

No. 675,818.

Patented June 4, 1901.

J. N. CRABB.
FOUNTAIN MOISTENER.

(Application filed Dec. 8, 1900.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

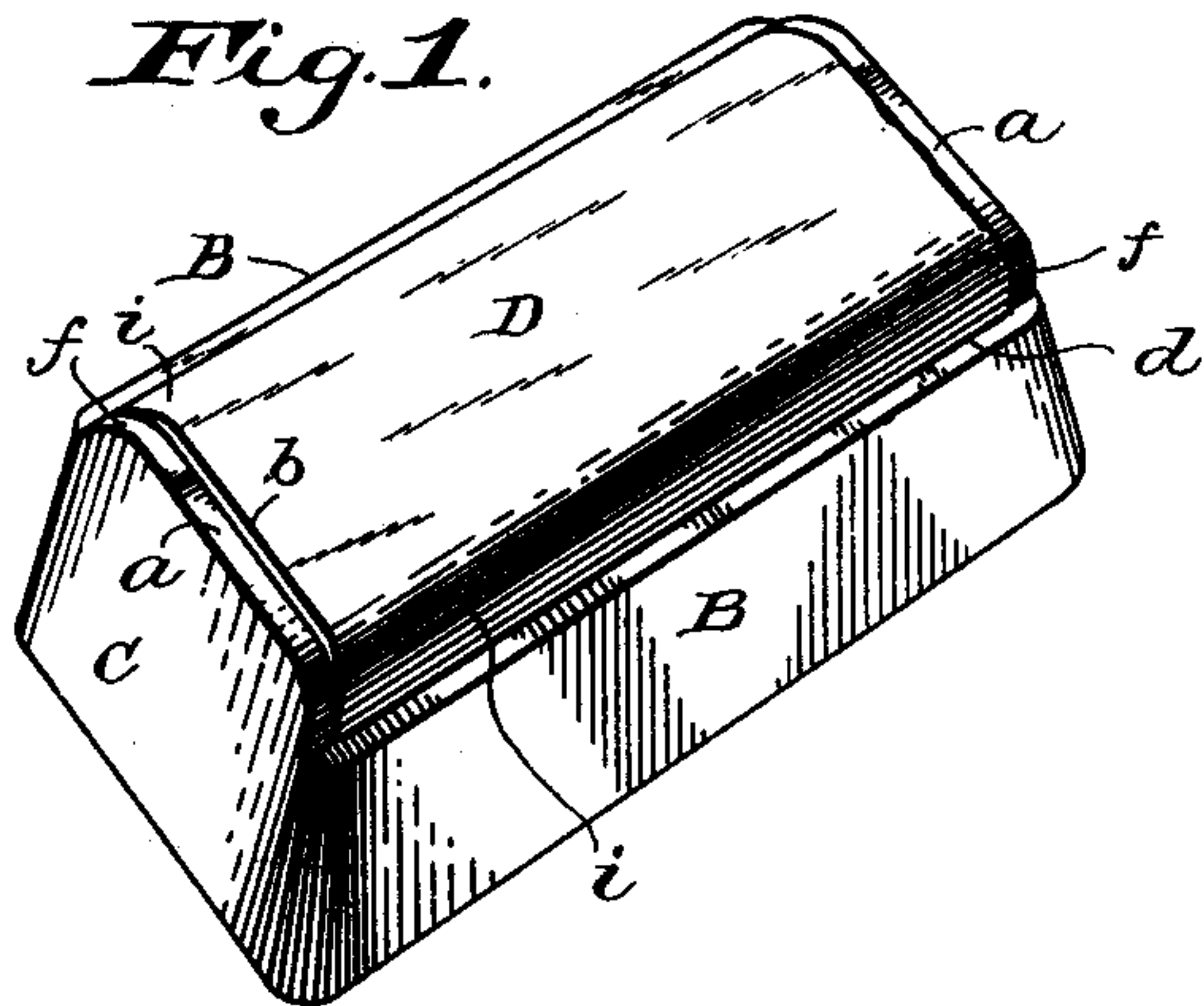


Fig. 2.

