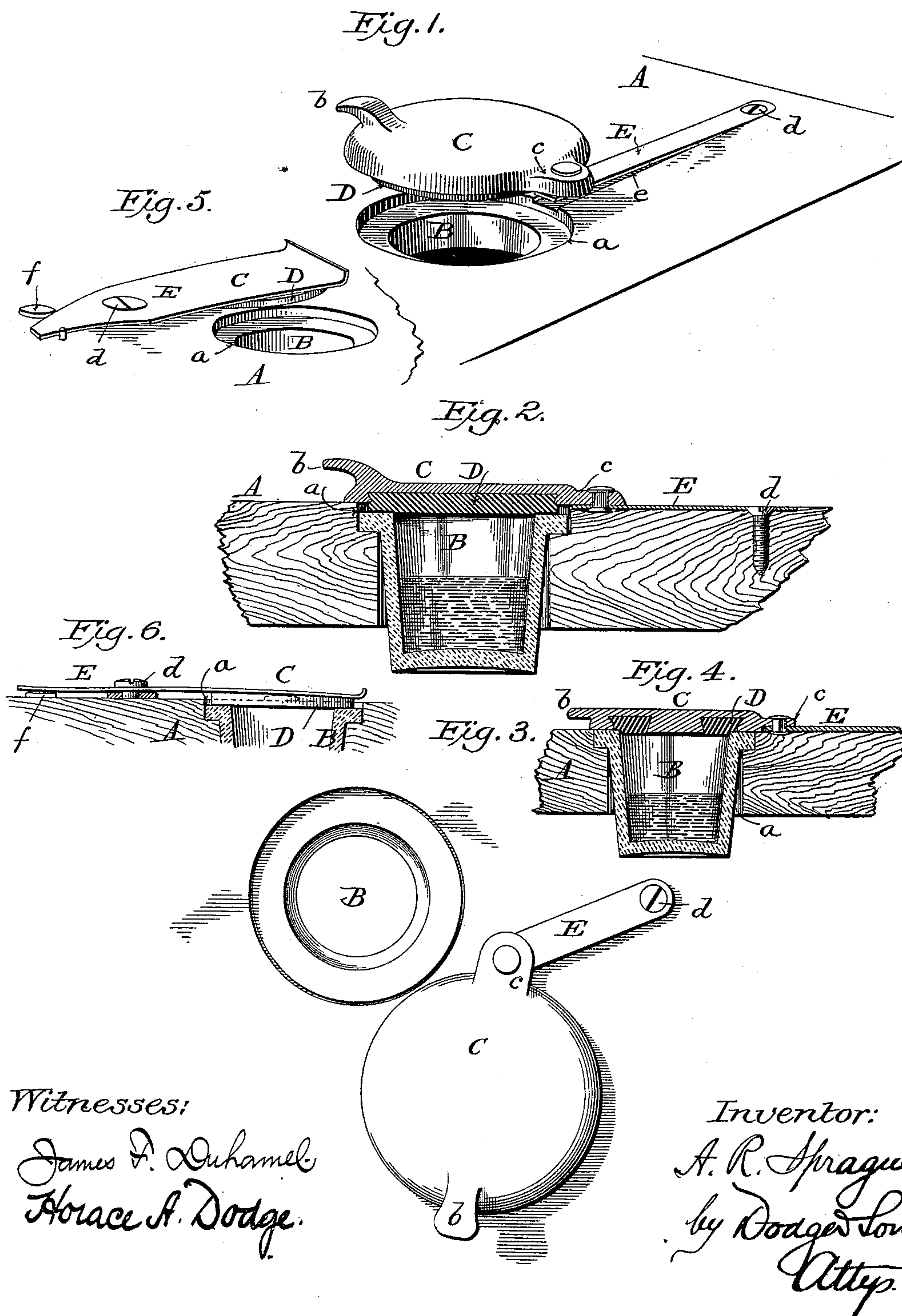


(No Model.)

A. R. SPRAGUE.
INK WELL.

No. 405,921.

Patented June 25, 1889.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALMERIN R. SPRAGUE, OF RACINE, WISCONSIN.

INK-WELL.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 405,921, dated June 25, 1889.

Application filed March 14, 1889. Serial No. 303,295. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALMERIN R. SPRAGUE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Racine, in the county of Racine and State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Ink-Wells, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to ink-wells, and has reference more particularly to a novel construction of the cover of the same and the means for securing said cover in position, as hereinafter set forth and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a portion of a desk provided with my improved ink-well; Fig. 2, a sectional view of the same; and Figs. 3, 4, 5, and 6, views illustrating slight modifications.

