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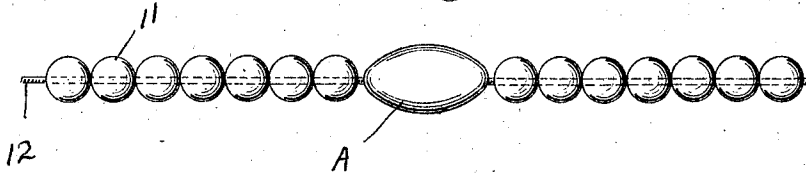
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C. H. TATE ET AL

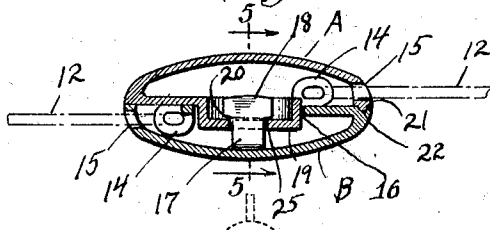
JEWELRY CLASP

Filed Feb. 26, 1925

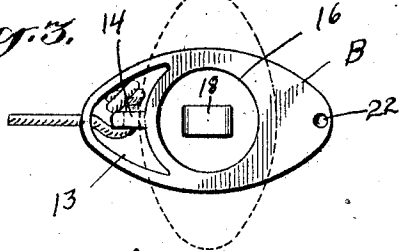
*Fig. 1.*



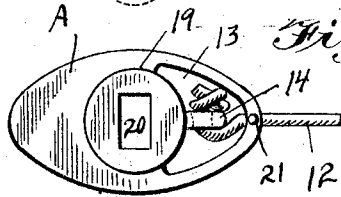
*Fig. 2.*



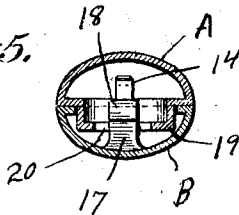
*Fig. 3.*



*Fig. 4.*



*Fig. 5.*



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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## JEWELRY CLASP.

Application filed February 26, 1925. Serial No. 11,651.

The jewelry clasp of the present invention is intended primarily for securing the two ends of a flexible article of jewelry, such for instance as a necklace or bracelet although it may have a more extended field of use.

An object of the invention is to provide a clasp of this character which cannot become accidentally unfastened and which will render the undetected removal of the necklace very difficult, thereby insuring against loss.

As one important feature, the parts of the clasp are so designed that the ends of the string of the necklace may be secured inside of the clasp parts so that they are concealed from view.

As a further important feature we design the entire clasp so as to have substantially the appearance of a single bead of the necklace and without any projecting parts which may catch on the clothing or distinguish it as a clasp to the casual observer.

As a further important feature the clasp is formed of a pair of similarly shaped members of a general hemi-prolate-spheroidal form having their flat faces provided with interengaging parts which may be interlocked only by a relative rotation of the members in the plane of said flat face.

As a further feature, we provide means for normally preventing any relative rotation but so connect the ends of the string of the necklace that the weight of the necklace or the pull on the string ends prevents relative rotation to unlocking position.

The invention may be more fully understood from the following description in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein:—

Figure 1 is a fragmentary view of a necklace or bracelet, the ends of which are connected by my improved clasp.

Figure 2 is a longitudinal sectional view through the clasp.

Figures 3 and 4 are views of the flat faces of the mating and interengaging clasp members.

Figure 5 is a transverse section on the line 5—5 of Figure 2.

The shape and external appearance of the two interlocking members A and B of the clasp are subject to wide variation and depend in large measure upon the design of the necklace or bracelet with which the clasp is to be used, the latter preferably matching or

harmonizing with the color and general appearance of the necklace or bracelet. For illustrative purposes I have indicated the clasp as applied to the end of a chain of beads 11, strung on the flexible device, such as a cord or wire 12, the ends of which are respectively anchored to the two sections of the clasp, the clasp itself being of general prolate spheroidal shape. Each half or member thereof presents a flat face mating with the flat face of the other section and a rounded generally elliptical or oval back. The mating faces are in a plane lengthwise of the necklace rather than transverse thereto. Each of the sections is provided with a chamber or recess 13 opening into the flat face adjacent to one end and in each chamber is an eye 14 or equivalent device serving as an anchorage for the string or other flexible device 12, the ends of which preferably pass through openings 15 in the end walls of the section and are knotted, tied, or otherwise secured to or about the eyes.

