

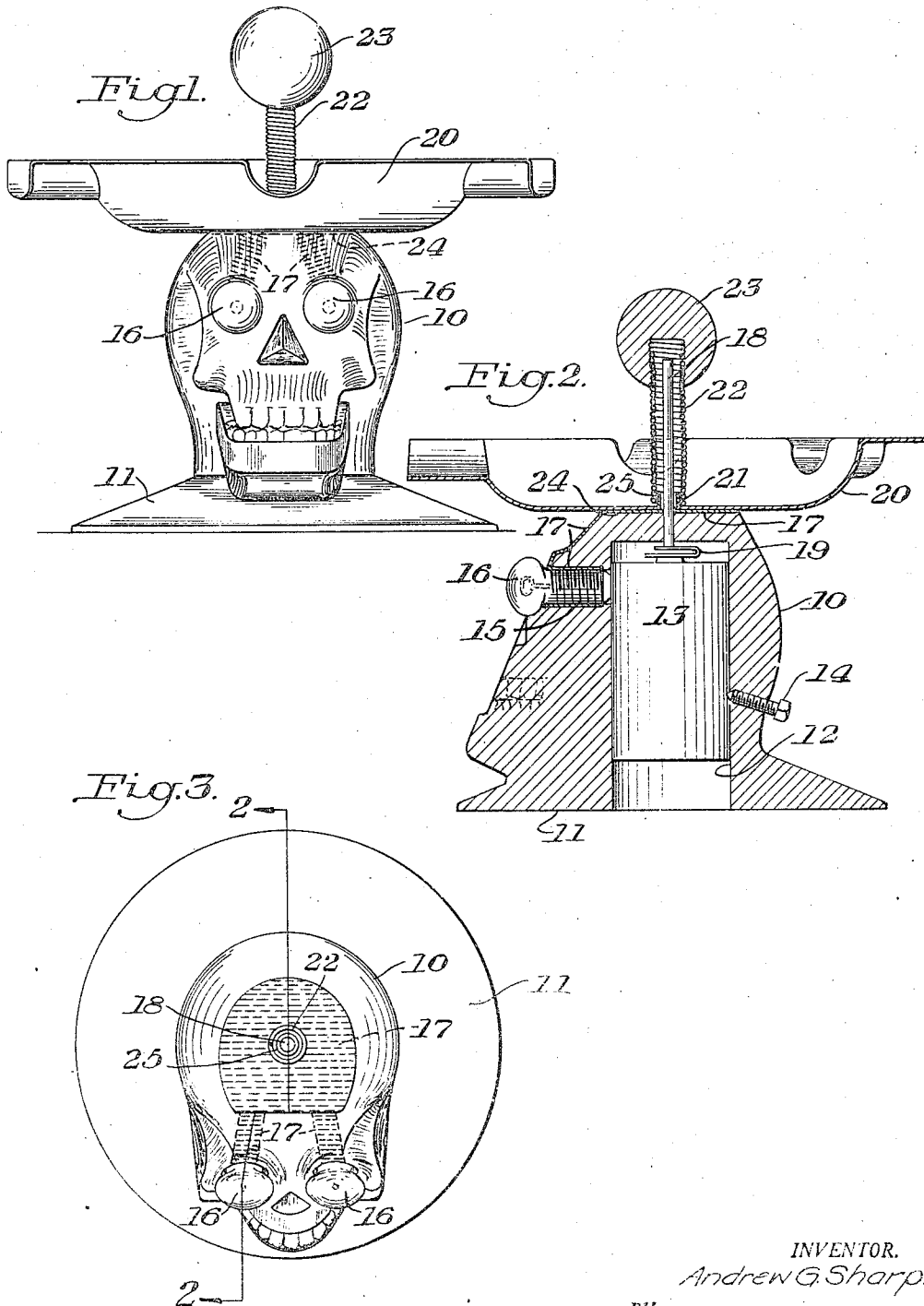
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ILLUMINABLE NOVELTY

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ILLUMINABLE NOVELTY

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1

The principal object which I have in view is the production of an improvement in novelties provided with one or more electric bulbs which will become lighted when a portion of the structure is tilted or shifted and completes an electric circuit which includes the bulb or bulbs and a dry battery mounted in the structure.

In the embodiment of the principles of the invention illustrated in the accompanying drawings, I have shown an illuminable ash tray structure comprising a body of dielectric material, such as a suitable plastic, preferably having a contour of the head of an animal, such as a human skull, in the eye sockets of which are mounted a pair of small electric bulbs, the body being provided with a cavity in which is mounted a small dry battery in electrical contact with which the central contacts of the bulbs are maintained.

