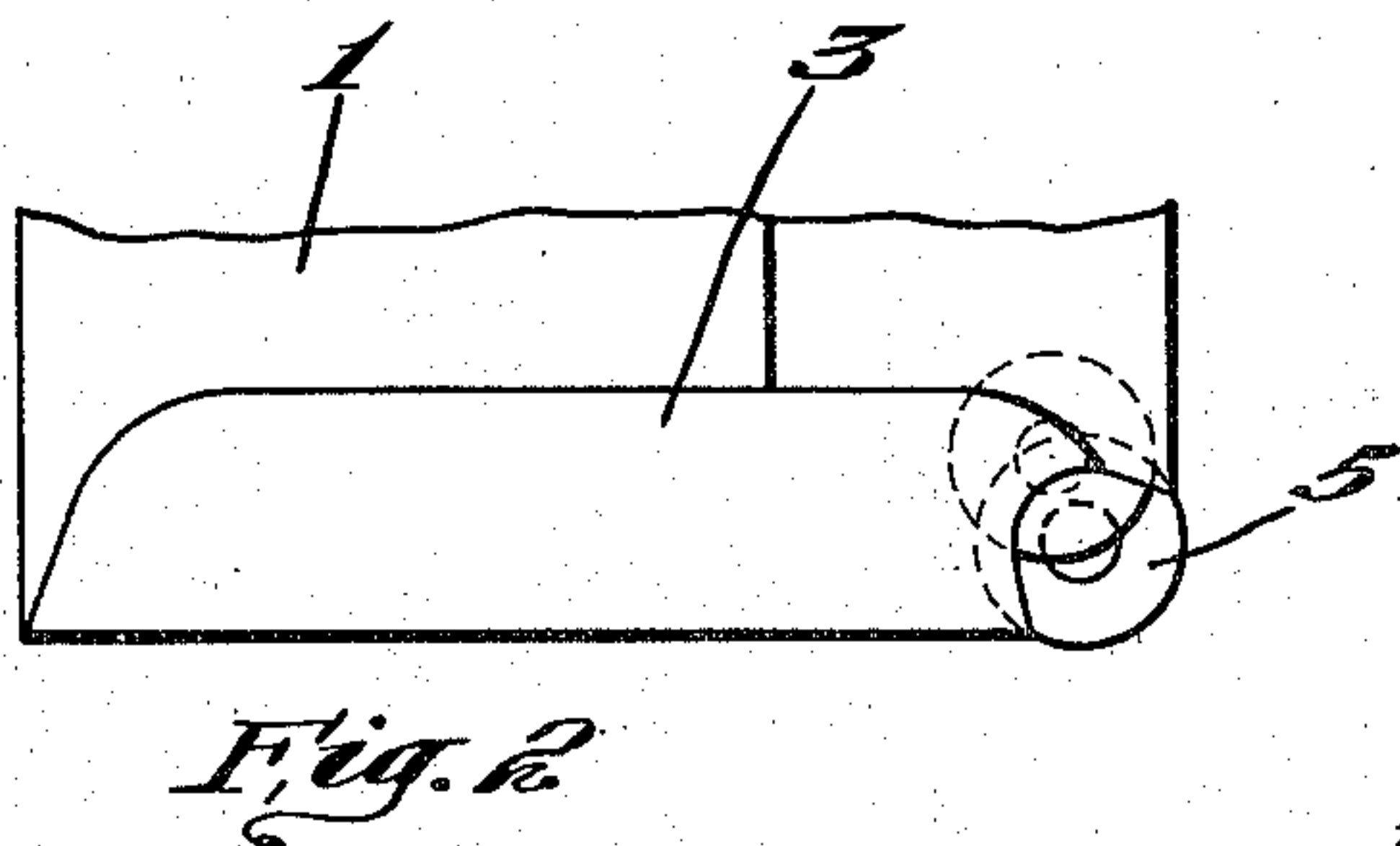
