T. F. McMAHON.

POCKET HOLDER FOR HAND BAGS AND SIMILAR RECEPTACLES.

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910,713. Patented Jan. 26, 1909.

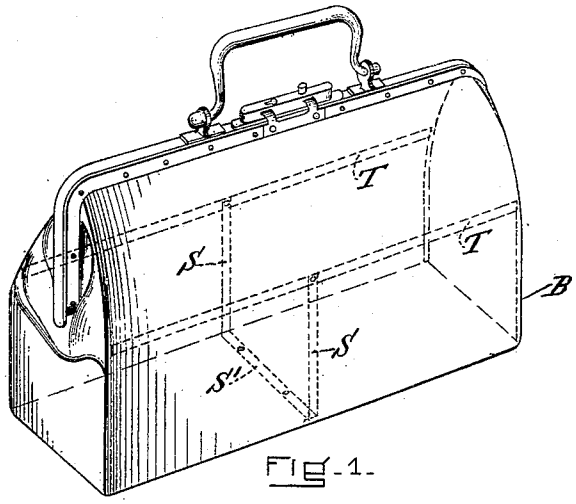


FIG. 1.

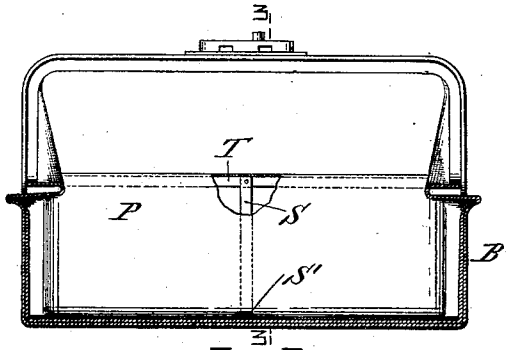


FIG. 2.

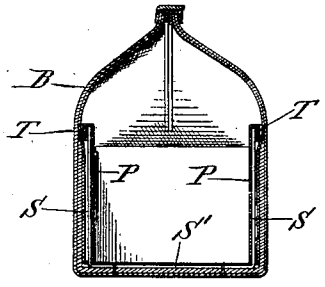


FIG. 3.

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POCKET-HOLDER FOR HAND-BAGS AND SIMILAR RECEPTACLES.

No. 910,713. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Jan. 26, 1909.

Application filed February 3, 1908. Serial No. 413,977.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS F. McMAHON, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Hyde Park, in the county of Norfolk and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, have invented certain Improvements in Pocket-Holders for Hand-Bags and Similar Receptacles, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to means for holding the flaps of pockets of hand-bags or other similar receptacles in close relation to the bodies thereof, and the invention is particularly useful in such receptacles as are used when traveling, and consists of resilient means such as a spring of steel or other material, one end of which is secured to the rigid bottom of the body of the receptacle and the other end to the flap of the pocket, in such position that the spring constantly tends to hold the flap in close relation to the body of the receptacle; and in order that a single spring may act with substantially equal force upon the whole length of the flap, a stay or stiffening strip may be secured along the upper edge of the movable flap and the upper end of the spring fastened to such strip. When the spring pocket-holder is used upon the flaps of pockets in receptacles which have stiff bottoms and sides, a convenient form of spring is a flat steel strip bent at substantially a right angle, with one arm of the spring secured to the rigid bottom of the receptacle and the other arm extended up to or near the upper edge of the flap and secured thereto or to a stiffening strip along its upper edge.

This improvement will be found to overcome the serious objection to pockets in such receptacles as heretofore constructed, which are constantly liable to be torn, when articles are inserted into the receptacle, particularly when it is already partially filled. The spring-holder constantly presses the flap toward the body portion of the receptacle and keeps it in close relation thereto, so that when articles are pushed down into the receptacle the flap will not be caught and torn down. When applied to suit-cases or trunks either a straight or an angular spring may be used, depending somewhat upon the location and size thereof.

The invention is shown herein as applied to a hand-bag; but from this illustration its application to a trunk will be readily understood.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a hand-bag showing the improved pocket holding devices in dotted lines; Fig. 2 is a central vertical longitudinal section of the bag; Fig. 3 is a vertical cross-section.

The several parts are indicated by reference letters as follows: B, the bag; P, the pocket; S, the spring pocket-holders; S′, the arm of the spring which is fastened to the rigid bottom of the body of the receptacle; T, the stiffening or stay-strip at the upper edge of the flap.

In Figs. 1 and 3, two upright arms S of the spring-holder are shown, to hold the flap of a pocket upon each side. When there is but one pocket, but one arm S will be needed, and a similar spring holder may be applied to the flap of a pocket upon the short side or end of the bag. Pockets upon all sides of the receptacle will not be found an annoyance, for the reason that if no bulky article is put into them the flap will lie close to the body portion and form no obstruction to the insertion of articles to the main portion thereof.

By making the spring S, S′, with arms substantially at right angles to each other, and securing one of the arms to the reinforced bottom of the receptacle, that arm is held rigidly in place, and the stress of the spring of the other arm and all the strain due to its operation is sustained by the arm anchored to the rigid bottom, and produces a very durable and effective construction which could not be secured if the part of the spring which is intended to withstand such stress and strain were attached to a soft and yielding part of the receptacle, for the reason that the repeated pulls upon the flap of the pocket to open it against the action of the spring would soon tear such spring from its fastenings, or tear away the material to which it was secured.

I claim:

1. In a traveling bag or similar receptacle, a pocket with a movable flap upon one or more of the sides of the receptacle, an angular spring S, S′, one arm of which is fastened to the rigid bottom of the receptacle and the other arm of the spring is fastened to the movable flap and tends to hold it in close relation to the side of the receptacle.

2. In a traveling bag or similar receptacle, a pocket with a movable flap upon one or more of the upright sides of the receptacle, an angular spring S, S′, one arm of which is secured to the rigid bottom of the receptacle and the other arm of the spring is secured to the movable flap and a stay or stiffening strip T fastened to said flap near its upper edge, and upon which the spring S acts.

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