

No. 650,173.

Patented May 22, 1900.

**B. FLETCHER.
DRINKING FOUNT.**

(Application filed Oct. 6, 1899.)

(No Model.)

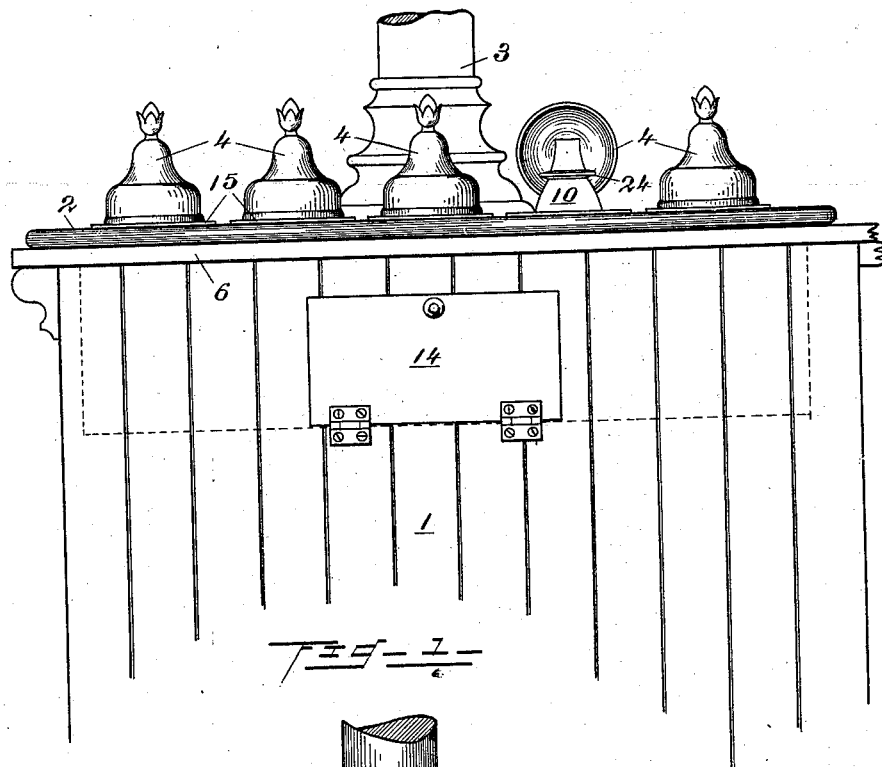


FIG. 1-

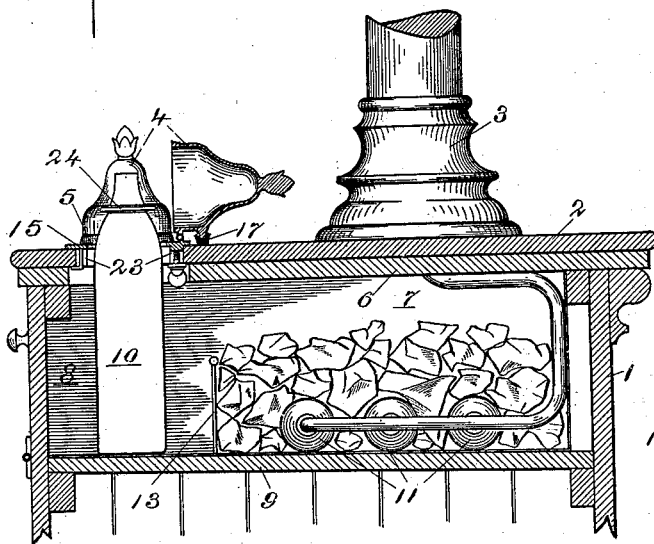


FIG. 2-

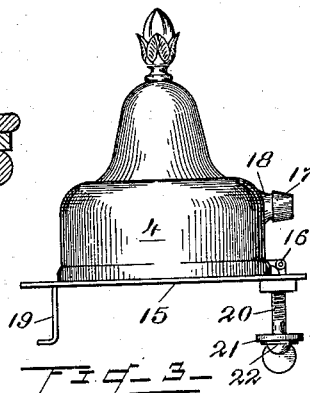


FIG. 3-

WITNESSES

Samuel Foulde
Stanley J. Radner

INVENTOR
Benjamin Fletcher
By *A. Dixon*
Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN FLETCHER, OF TORONTO, CANADA.

DRINKING-FOUNT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 650,173, dated May 22, 1900.

Application filed October 6, 1899. Serial No. 732,755. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN FLETCHER, manufacturer, of the city of Toronto, in the county of York and Province of Ontario, Canada, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Drinking-Founts; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification.

My invention relates particularly to improvements in apparatus for the cooling and storing of syrup bottles or reservoirs as in use with counter-founts, in which the syrup-bottles are conveniently arranged in close proximity with the stand-pipe. Below the marble slab or counter-top is a cooling-chamber in which stand the syrup-bottles, the tops or upper portions of which protrude through circular openings in the marble slab or other suitable material and are covered by an ornamental cover or lid, which is preferably hinged to the slab or counter-top.

In my invention the ice-box is elevated and located directly below the counter-top. Heretofore the ice-box was located at the bottom or near the floor. Connected with the ice-box and on the same level and having the same floor in common, while separated by a longitudinal perforated screen, is the cooling-chamber, in which stand the syrup-bottles, the depth of which is governed by the latter. The syrup-bottles are similar to ordinary bottles as in use for that purpose, with one exception. In this instance on the neck of the bottle is formed a collar or annular flange which serves as a convenient means for raising the bottle out of the cooling-chamber.

