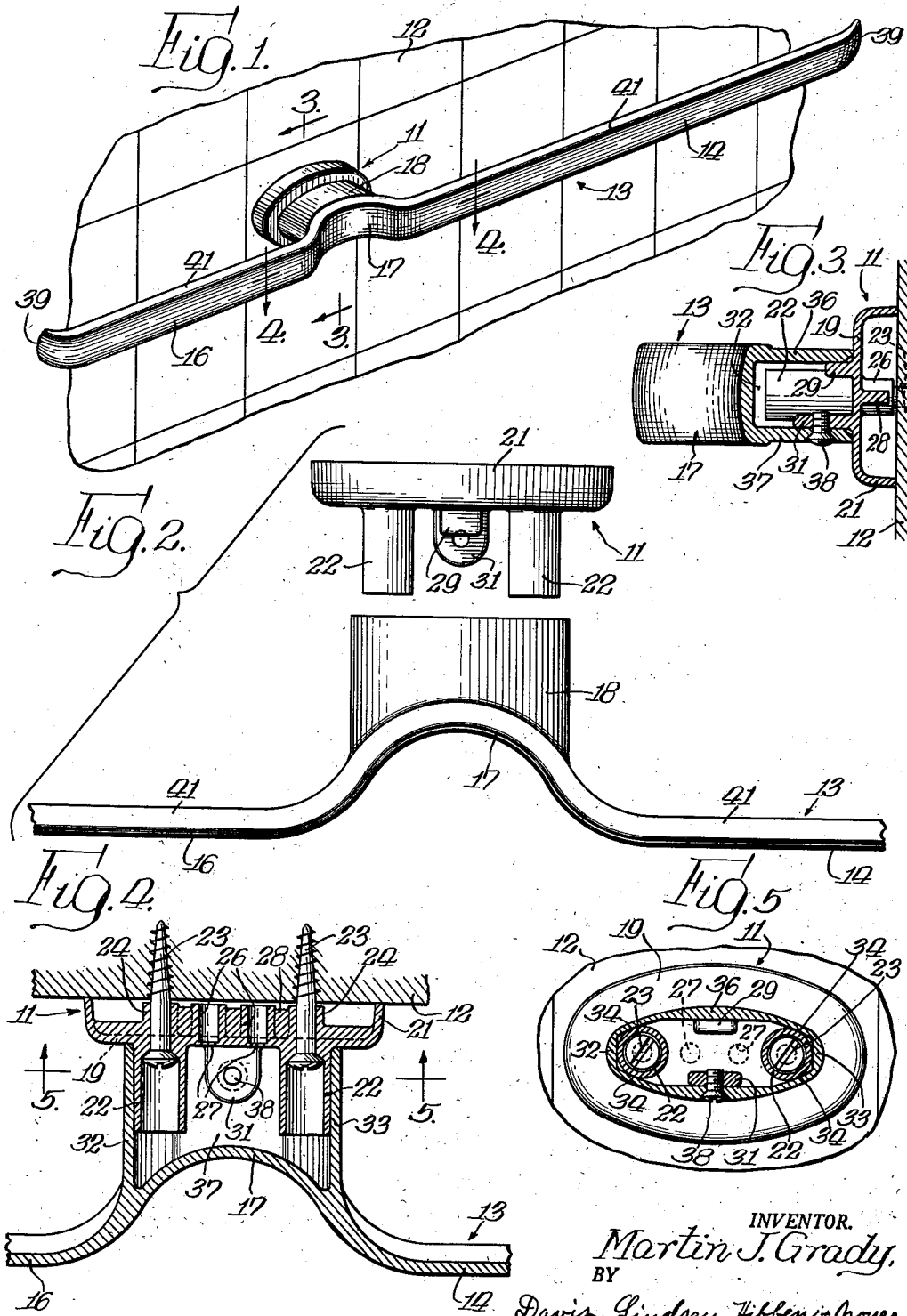


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M. J. GRADY
WALL FIXTURE SUPPORT

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INVENTOR.
Martin J. Grady,
BY
Davis, Lindsey, Hibben & Hayes
Attys.

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WALL FIXTURE SUPPORT

Martin J. Grady, Bridgman, Mich.

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This invention relates broadly to wall fixtures, such as towel bars and the like, and more particularly to an improved support or mounting means for such fixtures.

Towel bars and other wall fixtures of the type used in bathrooms or kitchens are commonly mounted by means of suitable brackets which are attached to the wall by screws or other similar fastening elements. Although such brackets are often chrome plated, enameled, or otherwise provided with an attractive finish, in most cases the screws or fastening devices and the cooperating attaching portions of the brackets are prominently visible when the bracket is in mounted condition thus detracting from the overall neat appearance of the fixture.

