(No Model.)

C. H. STRAFFIN & G. L. ROBERTSON.

OIL CAN.

No. 385,328. Patented June 26, 1888.

Fig. 1.

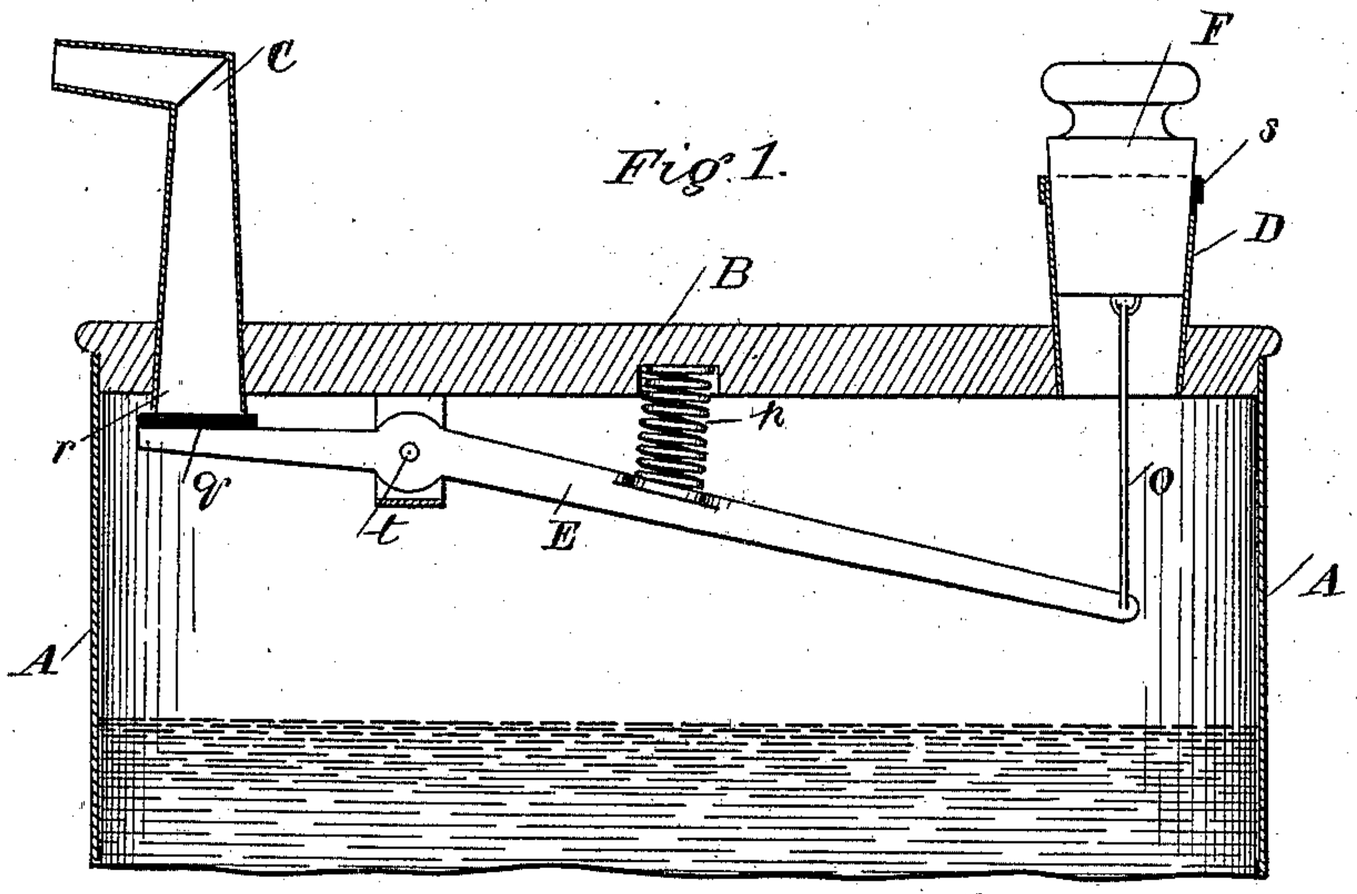


Fig. 2.

