S. MARSTON.

LUNCH COUNTER.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 17, 1915.

1,194,531.

Patented Aug. 15, 1916.

FIG. 1.

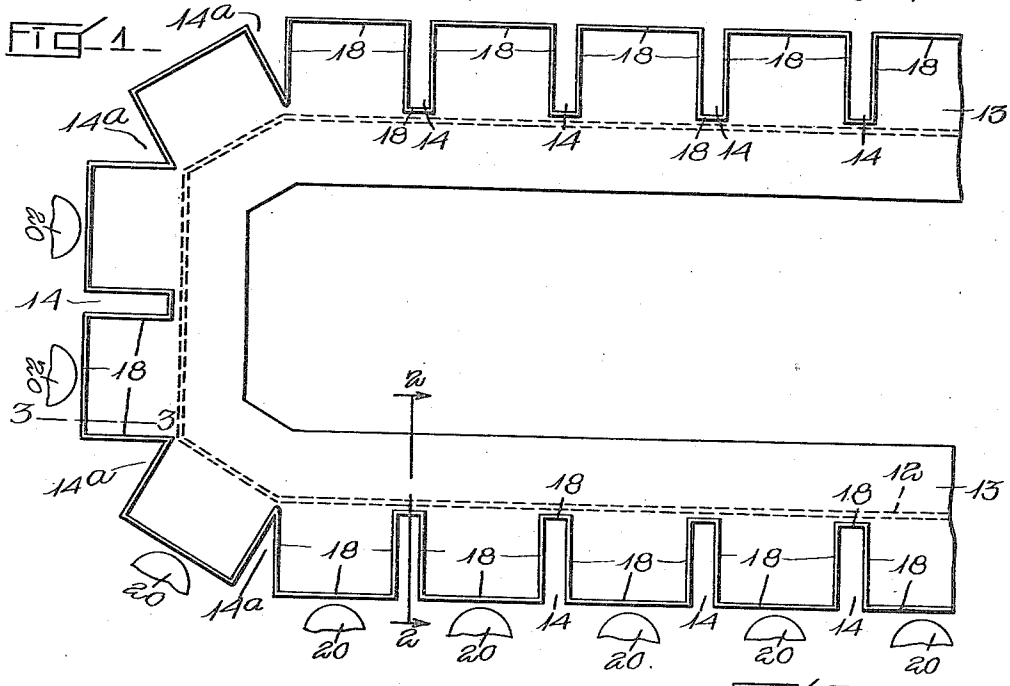


FIG. 3.

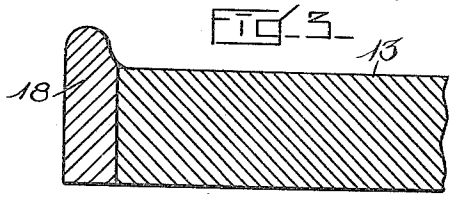


FIG. 2.

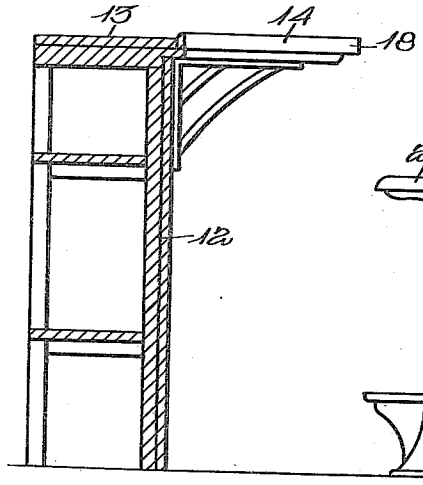
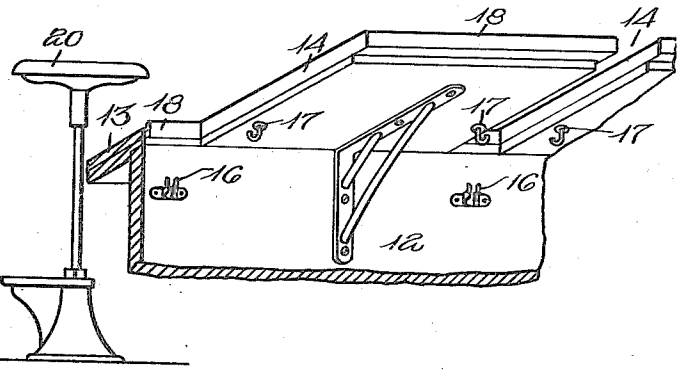


FIG. 4.



