

(No Model.)

C. S. WATSON.
ENVELOPE MOISTENER.

No. 282,247.

Patented July 31, 1883.

FIG.1

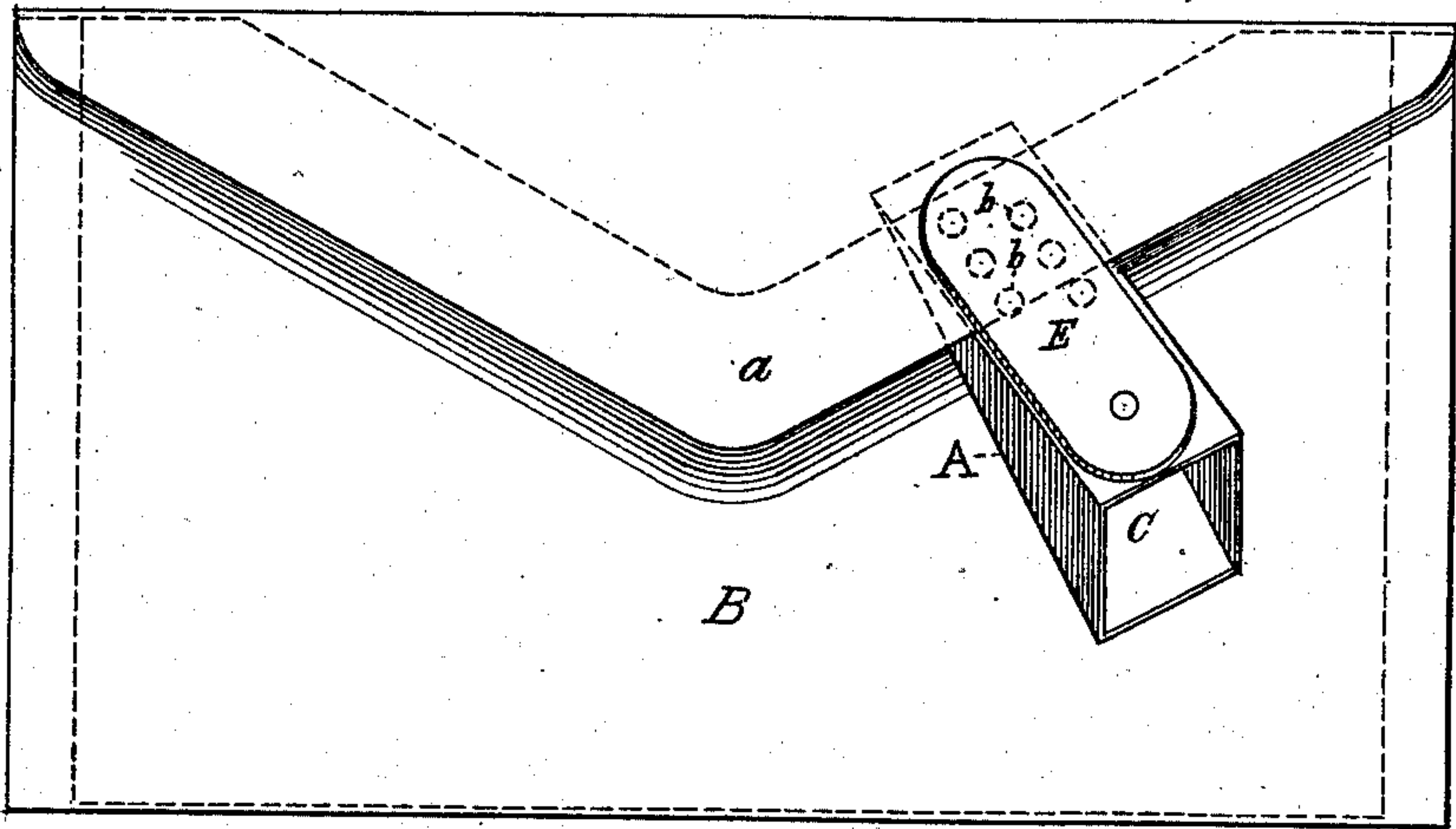


FIG.2

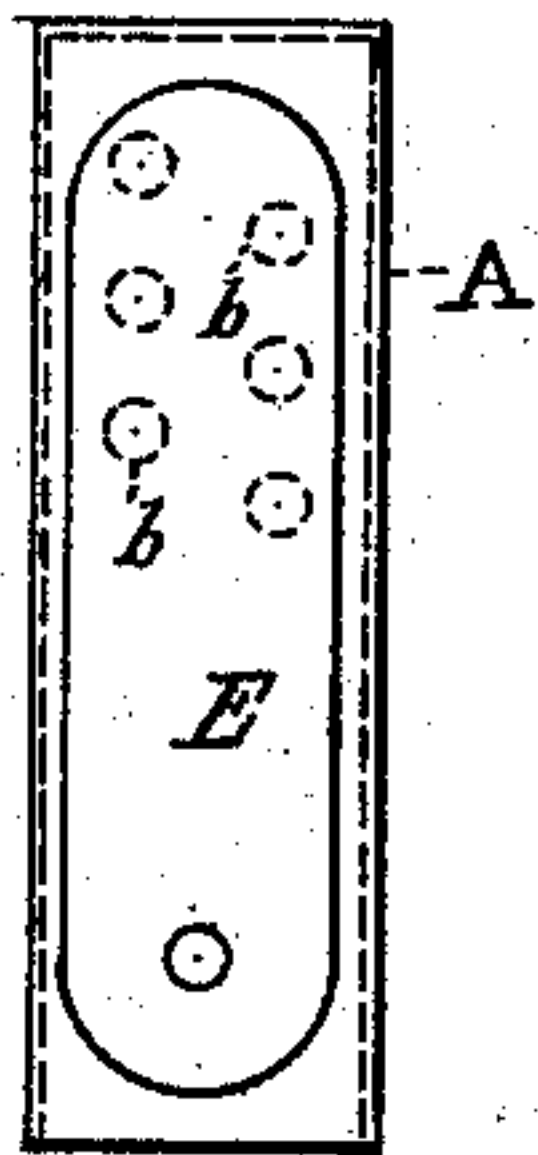


FIG.3

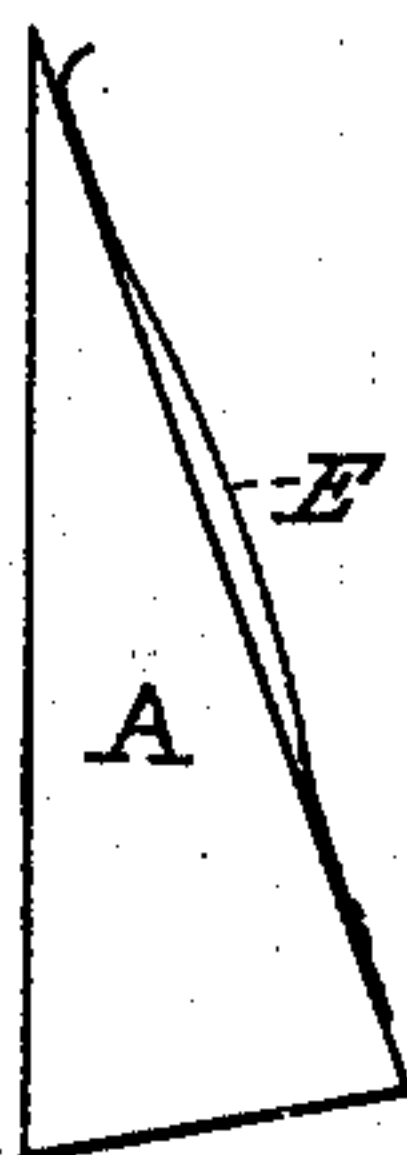


FIG.4

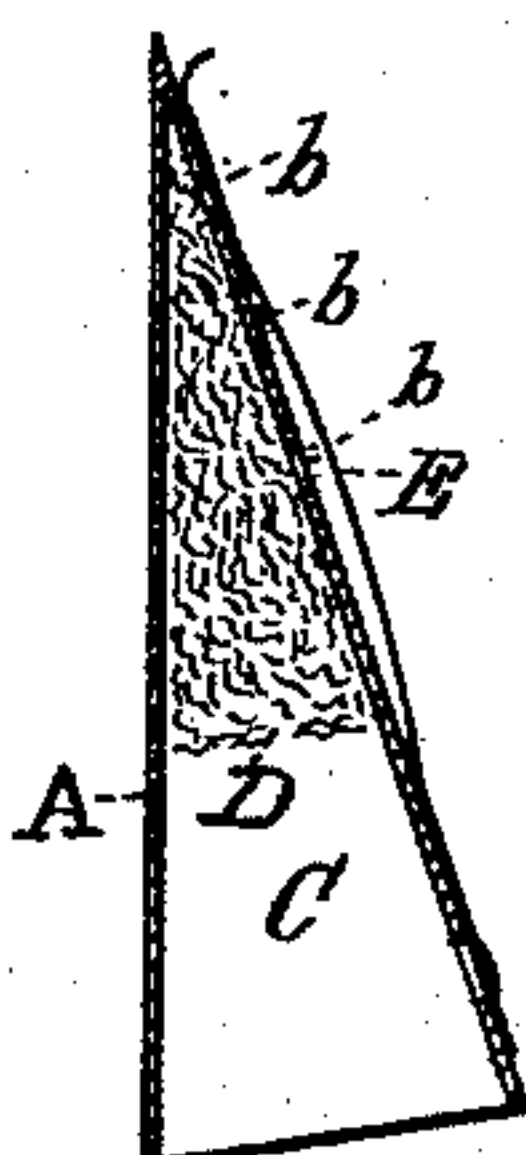


FIG.5

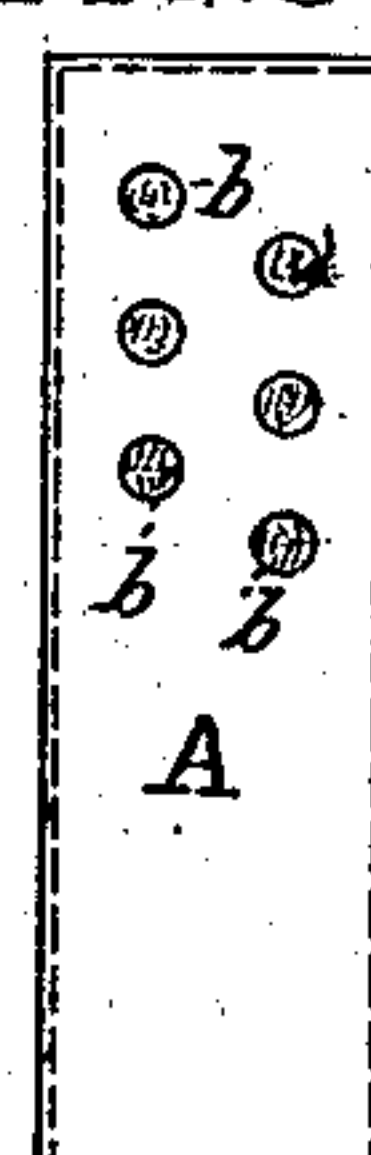
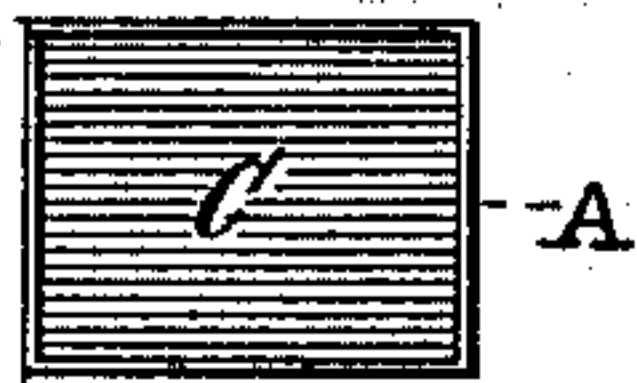


FIG.6



Witnesses.

Thomas J. Dewby.

Chas. A. Dwy.

Inventor.

Charles S. Watson.

per Stephen Ustick, atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES S. WATSON, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

ENVELOPE-MOISTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 282,247, dated July 31, 1883.

Application filed March 29, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES S. WATSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Envelope Moisteners and Closers, of which the following is a specification.

My invention consists of a hollow wedge open at its butt-end to receive a wet sponge or equivalent material, and having perforations through its upper side for the passage of water or moisture from the sponge. The instrument is made in this form so as to adapt it to be slipped beneath the flap of an envelope and drawn along from end to end of the same, thereby