

No. 622,400.

Patented Apr. 4, 1899.

A. SMELKER.  
CLOSURE FOR FRUIT JARS.

(Application filed Aug. 3, 1897.)

(No Model.)

FIG. 1.

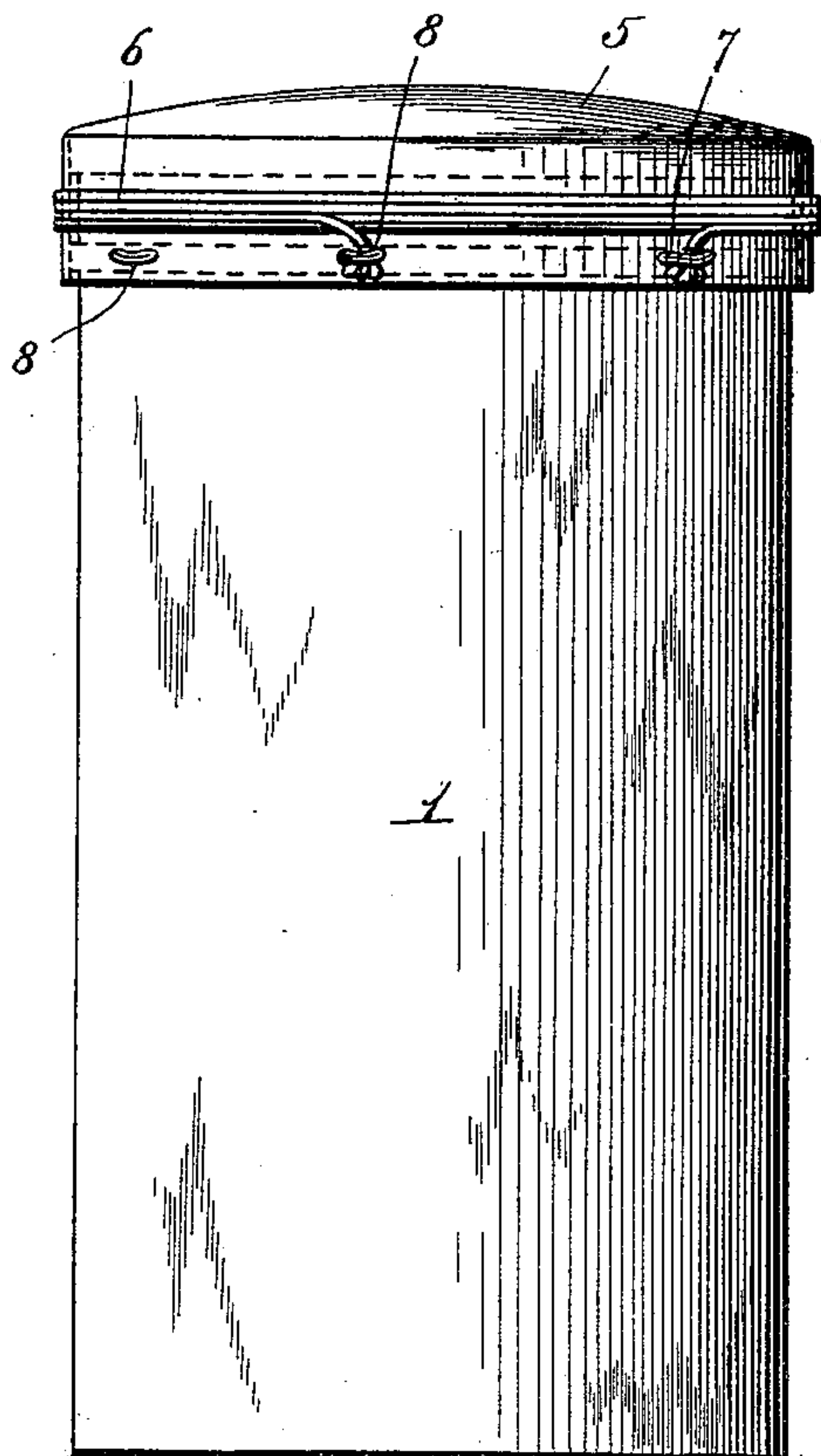


FIG. 2.