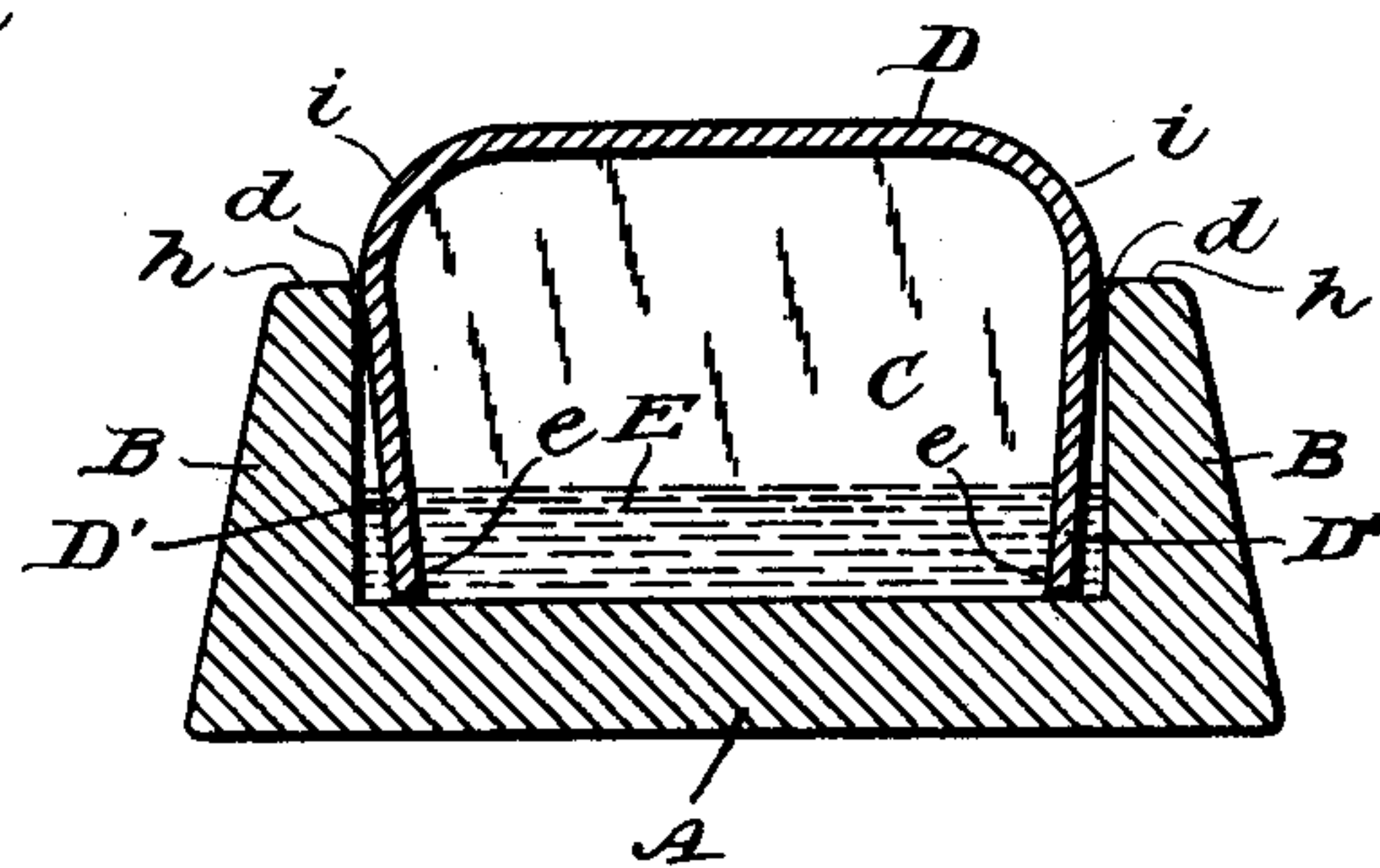


Fig. 3.

