No. 672,958. Patented Apr. 30, 1901.

J. McELLIGOTT.

INSECT BAFFLER.

(Application filed Aug. 24, 1900.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

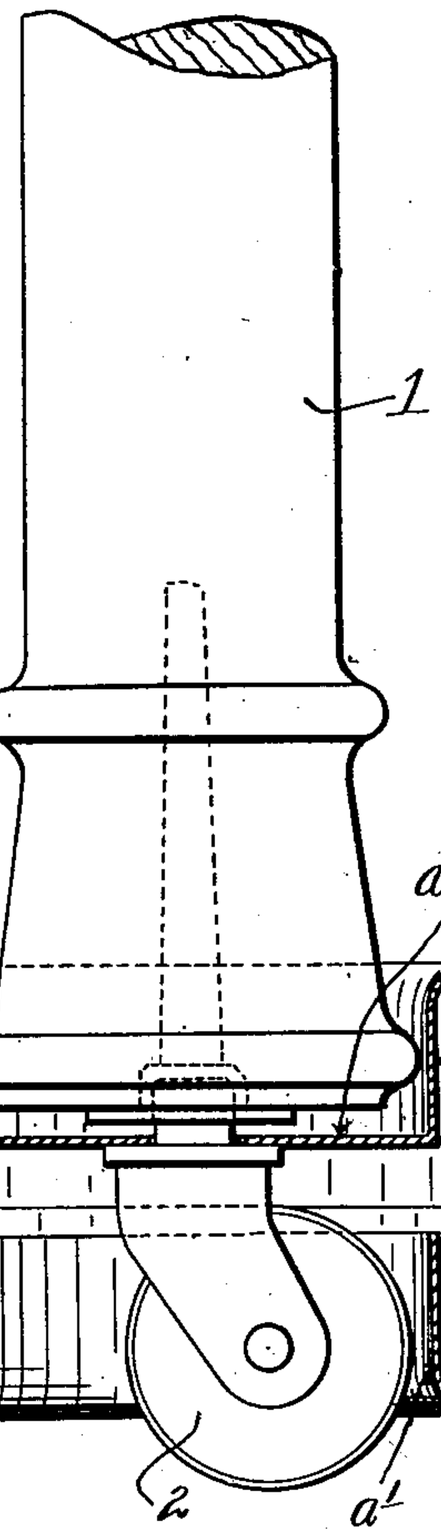


Fig. 2.

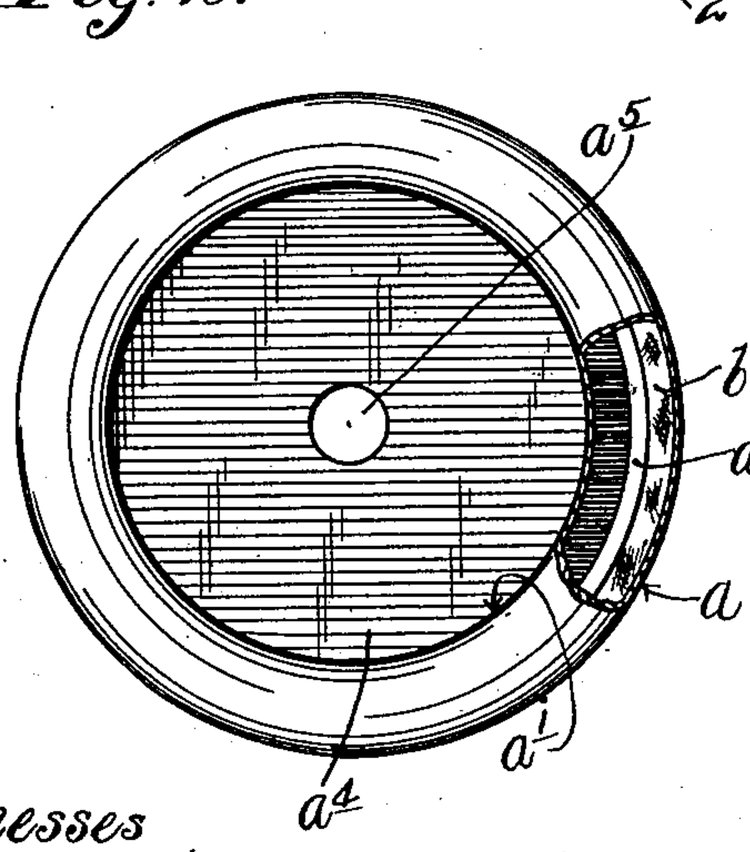
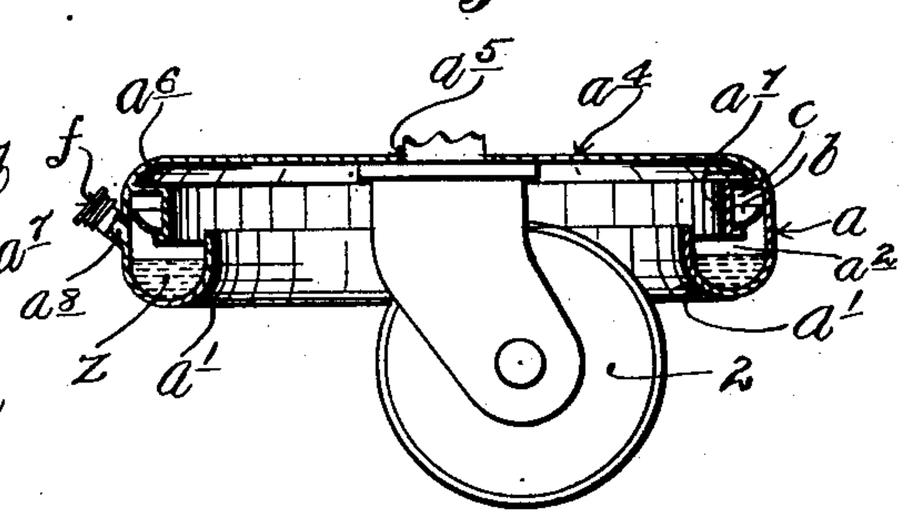