In some cases certain types of wall fixtures have been provided with detachable mounting means comprising usually a wall plate rigidly secured to the wall by screws and a cooperating slot or the like in the rear of the fixture slidably engaged over the wall plate. However, mounting means of this character have in most instances failed to provide the desired degree of rigidity for the fixture, and an unattractive space is often evident between the fixture and the wall.

In the case of elongated wall fixtures, such as towel bars and the like, it has been common practice to employ two brackets or supports disposed at opposite ends of the bar in order to obtain the necessary rigidity and stability of the fixture on the wall. Prior to my invention, no satisfactory means has been suggested for mounting a towel bar or similar elongated wall fixture using only a single support having both the required structural rigidity and the desired attractive overall appearance.

Accordingly, a primary object of my invention is to provide a novel support for a wall fixture or the like which is adapted to effect rigid mounting of the fixture on the wall while at the same time presenting a highly attractive appearance with all fastening elements concealed from normal view.

Another object of the invention is to provide a support for a wall fixture or the like which is characterized by a novel two-piece construction having a high degree of rigidity when in assembled condition and providing a close neat-appearing fit against the supporting wall.

A further object of the invention is to provide a novel support for an elongated wall fixture, such as a towel bar or the like, which comprises only a single mounting means capable of rigidly securing the fixture to the wall while presenting a neat and attractive overall appearance.

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Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from subsequent detailed description of the invention and the accompanying drawing in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view on a reduced scale of a towel bar secured to a wall by means of a support comprising one specific embodiment of my invention;

Fig. 2 is an exploded plan view showing the parts of the device in detached relation;

Fig. 3 is a vertical cross-sectional view taken substantially along the line 3-3 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a horizontal cross-sectional view taken substantially along the line 4-4 of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 5 is a vertical cross-sectional view taken along the line 5-5 of Fig. 4.

Reference is now made to the drawing wherein I have shown, by way of illustration, a fixture in the form of a towel bar attached to a wall by means of a support constructed in accordance with my invention. The device comprises two cooperating parts, namely, a mounting member or base indicated generally at 11 (Fig. 1) which is rigidly affixed to a wall 12, and an elongated bar member, indicated generally at 13, and comprising a pair of oppositely extending arms 14 and 16 which may be of any desired length but are here illustrated as being of unequal lengths, the arms being connected by an integral U-shaped portion 17. Extending inwardly from the U-shaped portion 17 for holding the arms 14 and 16 in outwardly spaced relation with the wall 12 is an integral socket portion 18 having a sliding fit with portions of the base 11 and securely retained thereon by means hereinafter described in detail.

The base 11 comprises a wall plate 19 having a peripheral flange or rim 21 adapted to fit against the surface of the wall 12. Extending forwardly from the central portion of the plate 19 is a supporting structure or attaching means arranged to be received within the socket portion 18 of the bar member 13 for rigidly supporting the latter on the base 11. The outwardly extending supporting structure receivable within the socket member 18 is also constructed to provide an inner area within which fastening elements may be located for securing the base 11 to the wall 12, the fastening elements together with the supporting structure being enclosed by the socket portion 18 and thereby being concealed from normal view when the device is in assembled condition.

The forwardly extending supporting structure or attaching means is arranged to fit snugly within the socket portion 18, and in the present in-

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stance comprises principally a pair of tubular elements 22 integral with the wall plate 19 and projecting therefrom in longitudinally spaced relation adjacent the opposite ends of the plate 19. Screw receiving recesses are provided by the central openings through the tubular elements 22, and a pair of screws 23 having their head portions disposed within the tubular members 22 adjacent the bases thereof extend inwardly through aligned apertures in the plate 19 for rigidly fastening the base 11 to the wall 12. A pair of rearwardly extending screw-receiving bosses 24 are formed at the inner face of the plate 19 integrally therewith to provide additional support for the screws 23 (Fig. 4). An additional pair of screw-receiving bosses 26 are also provided intermediate the bosses 24 and are formed with weakened areas comprising thin frangible webs 27 at the inlet ends thereof which may be readily broken to permit the insertion of additional screws in the event that more rigid mounting of the base 11 on the wall 12 is desired or if a different spacing of the fastening screws is necessary in order to secure the base 11 to the lath or stud structure behind the wall surface. An elongated rib 28 extends between the bosses 24 and 26 for increasing the structural strength of the base. For providing additional support for the socket portion 18 of the bar member 13, as described below in detail, a pair of laterally spaced upper and lower lugs or flanges 29 and 31, respectively, also extend outwardly from the wall plate 19 intermediate the tubular elements 22.