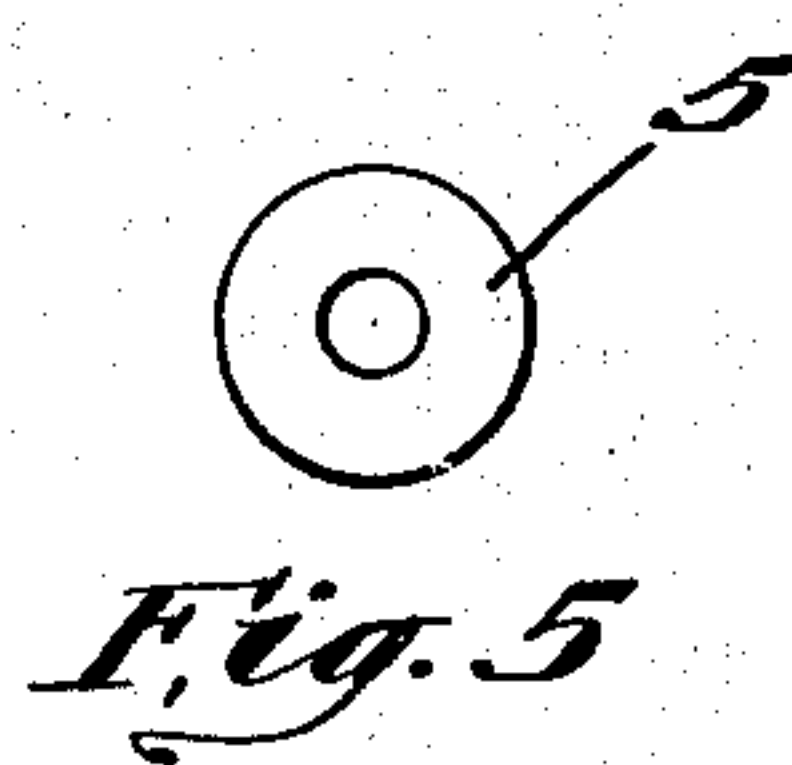
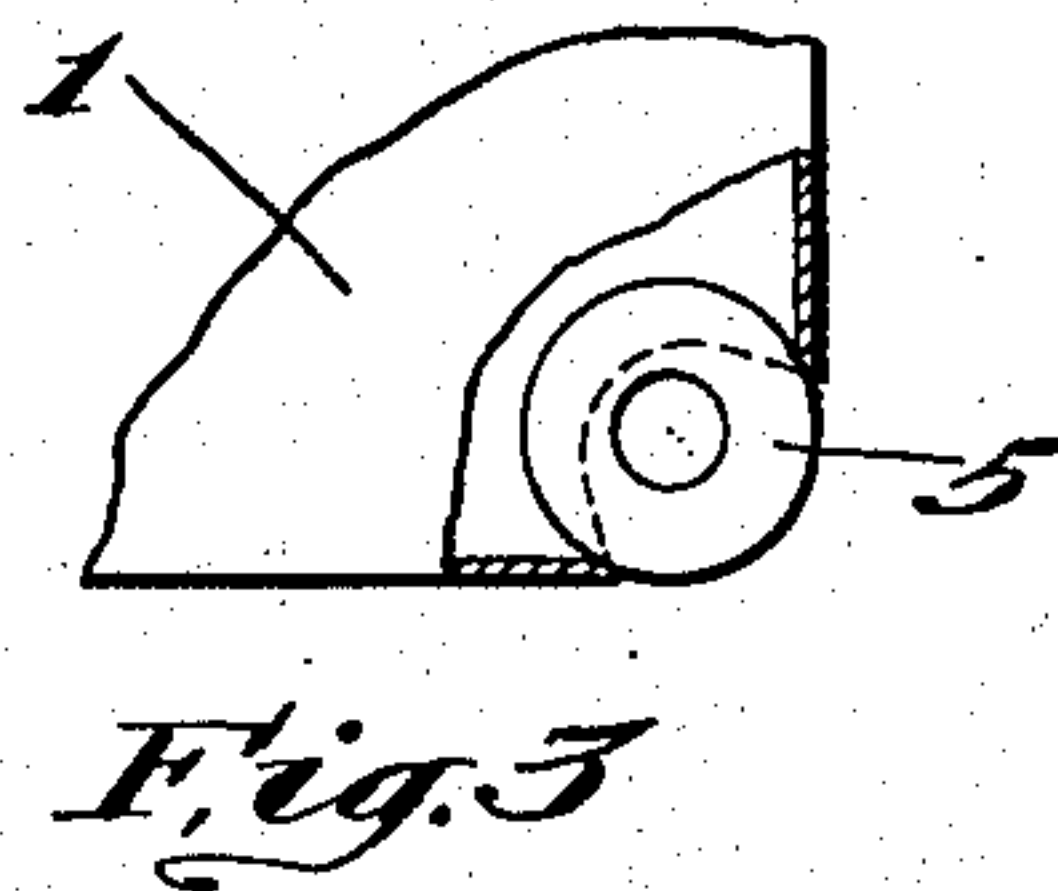
