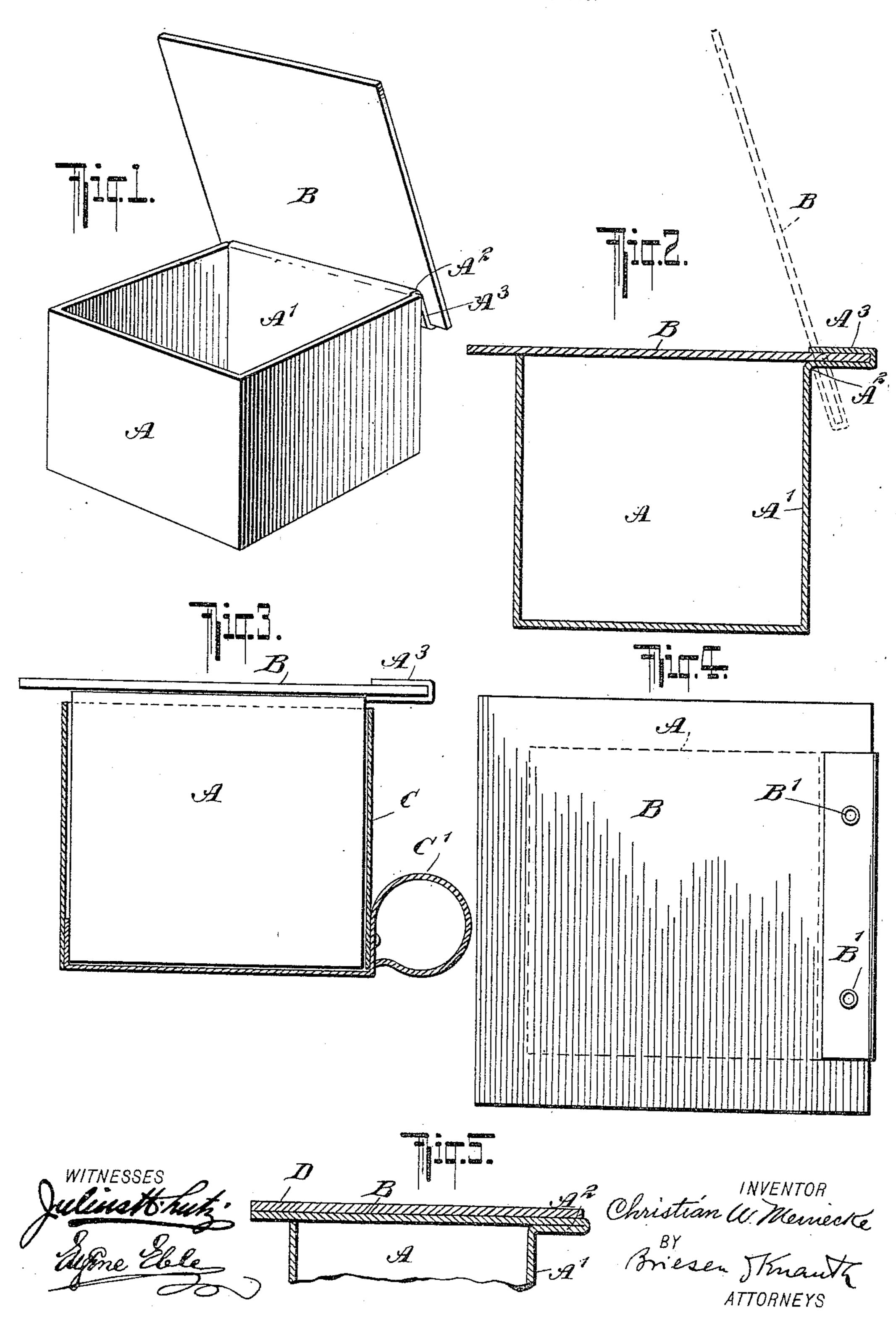
C. W. MEINECKE. SPUTUM CUP.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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SPUTUM-CUP

No. 869,793.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, Christian W. Meinecke, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Jersey City, Hudson county, New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Sputum-Cups, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to boxes or cups provided for receiving the sputum of consumptives and other sick persons and has for its object to provide a simple and cheap cup of this character which will be normally covered with a lid.

The invention will be fully described hereinafter, and the features of novelty pointed out in the appended claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, in which

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a sputum box or cup embodying my invention; Fig. 2 is a vertical section thereof; Fig. 3 shows the box inserted in a holder; 20 Fig. 4 is a top view of the box; and Fig. 5 is a partial vertical section showing another form of my invention.

The box body Λ is generally made of paper or similar materials, and its shape is that of a rectangular prism. The back Λ' is extended to form an attaching portion for the lid B. In the form illustrated by Figs. 1 to 4, the extension A² is made as a sheath Λ³ into which the rear edge of the lid B is fitted. Preferably the lid is both wider and longer than the body Λ, and so arranged as to project beyond the body on all sides, see 30 Fig. 4. This lid is made of stiffer material than the

body, and is adapted to close automatically by the weight of its front portion, the rear portion, which projects beyond the back A', forming a handle for the convenient opening of the lid. The extension A² forms a hinge connecting the lid B with the box body A. 35 The lid is gecured by paste, by means of rivets B', or by other suitable means.

For convenience the box may be held during use in a holder C made of metal or other resistant material, see Fig. 3. This holder may be provided with a handle 40 C. When the box A is full, or when it is desired to examine the **spu**tum, the box is removed from the holder C and another box inserted in its place.

The construction shown in Fig. 5 has a lid B formed integral with the hinge and the box body A². A strip 45 D may be secured to the top of the lid to stiffen the lid and to facilitate its automatic closing when released.

The improved sputum receptacle is easily handled, closes automatically when left to itself, and being made of combustible material, is readily destroyed when de- 50 sired.

I claim:

A sputum receptacle comprising a box of flexible material the upper edge of one side being extended outwardly beyond the upper edge of the box to form a thumb piece 55 and adapted to be readily flexed at said edge to form a hinge, and a lid attached to said extension, substantially as described.

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Witnesses:

FRITZ V. BRIESEN, EUGENE EBLE.