Protruding upwardly through the top of the body, and having its lower or inner end in constant electrical contact with the central contact of the battery, is a post formed of conductive metal. An ash tray or pan of conductive metal having an axial opening of considerably greater diameter than that of the post is removably supported on top of the body with the post extending upwardly through said aperture but out of direct electrical contact with the tray. A tubular sleeve, preferably of resilient distortable character and of electrically conductive material, has its lower extremity welded or otherwise anchored to the tray in registry with the aperture of the latter. The sleeve surrounds the post but is normally out of contact therewith. Preferably the tubular sleeve is of sufficient length to extend beyond the free outer end of the post, and the upper end of the sleeve may be provided with a contact knob of insulating material such as a wooden ball.

A coating of electrically conductive paint or similar conductive material is applied to the perimetral walls of the bulb sockets so as to maintain electrical contact with the shell contacts of the bulbs, and such coating extends from the interior of said socket up the front exterior surface of the body and surrounds the protruding post but is spaced away from the latter to avoid direct electrical contact between the coating and the post.

When the ball is moved laterally as by a cigarette or the finger of the user being pushed against it, the sleeve will be distorted or bent laterally and brought into electrical contact with the free end of the post, thus completing the circuit from the battery through the post, the sleeve, the tray, the conductive coating, the bulbs and

2

the battery, thus causing the bulbs to light and to remain lighted until the distorting pressure on the sleeve is relieved; whereupon the electrical contact of the sleeve and the post is interrupted and the illumination of the bulbs ceases. Again, the sleeve being mounted on and in permanent electrical contact with the tray, whenever the tray is tilted by the contact therewith of a cigarette or the fingers, as in the deposit of ashes, the sleeve is likewise brought into electrical contact with the post and the circuit is completed, lighting the bulbs, which latter remain lighted until tilting pressure on the tray is terminated, whereupon the tray and the sleeve return to their position of rest.

Instead of the coating of the electrically conductive paint, any suitable means for conductively connecting the shell contacts of the bulbs with the tray may be used.

Other novel features of construction and arrangement of parts appear in the following description.

In the accompanying drawings, wherein I have illustrated a practical embodiment of the principles of the present invention,

Fig. 1 is a front elevation;

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view taken along the line 2-2 in Fig. 3, and

Fig. 3 is a top plan view with the ash tray and the sleeve removed.

Referring to the drawings, 10 indicates the body of the article, which is cast or otherwise formed of a suitable dielectric material, such for instance as an electrically nonconductive plastic. In the drawings the body is molded in the form of a human skull. The body 10 is provided with a flat extending base portion 11 to provide a firm stance.

Extending upwardly from the base a cylindrical bore 12 is provided for the reception of a dry battery cell 13, which may be a flashlight battery, with the perimetral paper covering of the battery removed to expose the zinc shell. The battery is held against accidental shifting from its proper position by any suitable means, such as the ornamental screw 14 extending through a threaded hole in the body and impinging against the perimetral wall of the battery.

The wall of the body is pierced by two sockets 15 which are positioned on the same horizontal plane but preferably diverging outwardly, the inner ends of the sockets being open to the bore 12 so that when the electric bulbs 16 are inserted into the sockets their axial central contacts are in direct electrical contact with the shell contacts of the battery 13. In the em-

3

bodiment of the invention illustrated in the drawings, the walls of the sockets 15 are coated with an electrically conductive paint, such as paint containing silver or other conductive metal. This coating is indicated at 17 and extends from the interior of the sockets 15 up along the exterior front surface of the body and surrounds a post 18 but is at all times out of direct electrical contact with said post.

The upwardly extending post 18 is of electrically conductive metal and protrudes up through the top of the body 10 and has its lower end in electrical contact with the central contact of the battery 13, as by means of the brass leaf spring 19 attached to the inner end of the post and pressed into contact with the terminal of the battery. The post is fixed to the body 10.

The top of the body is provided with a small flat surface 24 surrounding the post 18 and upon which lightly rests a tray 20 which is of conductive metal, the tray being provided with an axial hole 21 which is of considerably greater diameter than that of the post 18 so as to be out of direct electrical contact with the tray.

22 indicates a tubular sleeve made of such resilient material as to be distortable laterally. Thus the sleeve, as indicated, may be formed of helically bent wire, which wire is of electrically conductive metal. The sleeve at its lower end is fixedly attached, as by welding to the tray, the bore of the sleeve being in registry with the hole 21 in the tray. The sleeve is of such internal diameter as normally to be out of electrical contact with the post 18, but the sleeve may be brought into electrical contact with the upper end of the post either by independently deflecting the upper end of the sleeve out of its normal vertical alignment or by tilting the tray on the body, the sleeve in such instance being tilted with the tray.

