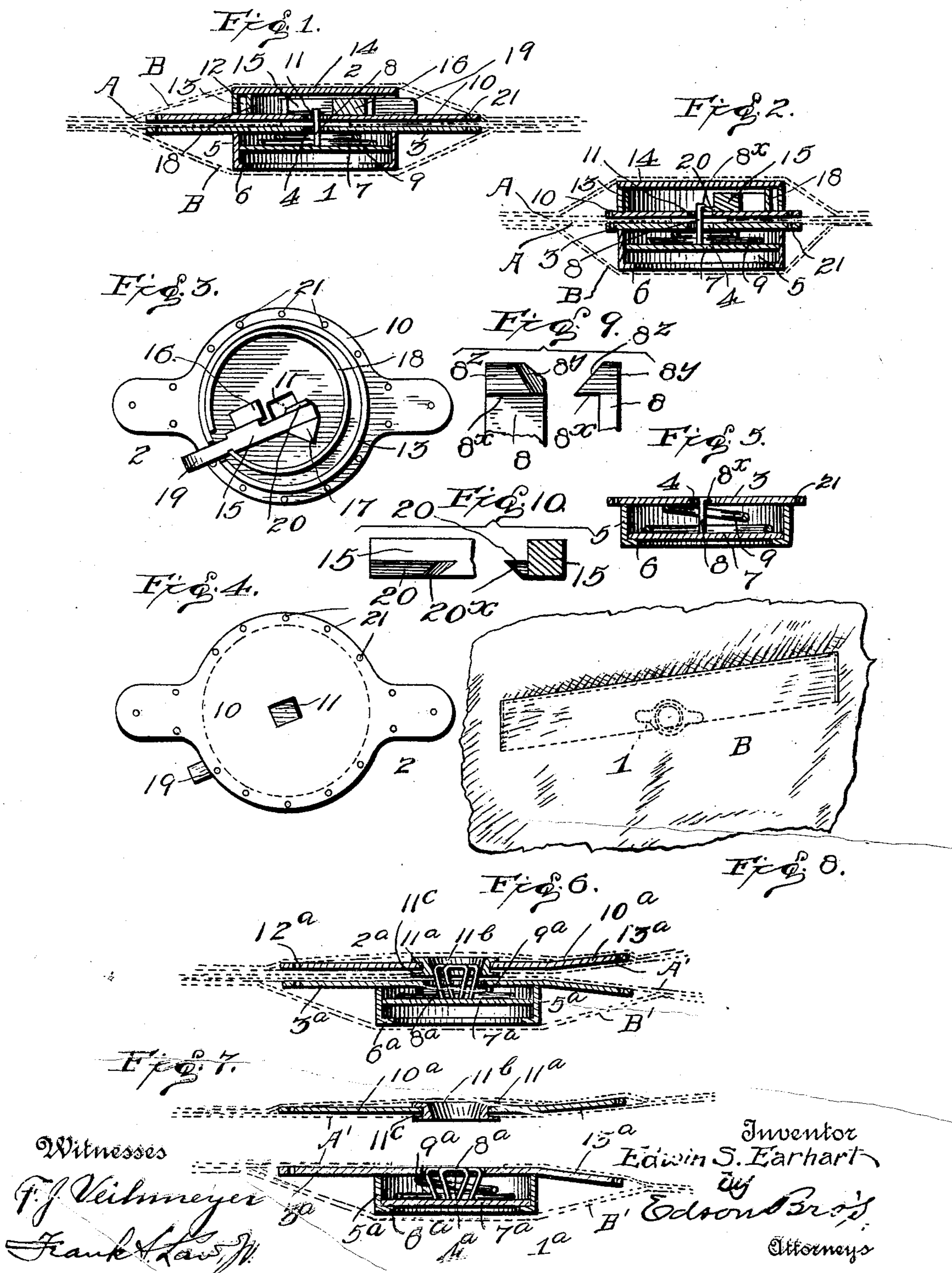


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PATENTED JUNE 5, 1906.

