

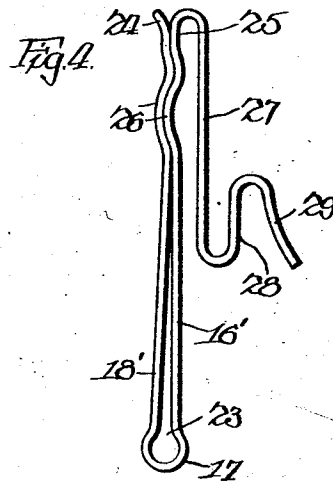
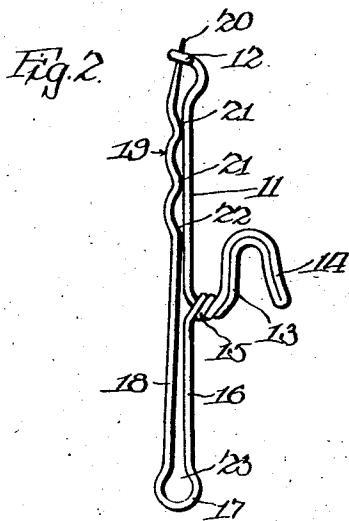
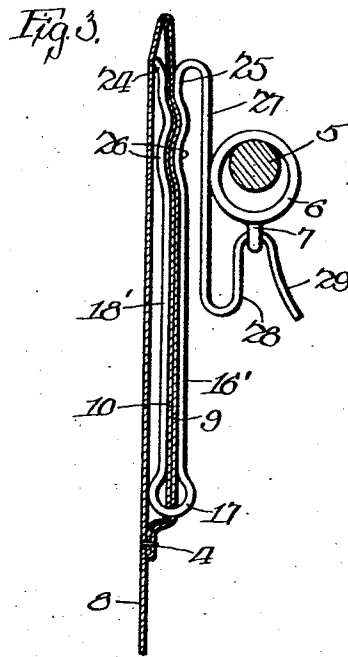
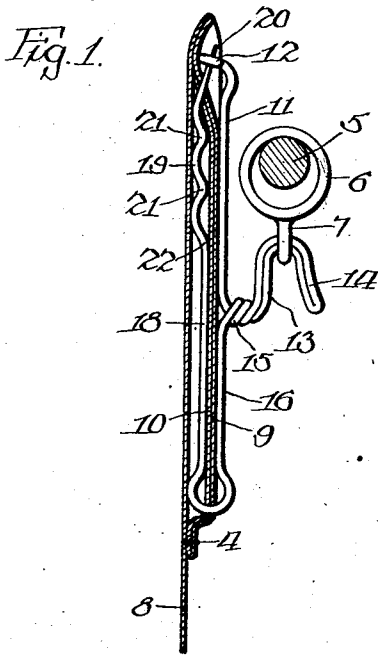
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DRAPERY SUPPORTING DEVICE

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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DRAPERY SUPPORTING DEVICE

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This invention relates to means for supporting vertically-hanging curtains, drapes, portières, etc. which respectively have a vertically-wide or deep multiple-ply hem or heading at the top and extending normally horizontally in its longitudinal direction.

Such draperies may be of material ranging from exceedingly thin and flimsy to quite heavy. Whatever its grade, quality or texture, the drapery as a whole is invariably supported at and from the heading. The heading is multiple-ply partly from considerations of strength and partly for æsthetic values. It is sometimes designed especially for ornamental effects. Its depth or vertical width will vary according to the type or style of the drapery or according to preference, and in ordinary practice will range from about one and one fourth inches to say five inches, while in special constructions it will be considerably wider.