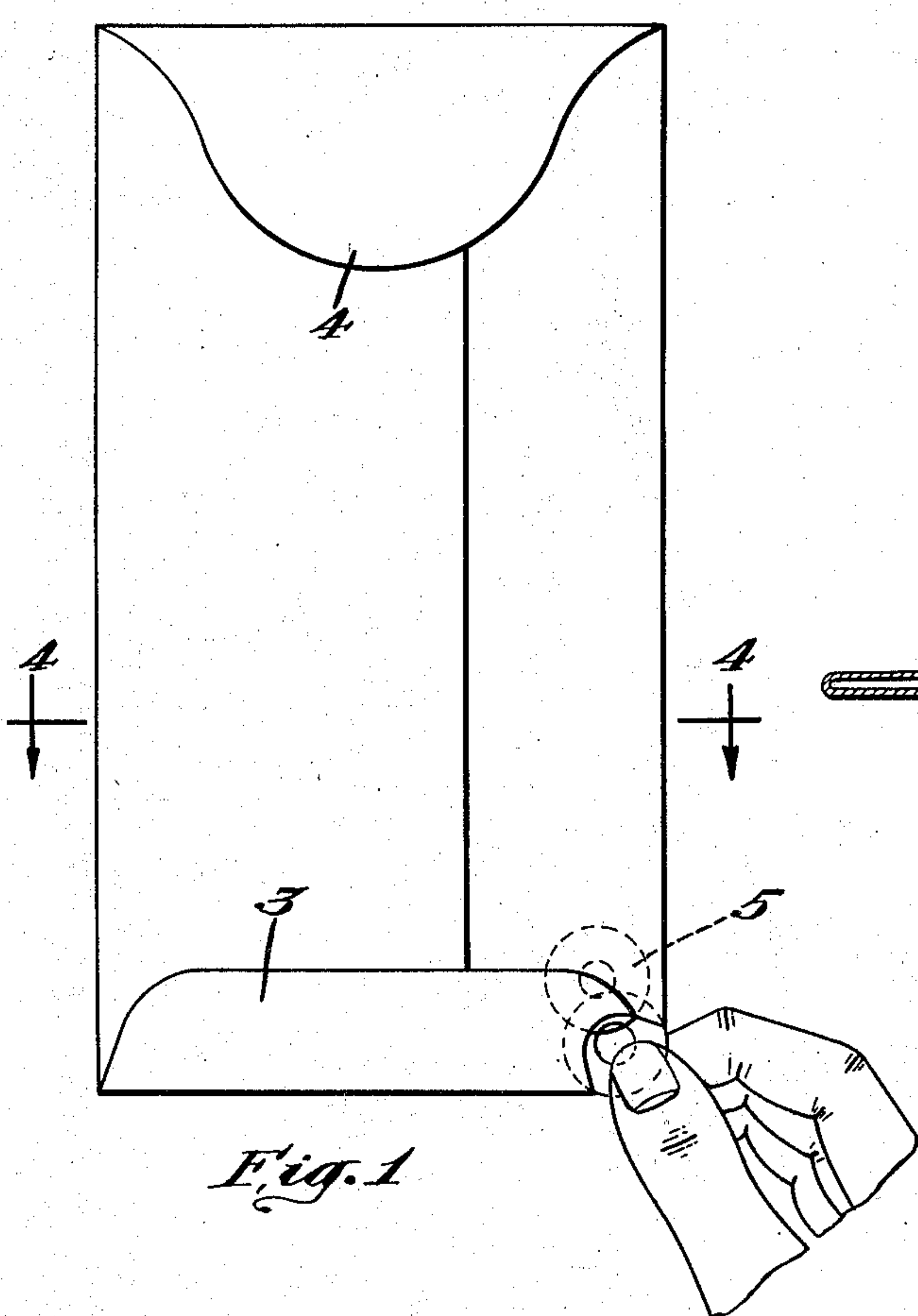