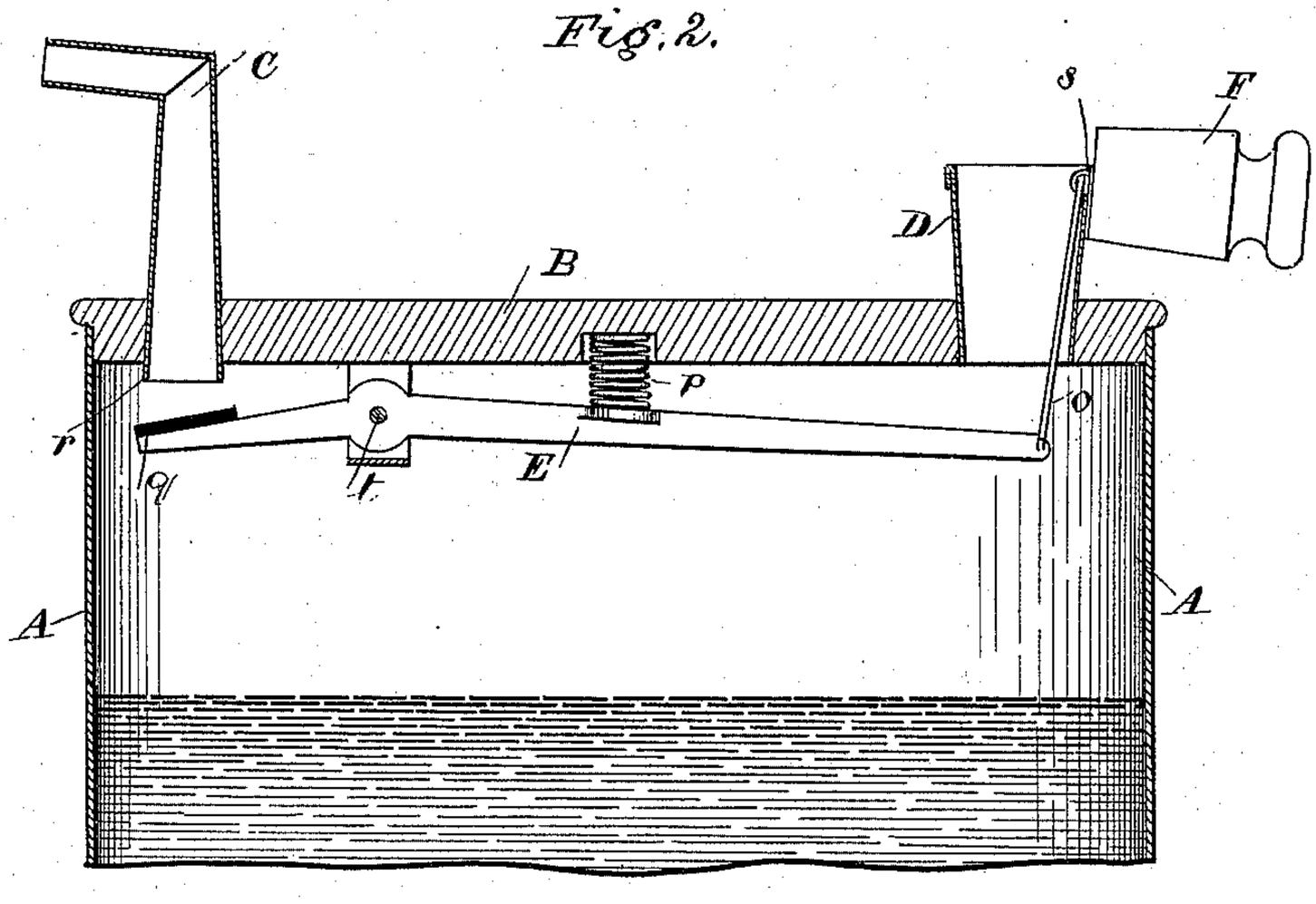


Fig. 4.