E. S. EARHART.
POCKET FASTENER.
APPLICATION FILED JULY 15, 1905.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWIN S. EARHART, OF CHICKASHA, INDIAN TERRITORY.

POCKET-FASTENER.

No. 822,834.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWIN S. EARHART, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chickasha, in the southern district of Indian Territory, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Pocket-Fasteners; 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 relates to clasps or fasteners particularly adapted for holding garment-pockets closed to prevent loss of the contents thereof either by accident or by theft. Said fasteners may also be used for fastening pocket-books and other articles within the pocket by securing one of the members of the fastener to the pocket-book or other article and the other member to the lining of the pocket.

The invention consists, broadly, of a socket member and a member having a button or plunger which may be pressed into engagement with the socket member, but when not engaged with the socket member is automatically retracted to a position where it is substantially flush with the surface of the material to which it is attached. This renders the device particularly adapted for fastening a pocket, as the plunger when withdrawn or retracted presents no obstruction to the passage of the hand into the pocket.

In the accompanying drawings, illustrating the preferred embodiment of my invention, Figure 1 is a longitudinal central sectional view, on an enlarged scale, through the two members of the preferred form of fastener in engagement with each other. Fig. 2 is a central cross-sectional view thereof. Fig. 3 is an interior plan view of the socket member of the fastener, the cover-plate of the catch-containing drum being removed. Fig. 4 is a plan view of the socket member looking at the outerface of the securing-plate. Fig. 5 is a central cross-sectional view of the plunger member alone, showing the plunger withdrawn. Fig. 6 is a longitudinal central sectional view through the two members of a modified form of fastener in engagement with each other. Fig. 7 is a similar view, the members being separated and the plunger withdrawn within the plunger member, and Fig. 8 is a broken view showing one of my fasteners applied to a pocket. Fig. 9 comprises broken side and edge views of the plunger of the fas-

teners shown in Figs. 1 to 5; and Fig. 10 comprises a broken side view of the sliding catch of said fastener, showing the shape of the projection for engaging the catch and a sectional view through said catch looking at the inner end of said projection.

Referring more particularly to the drawings and first to the preferred form, (shown in Figs. 1 to 5,) 1 is the plunger member, and 2 is the socket member. The plunger member comprises the securing-plate 3, having a central aperture 4 and carrying a drum 5, having an inwardly-extending flange 6, confining the disk 7 within the drum. Said disk carries a plunger 8, having a hook 8^x on its end, and bears against a coiled spring 9, which when the plunger is released from the socket member automatically withdraws said plunger into the drum, where its end 8^x is substantially flush with the surface of the securing-plate 3, which forms the inner wall of the drum, as shown in Fig. 5. When the disk 7 is pressed inward, the plunger projects through the central aperture 4 for engagement with the socket member. Said socket member 2 comprises the securing-plate 10, having a central aperture 11 and carrying a drum 12, consisting of an annular rim 13 and cover-plate 14. Within the drum 12 is arranged a sliding catch 15, mounted and guided between two studs 16 and 17, engaged by a spring 18 and having a finger-piece 19 projecting from the side of said drum. There is a projection 20 on one edge of the catch which extends over the aperture 11, through which the plunger of the plunger member is adapted to be thrust for its hooked end to be engaged by said projection 20. As shown in Fig. 9, the hooked portion 8^x of the plunger is beveled laterally at 8^z, and the end which engages with the projection on the catch of the socket member is also beveled, as at 8^y. Said projection 20 of the catch 15 has its plunger-engaging end beveled, as at 20^x, as shown in Fig. 10. It will be readily seen that when the beveled portion 8^y of the plunger engages the beveled surface 20^x of the projection of the catch said catch will move longitudinally against the influence or the spring 18 to permit said plunger to snap into engagement with the projection 20. The securing-plates of both members are perforated at 21, whereby said members may be secured by sewing to the article on which they are to be used. As shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings, each of the members is arranged

between two pieces of material, (shown in dotted lines at A and B,) the inner ones A representing the lining of a pocket and the outer ones B the outer goods or a garment and the lining of the garment. A small hole is of course made in the pocket-lining corresponding to each of the operators in the securing-plates of the members.