The object of the present invention is to produce an ink-well that shall be simple and cheap in construction, and one that shall be practically air-tight, preventing the evaporation of the ink and the accumulation of dust, &c.

A indicates a desk provided with a hole or opening *a*, having a shoulder at its upper end to receive and support the well B. In the drawings I have shown the opening and the well as being circular in cross-section, as this is the ordinary mode of making this class of ink-wells; but I do not wish to limit myself to this particular form of well or opening, as it is obvious that other forms may be substituted therefor.

C indicates the cover proper, which will visibly be made of cast-iron, said cover being provided on its under face with a socket or recess to receive a packing-disk D, of rubber, leather, cork, or other suitably-yielding material, which is adapted to fit closely over the mouth of the ink-well and prevent the entrance of air or dust.

The cover C may be provided with a handle *b* and with an ear *c*, which latter is connected to a spring E, secured to the desk-top by means of a screw *d*, or in any equivalent manner. The connection of the cover to the spring is such as to permit the cover to swing laterally with reference to the spring, or to swing with the same.

If the cover is designed to swing or turn laterally with reference to the spring, as represented in Figs. 1 and 3, the top of the desk

will preferably be recessed, as at *e*, so as to receive and seat the spring E; but in case it is desired that the cover should not swing relatively to the spring, as in Figs. 4, 5, and 6, the top of the desk need not be recessed. In the latter case the rivet connecting the cover with the spring should be angular in cross-section, as represented in Fig. 4, so as to prevent the cover from moving relatively to the spring. Even where the cover moves relatively to the spring it is not necessary to recess the top of the desk, the spring being secured to the upper face of the desk, as represented in Fig. 3.

It is not essential that the ink-well be seated below the top of the desk, as it is apparent that it may be flush with the latter, as represented in Fig. 4.

When it is desired to use the well, it is only necessary to raise the cover slightly, overcoming the resistance of the spring-arm E and to swing the cover laterally either with reference to the spring or with the latter, according to whichever construction may be adopted. The spring-arm exerts a downward pressure upon the cover and holds the latter at all times down upon the top of the well, thereby effecting a tight joint between the packing-disk D and the said well.

It is obvious that the packing D need not be in the form of a disk, as a packing-ring, as represented in Fig. 4, may be used with equally good results, the use of the ring, however, requiring a slight change in the form of the socket or recess in the under face of the cover.

In the construction shown in Figs. 5 and 6 the spring-arm E is adapted to act also as a cover, said arm being provided with a packing D on its under face.

Where the construction shown in Figs. 5 and 6 is adopted, I provide the desk with a lug or projection *f*, upon which the rear end of the spring shall rest, and which shall cause the spring to exert a downward pressure upon the packing when the latter is in position on the top of the well. A similar lug (shown in dotted lines in Fig. 6) is adapted to receive the cover when it is moved laterally and to hold it up off the top of the desk.

I am aware that it has been proposed to encircle the pivot of an ink-well cover by a spiral spring, so as to hold the cover down upon the

mouth of the well, and I am also aware that an inkstand has been provided with a laterally-swinging cover and with a spring to return it to its normal position, and to these features, 5 separately and broadly considered, I make no claim.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

10 1. In combination with a desk having an ink-well, a flat spring-arm E, pivoted to the desk, and a cover secured to the arm, all substantially as shown, the arm being adapted to swing laterally with reference to the ink-well and to exert a downward pressure thereon.

15 2. In combination with a desk provided with an ink-well B, a laterally-swinging cover C, adapted to fit upon the top of the ink-well, and a flat spring E, secured at one end to the cover and at the opposite end to the desk and 20 adapted to exert a downward pressure upon the cover.

3. In combination with a desk provided with an ink-well, a laterally-swinging cover C and a flat spring E, secured at one end to the desk and pivotally connected at its other end 25 with the cover, substantially as shown.

4. In combination with a desk provided with an ink-well having its upper surface below the top of the desk, and provided also with a recess e, a spring E, seated in said recess, 30 and a cap or cover C, pivotally connected with the free end of said spring, all substantially as shown.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of two witnesses.

ALMERIN R. SPRAGUE.

Witnesses:

L. B. BAKER,
JOHN H. HAPP.