

(No Model.)

R. S. WILLIAMS.
Package for Mercury, &c.

No. 231,740.

Patented Aug. 31, 1880.

Fig: 1.

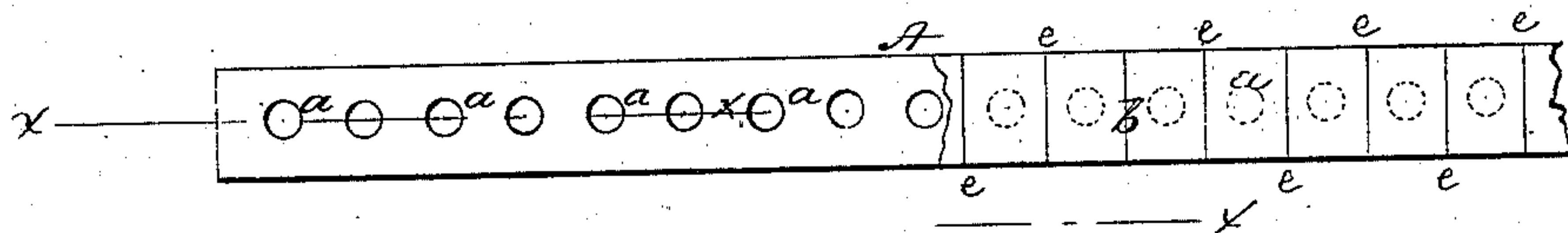


Fig: 2.