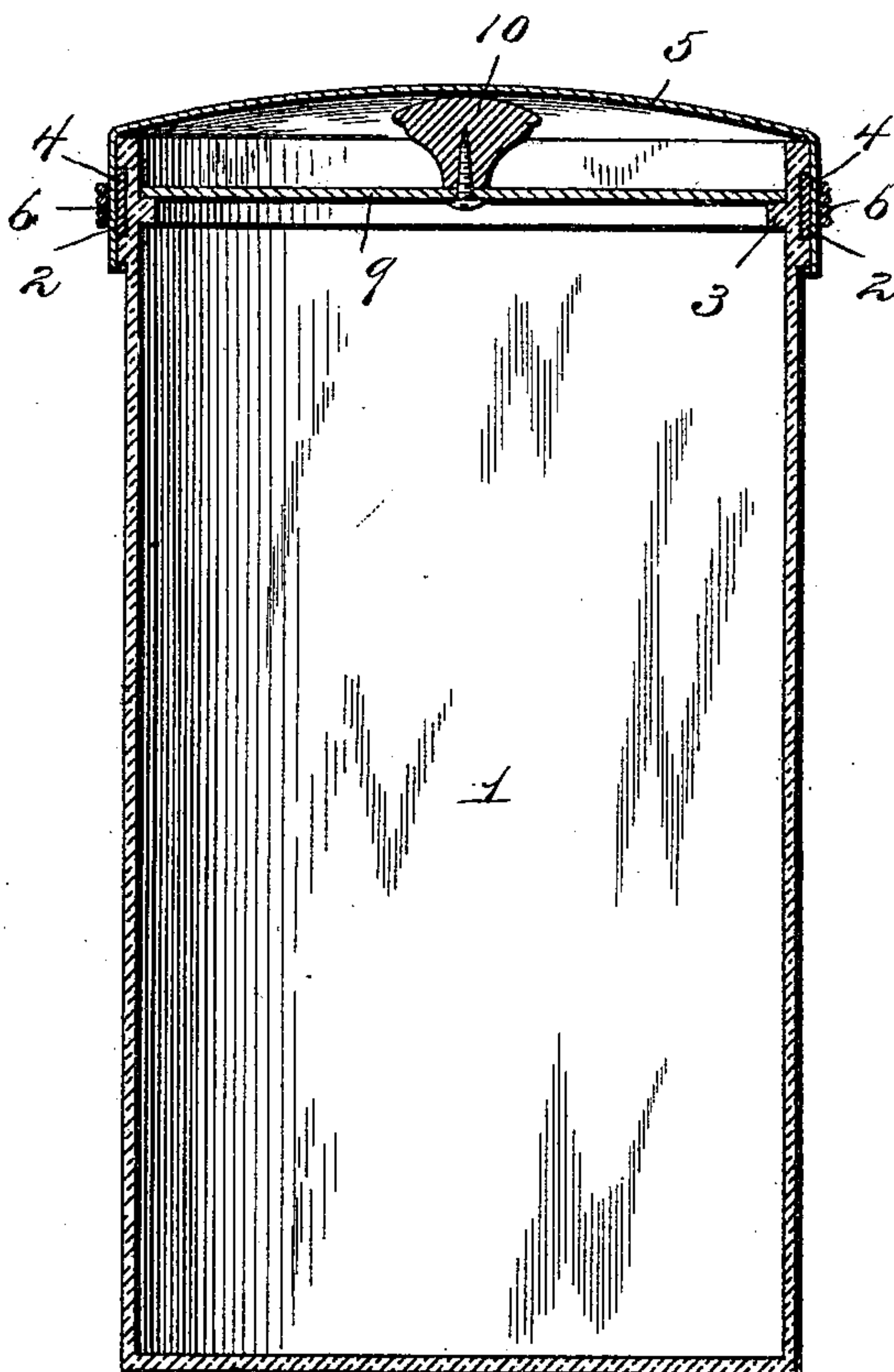