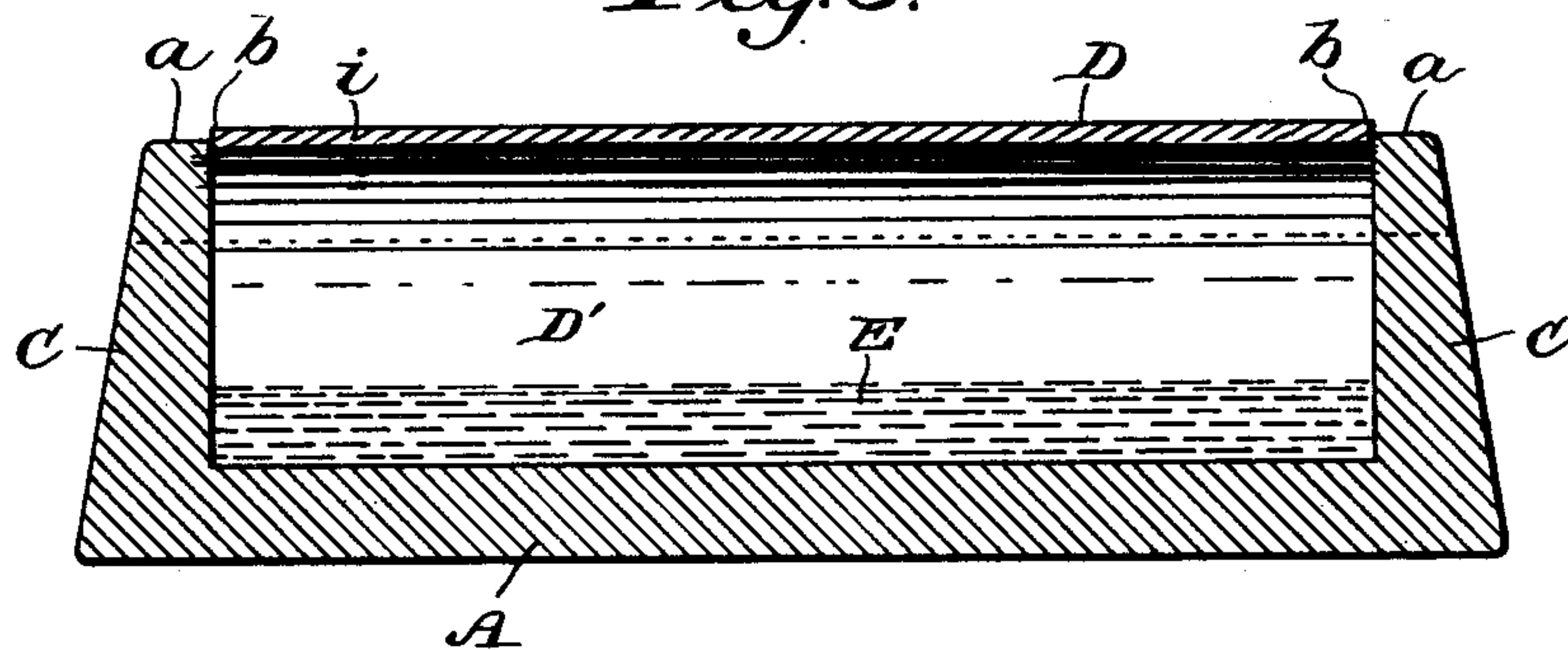
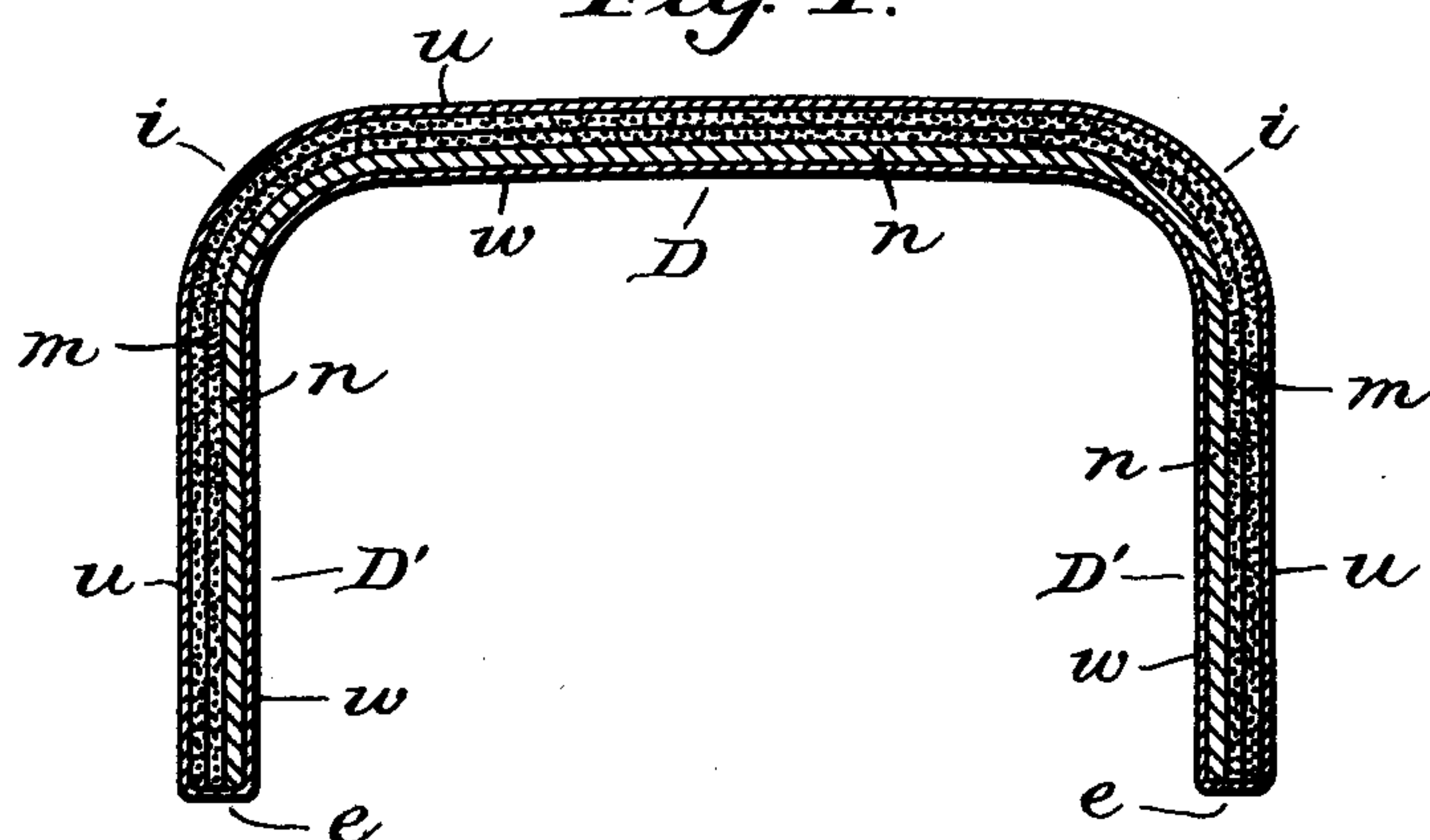


