F. E. BLENCKSTONE.

SANITARY MOUTHPIECE FOR DRINKING GLASSES.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 19, 1909.

924,135. Patented June 8, 1909.

Fig. 1.

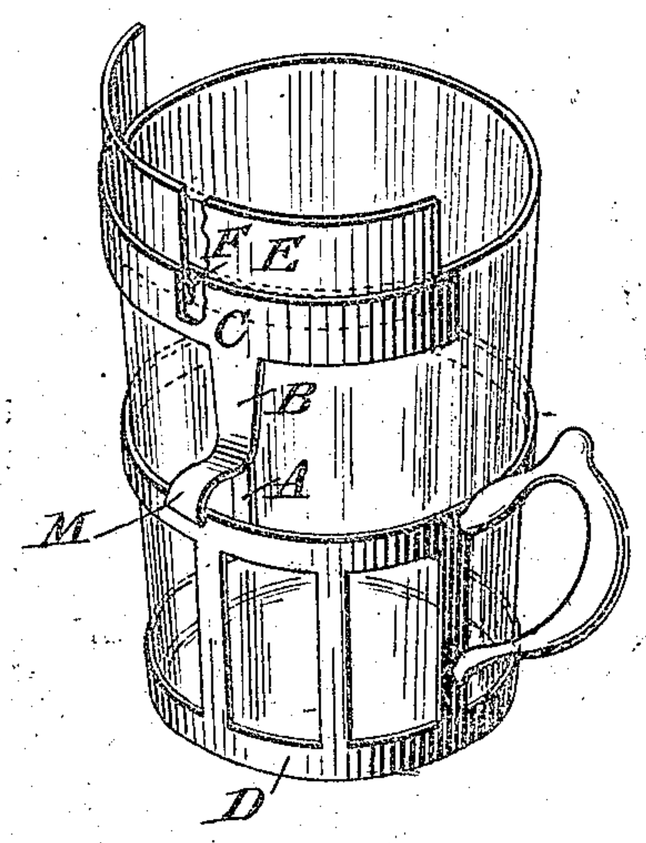


Fig. 2.

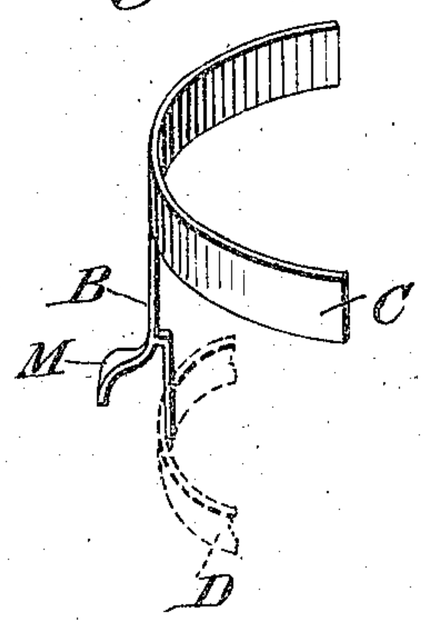
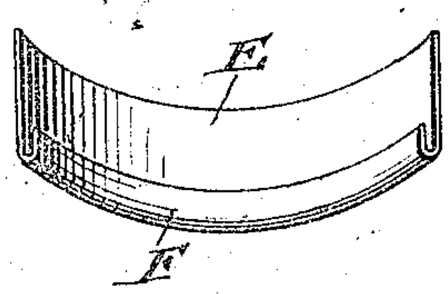


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK EDWARD BLENCKSTONE, OF ORADELL, NEW JERSEY.

SANITARY MOUTHPIECE FOR DRINKING-GLASSES.

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Application filed January 19, 1909. Serial No. 473,059.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK EDWARD BLENCKSTONE, of Oradell, in the county of Bergen and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Sanitary Mouthpieces for Drinking-Glasses in Public Places; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, which forms part of this specification.

My invention relates to a sanitary appliance for drinking glasses in public places.

