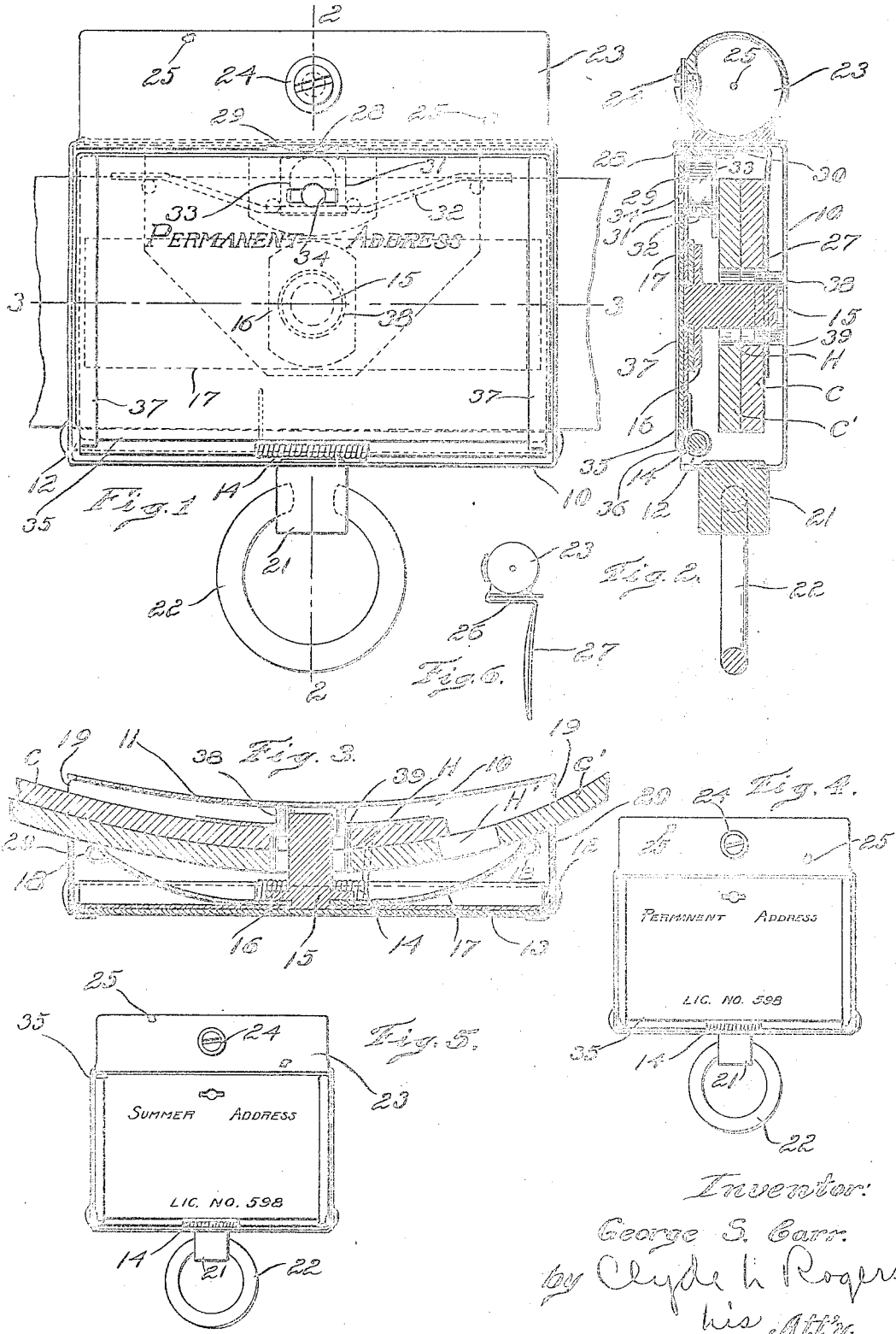


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 COLLAR DEVICE FOR DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS.  
 APPLICATION FILED MAY 29, 1917.

1,262,447.

Patented Apr. 9, 1918.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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COLLAR DEVICE FOR DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS.

1,262,447.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE S. CARR, a citizen of the United States, and resident of Boston, county of Suffolk, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Collar Devices for Dogs and other Animals, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like characters on the drawings representing like parts in each of the several views.

This invention relates to devices for use with collars and harness of dogs or other animals to couple the ends thereof together.

One important object of the invention is to provide a coupling device of this character for dog collars and the like capable of being quickly and easily attached without the use of any separate buckles, padlocks or like instrumentalities. A further object is to provide an improved coupling device of the character stated having associated therewith provision for holding a name or license plate removably and reversibly, and in a manner so that said plate is locked in place automatically when the coupling is locked, and only released for removal upon opening the coupling. A still further object is to provide a coupling device having associated therewith a reservoir for holding germicide or disinfectant in a manner so that the contents thereof are given out gradually as required for use; such reservoir being also locked automatically in place when the coupling is locked and removable only upon opening the coupling. In accordance with a further feature of my improved construction the coupling device is so constituted that it will not stay closed or in operative position at all unless it is securely locked for holding the collar in place and the associated elements assembled therewith. The foregoing and other objects and advantages of the invention will more fully appear from the following detailed description, and the distinctive features of novelty will be pointed out in the appended claims.

Referring to the drawings:

Figure 1 is an enlarged plan view showing a coupling constructed in accordance with my invention;

Fig. 2 is a transverse section on line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a lengthwise section on line 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the device approximately actual size;

Fig. 5 is a plan view similar to Fig. 4 but illustrating the capability of the reversal of the name or license plate; and

Fig. 6 is an end view of the germicide reservoir with its attaching clip removed.