Fig. 4.



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FOUNTAIN-MOISTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 675,818, dated June 4, 1901.

Application filed December 8, 1900. Serial No. 39,148. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES N. CRABB, a citizen of the United States, residing at Indianapolis, in the county of Marion and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fountain-Moisteners; and I do 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, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to an article that is designed to be used for moistening the adhesive gum on envelopes and postage-stamps and the like or for moistening a person's fingers when counting paper money and in similar occupations.

The object of the invention is to provide a moistener of this character which may contain a sufficient quantity of water or other liquid to avoid the necessity of frequent attention and refilling and in which only the desired degree of moisture may be supplied to the parts from which it is to be taken in use.

A further object is to provide suitable contact-surfaces so that in one device the fingers may be conveniently applied thereto on rounded surfaces as well as gummed paper to flat surfaces; and a still further object is to provide a simple and cheaply-constructed device for the above purposes which may be easily kept in good condition and be durable and economical in use.

My invention consists in a fount and a removable liquid-absorbing contact-plate of new and novel form connected in a peculiar manner with the fount; and it consists, further, in the parts and combination and arrangement of parts, as hereinafter particularly described, and pointed out in the claims appended.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 represents a moistener perspective as constructed in accordance with my invention; Fig. 2, a transverse vertical sectional view of the same, taken approximately at the longitudinal center thereof; Fig. 3, a longitudinal vertical sectional view of the device, taken ap-

proximately at the transverse center thereof; and Fig. 4, a transverse vertical sectional view of the removable contact-plate, showing details of construction thereof when built up of laminated parts.

Similar reference-letters in the several views of the drawings designate like parts.

In construction I provide a suitable fount having an open top and which is water-tight in other respects, being best formed of molded glass, although other material may be applicable. The fount comprises a bottom A, vertical sides B B, substantially parallel, and vertical ends C C, also substantially parallel, but in lines at right angles to the lines of the sides, so that in plan the fount is oblong and rectangular, thus affording suitable proportions; but obviously I may adopt other plan contours. The ends C C extend upward above the sides, so that the upper faces *a a* of the ends respectively shall be slightly above the upper faces *h h* of the sides when the fount is in operative position. Therefore the distance from the bottom A to the upper face *a* of an end is greater than that from the bottom to the face *h* of a side. The faces *a a* are either straight or slightly arched and have rounded ends *f*. The inner edges *d d* of the upper faces *h h* of the sides are beveled, so that any surplus water on the exterior of the contact-plate may be caught, as in troughs, and prevented from flowing over the faces *h h*. Also any excess of water at the edges of the contact-plate will be conducted by the adjacent high parts of the ends to the interior of the fount. Thus the exterior of the fount cannot become wet or soiled, as occurs in most articles of this character. Preferably the fount is relatively weighty and broad-bottomed, so that it may not be accidentally upset.