avoiding the necessity of raising it by hand, the flap being pressed down upon the instrument by means of a spring or a finger, to cause the water to come in contact with the mucilage on its under surface.

In the accompanying drawings, which make a part of this specification, Figure 1 is top view of an envelope, B, having in connection the instrument A, in perspective, in the position for softening the mucilage on the inner side of the flap. Fig. 2 is a face view of the instrument A. Fig. 3 is an edge view of the same. Fig. 4 is a longitudinal section of Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a top view of the instrument. Fig. 6 is an end view of the same.

Like letters of reference in all the figures indicate the same parts.

A represents the envelope moistener and closer, which I make of metal or other suitable material, and of wedge form, as represented in the drawings, so that its thin end may be conveniently inserted under the flap *a* of the envelope B, for the passage of the instrument from end to end of the same. It has

a chamber, C, to hold a sponge, D, or cotton or other suitable absorbent, which is saturated with water for softening the mucilage as the instrument is drawn along under the edge of the flap *a*, the water oozing through the perforations *b*. As the instrument is drawn along under the flap the spring E presses the latter down gently to receive the water or moisture, which, as it passes through the perforations, spreads over the mucilaged surface.

The butt-end of the instrument is open for the insertion of the sponge and to afford convenience in supplying it with water as occasion requires.

If desired, for the sake of simplicity the spring E may be omitted, the forefinger in such case being used in its place; and in place of the perforations *b* in the upper side of the instrument there may be one or more slots, if desired. After the sponging of the flap the instrument is drawn over it for closing the same.

I claim as my invention—

1. An envelope moistener and closer of wedge form, having a chamber, C, for containing a sponge or other absorbent material, with perforations through its upper flat side, the butt-end of said chamber being open, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The instrument A, having a perforated chamber, C, provided with a sponge or other absorbent, D, and a spring, E, for the pressure of the flap upon the perforated face of the instrument, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

CHAS. S. WATSON.

Witnesses:

THOMAS J. BEWLEY,
STEPHEN USTICK.