The proper hanging of such ornamental draperies is vitally important to the æsthetic effects sought. The holding elements secured to the fabric should, of course, be concealed from the face of the drape, and this is rendered possible by the multiple-ply formation at the top. It is often deemed essential that the supporting pole or rod at the top of the curtain be concealed, but if that element be of ornamental character it is frequently left exposed, just above the top edge of the curtain, the heading being made to conceal, however, the various rings, hooks, etc. employed in the connection. The desideratum is to have the curtain appear as if unsupported in space. In order to provide the desired effects in that respect as well as others the top edge, whether the curtain be in folds or hanging in a vertical plane, must be in a straight horizontal line as viewed

To obtain that desired straight-line effect at the top the heading must be held expanded or extended in the vertical directions at the places where the drape as a whole is supported from the horizontal pole or rod, and without special means thereto the heading will sag, slip down, fall over, pucker, and wrinkle badly, and, furthermore, will prevent the folds of the drape

from extending in vertically-straight lines to the very top as desired.

Drapery supporting means which hold the heading expanded vertically have been suggested and used heretofore, but their use has been very limited, considering the vast number of such draperies which are constantly being hung improperly or so as to yield the bad effects pointed out. All of such prior devices, so far as I have been able to ascertain, have required that they be secured permanently in place, as by stitching or sewing them securely upon the rear surface of the heading. This involves much time and labor. Furthermore, since the drapery must be cleaned from time to time, additional labor is involved in removing the holding devices and in then sewing them on again. As a result of the inconvenience, labor, time and expense involved in thus removing the devices at cleaning times the curtains are frequently sent to the cleaner with the attachments still remaining thereon. The cleaner does not remove them, but, according to the material employed, will pass the draperies through a mangle, and the attachments thereupon become bent out of all usable shape. According to other kinds of material the cleaning, and especially the smoothing or "ironing" cannot be satisfactorily done.

The permanently-fastened holder has still other objections. Among these I may mention that in the hanging it is frequently desired to change the location of the numerous individual holders experimentally according to the appearance sought or obtained, such practice being common in the home where the curtains are oftentimes made, or where, if the draperies be purchased in made-up form, they are hung by persons who proceed largely through trial-and-error methods.

In view of the foregoing and other considerations the chief object of the present invention is to provide a strong and reliable supporting device which may with ease and convenience be readily applied to and removed from the curtain, and without injury thereto, and whereby the desired decorative, ornamental or æsthetic effects of such dra-

peries may be had, with more specific reference to the straight-line formation at the top. It is an object to provide such a device in a simple and cheap form, and in a construction which may be used to the desired results by anyone undertaking such work. From these advantages arise such general objects as the saving of time and money, while affording to all concerned a degree of satisfaction thus far unknown in this particular branch of the art. Other objects and advantages will appear hereinafter.

I am aware that heretofore there have been suggested various kinds of devices in the nature of pins and hooks for ready attachment to and removal from the headings of such draperies for supporting the drapery as a whole. So far as I know, however, none such was designed, intended or appropriate for holding the heading expanded at the supporting means, and those devices have therefore failed to provide the notable simplification of practice and the widespread and general advantage made possible by these improvements in the direction pointed out.

In the drawings Figure 1 is a fragmentary vertical section of a drapery showing chiefly its upper hemmed portion or heading, with the preferred form of the supporting device, shown in side elevation, as normally applied thereto;

Fig. 2 shows the device of Fig. 1 free of the curtain;

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 1 but showing a modification of the supporting device; and

Fig. 4 shows the device of Fig. 3 free of the curtain.

The curtain pole or rod 5 carrying the ring 6 and having an eye 7 may be considered a fixed support for the drapery as a whole. While such rings may move on the rod their vertical elevation is as constant as that of the rod itself.