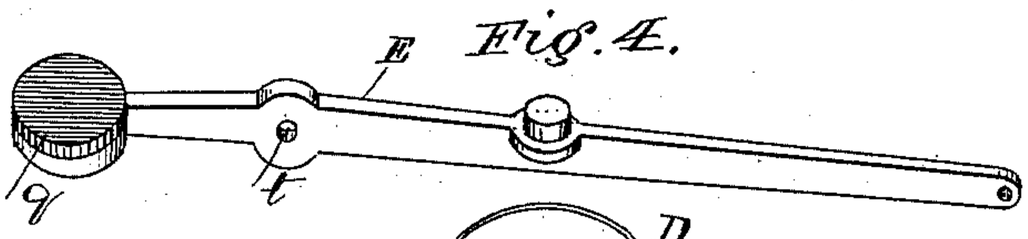
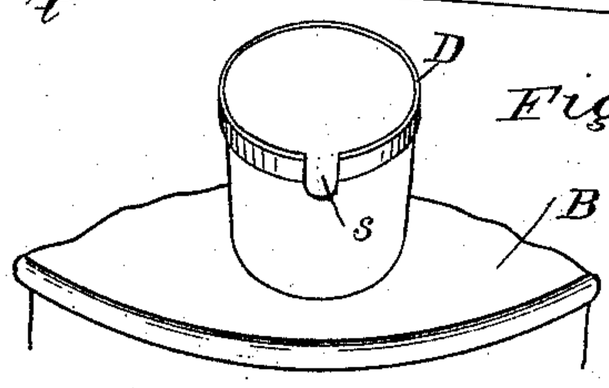


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES H. STRAFFIN AND GEORGE L. ROBERTSON, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

OIL-CAN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 385,328, dated June 26, 1888.

Application filed March 9, 1888. Serial No. 266,754. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, CHARLES H. STRAFFIN and GEORGE L. ROBERTSON, citizens of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Oil-Cans; and we hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

Our improvement relates to the class of oil-cans commonly in household use for filling lamps with illuminating-oil; and it is the object of our invention to provide a device of simple and inexpensive construction, which shall operate as a stop and vent for such oil-cans, whereby evaporation is prevented from the discharge-spout when the can is not in use, and whereby, also, vent is provided for the air within the can when the can is being replenished through the filling-aperture; and, further, to permit entrance of air to the oil-can and consequent free discharge of oil through the discharge-spout when the can is in use; and it is further our object to provide a device which shall accomplish these ends by a single movement of the manipulator.

To these ends our invention consists of an oil-can having its discharge-spout and filling-aperture toward opposite sides thereof, the discharge spout being closed by a suitable stop or valve and the filling-aperture being closed by a removable plug or stopper, and means whereby, when the said plug or stopper is removed from its normal closing position in the filling-aperture for purposes of filling or to permit entrance of atmospheric air, the valve closing the discharge-spout is automatically lifted from its seat to permit free discharge of oil, and, vice versa, upon the replacement of the plug or stopper in the filling-aperture the stop or valve closing the discharge-spout is automatically closed through its connection with the plug or stopper; and our invention consists, further, in the construction of our improved device and in certain details of the said construction and combinations of the parts therein, all as hereinafter more particularly set forth.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is a sectional view of a broken portion of an oil-can of our preferred construction, showing in elevation the mechanism of our improved stop and vent with the discharge-spout and filling-aperture closed; Fig. 2, a similar view showing the stop and vent open to permit discharge of oil; Fig. 3, a perspective view of a detail, and Fig. 4 a perspective view of another detail.