In the embodiment illustrated in the drawing, the socket portion 19 is generally oval or elliptical in shape and the end walls are thickened, as at 32 and 33 (Fig. 5), with the inner faces of the thickened end walls being substantially flat to provide a snug-fitting engagement with the tubular elements 22 whereby to prevent endwise movement of the socket portion 18 relative to the base 11. In order to impart lateral support to the bar member 13, the tubular members 22 are also disposed in contact, as seen at 34 in Fig. 5, with the laterally extending side walls of the socket 18 at oppositely spaced points on either side of the flat end walls 32 and 33. Thus, each of the tubular elements 22 is in tight-fitting engagement with one of the flattened end walls of the socket 18 and also with the adjacent side walls of the socket at three circumferentially spaced points around the periphery of the tube.

The upper and lower side walls of the socket portion 18 are also thickened, as at 36 and 37, and are provided with flat inner faces for snugly engaging the outer surfaces of the flanges 29 and 31, respectively. A locking screw 38 extends upwardly through an aperture in the thickened lower wall 37 of the socket 18 and is received in a complementary threaded aperture in the lower flange 31 for retaining the bar member 13 in position on the base 11. The locking screw 38 is disposed at the underside of the socket portion 18 and coacts with the bottom flange 31 in order that the outer head portion of the screw 38 may be concealed from ordinary view when the device is mounted on the wall.

In order to install my device, the base 11 is first positioned at the desired location on the wall surface and the screws 23 are then inserted and tightened firmly, the base 11 being thereby secured to the wall in such position as to hold the bar member 13 level when the device is completely assembled. Following the mounting of

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the base member 11, the socket portion 18 of the bar member 13 is slidably fitted onto the forwardly extending supporting structure of the base 11 and the locking screw 38 is then fastened in place.

When the device is thus completely assembled, it will be seen that the inner edge of the socket portion 18 abuts the outer face of the wall plate 19 and the walls of the socket portion 18 therefore completely enclose the outwardly extending supporting structure comprising the tubular elements 22 and the flanges 29 and 31. Accordingly, in my device all of the fastening elements and the cooperating supporting structure for the fixture are neatly concealed from normal view while the fixture is at the same time rigidly and attractively mounted on the wall surface.

Although the wall fixture support of my invention has been illustrated herein in connection with a towel bar, it will be apparent that various other wall fixtures such as soap dishes, tooth brush racks, cup holders, and the like may be similarly mounted.

An additional feature of the specific embodiment of my invention herein described is found in the highly advantageous structure of the towel supporting means per se. In this connection, it will be seen that each of the arms 14 and 16 has a free unobstructed and inwardly curved outer end 39 to permit towels or wash cloths to be slipped endwise onto the towel bar in a rapid and convenient manner. In addition, the upper edges of the arms 14 and 16 are turned inwardly to provide flat upper flanges or ledges 41 which serve effectively to prevent slippage of the towels or wash cloths when the latter are in place on the bar.

Although the invention has been described in connection with one particular structural embodiment, it will be understood that various modifications and equivalent structures may be resorted to without departing from the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A wall fixture comprising a base adapted to be mounted flatwise on a wall surface, a pair of tubular elements extending outwardly from said base in spaced relation thereon, and a fixture having an elongated generally oval socket member slidably mountable on said base with the tubular elements being received within the socket member and engaging the latter at the oppositely disposed ends thereof, the end walls of said socket member being flattened at the inner faces thereof adjacent said tubular elements with said tubular elements having close fitting contact with the flattened inner faces of said end walls, and the diameter of said tubular elements being sufficiently large relative to the generally oval configuration of said socket member so that each of said tubular elements has a close fitting engagement with the side walls of said socket member at spaced points on opposite sides of the point of contact with the adjacent flattened end wall.

2. A wall fixture comprising a base adapted to be mounted flatwise on a wall surface, a pair of tubular elements extending outwardly from said base in spaced relation thereon, a pair of upper and lower flange members extending outwardly from said base intermediate said tubular elements, and a fixture having an elongated generally oval socket member slidably mountable on said flange members and said tubular elements, said socket member having thickened upper and lower side walls and thickened end walls with the

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inner faces of the thickened portions being substantially flat, said flange members and said tubular elements being receivable within said socket member in close fitting contact with the flattened portions of said upper and lower side walls and said end walls, respectively, and the diameter of said tubular elements being sufficiently large relative to the generally oval configuration of said socket member so that each of said tubular elements has a close-fitting engagement with the side walls of said socket member at spaced points on opposite sides of the point of contact with the adjacent flattened end wall for

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rigidly and non-rotatably supporting the fixture on said base.

MARTIN J. GRADY.

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