One section, for instance, section B, is provided with a centrally disposed circular opening 16 in its flat face and a stud member 17 centrally disposed within said opening is provided with an elongated head 18. The other section A is formed with a circular boss 19 fitting the opening 16 in section B and having a slot 20 therein adapted to loosely receive the head of the stud when the two sections are disposed at right angles to each other and the boss 19 is pressed into the opening 16. Rotation of the sections from the dotted line position of Figure 3 to the position of Figure 2 effects interlocking of the head of the stud by movement crosswise of the slot. Relative turning movement of the sections toward non-interlocked position is preferably prevented by a catch, as for instance, a tit 21 at the end of one of the sections snapping into a recess 22 in the opposite section. The manner of interengaging the two sections of the clasp is to dispose them at right angles to each other, insert the stud in the slot and rotate them through 90°, at which point, the tit will snap into place in the socket and the stud will hold the sections against relative separation.

With the clasp in the closed and locked position of Figure 2, it will be evident that an unlocking operation will involve the relative advance of the two ends of the necklace toward each other and a consequent tighten-

ing of the same so that the undetected removal of the necklace is rendered difficult. It will also be apparent that if the tit should become disengaged from its pocket, the weight of the necklace will still tend to swing the interlocking clasp sections toward locked position and prevent rotation to a point where the stud could become accidentally disengaged from the slot.

Obviously the clasp sections might be in the nature of a pair of elongated bars of such length that the unlocking operation would involve still further tightening or shortening of the necklace.

It will be noted that when in locked position the knots at the ends of the string are concealed and that the clasp has the general appearance of a bead with no projecting catch parts.

Having thus described our invention what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. A jewelry clasp including a pair of members having flat mating surfaces, a boss on one member adapted to enter an opening in the other, said boss having a slot therein, and a stud in the opening adapted to enter the slot when the members are disposed at right angles to each other and to extend beyond the edges of the slot when the members are rotated into mating relationship, said members having chambers therein with openings for the entrance of a flexible device whereby the ends of the said flexible device may be concealed and secured inside of said members.

2. A jewelry clasp including a pair of members having flat mating surfaces, a boss on one member adapted to enter an opening in the other, said boss having a slot therein, and a stud in the opening adapted to enter the slot when the members are disposed at right angles to each other and to extend beyond the edges of the slot when the members are rotated into mating relationship, said members having anchoring devices therein for string ends and concealed from view when the members are in locked position.

3. A jewelry clasp including a pair of members each having a flat face with a recess therein adapted to receive and retain a string end, and means for locking said mem-

bers together with the flat faces in register and said recesses concealed.

4. A jewelry clasp including a pair of members each having a side face with a recess therein adapted to receive a string end, an opening through the end wall of each of the members to said recess through which the string may extend, and means for locking said members together with the side faces in registry, each member serving to conceal the recess in the other member.

5. A jewelry clasp including a pair of members each having a side face with a recess therein adapted to receive a string end, an opening through the end wall of each of the members to said recess through which the string may extend, a stud projecting from said side face of one of said members, and the other of said members having an opening adapted to receive said stud, said stud and opening being adapted to lock said members together with said faces in contact, upon a relative rotation of said members to bring said string receiving openings to opposite ends of the clasp.

6. A jewelry clasp including a pair of members having flat mating surfaces, means at one end of the mating surface of one member for attaching one end of a string, means at one end of the mating surface of the other member for attaching the other end of said string, a boss projecting from the mating surface of one member and adapted to enter an opening in the mating surface of the other member, said boss having a slot therein, a stud in said opening adapted to enter said slot when said members are disposed with said ends projecting at right angles to each other, and to extend beyond the edges of the slot when the members are rotated about said boss as an axis, and with said mating surfaces in superposed parallel planes to bring said member ends at opposite ends of the clasp, the string attaching means of each member being concealed by the other member when said members are in the last mentioned position.

Signed at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, February, 1925.

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