Fig. 3.



Witnesses
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Robert Otto

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES McELLIGOTT, OF MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

INSECT-BAFFLER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 672,958, dated April 30, 1901.

Application filed August 24, 1900. Serial No. 27,939. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES McELLIGOTT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Minneapolis, in the county of Hennepin and State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Insect-Bafflers; 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.

My invention has for its object to provide a simple and efficient device for preventing insects and vermin from crawling from the floor or ground onto beds, tables, chests, and other places; and to this end it consists of the novel devices and combinations of devices hereinafter described, and defined in the claims. For the sake of a name I term this device an "insect-baffler."

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein like characters indicate like parts throughout the several views.

Figure 1 shows a portion of the leg of a bed with one of my improved devices applied in working position thereto, the said device being shown in section. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the device removed from working position, some parts being broken away; and Fig. 3 is a transverse section illustrating a modified construction of the device.

The numeral 1 indicates a portion of the leg of a bed, which is provided with an ordinary caster 2.

The body of the baffler or device is in the form of a thin metal cylinder *a*, the lower end of which is turned inward and upward, as shown at a', to form an annular cup or liquid-containing receptacle a^2. The upper end of the cylinder *a* is turned inward and downward, as shown at a^3, and is closed by a plate or disk portion a^4, having a central perforation a^5. Cylinder *a* is formed with an internal flange a^6, having a depending annular section a^7, extending inward of but concentric with the said cylinder *a*.

b indicates a pliable ring or annular strip of soft rubber, felt, or other suitable material, which forms a loose joint with the interior of the cylinder *a*. The strip *b* coöperates with flanges a^6 and a^7 and the adjacent portion of the cylinder *a* to form an annular catch-chamber *c*.

a^8 indicates a neck or nipple which opens through the cylinder *a* below the pliable strip *b*. Normally this neck a^8 is closed by a removable cap *f*, which when removed permits a liquid *z* to be poured into the annular cup or receptacle a^2. This liquid *z* may be water, or it may be a disinfecting liquid.

When the device is applied as shown in Fig. 1, it is held in place with its lower portion above the floor by the caster 2, the stem of which is passed through the perforation a^5 of the disk-section a^4.

With the device applied as shown an insect may crawl up the caster and around over the inner surfaces of the disk a^4, flange a^8, cylinder *a*, and flanges a^6 and a^7 until it reaches the pliable strip *b*. It will then either drop into the liquid *z* and be drowned or killed by the action of the liquid, or it may pass upward between the said strip *b* and the cylinder *a* into the annular catch-chamber *c*. Once into the catch-chamber *c* it can never get out, as the pliable strip *b* will yield only to an upward pressure. Hence it will be seen that it will be impossible for the insect to reach the leg 1.

The construction illustrated in Fig. 2 is much the same as that indicated in Figs. 1 and 3, except that the upper portion of the device is dispensed with and the flat top portion 4^a is directly connected to the cylinder *a* just above the internal flange a^6. The plate 4^a is also provided with a central perforation 5^a, corresponding to the perforation a^5 of the device above illustrated. This device may be applied in the same manner as is the device illustrated in Fig. 1; but it has the advantage that it may be applied to a device such as an ice chest or box, which while it has rollers has no legs, or, if it has legs, such as are very large.

The purposes which this device will serve are many. It will prevent bedbugs from crawling from the floor onto the bed and will prevent ants from crawling onto tables, into ice-chests, and other places.

It will also be understood that the device is capable of considerable modification within the scope of my invention.

In case the device to which my improved insect baffler or trap is to be applied has not casters, pins or stub-legs may be used in their

stead. It will also be understood that the body of the baffler or trap may take various other forms than the cylindrical or annular form illustrated and may, for instance, be square, triangular, or segmental in form.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is as follows:

1. An insect baffler or trap having an endless catch-chamber and a flexible endless strip closing the entrance thereto for permitting ingress, and preventing egress of the insects, substantially as described.

2. An insect baffler or trap, comprising the body a, with inwardly and upwardly turned end a' forming the endless chamber a^2, the endless internal flange a^6 with depending flange-section a^7, and the endless pliable strip b, located between the lower portion of said flange a^7 and the inner surface of said body a, said parts operating, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JAMES McELLIGOTT.

Witnesses:
HARRY KILGORE,
F. D. MERCHANT.