The object of my invention is, as well to prevent contamination of public drinking glasses when used by persons infected with disease, as also to overcome that repugnance which persons of clean habits naturally experience when thirsting for a drink in a public place in which only one drinking glass is obtainable. I attain these objects by means of a device or attachment for an ordinary drinking cup or tumbler in which a strip or "apron" of paper, celluloid, or the like is temporarily clamped in a position to receive the contact of the lips and afterward removed and destroyed.

In the drawings: Figure 1 is a perspective view of a drinking cup embodying the principles of my invention; Fig. 2 is a detail perspective view of a portion of the device; Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the apron.

As shown in Fig. 3, the apron E, made of sheet material, water tight and capable of being destroyed by fire, as paraffin paper, celluloid, etc., is bent or curved length-wise to conform to the circumference of an ordinary drinking glass below its rim. In order to retain the curved shape the bottom edge F is bent or folded, as clearly shown in drawing. The lengthwise size of the apron corresponds to a little more than one-third of the circumference of the glass below its rim, and the vertical height of the apron above the folded edge is about one inch, more or less.

As shown in Fig. 1 the apron is held in place by the clamp C, which is curved to conform with the curvature of the apron. As seen in the same figure the apron thus adjusted forms an extension to the glass that corresponds in size to the length and height of the major part of the apron.

As shown in Fig. 2 from the clamp C extends vertically downward a shaft or extension B that at the lower end M is curved and broadened. At a point H between the curved part M and the clamp C the shaft is fastened to the upper part of a flat spring A, that from this point extends vertically downward, between the shaft B and the glass, to the rim or the side of the tumbler holder to which it is fastened. The tumbler holder D is indicated by dotted lines.

In the use of the device, a slight pressure by the thumb of one hand upon the shaft or extension B, displaces clamp C outwardly, due to the flexing of the spring A. The apron E is inserted into the gap or space between the clamp C and the rim of the glass, being positioned with its convex side toward the clamp and its interior folded edge F in contact with the glass, just below the rim. Pressure on the thumb-piece M may now be released, causing the clamp to be pressed toward the rim of the tumbler, where it engages and clamps the apron E. It will be noted that the pressure of the clamp is exerted opposite the folded edge F of the apron, causing the latter to pack tightly against the glass. The efficiency of this packing engagement is considerably due to the fact that the folded edge F is slightly off-set from the rest of the apron E, being folded on a round instead of a sharp edge. Accordingly the folded edge is free to take exactly the contour of the glass against which it is pressed, even though the clamp C has a slightly different curvature or other irregularity. The foregoing action also compensates for any irregularity in the thickness of paper or celluloid of which apron E is composed. When the glass is tilted in the act of drinking, the liquid level becomes elevated above the edge of the apron E, but it will be found that a perfectly tight packing engagement is secured and that there is no leakage past the folded edge F. After use the apron is readily removed by being simply pulled free without manipulating the finger piece M. The drinking glass can then be washed in the usual way.

It will be evident that the device is perfectly sanitary, any contact between the lips and the glass being entirely precluded. Lip cells, bacteria and mucus deposited by a drinker are retained on the major portion of the apron E. As the aprons are removed and destroyed, the public drinking glass is protected against contamination and any persons using drinking glasses in public

places provided with my sanitary device and invention, are prevented from any unclean and contaminating contact

What I claim, is:—

1. A sanitary device for drinking glasses comprising a spring clamp and an apron having a folded edge adapted to be clamped into contact with the glass and establish a packing engagement therewith.

2. A sanitary device for drinking glasses comprising a spring clamp and an apron having a folded edge off-set from the surface of the apron and adapted to be clampéd into contact with the glass to establish a packing engagement therewith.

3. A sanitary device for drinking glasses comprising a tumbler holder, a clamp flexibly connected to the tumbler holder and resiliently impelled inward therefrom, said clamp having a rigid curved edge adapted to contact with the rim of a glass in the holder, means for displacing said clamp outward, and an apron adapted to be pressed into engagement with the glass by said clamp.

4. A sanitary device for drinking glasses comprising a spring clamp and an apron of concave outline corresponding to the curvature of the glass and having an inwardly folded lower edge off-set from the main portion of the apron, and adapted to be forced into contact with the glass to establish a packing engagement therewith.

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