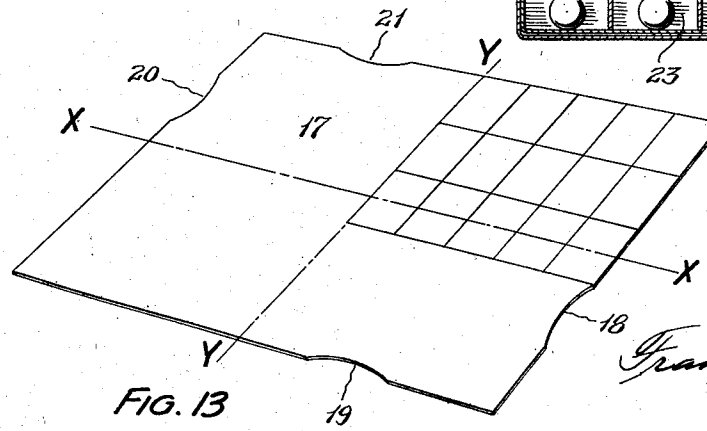


FIG. 13

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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PELLET CONTAINER AND SELECTOR

Frank L. Sessions, Lakewood, Ohio

Application January 15, 1945, Serial No. 572,760

5 Claims. (Cl. 206—42)

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This invention relates to improvements in containers in which medicinal pellets such as capsules, pills, tablets and the like are packaged for sale and from which the consumer removes the pellets, one at a time, as they may be required.

For carrying out my invention I prefer to use a known type of container in which the pellets are disposed in one or more tiers or layers, the pellets being held in small pockets, usually one to a pocket, the required number of pockets in each layer usually being formed by crisscrossed partitions. The pellets are thus kept from rolling about and being jumbled together as long as the partitions are in the container. However, the pockets being small, it heretofore has been necessary to remove the partitions before the pellets could be picked up by the fingers. Containers operated in this way are unsanitary and inconvenient since the pellets have to be pawed over and separated before one can be grasped and picked up. Unavoidably, dust and unfriendly germs, if present, will adhere to the pellets.

The principal object of my invention is to provide a convenient, sanitary and economical pellet container and selector in which container the pellets will be kept in small separate pockets until selected and removed from them without touching the fingers of the person removing them.

Some of the advantages of my invention are: it is easy to make and use; it is sanitary; it is not easily damaged when being used because the partitions are left in the container and prevent it from buckling or being crushed; the cost of the selectors is no more than that of the layer separating and covering cards heretofore used; the selector is a practical convenience to the consumer; and it is a valuable selling feature.

In brief, the pellet selector is a loose, removable card of readily determined, suitable thickness, which is of a size to rest loosely upon the tops of the partitions in the container and cover all of the pockets in a layer. A portion of the selector card is perforated or scored to make detachable coupons each of which covers a single pocket.

When a coupon has been torn from the card, the contents of the pocket which was covered by it may be dropped out of the container by inverting it while the card, which is of suitable stiffness to support the pellets, is held up against the partitions to prevent the contents of the other pockets from dropping out. It is necessary to provide coupons over only those pockets which are located wholly or partly in the same one quarter-portion of the container as will be made apparent in the description of the selector card.

Many varieties of vitamin capsules and other medicinal pellets are packaged in containers holding fifty or multiples of fifty pellets; each fifty pellets constituting a separate layer in the container; each layer containing five columns of

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ten pellets each; and each pellet being disposed in a separate pocket. For convenience this specification and the accompanying drawings are directed to a two-layer, one-hundred pellet container of this sort and a selector card for each layer, but it will be understood that my invention is not limited to this particular capacity or arrangement of container or to having only one pellet in a pocket. The dimensions of the pockets and coupons may be made to accommodate more than one pellet if they are required at one time.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a section on line 1—1 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 2 is a section on line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a section on line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the container box after the corner coupon of the perforated selector card has been removed to release the pellet *a* from the corner pocket at A.

Fig. 5 is similar to Fig. 4 except that at A, the pellet *a* has been removed from the corner pocket and the selector card has been inverted about its longer, middle line XX (see Fig. 13), to bring its open corner over the second corner pocket at B, to release the pellet *b* from it.

Fig. 6 is similar to Fig. 5 except that the pellet *b* has been removed from the second corner pocket at B and the selector card has been inverted about its shorter middle line YY, to bring its open corner over the third corner pocket at C to release the pellet *c* from it.

Fig. 7 is similar to Fig. 6 except that the pellet *c* has been removed from the third corner pocket at C and the selector card has been inverted about its longer middle line XX, to bring its open corner over the fourth corner pocket at D to release the pellet *d* from it.

Fig. 8 is a plan view similar to Fig. 4 except that all four of the corner pellets *a*, *b*, *c*, and *d*, have been removed and the coupon which covered pellet *e* in the pocket next to the open corner at A has been removed from the selector card to permit the removal, one at a time, of the pellets *e*, *f*, *g* and *h* from their respective pockets by manipulating the selector card in the manner described for removing the pellets *a*, *b*, *c*, *d* from the corner pockets at A, B, C and D.

