

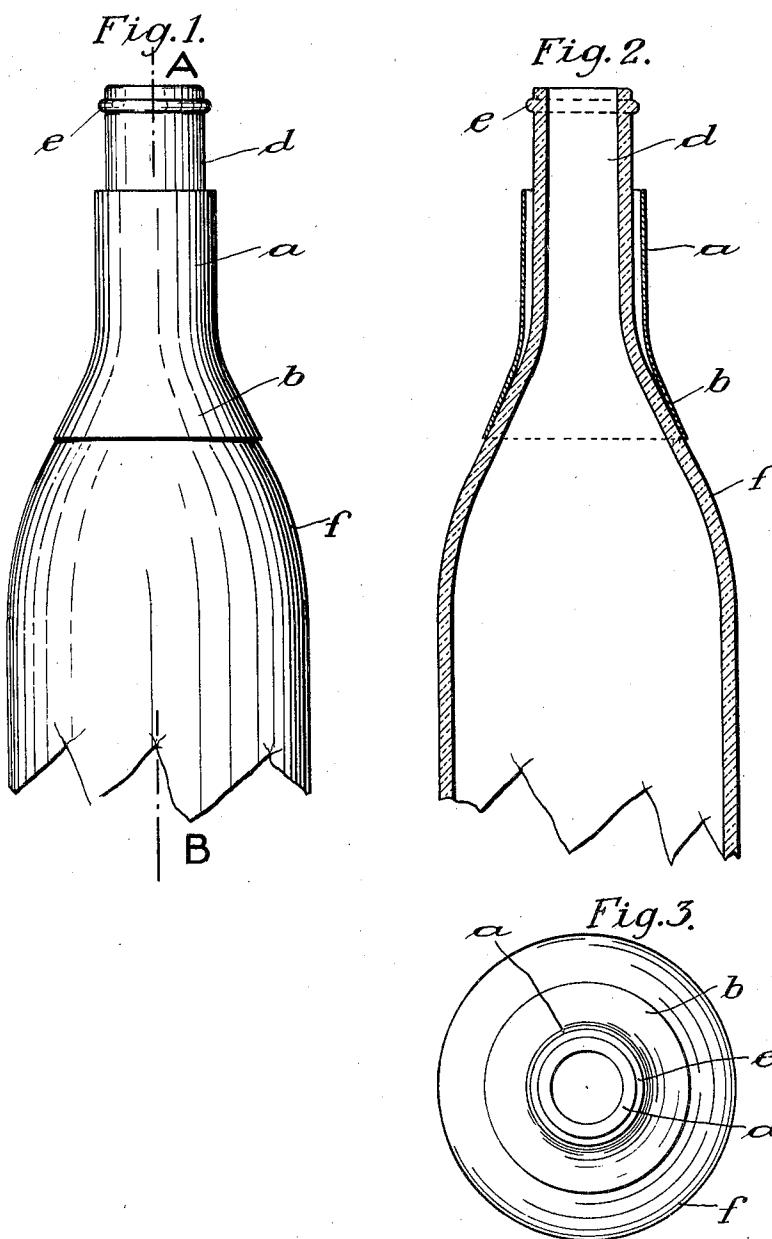
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CATCH DROP FOR BOTTLES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CATCH DROP FOR BOTTLES.

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My invention relates to catch-drops for bottles and more particularly to a funnel-shaped drop-catcher or retainer made of any suitable absorbent material and which is distinguished from similar devices of the kind by its particular form and construction so as to be highly efficient and readily applicable on or about bottles of various kinds.

The object of my invention is to provide a catch-drop of the stated type which will be adapted to be attached to bottles of both slender and bellied shape and even useful when attached to a bottle containing a sparkling or effervescent liquor.

With this object in view, the catch-drop constructed according to my invention, mainly comprises an upper preferably cylindrical portion of an inner diameter somewhat greater than that of the neck of the bottle in connection with which the same is intended to be used, and a lower flaring or funnel-shaped portion of gradually increasing diameter to conform to the conventional shape of bottles usually employed for wines, liquors and the like, so that when the catch-drop is applied to the bottle, only the said lower funnel-shaped portion thereof will wholly or partially fit and be in intimate contact with the tapering part of the bottle, whilst the said upper cylindrical portion thereof will be spaced a short distance apart from the neck of the bottle in order to form an annular free space closed at the bottom and open at the top for the reception of the adhering drops which on their way down will be absorbed by the catch-drop owing to the absorptive nature thereof.

With the above recited object in view, the invention resides in the novel construction as above set forth in general, described more in detail in the following specification, particularly pointed out in the appended claim and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, it being understood that the right is reserved to embodiments other than those actually illustrated herein, to the full extent indicated by the general meaning of the terms in which the claim is expressed.

In the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification and showing, for purposes of exemplification, two preferred forms and the manner in which the invention may be embodied and practiced, but without limiting the claimed invention to such illustrative instances:

Figure 1 illustrates in elevation my improved catch-drop attached to the neck of a bottle partly broken off;

Figure 2 is a vertical section taken on the line A—B of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a plan view thereof;

Parts which are repeated in the several figures bear the same reference characters in each case.

Referring to the drawing the funnel-shaped catch-drop comprises a cylindrical or tubular top portion *a* and a flaring bottom portion *b* and these two portions made of absorbent material, are integrally united to form a unit. The inner diameter of the portion *a* is a little greater than the outer diameter of the neck *d* of the bottle and even than that of the annular flange or rib *e* usually provided near the mouth of the bottle and constituting what is called the head of the bottle. In applying the catch-drop to the bottle the flaring portion *b* thereof advances over and about the bottle neck so as to come in closing contact with the conically shaped or tapering part *f* of the bottle, as will be readily understood on inspection of Figures 1 and 2, a narrow annular space being left free between the neck *d* of the bottle and the portion *a* of the catch-drop, when the latter is properly attached, as will be seen in Figure 2. Drops of liquid adhering to the outer surfaces of the mouth or the head of the bottle and flowing down on the neck of the bottle into the annular space between the neck and the portion *a* of the catch-drop, when the bottle is in upright position, are caught by the bottom portion *b* of the catch-drop and absorbed by the latter owing to the absorptive nature of the material of which the catch-drop is made.

Just in accordance with the particular shape of the bottles such as white wine, claret and sparkling wine bottles, the adhering zone of the flaring portion *b* of the catch-drop will extend more or less in longitudinal direction and occupy an annular surface of corresponding width. At any rate, down flowing drops will be positively caught by the meeting surfaces of the flaring portion *b* and the neck of the bottle.

As there is provided an annular free space between the upper cylindrical portion *a* of the catch-drop and the neck of the bottle, even in case of sparkling liquors any over-

flowing liquid or drops will be prevented from flowing down the body of the bottle, since they will be received by the said annular free space and absorbed by the material 5 of which the catch-drop is made.

Referring to the modification shown in Figures 4 and 5 the upper end of the funnel-shaped or flaring portion *b* of the catch-drop is bellied out to form an annular chamber 10 or space *c* projecting radially beyond the sectional area of the cylindrical portion *a* so as to constitute a kind of a trap for the reception and retention of liquid which previously had flown into the catch-drop but 15 had not yet been fully absorbed by the lat-

ter, when liquor is again poured from the bottle into a glass.

What I claim is:—

A drip catcher for bottles, including a body formed of absorbent material and provided with a cylindrical portion having an internal diameter greater than the necks of conventional types of bottles and a substantially funnel shaped portion carried by the cylindrical portion and adapted to partially 20 25 overlie the body of the bottle.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

JACOB FAULHABER.