In our preferred construction, A is the cylindrical body of an oil-can, having wooden heads formed upon it, one of which, B, is shown in the drawings. A discharge-spout, C, is provided toward one side of the head B, secured upon and projecting slightly below the same to form an annular mouth, *r*, for the stop or valve hereinafter described, and toward the opposite side of the head B is a filling-aperture, D, having a slot, *s*, (shown in Fig. 3,) for a purpose hereinafter described.

A lever, E, is pivoted to the lower side of the head B at a point, *t*, somewhat nearer the discharge-spout than the filling-tube, and is provided upon its short arm with a resilient washer, *q*, of leather or other suitable material, forming a stop or valve to close the discharge-spout C when brought into contact with its projected annular mouth *r*, hereinbefore mentioned. A spring, *p*, preferably spiral, is provided upon the opposite arm of the lever E, secured between it and the lower side of the head B, and toward the extremity of this long arm of the lever E is secured a wire or chain, *o*, connecting with a plug, F, formed preferably of wood, and closing when normally in position entrance to the can by way of the filling-tube B.

To understand the operation of our improved device, suppose the parts to be normally at rest, as shown in Fig. 1, with the resilient washer *q* upon the short arm of the lever E held firmly against the annular mouth *r* by the pressure of the spring *p* against the opposite arm of the lever E, thus firmly closing the discharge-spout C. In this position the filling-tube B is closed by the plug F, also held firmly in position by its attachment *o* to the long arm of the lever E. If, now, it is desired to open the can for purposes of filling or discharging oil, it is only necessary to raise the plug or stopper F, carrying with it the long arm of the lever E against the resistance of the spring *p*, thus lowering the short arm, and with

it the resilient washer *q*, out of contact with the annular mouth *r* of the discharge-spout C. The discharge-spout and filling-tube are now open, permitting free access of atmospheric air and ready flow of oil through the discharge-spout C when the can is inclined.

If it is desired to retain the parts in this position, it is only necessary to incline the plug F sufficiently to permit its attaching-wire *o* to fall into the slot *s*, (hereinbefore mentioned,) when the parts will assume the position shown in Fig. 2.

In practice we commonly allow the device to assume the position last named when filling even a single lamp, because of its convenience in avoiding the necessity of holding up the plug F.

It is obvious that there may be many modified forms of mechanism controllable by the motion of the plug or stopper in the filling-aperture applicable to perform the function of closing the discharge-spout and opening the filling-aperture (and vice versa) simultaneously; and therefore,

Having described our invention, we desire to cover, broadly—

1. In an oil-can having a filling-aperture and a discharge-spout, a stopper to the filling-aperture and a valve to the discharge-spout, in combination with a pivoted lever connecting them, and a spring for normally maintaining the valve upon its seat to close the discharge-spout, as and for the purpose specified.

2. In combination, in an oil-can, a filling-aperture, D, and a discharge-spout, C, a pivoted lever, E, a valve, *q*, carried upon one of its arms, a spring, *p*, for normally maintaining the valve upon its seat to close the discharge-spout, a stopper, F, to close the filling-aperture, and means for connecting it with the other arm of the lever, by which the said lever may be operated, as and for the purpose specified.

3. In an oil can, a filling-aperture, D, its wall provided with a notch, *s*, a discharge-spout, C, a pivoted lever, E, a valve, *q*, carried upon one of its arms, a spring, *p*, for normally maintaining the valve upon its seat to close the discharge-spout, a stopper, F, to close the filling-aperture, and a link, *o*, adapted to lie within the notch *s* in the wall of the filling-aperture, and thus to engage the stopper in a raised position, as described, when desired, whereby the lever E may be sustained in such position that the valve *q* is off of its seat and the discharge-spout open, substantially as specified.

4. In an oil-can, a filling aperture, D, and a discharge-spout, C, in combination with a lever, E, and a stopper, F, and a valve, *q*, attached to opposite arms of said lever in such manner that the stopper may operate the said lever, and thereby the said valve, to remove it from its seat upon the discharge-spout, as and for the purpose specified.

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