Fig. 9 is similar to Fig. 2 except that all of the pellets have been removed from the upper layer, the original top selector card 17 from which all of the coupons were removed to release the upper layer of pellets has been discarded, and the intermediate selector card 17*a*, which served as a layer separating card between the upper and lower layers has been placed on top of the empty upper set of partitions to be used for selecting the pellets from the lower layer through the empty upper layer pockets.

Fig. 10 is a section on line 10—10 of Fig. 9.

Figs. 11 and 12 are side views respectively of the

longitudinal and transverse, slotted strips **22** and **23** which, half-lapped and crisscrossed, form the partitions and pockets of a layer.

Fig. 13 is a perspective view of the loose, removable selector card with all coupons intact.

It will be observed that by removing one coupon at a time and not removing another until all of the pellets are removed that may be released by manipulating the selector card as described, every pellet may be removed from the container without being touched by the fingers.

The body **14** of the container is an open-top box of known construction of pasteboard or other suitable material. It may have any convenient form of removable cover (not shown), or it may be adapted to serve as a drawer to slide in and out of an open-end drawer case **15** having a suitable closure such as the flap **16** for the open end.

The body **14** is shown without a cover or outer case in Figs. 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. In Figs. 1, 2, 3, 9 and 10 it is shown within the open-end drawer-case **15**. As shown in Figs. 2, 3, 9 and 10 the tops of the sides and ends of the container, **14**, extend slightly above the tops of the partitions and prevent the selector card from slipping out of place.

The container may be made to hold any desired number of layers and a selector card as shown at **17**, **17***a*, for each layer. All selector cards used in the same container are alike. With the exception of the original top selector card, each selector card in a multiple-layer container functions as a layer separating card until it is removed and placed on top of the upper layer for selecting pellets from the lower of the two layers which it has previously served to separate.

The perforated selector card **17** is shown in perspective in Fig. 13. It may have recesses **18**, **19**, **20** and **21** in its edges to facilitate lifting it from the container.

As shown in the drawings there is an even number, ten, of pockets in the longer rows and an odd number, five, in the shorter rows. As a consequence, some of the pockets covered by the perforated portions of the selector card, those along the middle line XX, lie partly in one and partly in another, while the rest of them lie wholly in the same one quarter portion of the container. The removal of any single coupon which is not over a middle line of the container permits the removal of four pellets, one at a time, by manipulating the selector card as above described. It will also be observed that when a row of coupons is bisected by a middle line of the container only two pellets may be removed through the opening made by the removal of one coupon from such a row. It will be observed that the middle line YY will lie over and be parallel to a partition between adjacent rows of pockets.

I claim:

1. A pellet container and selector comprising a box having partitions forming a plurality of open-top pockets arranged in crisscrossed rows; and a loose, removable selector card above said partitions, covering all of said pockets; said selector card having a coupon portion comprising detachable coupons, each coupon being dimensioned and positioned to cover one pocket and said coupon portion of said card covering only the pockets lying wholly or partly in the same one quarter corner portion of said box.

2. A pellet container and selector comprising an open-top box, removable, crisscrossed partitions forming rows of pockets in said box, and a loose, removable selector card above said partitions covering all of said pockets, each of said pockets being dimensioned to contain a pellet, said selector card having a coupon portion comprising detachable coupons, each coupon being dimensioned and positioned to cover one pocket, said coupon portion of said card covering only the pockets lying wholly or partly in the same one quarter corner portion of said box.

3. A pellet container and selector comprising a box having partitions forming a plurality of open-top pockets arranged in crisscrossed rows; a loose, removable selector-card above said partitions covering all of said pockets; said selector-card having a coupon portion comprising detachable coupons, each coupon being dimensioned and positioned to cover one pocket and said coupon portion of said card covering only the pockets lying wholly or partly in the same one quarter corner portions of said box; removable, crisscrossed partitions above said first named selector-card, forming openings registering with said first named pockets but separated therefrom by said first named selector card; and a second loose, removable selector-card above said last named partitions, said second loose, removable selector card being like said first named selector card.

4. A pellet container and selector comprising an open-top receptacle, partitions forming a plurality of pockets in said receptacle, and a loose, removable selector card above said pockets said selector card having a portion perforated to form detachable coupons, each coupon being dimensioned and positioned to cover one pocket and said coupon portion of said selector card covering only the pockets lying wholly or partly in the same one quarter corner portion of the container, said selector card being movable to position each coupon over any selected pocket which is similarly disposed as said coupon with respect to the center of said container, and which said coupon may, by lifting and turning said card end for end or inverting it and replacing it on top of said pockets be made to cover said selected pocket.

5. A pellet container and selector comprising an open top box, a plurality of tiers of rectangularly crisscrossed, removable partitions forming intersecting rows of compartments or pockets, the pockets in each tier being in vertical alignment with the pockets in the other tiers, the bottom tier resting upon the bottom of the container, a loose, removable selector card on top of each tier and covering all of the pockets in that tier, each selector card having a coupon portion comprising detachable coupons each coupon being dimensioned and positioned to cover one pocket, and said coupon portion of each selector card covering only the pockets lying wholly or partly in the same one quarter corner portion of said box.

FRANK L. SESSIONS.

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