March 16, 1937. C. O'DONNELL 2,074,269

DISPENSING DEVICE

Filed June 19, 1934

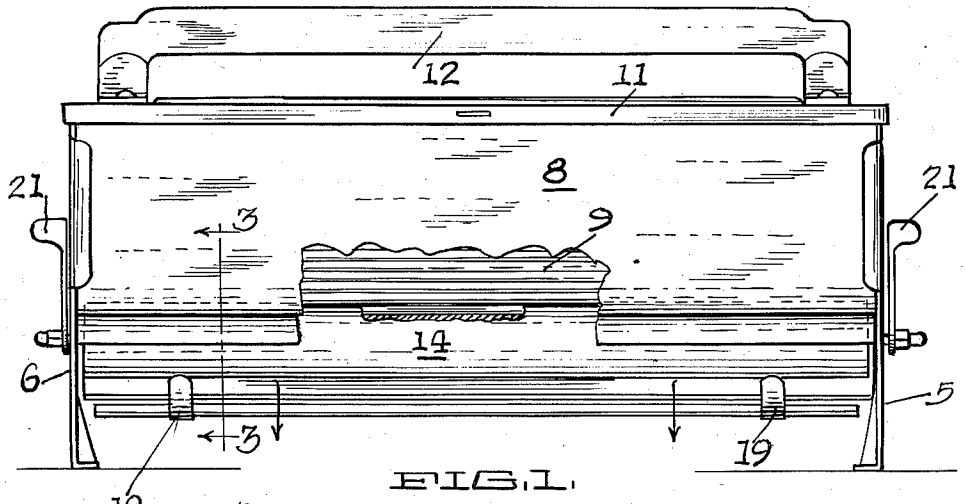


FIG. 1.

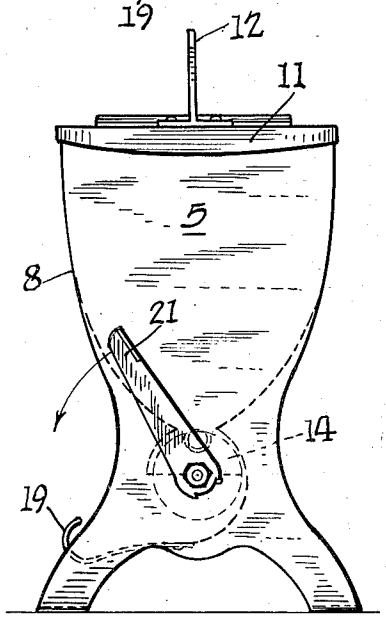


FIG. 2.

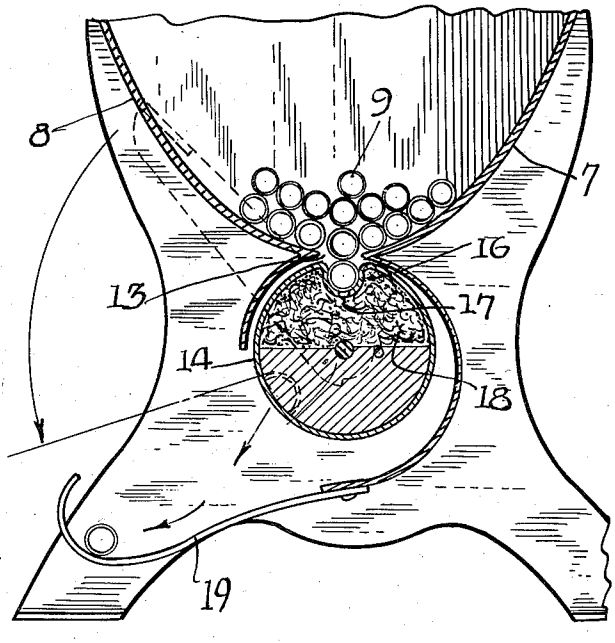


FIG. 3.

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DISPENSING DEVICE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 312—84)

This invention relates to improvements in straw dispensers and has particular reference to a sanitary device for dispensing drinking straws such as commonly used in restaurants, soda fountains and like places.

A further object is to produce a device wherein the straws may be fumigated with a mild, pleasant, antiseptic deodorant.

A still further object is to produce a device which will dispense but a single straw at a time and one which will eliminate the necessity of the patrons handling the straws.

Other objects and advantages will be apparent during the course of the following description.

In the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification and in which like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the same,

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of my device with a portion thereof broken away,

Fig. 2 is an end elevation of Fig. 1, and

Fig. 3 is an enlarged detail cross sectional view on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

It is customary in soda fountains and like places to place straws in an open receptacle from which each person takes a straw, the result being that these straws are often handled by many persons before the user places the same in the mouth. Applicant has, therefore, devised a simple container wherein a quantity of straws are placed, and has further provided means for disinfecting the same.

In the accompanying drawing wherein for the purpose of illustration is shown a preferred embodiment of my invention, the numerals 5 and 6 designate end plates between which are positioned plates 7 and 8. These plates 7 and 8, together with the end plates form a hopper in which the straws 9 are placed. A removable cover 11 is positioned upon the hopper and is removed through the medium of a handle 12. The hopper thus formed has an opening 13 through which the straws are dispensed to a roller 14 having a depression 16 a sufficient size to receive one of the straws. This depression has openings 17 which communicate with a receptacle formed within the roller in which a disinfectant absorbing material 18 is positioned. A pair of arms 19 are adapted to receive the straws as they are dispensed. In order to actuate the roller, finger pieces or levers 21 are attached to the opposite ends of the roller shaft and a counter balance is employed to return the roller to its normal position, ready to pick up a straw. To limit the angle of rotation of the roller 14, a pair of spaced shoulders are provided on the lower end of each of said levers, which shoulders are adapted to engage a stop-pin fixed in the plates 5 and 6.

As a result of this construction it is apparent that when the hopper is filled with straws and the roller is rotated, one straw at a time will be dispensed to the arms 19 from which point the user may pick up said straw, and that the disinfectant will gradually permeate the air within the hopper and thus disinfect the straws therein.

The body of the roller, it will be noted, consists of two different materials, namely, a disinfectant consisting of a fibrous material that constitutes the upper half of the body of the roller and a metallic portion that comprises the lower half thereof. Since the upper portion of the roller contains fibrous material which is lighter than the metallic portion, it will be obvious that a counter balanced effect is provided. Accordingly, the pocket 16 will always be normally in a position to receive the straws, one at a time from the hopper, prior to the dispensing action of the device.

It is to be understood that the form of my invention herewith shown and described is to be taken as a preferred example of the same and that various changes relative to the material, size, shape, and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the subjoined claim.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:—

A dispensing device of the class described, comprising a casing including a hopper having a discharge opening in the bottom thereof, a roller member positioned directly beneath said hopper opening and carried by said casing, said roller member being constituted of a disinfectant holding material positioned in the upper portion thereof and a heavier material positioned in the lower section thereof, an apertured pocket extending lengthwise of said roller and projecting into the upper section thereof and capable of receiving a single straw at a time from the hopper, said pocket being arranged in axial alignment with the hopper discharge opening and the aperture permitting medication of a straw in the roller pocket, shouldered levers arranged at opposite ends of said roller to cause the actuation thereof, and stop pins carried by said casing and cooperating with the shouldered sections of said levers to limit the rotary motion of said roller.

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