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DISPENSING PACKAGE OF FLEXIBLE
ARTICLES OF SHEET MATERIAL
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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DISPENSING PACKAGE OF FLEXIBLE
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This invention relates to packages of small articles of sheet material, such as reinforcing rings of paper or cloth, and to a dispenser for such articles. Heretofore it has been customary to package such articles in boxes and, as well known, it is troublesome to pick them out one by one, particularly since they tend to stick together.

The object of the present invention is to provide a package from which the articles can be easily and quickly extracted one by one without the necessity of opening the package and without danger of spilling the articles accidentally.

The present invention involves an envelope comprising front and back sides united along the edge at 180° fold lines so that the two sides are juxtaposed, the envelope having a dispensing opening along the edge the width of which is slightly less than the width of the articles so that each article has to be compressed slightly to slide through the opening, and one side of the envelope being cut away at the opening to afford contact by the thumb or finger with an article presented to the opening, whereby the article may be removed through the opening. The preferred embodiment of the invention comprises a paper envelope having a filling opening at one end and a flap to close the opening, the aforesaid dispensing opening being located at one of the other two corners of the envelope and both sides of the envelope being cut away adjacent the dispensing opening so that an article presented to the opening may be gripped between the thumb and finger.

For the purpose of illustration a typical embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawings in which

Fig. 1 is a side view;

Fig. 2 is a similar view of the lower end of the envelope;

Fig. 3 is a section of the dispensing corner of the envelope;

Fig. 4 is a section on line 4—4 of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 5 is a side elevation of a reinforcing ring.

The particular embodiment of the invention chosen for the purpose of illustration comprises an envelope 1 of paper or the like folded so that the margins overlaps at 2, the overlapping margins being cemented together. At the bottom a flap 3 is cemented over the overlapping margins and at the top a flap 4 is provided to close the filling opening at that end.

According to this invention one of the lower corners of the envelope is cut away to provide a dispensing opening. As shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3

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the width of the opening is somewhat less than the diameter of the reinforcing rings 5 so that the rings cannot fall out by gravity. To extract a ring it is gripped between the thumb and finger as shown in Fig. 1 and then pulled through the opening, the article flexing enough to slide through the restricted opening. In order to present the ring to the opening it is necessary merely to shake the envelope until a ring slides into the dispensing opening. If more than one ring falls into position it is easy to extract a single ring by holding the thumb against the ring on one side and then moving the finger away from the opening while gripping the rings between the thumb and finger. The friction of the moving finger slides out a single ring by frictional engagement therewith.

Inasmuch as the rings cannot fall out accidentally the envelope may be used not only as a dispensing device but also as a shipping and storage container.

It should be understood that the present disclosure is for the purpose of illustration only and that this invention includes all modifications and equivalents which fall within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A package comprising flexible reinforcing rings of fibrous sheet material and an envelope for the rings having front and back sides integrally joined along two side edges thereof so that the two sides are juxtaposed and having a filling opening at one end of the envelope, a flap for closing the filling opening, a dispensing opening in a corner at the opposite end of the envelope, the width of the opening being slightly less than the width of the rings so that each ring has to be compressed slightly to slide through the opening, each ring being compressible by virtue of the opening therein and one side of the envelope being cut away at said dispensing opening inwardly for a distance less than the width of the dispensing opening to afford contact by the thumb or finger with a ring presented to the opening, whereby the ring may be removed through the opening.

2. A package comprising flexible reinforcing rings of fibrous sheet material and an envelope for the rings having front and back sides integrally joined along two side edges thereof so that the two sides are juxtaposed and having a filling opening at one end of the envelope, a flap for closing the filling opening, a dispensing opening in a corner at the opposite end of the envelope, the width of the opening being slightly less than

the width of the rings so that each ring has to be compressed slightly to slide through the opening, each ring being compressible by virtue of the opening therein and both sides of the envelope being cut away at said dispensing opening inwardly for a distance from said edge less than the width of the dispensing opening so that a ring presented to the opening may be gripped between the thumb and finger to remove the ring.

3. A package comprising flexible reinforcing rings of fibrous sheet material and an envelope for the rings having front and back sides, integrally joined along two side edges thereof so that the two sides are juxtaposed and having a filling opening at one end of the envelope, a flap for closing the filling opening, a dispensing opening in one corner of the envelope, the width of the opening being slightly less than the width of the rings so that each ring has to be compressed slightly to slide through the opening, each ring being compressible by virtue of the opening therein and one side of the envelope being cut away at said dis-

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 dispensing opening inwardly for a distance less than the width of the dispensing opening to afford contact by the thumb or finger with a ring presented to the opening, whereby the ring may be removed through the opening.

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