The conventional drapery structure illustrated in Figs. 1 and 3 comprises the main vertically-hanging body 8 having a longitudinally horizontal hem at the top consisting of a double thickness 9 and 10 of the material folded one upon the other and then both laid down upon the body 8 and stitched thereto at 4, thus forming a tubular and multiple-ply heading at the top of the drapery. This heading is to be understood as extending from one vertical edge of the curtain to the other, and the desideratum is to maintain the top edge of the hem or heading in a straight horizontal line.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2 the preferred construction consists of an elongated body consisting of two parts marked 11, 16 on one side and 18 on the other, these two body parts being integral with each other at one end where the structure is provided with a

slightly enlarged portion or eye 17. These body parts are of substantially equal length and the body as a whole is proportioned in length to the vertical width or depth of the hem or heading of the drapery. The body is preferably slightly shorter than the heading is wide or deep so that no part of the body will project above the heading, yet being of such length that the body part 18 may enter the heading substantially at one vertical extremity of the heading and emerge therefrom substantially at the other vertical extremity thereof. In the particular form of device illustrated the part 18 enters the hollow interior of the heading at the bottom and emerges at the top. To facilitate this the member 18 is preferably pointed at its normally upper end.

The body portion marked 11 has an open hook 12 at its upper end so arranged that the upper and pointed portion 20 of member 18 may readily be engaged by and disengaged from the hook 12.

The member 18 is opposite and closely adjacent to the body member 11, 16 so that when the plies 9 and 10 of the heading are between these body members they are pressed upon or clamped by the body members.

It is important that the top portion of the heading at the holding device be maintained against sagging or gravitational movement relative to the body members, and to insure a strong holding effect in this regard I preferably form the upper portion 19 of the member 18 with convolutions or bends, forming a plurality of humps as 21 directed toward the body portion 11, making a broken line formation adapted to indent the material of the heading and thereby produce a greater frictional resistance to the downward sagging referred to. When the heading is held as in Fig. 1 the relation of the pointed end 20 to the hook 12 is such that the part 19 of the body member 18 is drawn tightly into clamping relation with the heading, and to such effect that gravitational relative movement of the heading is effectively prevented.

In this connection it is to be observed that the eye 17 at the bottom of the elongated body of the device occupies a puncture in the material, and to such effect that a large part of the weight of the curtain body is carried by that eye 17. With the elongated body clamping upon the curtain material substantially from end to end of the body and substantially from top to bottom of the heading, and especially with the broken line formation at 19, and with the positive clamping means at 12 and 20 at the top, the heading is effectively maintained expanded or extended upward against such weight of

the curtain as is communicated to the upper portions of the heading.

Intermediate the ends of the body of the device I provide means for pendant attachment to the main support, which means are shown as a hook consisting of the two wires 13 and 14 issuing from the body member 11, 16, twisted together at 15, and then bent upward and downward hook-fashion as shown. This hook is in the plane of the body, is lateral thereof, and is formed with its opening normally downward. Its free end passes through the eye 17 and the curtain as a whole is thereby held suspended, and with the heading extending above the curtain rod and the ring 6, and extending also above the upper elements 20 and 12 of the holding device.

Referring to Figs. 3 and 4 the holding device comprises an elongated body consisting of the parts 16' and 18' integral at the eye 17, the part 18' having a free upper end 24 and both parts 16' and 18' being formed on broken lines to interfit with each other at several places as at 25 and 26. The body members 16' and 18' are formed with a substantial amount of inherent spring tension so that they will clamp the material strongly between them, and especially at the top where the broken line configuration increases the frictional resistance to gravitational movement of the upper part of the heading.

At the top the outer member 16' extends downward at 27 and then upward at 28 and then downward at 29 forming a hook intermediate the ends of the body and adapted to pass through the eye 7 of the main support.

Both of the preferred and modified forms may suitably be made of springy wire such as brass or steel, which wire may be round in cross view or of other forms. In case of the modified structure the inherent springiness of the metal should be somewhat greater than is strictly necessary in the case of the preferred construction where the more positive clamping means, namely the elements 12 and 20, are provided.

The best clamping effects are had when a slight space at 23 (Figs. 2 and 4) is provided between the opposed body members, since, if the arms as 18 and 16 or 18' and 16' were close together at the bottom the thickness of the material coming between them would cause the upper ends of the body members to spread apart, whereas the desideratum is to have the main clamping effect upon the curtain at the upper end portions of the device so as to hold the heading with its top edge in the desired horizontal straight line. The construction illustrated in this regard, namely at 23, is such that when the fabric is between the body members the clamping spring action is brought gradually more and more into ef-

fect from the bottom upward, which is as it should be for the desired results.