The object of my invention is to provide a more perfect means of refrigeration in a drinking-fount, while increasing the facilities for the dispensing of drinks.

To such ends the invention consists in the construction and combination of parts hereinafter particularly described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part thereof, in which similar figures of reference refer to like parts throughout.

Figure 1 is a view in elevation of a portion of a counter with my improved fount located therein. Fig. 2 is a vertical cross-sectional

view of Fig. 1, showing the arrangement of the ice-box and cooling-chamber; and Fig. 3 is a detail view in elevation of the ornamental cover.

In the drawings the table or drinking-fount support 1 may be of any desirable construction. In this instance it is shown as a portion of the counter, the top being covered by a marble slab 2 and supporting the stand-pipe 3 thereon, and a plurality of ornamental covers 4, covering corresponding circular openings 5, and the counter-top 6, on which rests the marble slab 2, as shown; but this is not an indispensable condition, for I can combine the two into one and make the marble slab support the stand-pipe and covers, thereby dispensing with the counter-top.

Below the marble slab 2 or counter-top 6 is formed an ice-box and cooling-chamber 7 and 8, respectively, with the floor or bottom 9 inclined and lower at the side opposite the cooling-chamber, while the depth of which is governed by the height of the syrup-bottles 10. In the ice-box 7 is located the usual soda-cooling apparatus 11, while in the cooling-chamber 8 stand the bottles 10. Separating the ice-box 7 from the cooling-chamber 8 is a perforated screen 13, which runs longitudinally through the same and as high as will conveniently allow for passing of the ice when filling the ice-box, for which purpose a door 14 is shown opening into the cooling-chamber. In place of the aforesaid door a similar opening for the purpose of storing ice in the ice-box may be located in a more convenient position—as, for instance, in the marble slab on either side of the stand-pipe or on both sides—and serve the same purpose.

The covers 4 are composed of, preferably, metal ornamental in design, the shape of which is partially controlled by the form of bottle it has to cover. Otherwise the form of design is unimportant. The cover 4 for the purpose of convenience and to facilitate the removing and replacing of the same is hinged to the annular flange 15 by the hinge 16 and swings back into the position shown in Fig. 2. To support the cover 4 when thrown back and cushion the same when coming in contact with the marble slab is a flexible support, consisting of a rubber cap 17, secured to a stud or lug 18, which projects from the

body of the cover 4, and thereby eliminates all liability of injury through inadvertently throwing the cover back too rapidly.

The annular flanges 15, to which are hinged the covers 4, are secured to the marble slab 2, with the circular openings of the former concentric with the circular openings in the latter. Upon the under side of the flange 15 and diametrically opposite one another is a hook 19 and retaining-screw 20, which contains a rubber washer 21, backed by a metal washer 22. The object of the rubber washer 21 is to compensate for any irregularities of the under surface of the marble slab and also for any unequal expansion or contraction of the different substances, and thereby secure the flange 15 rigidly upon the marble slab 2.

On the periphery of the circular openings in the marble slab and diametrically opposite are two rectangular slots 23, extending the whole depth of the slab, for the purpose of receiving the aforesaid hook and retaining-screw, and thereby permit the syrup-bottle to pass in and out of the circular openings in the flange and marble slab without coming in contact with the said hook and retaining-screw.

The syrup-bottles 10 are of the ordinary type, preferably cylindrical in shape, with a conical neck, surrounding which and slightly below the opening is an annular collar 24 for the purpose hereinbefore described. The syrup-bottles are preferably located in rear and extending on each side of the stand-pipe, which supplies soda-water or other waters, as desired. To identify the kind or flavor of the syrups or other substances contained in the bottles, the name may be engraved, etched, or otherwise imprinted on the covers or exposed portion of the flanges, or the different positions of the flavors may be memorized, as it is customary to have the name of the contents on the bottle.

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

1. In a drinking-fount the combination of a cooling-chamber provided with a plurality of openings in its top, removable covers hinged respectively above each of said openings and

adapted to inclose the necks of bottles which are placed in said cooling-chamber and project up through said openings, and a stand-pipe opening into said cooling-chamber, substantially as set forth.

2. In a drinking-fount the combination of a cooling-chamber, a vertical screen extending across the lower part only of said chamber, thus forming two compartments, a series of openings in the top of one of said compartments, a corresponding series of covers hinged respectively above said openings and adapted to inclose the necks of bottles which are placed in said compartment and extend up through said openings, and a stand-pipe communicating with the other compartment which contains refrigerant material, substantially as set forth.

3. In a drinking-fount the combination of a cooling-chamber, a series of circular openings in the top of said chamber, annular rings surrounding the upper edges of said openings and attached to the top of said cooling-chamber, hollow, dome-like covers hinged to said annular rings and adapted to cover respectively said openings, and a stand-pipe communicating with said cooling-chamber substantially as set forth.

4. In a drinking-fount the combination of a cooling-chamber, circular openings in the top of said chamber provided with slots or recesses in their edges, annular rings surrounding the tops of said openings and attached to the top of said chamber by means of hooks and clamps which enter said slots, hollow, dome-like covers hinged to said annular rings and adapted respectively to cover said openings, projections on the backs of said covers, rubber cups attached to the top of said cooling-chamber and adapted to receive said projections when the covers are turned open, and a stand-pipe communicating with said cooling-chamber, substantially as set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two witnesses.

BENJAMIN FLETCHER.

Witnesses:

J. G. LYE,

THOS. O'BRIEN.