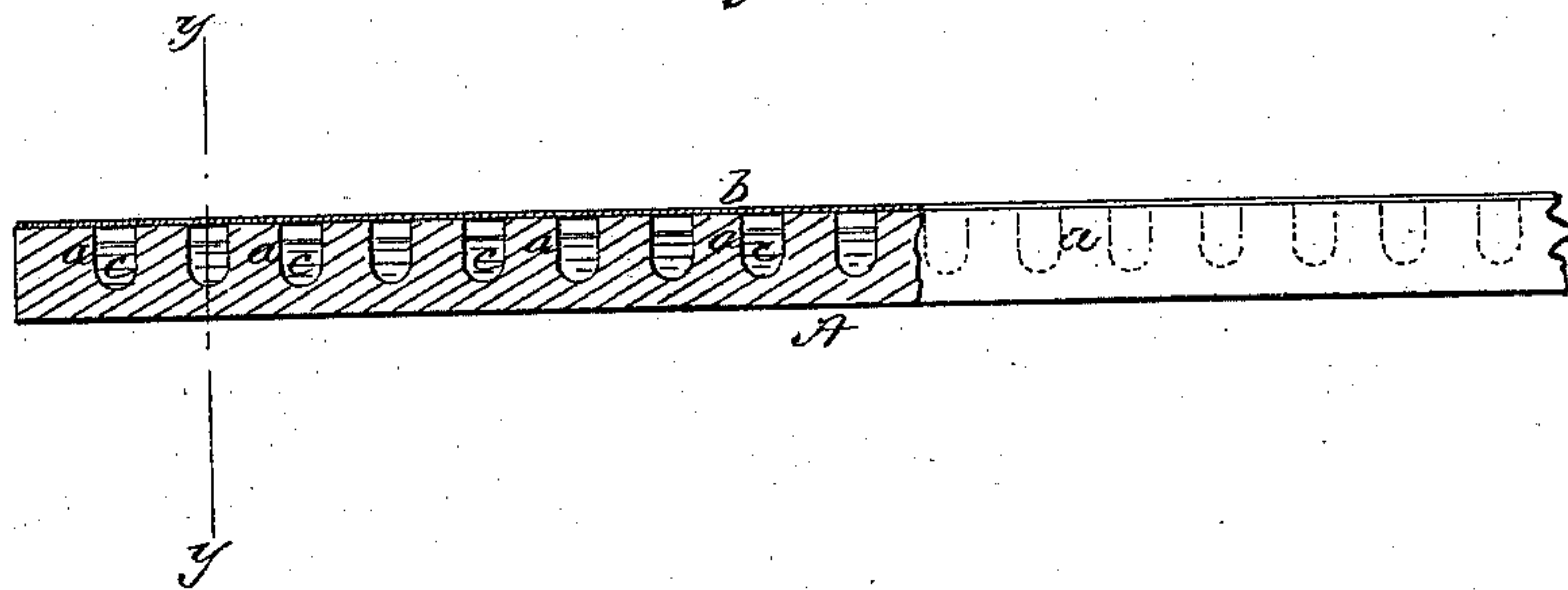
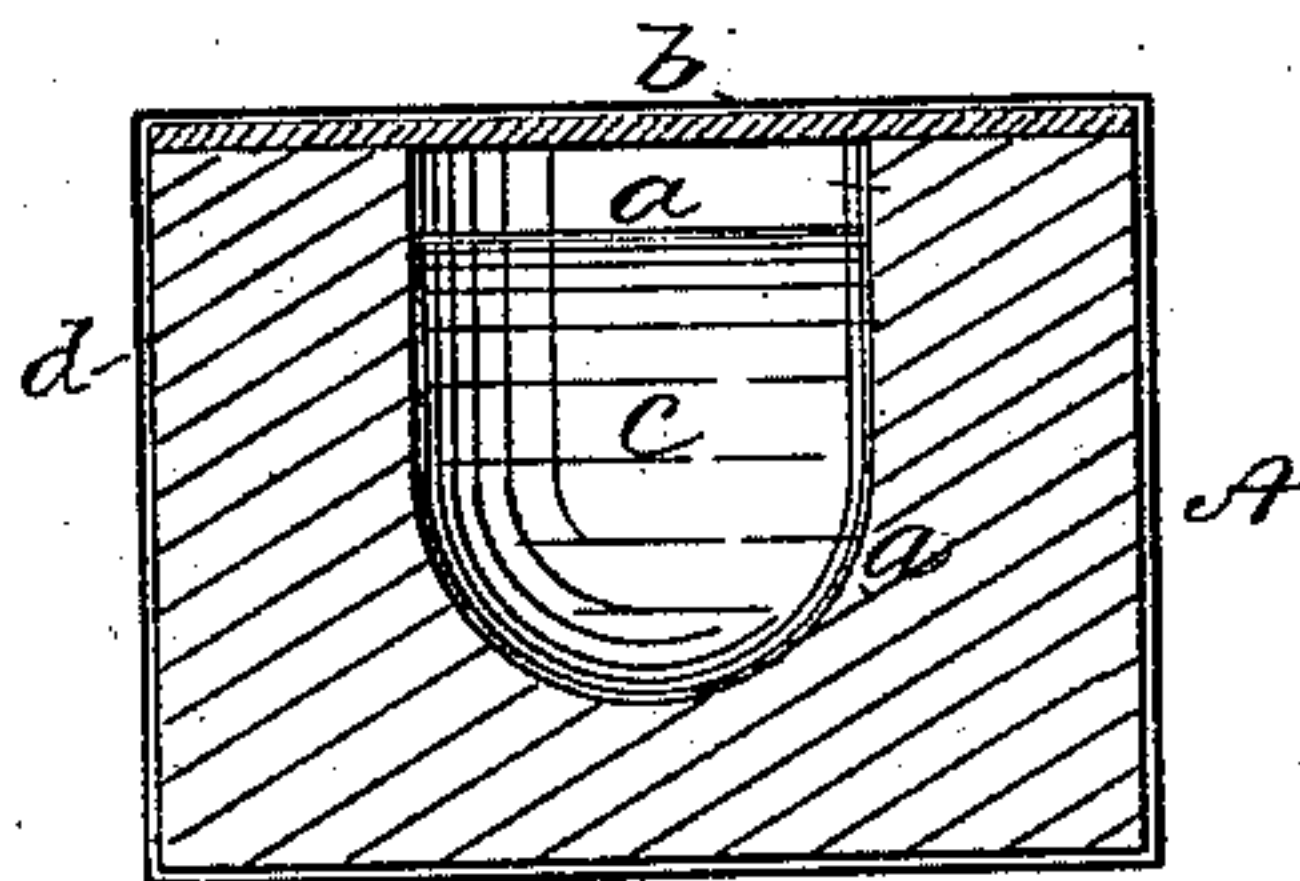