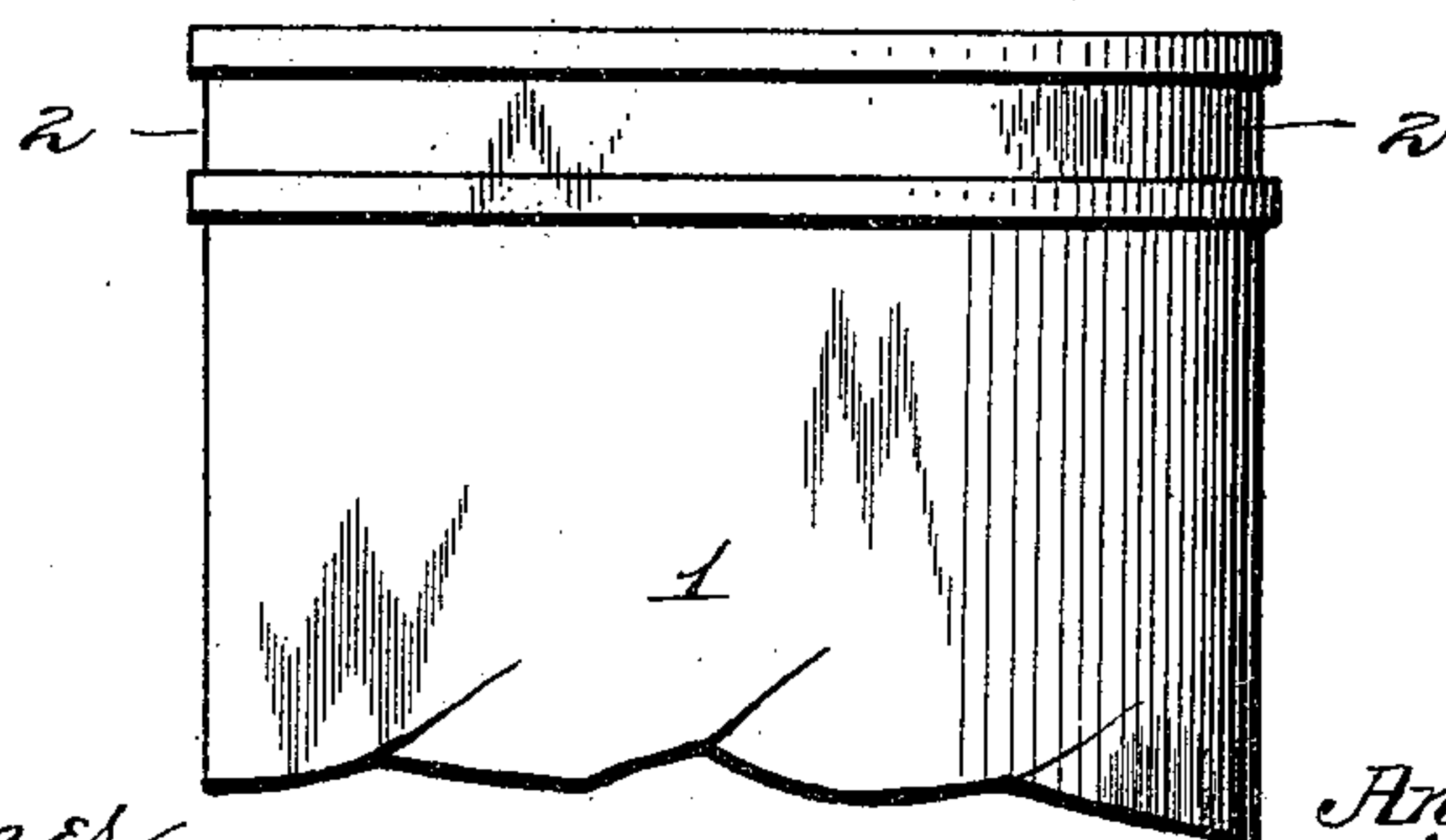