The contact-plate D may be composed of any suitable material in which capillary attraction may be induced—such as wicking, felt, or blotting-paper—and it may be provided, when the material may require it, with suitable stiffening material whereby to maintain the desired form. - Considered broadly, it comprises a sheet or plate, preferably rectangular and of suitable thickness and plan dimensions, governed by the proportions of the fount to which it is to be connected. The

sheet is bent at two parallel lines, so that in cross-section it will be substantially an inverted U shape when in operative position; but the central portion D, which comprises the contact-plate proper, is but slightly curved, or it may be a plane surface, and the limbs D' D' form the supports and feeders for the contact-plate, being preferably formed integrally, as above indicated, as a matter of economy. When in position, the bottoms *e e* of the limbs rest upon the bottom A of the fount, either close to or slightly distant from the sides B B, and extend up to the top edges *h h*, and thence as curves to form rounded corners *i i*, and thence to the center and meet, the portion between the corners *i i* being thus adapted to have flat paper applied thereto to be moistened, while the corners are suitable to be conveniently grasped between the thumb and fingers of the hand. It is so designed that the limbs D' D' shall elastically press against the inner sides of the fount sides, at or near the tops thereof, and the upper surface at the edges *b b* may be slightly above the faces *a a*.

As at present advised, I preferably construct the contact-plate and its integral limbs as indicated in Fig. 4, in which *m* designates the feeding material, as two layers of blotting-paper, *n* a metallic stiffening-plate frame at the under and inner sides of the feeding material, and *u* a muslin covering and protector for the feeding material. This covering may extend only over the exterior surfaces and be attached to the other parts at the bottoms *e e*, or it may also extend as a lining *w* throughout the under and inner surfaces of the stiffening-plate frame, according to fancy.

In practical use the contact-plate (which also serves as an effectual cover for excluding dust from the interior of the fount) may be taken at the corners *i i* between the thumb and fingers and easily lifted from its position. Then the fount may be supplied with a suitable quantity of water E, and by pressing against the exterior of the limbs D' D' they may be again inserted in the fount, when the feeding will begin, water slowly rising in the feeding material in each limb until it meets at about the center of the contact-plate, the latter being thus kept continually supplied as rapidly as the water evaporates or is taken off in practical use. Any gum that may collect upon the top of the contact-plate may be washed off without detriment to the plate. The flap of an envelop may be laid momen-

tarily upon the contact-plate and moistened in a rapid manner, and its further application will be readily apparent.

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

1. A fountain-moistener including a fount having two opposing sides, and a contact-plate having elastic limbs extending against the opposing sides and frictionally retained thereby.

2. A moistener including a fount having two opposite end projections extending above the remaining side portions, and a contact-plate substantially in the plane of the tops of the end projections and having limbs extending into the fount.

3. A moistener including a fount having two opposing sides and having two opposing ends extending above the opposing sides, and a contact-plate substantially in the plane of the tops of the opposing ends and having substantially parallel elastic limbs extending against the opposing sides and retained frictionally thereby.

4. A moistener comprising an oblong rectangular fount having the shorter ends projecting above the longer sides, and a contact-plate substantially in the plane of the tops of the ends and having rounded corners or edges at two opposite sides thereof extending down to the tops of the sides of the fount and thence into the fount.

5. In a moistener, the combination with a fount, of a contact-plate comprising a layer or layers of porous material capable of inducing capillary attraction, and a layer of stiff material forming a support for the porous material at the under side thereof, said layers together forming practically a continuous table-plate and supporting and feeding limbs extending into the fount, the limbs elastically pressing against the inner faces of the fount sides and retained frictionally thereby.

6. In a fountain-moistener, the combination of the fount having the elevated ends, the contact-plate in the plane of the tops of the elevated ends and having the central plane surface and the opposing rounded-corner surfaces and having the limbs elastically engaging the sides of the fount, as set forth.

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

JAMES N. CRABB.

Witnesses:

WM. H. PAYNE,
E. T. SILVIUS.