The lower end of the device is such as to occupy no extra space or to interfere in any way with the perfectly straight downward hanging of the body 8 of the drape, and the same is true of the construction as a whole.

A feature in this connection is that when the curtain is suspended as illustrated, since the eye 7 is to one side of the line of direction of the curtain at the support the tendency would be for the heading to rock or tilt at the eye 7 to the left at the top and to the right at the bottom. The substantially long downwardly-extending part of the body below the intermediate holding means is functional in this respect since the weight of the curtain below the device operates upon the eye or loop 17 to draw that end to the left as viewed in Figs. 1 and 2 and into the vertical line of the curtain at that place, so that in actual practice any tilting of the heading in the directions indicated is negligible and is not perceived.

Since such headings vary in vertical width the attachment device is similarly varied as to the length of the elongated body so that whatever the particular width of the heading may be the appropriate attachment is of such length that it will bear the same or approximately the same relationships to the heading as are shown by Figs. 1 and 3.

It will be noted that in both forms illustrated the inner one of the body members passes through the material of the hem. This constitutes means for holding the attachment device positively at the bottom against lateral movement relative to the curtain. This is a highly important and essential provision, for such curtains are pulled upon laterally to move them on the supporting rod, and unless the device be so secured as to communicate these lateral strains to places respectively which are constant and fixed the attachment device will become awry and spoil the previous good effect.

From the foregoing it will be clear that I have thus produced a device which may be applied strongly and securely and also removed in a short space of time, and with notable ease, and one whereby many important advantages are had over anything heretofore suggested for accomplishing the dominating object of producing the desired ornamental, decorative or æsthetic effects, and one, too, which may be produced at low cost and according to well-known manufacturing practices and thus rendered available for widespread and general use.

I contemplate as being included in these improvements all such changes, departures and variations from what is thus specifical-

ly illustrated and described as fall within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A unitary device for attachment to the vertically-wide multiple-ply heading normally extending horizontally in its longitudinal direction at the top of a vertically-hanging drapery of the character described, said device comprising an elongated body proportioned to the vertical width of the heading with which it is to be used and having an inner member and an outer member of wire-like material, said members being substantially coextensive with each other and also with the heading in the vertical direction of the heading, said members extending side by side substantially from one end of the device to the other end thereof, the inner member being pin-like and having a free end portion whereby it may pass within the heading near one vertical extremity thereof and emerge from the heading near the other vertical extremity thereof, means for readily releasably holding the free end portion of the inner member by an adjacent part of the outer member, the members being adapted to clamp material of the heading between them at the upper portion of the device when the free end portion of the inner member is so held, and means intermediate the ends of the outer member for pendent connection of the device with a fixed support.
2. A unitary device for attachment to the vertically-wide multiple-ply heading normally extending horizontally in its longitudinal direction at the top of a vertically-hanging drapery of the character described, said device comprising an elongated body proportioned to the vertical width of the heading with which it is to be used and having an inner member and an outer member of wire-like material, said members being substantially coextensive with each other and also with the heading in the vertical direction of the heading, said members extending side by side substantially from one end of the device to the other end thereof, the inner member being pin-like and having a free end portion whereby it may pass within the heading near one vertical extremity thereof and emerge from the heading near the other vertical extremity thereof, at least one of said members having a broken line formation at its upper portion and the springiness of the wire-like material being such as to indent the material of the heading and hold the upper portion of the heading from substantial sagging, means intermediate the ends of the outer member for pendent connection of the device with a fixed support, said inner and outer mem-

bers being spaced apart at the lower portion of the device to provide freedom of clamping spring action at the upper portion of the device when in normal use.

DOROTHY ROSE YEIDEL. 70

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