FIG. 3.



ATTEST-  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ANGELINE SMELKER, OF NORTH STAR, OHIO.

## CLOSURE FOR FRUIT-JARS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 622,400, dated April 4, 1899.

Application filed August 3, 1897. Serial No. 646,963. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ANGELINE SMELKER, of North Star, in the county of Darke and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Closures for Fruit-Jars; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to improvements in closures for fruit-jars, the object of the same being to provide a device of this character which will hermetically seal the open end of a jar and possesses the additional advantage of presenting a construction that is simple and comparatively inexpensive.

To these ends the invention consists in providing the upper end of the jar with an external annular groove or recess below its mouth and an internal annular shoulder in connection with a lid or cover fitting within the jar upon the shoulder, a rubber band seated within the annular groove, a flexible rubber cap having a pendent annular ring fitting over the upper end of the jar and provided with hooks, and a rubber or flexible cord wrapped around the depending portion of the cap to bring it in closer contact with the band and engaging the hooks on said rim to secure the ends of the cord.

In the following specification I have entered into a detail description of my invention, reference being had to the accompanying drawings and to numerals thereon, which designate the different parts.

What I consider to be the novel features of construction are specifically set forth in the claims.

In the drawings forming part of this specification, Figure 1 is a side elevation of a jar, showing my invention applied thereto. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view through the jar. Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the upper end of the jar.

Referring to the drawings by numerals, 1 designates the jar, which may be made up of glass, earthenware, or other material, and is preferably of the configuration illustrated herein, though it will be obvious that the closure could be applied to a jar of any style or shape. In forming the jar the upper end

below the mouth is provided with an external recess or groove 2, extending around the same, and within the neck or open end of the jar is formed an annular shoulder 3 a suitable distance below the upper end. In connection with the groove or recess in the outer surface of the neck I employ a wide rubber band 4, which is stretched over the neck and seated within said groove or recess for use in connection with a rubber cap or closure 5, which covers the open end of the jar and is of a size presenting a depending rim which extends below the band. The rim of the rubber closure or cap is preferably of smaller diameter than the neck to require it to be stretched over the said neck, and thereby embrace the same closely. Ordinarily this would be sufficient to form an air-tight cover for the jar; but in order to preclude any possibility of air finding its way between the rim of the cover and neck of the jar a rubber or flexible cord 6 is wrapped around the rim at the point thereof over the rubber band and brings it in close and secure contact therewith.

My invention includes certain attachments or devices for holding the rubber cord in place, consisting of wire hooks 7 and 8, into which the ends of the cord are passed after being first provided with rings. To accommodate the length of the cord, a series of the hooks 8 are arranged around the lower edge of the rim of the flexible cap or cover, as shown.

Before placing the rubber closure or cap on the end of the jar a disk or lid 9 is placed within the mouth to rest upon the annular shoulder therein, the said disk or lid having a knob or handle 10, which extends upward slightly above the mouth to be engaged by the upper part of the cap and held in place thereby. This lid not only forms a partition between the fruit and rubber cap, but also provides a covering which is employed when the cap is removed and the contents of the jar are being used.

From the foregoing it will be apparent that I provide a closure for fruit-jars that will effectively exclude air and serve to properly keep the fruit, the particular construction and arrangement providing a device that can be quickly and conveniently applied and is readily removed when it is desired to have



access to the jar. It will be understood that the rubber caps can be manufactured at a small cost, and the expense of the other parts is also very trivial.

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

10 1. In a closure for fruit-jars, the combination with a jar having an annular groove or recess in the outer surface of its neck, of a rubber band seated in said recess, a flexible rubber cap or closure having a pendent annular rim adapted to be forced over the neck of the jar and the rubber band thereon to  
15 frictionally engage the latter, a flexible cord wrapping said rim and band, and means for engaging the ends of said cord, substantially as described.

20 2. In a closure for fruit-jars, the combination with the jar having an annular groove or recess around its neck, and an annular shoulder in its mouth, of a rubber band seated within the recess, a lid within the mouth resting upon the annular shoulder and provided  
25 with a raised central knob or handle, a flexible rubber cap or closure stretched over the

neck of the jar to frictionally engage the rubber band and to press on the handle of the lid for holding the latter in place, a flexible cord wrapped around said rim and band, and  
30 means on said rim for engaging the ends of the cord, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. In a closure for fruit-jars, the combination with the jar, of a rubber band encircling  
35 its neck, a flexible rubber cap or closure having a pendent rim placed over the mouth of the jar to engage the rubber band, hooks on said pendent rim, and an elastic or flexible cord wrapped around the rim of the cap or  
40 cover over the rubber band and having its ends in engagement with the hooks on the pendent rim, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

45 In testimony whereof I have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ANGELINE SMELKER.

Witnesses:

T. C. MAHER,  
ORA D. STOCKER.