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LUNCH-COUNTER.

1,194,531. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 15, 1916.

Application filed December 17, 1915. Serial No. 67,382.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SHIRLEY MARSTON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented new and useful Improvements in Lunch-Counters, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a lunch counter comprising an upright supporting body attached to the floor, and a horizontal top covering the body, the top including an inner serving portion and an outer customers' portion which overhangs the outer side of the body.

The invention is embodied in a lunch counter, the overhanging customers' portion of which is interrupted by relatively narrow recesses extending inward from its outer edge, said recesses subdividing the customers' portion into sections, each formed to accommodate a single customer, so that the articles served to each customer are practically isolated from those served to an adjacent customer. The recesses also enable customers' belongings, such as umbrellas, hand bags, etc., to be stored below the plane of the counter top in position to be conveniently reached through the recesses. The width of the recesses is such that in a straight counter a given number of sections occupy a space conforming closely to the space required by a corresponding number of customers located side by side in a straight row facing the counter, so that the recesses do not involve any considerable increase in the length of the counter over that which would be required if the customers' portion were continuous or uninterrupted.

Of the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification: Figure 1 represents a plan view of a portion of a lunch counter embodying my invention; Fig. 2 represents a section on line 2—2 of Fig. 1; Fig. 3 represents a section on line 3—3 of Fig. 1; Fig. 4 represents a fragmentary perspective view showing a portion of the counter.

The same reference characters indicate the same or similar parts in all the views.

In the drawings, 12 represents the upright body of a lunch counter, and 13 represents the horizontal top of the counter, said top including a continuous serving portion covering the body and a customer's portion overhanging the outer side of the body and flush with the serving portion.

In carrying out my invention I interrupt the continuity of the customers' portion by forming therein relatively narrow recesses 14 extending from the outer edge to or nearly to the body, said recesses having closed inner ends. The recesses are so spaced apart that each of the subdivisions constitutes a customer's section formed and proportioned to accommodate a single customer, whose dishes are therefore segregated from those of other customers.

I prefer to make each section about one foot and eleven inches long measuring from one recess to the next. I also prefer to make each recess in a straight portion of the counter about four inches wide. These proportions enable a given number of customers' sections to accommodate a like number of customers standing or sitting side by side facing the counter, the customers being in the closest proximity to each other compatible with their convenience. When the counter is U-shaped the corner portions may have recesses 14^a formed as shown by Fig. 1.

The customers may store belongings, such as umbrellas, hand bags, etc., below the plane of the counter top in such position that the belongings may be easily reached, as indicated by Fig. 4, which shows means for supporting various belongings in close proximity to the margins of the recesses, and adjacent to the inner ends thereof. Said means may include clips 16 adapted to engage umbrella handles, and hooks 17 from which hand bags may be suspended.

The overhanging portion of the counter top is provided with angularly arranged marginal molding strips 18, the upper edges of which are raised above the plane of the top, and form beads or guards extending along the outer edges of the sections and the sides and closed ends of the recesses, and adapted to prevent dishes from sliding from the serving portion of the top, and from the customers' sections, into the recesses, and from the outer edges of the sections. A stool 20 may be provided for each customer's section.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. A lunch counter comprising an upright supporting body, a top having a continuous inner serving portion and an outer cus-

tomers' portion overhanging the body, and interrupted by relatively narrow recesses extending inward from its outer edge to said serving portion, and closed at their inner ends, said recesses not only subdividing the customers' portion into a series of sections, each formed to accommodate a single customer, but also affording access to customers' belongings stored adjacent to the inner ends of the recesses, the width of the recesses being such that a given number of sections occupy a space conforming to the space required by a corresponding number of customers located side by side.

2. A lunch counter comprising an upright supporting body, a top having a continuous inner serving portion and an outer customers' portion overhanging the body, and interrupted by relatively narrow recesses extending inward from its outer edge to said serving portion and closed at their inner ends, said recesses subdividing the customers' portion into a series of sections, each formed to accommodate a single customer, and means immediately below each recess for supporting customers' belongings convenient of access through said openings.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

SHIRLEY MARSTON.