To bring the members of the fastener into engagement with each other, the disk 7 is pressed inward by the finger through the outer goods B of the garment until the plunger snaps into place over the catch in the socket member. To release the catch, the finger-piece 19, which is arranged between the securing-plate of the socket member and the lining of the garment, is pressed, contact being had therewith very readily through the lining. As soon as the plunger is released from the catch the coiled spring pressing against the disk to which it is connected retracts said plunger within the drum 5.

In the modified form of fastener shown in Figs. 6 and 7, 1^a is the plunger member, and 2^a the socket member. As in the preferred form, the plunger member comprises a securing-plate 3^a, having a central aperture 4^a and carrying a drum 5^a, having an inwardly-extending flange 6^a, confining the disk 7^a within the drum. Said disk carries a plunger 8^a, which is formed like the ordinary glove-fastener and bears against a coiled spring 9^a, which when the plunger is released from the socket member automatically withdraws said plunger into the drum, where its end is substantially flush with the surface of the securing-plate 13^a, which forms the inner wall of the drum, as shown in Fig. 7. The plunger is projected by pressing upon the disk 7^a in the same manner as in the preferred construction. The socket member 2^a of the modified form is also made after the manner of the corresponding part of the ordinary glove-fastener. Said socket member comprises simply the securing-plate 10^a, having a central aperture 11^a, in which is fitted the clamp-plate or bushing 11^b, the inner diameter of which is such as to clamp the plunger when inserted therein. The lining of the pocket is shown at A' in Figs. 6 and 7 and the outer goods of the garment and lining of the garment at B'. Both securing-plates are provided with perforations 12^a for securing by sewing, and the pocket-lining is fastened to the socket member, as at 11^c, by the clamp-plate 11^b as well.

The operation of fastening the modified form is the same as in the preferred form, the plunger being pressed into engagement with the clamp-ring by the finger pushing upon the spring-pressed disk through the outer goods of the garment. In order to separate the members of this form of fastener, the finger is pressed between the oppositely-curved

or bent ends 13^a of the securing-plates, which can readily be done through the pocket-lining. As soon as the plunger is released it flies back within the drum under the influence of the coiled spring contained therein.

I claim—

1. In a fastener of the character described, the combination, with a socket member, of a plunger member having a drum comprising sides and a retaining-flange at the outer end, a disk arranged to move in said drum, a plunger mounted on said disk and adapted to stand within said drum or to project therefrom for engagement with the socket member, and a spring arranged in said drum and bearing against said disk, adapted to automatically withdraw said plunger into said drum when said plunger is released from the socket member, the end of the plunger when retracted being substantially flush with the inner surface of the drum.

2. In a fastener of the character described, the combination, with a socket member, of a plunger member comprised of a drum composed of sides and a retaining-flange at one end and a laterally-extending securing-plate on the other end of said drum, a disk arranged to move in said drum, a plunger mounted on said disk and adapted to stand within said drum or to project therefrom through an aperture in the securing-plate for engagement with the socket member, and a spring, arranged in said drum and bearing against said disk, adapted to automatically withdraw said plunger into said drum when said plunger is released from the socket member, the end of the plunger when retracted being substantially flush with the inner surface of the drum.

3. In a fastener of the character described, the combination with a socket member comprising a plate curved at one end, of a plunger member with its end curved away from the socket member and in the opposite direction from the curved end of the plate of said socket member for the purpose specified.

4. In a fastener of the character described, the combination with a socket member comprising a plate curved at one end, of a plunger member having its plunger adapted to stand with its end substantially flush with one face of said member or to be thrust forward to engage the socket member, said plunger member having a plate with its end curved away from the socket member and in the opposite direction from the curved end of the plate of the socket member.

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

EDWIN S. EARHART.

Witnesses:

ALGER MELTON,
B. W. FISLER.