Fig: 3.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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PACKAGE FOR MERCURY, &c.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 231,740, dated August 31, 1880.

Application filed June 23, 1880. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern :

Be it known that I, RICHARD S. WILLIAMS, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Package for Mercury, &c.; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, making part of this specification.

The invention is, as a new article of manufacture, a device for containing mercury for dental purposes, or other substances, consisting of a strip of suitable material having a series of cells formed therein, and of a sealing-covering for the cells, which is easily detachable from each cell independently of the other cells, as is hereinafter more particularly described.

In the accompanying sheet of drawings, Figure 1 represents a plan or top view of my package with covering partly removed; Fig. 2, a longitudinal section of same in line *x x*, Fig. 1; and Fig. 3, a cross-section, enlarged, in the line *y y*, Fig. 2.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts in the several figures.

Dentists in the course of their practice have occasion to employ mercury in the preparation of their amalgams, and this has heretofore been contained in a bottle, into which is pierced a small hole, through which hole the mercury is forced by the proper manipulation of the bottle; but this contrivance affords no guide or limit to the amount used, except general experience or guess-work. Therefore the dentist may use too much mercury and produce an amalgam from which the mercury will ooze from time to time, or he may have too small a quantity, and his amalgam not be sufficiently plastic for the purpose of filling the dental cavities. In other words, in order to produce a proper amalgam, the quantity of mercury must be in a given proportion to the quantity of metal filings with which it is incorporated.

To arrive at this desirable result in an expeditious and convenient manner, I prepare a strip of wood, hard rubber, glass, or other suitable material, *A*, by forming therein a series of cells, *a*, each cell having the capacity to hold a given quantity of mercury, *c*. The mercury may be placed in these cells by immersing the strip in a bath of mercury or in any desirable manner.

After the cells in the strip are filled a strip of paper, *b*, may be shellaced over them, or they may be otherwise sealed or closed by a material easily ruptured by slight force, or by such material in separate closing-pieces for each cell.

If desired, the entire strip, as well as the covering, may be covered with a coating of shellac, as at *b*, Fig. 3.

Now, to use this package it is simply necessary for the dentist to perforate or remove the covering *b* over each cell, as required, turn the strip over, and the dentist at once dislodges a given quantity of mercury, which he can employ for his amalgam, and, by using the metal filings for this amalgam in the manner described in the specification of an application for a patent filed simultaneously herewith, he can employ a given quantity of metal filings with a given quantity of mercury, and in this way with certainty produce the best amalgam in every instance that the materials will admit. Besides, by the employment of the foregoing-described package the mercury is kept free from dust and oxidation.

Other means may, perhaps, be employed for measuring a given quantity of mercury, such as a graduated tube of glass; but the contrivance herein described will be found the most convenient.

The strip *A*, if desired, may be divided into sections by lines *e*. The cells *a* being located in the center between each of these dividing-lines will enable the user to readily ascertain the exact location of each cell before fracturing the cover of the cell for use.

It is obvious that my invention may be employed to contain medicines or other substances.

Having now described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

As a new article of manufacture, a device for containing mercury for dental purposes, or other substances, consisting of a strip of suitable material having a series of cells formed therein, and of a sealing-covering for the cells, which is easily detachable from each cell independently of the other cells, substantially as and for the purposes described.

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Witnesses:

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