The upper end of the sleeve, which extends above the free end of the post may be provided with a head of nonconductive material, such as the wooden ball 23, which, when struck by the finger of the user or by the end of a cigarette to dislodge ashes from the latter, will cause the sleeve to be deflected and thus bring the latter into direct contact with the post, thereby completing the electric circuit of the battery, the post, the tray, the conductive paint, the electric bulbs and the battery. Again, if the finger or the cigarette be pressed against the upper surface of the tray adjacent the rim thereof, the tray will be tilted and the sleeve will be tilted in unison with the tray and into electrical contact with the post, thus completing the circuit above-mentioned and causing the bulbs to be lighted and to remain lighted until the tilting force is relieved.

To prevent accidental electrical contact between the sleeve and the base of the projecting portion of the post, the interior of the sleeve 22 is provided at its lower end with a short tubular insulator 25.

It is evident that the tray 20, together with the sleeve 22, may be lifted as a unit from the body 10 to empty the tray.

The tray and the sleeve as a unit are loosely supported by the top of the body, the bottom of the tray resting upon the flat portion 24 of the body surface, over which surface the coating 17 extends, and thus the unit may be lifted off the body to remove and empty the tray of ashes.

In the drawings the coat of electrically conductive paint 17 is indicated by parallel dotted lines to distinguish it from the remaining ex-

4

terior surface of the body, but such paint may be of the same color as that of the body. Thus electrically conductive paint containing silver may be used and the remainder of the body may be given a covering of nonconductive paint of the same or similar shade, or the nonconductive paint may cover the layer of conductive paint where it extends up on the front of the body from the lamp sockets to the flat area 24 upon which the tray is supported.

I claim:

1. In a novelty of the character described, the combination of a body formed of dielectrical material, said body being provided with a base portion for supporting the body and said body being also provided with an internal cavity in which a dry battery may be mounted and at least one socket extending from without said body and communicating at its inner end with the battery cavity, said socket being arranged to receive an electric bulb with the central contact of the bulb maintained in electrical contact with the shell contact of the battery, a post protruding upward from the battery cavity through the top of the body, the lower end of the post being maintained in electrical contact with the central contact of the battery, electrical conductive means lining the interior wall of the socket, to maintain electrical contact with the shell contact of the bulb when the latter is in position in the socket, and extending from the outer end of the socket up along the front end of the body and on the top of the latter but out of electric contact with the post, and a tubular sleeve surrounding the post but normally out of electric contact therewith but maintained in electrical contact with said electrical conductive means, said sleeve being arranged to be tilted into electrical contact with said post and thus complete the electric circuit between the battery and bulb and light the latter.

2. The structure of claim 1 characterized by the sleeve being formed of resilient material so that it may be tilted by an applied force to effect electrical contact between the sleeve and the post and thus complete the electrical circuit.

3. The structure of claim 1 characterized by the sleeve being formed of a helix of electrically conductive wire which may be tilted by an applied force to effect electrical contact between the sleeve and the post and thus complete the electrical circuit.

4. The structure of claim 1 characterized by the electrical conductive means being in the form of a coating of electrical conductive paint applied to the surface of the dielectric material of the body.

5. In a novelty of the character described, the combination of a body formed of dielectric material, said body being provided with a base portion for supporting the body, and said body being also provided with an internal cavity in which a dry battery may be mounted and at least one socket extending from without said body and communicating at its inner end with the battery cavity, said socket being arranged to receive an electric bulb with the central contact of the bulb maintained in electrical contact with the shell contact of the battery, a post protruding upwardly from the battery cavity through the top of the body, the lower end of the post being maintained in electrical contact with the central contact of the battery, electrical conductive means lining the interior wall of the socket to maintain electrical contact with the bulb when the latter is in

5

place in the socket and extending from the outer end of the socket up along the front of the body and on the top of the latter surrounding but out of electrical contact with the post, and an ash tray of conductive metal loosely resting on the electrical conductive means on the top of the body and having an axial opening surrounding the post but out of contact with the post, and means whereby when the tray is tilted on the body electrical contact is established between the tray and the post thus completing the electric circuit between the battery and the electric bulb and illuminating the latter.

6. The structure of claim 5 characterized by the electrical conductive means being in the form of a coating of electrically conductive paint.

7. The structure of claim 5 characterized by the means for establishing electrical contact between the tray when tilted and the post is in the form of a sleeve of electrical conductive material extending upwardly from the tray and surrounding the post but of such internal diameter as normally to be out of electrical contact with the post but to be brought into electrical contact with the post when the tray is tilted.

6

8. The structure of claim 5 characterized by the electrical conductive means being in the form of a coating of electrical conductive paint and the means for establishing electric contact between the tray when tilted and the post is in the form of a sleeve of electrical conductive material extending upwardly from the tray and surrounding the post but of such internal diameter as normally to be out of electrical contact with the post but to be brought into electrical contact with the post when the tray is tilted.

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