The housing or frame work of the device is indicated at 10 rectangular in outline, and preferably made of a one-piece stamping, the bottom of this housing being curved as shown at 11 in general conformity with the curve of the collar in use. This housing has pivoted thereto at its upper rear corner as by means of a pintle 12 a cover 13, the pintle 12 as shown having mounted thereon a coil spring 14, the ends of which react against said cover tending to cause the cover to swing open when released from its lock as later described. The cover 13 has fixed centrally thereto a stud 15, this stud being shown as a separate element riveted to the cover, though this is merely illustrative. As shown also the stud 15 is formed with a flange 16 adapted to clamp between it and the cover a stout leaf spring 17, the opposite ends of which are formed with eyes 18 adapted to press against and hold together in assembled relation the two ends C, C' of the collar. It will be noted that the leaf spring 17 thus pressing against the collar ends will of itself tend to throw the cover open, and hence the separate coil spring 14 may be dispensed with if desired and the leaf spring 17 only used, or on the other hand the leaf spring 17 may be dispensed with and the spring 14 only used. The ends C, C' of the collar extend through openings 19 at the ends of the housing, these openings being provided by cutting away the end bars 20 of the housing sufficiently to afford clearance for these collar ends. The housing 10 has fixed at the rear thereof a block 21 equipped with a leash ring 22 and it has removably fitted at the front thereof a reservoir 23 adapted to contain germicide or disinfectant either in liquid or powdered form. This reservoir is shown as cylindrical in section with a filling opening closed by a screw cap 24 and with a number of small holes 25 for delivering the germicide, these holes being as shown equipped with small wicks for use when germicide in liquid form is used. The reservoir 23 is carried by a clip 26 bent to slip over and embrace

the front wall of the housing and having also an inwardly projecting portion 27 extending over the bottom of the housing. The front wall of the housing is formed with a ledge 28 at the lengthwise center of its top to be engaged by a movable lock tongue 29 carried by the cover, an intermediate portion of the reservoir holding clip 26 being cut away as seen at 30 to permit this locking ledge to project therethrough. The locking tongue 29 is formed on a lock head 31 held to slide in the cover and yieldingly pressed forward by a spring 32 mounted on the cover. The lock head 31 is formed with a key receiving opening 33 eccentric with reference to a key opening 34 through the cover so that upon the insertion of a suitable key through said opening, the locking tongue 29 may be withdrawn and the cover swung back.

In accordance with one important feature of my invention the cover 13 is equipped with flange clips at its ends adapted to receive and hold a name or license plate 35. These clips permit such license plate to be slid in from the front when the cover is opened, but the inner ends thereof are bent down as seen at 36, to prevent such plate from being slipped out from the inner side of the cover. These plates 35 being flat are reversible so that they may be slipped into the holding clips 37 with either side thereof exposed, thus permitting the use of a plate with the proper license number on both sides, and the permanent residence address of the owner on one side, while a summer address or other temporary address may be carried on the other side of such plate. Thus as seen in Fig. 4 the plate 35 is turned so that the permanent address of the owner is exposed, while in Fig. 5 its reverse side shows the summer address of the owner. For cooperation with the stud 15 of the cover the bottom of the housing is formed with a short stud collar 38 into which said stud is adapted to fit, the extension 27 of the reservoir holding clip having a hole 39 to permit said collar to extend therethrough. In accordance with a further feature of the invention, the locking down of the cover by the engagement of the locking tongue 29 under the ledge 28, not only holds the two ends of the collar secure in the coupling device but it also locks the reservoir from displacement, and also locks the license or name plate against possibility of displacement. This results from the fact that when the parts are assembled as described the extension 27 of the reservoir holding clip is held underneath the collar ends and with the stud 38 projecting therethrough so that the reservoir cannot be displaced, and at the same time the plate 35 is held against sliding out of the clips 37 by the top of the front wall of the housing and the clip 26 fitted there-

over. The collar ends C, C' are each formed near its extremity with a hole H of ample size to receive the stud 15 and the stud collar 38 and one of these ends may be provided with further holes H' spaced apart so that the collar may be taken up as required for dogs of different sizes. It is to be observed that in my improved device no buckles, padlocks or other like expedients are required, and that the entire device is securely held assembled merely by the engagement of the locking tongue 29 under the ledge 28 this holding not only the collar in place but also locking the name plate against removal, and the germicide reservoir against removal or displacement, the opening of the coupling on the other hand without other manipulation permitting the name plate to be removed and reversed if desired and also permitting the germicide reservoir to be taken off for replenishment or when not needed. It is also to be observed that in the present device there is no strain whatever on the lock itself, all pulling strains such as transmitted from the leash being taken up by the relatively stout and substantial stud 15. It is also to be noted that since the cover will not stay closed unless it is locked, any danger of using the device in a way so that the name plate might get lost is avoided. Since the present coupling device can be instantly removed from the collar and is capable of use with different collars, it will be understood that it is feasible to employ the single coupling device with a plurality of collars, such as one for ordinary use and another for dress occasions. Likewise since the device permits ready adjustment of the collar and equally quick and convenient replacement of name plates, the single coupling device can readily be employed for numbers of different dogs on different occasions, each dog having his own collar. It is further to be noted that since with the present coupling the license plate and locking device as well as the leash ring, are combined in a single unit, there is more space allowed for ornamental use on the collar than in previous styles, permitting a continuous row of brass studs, jewels or the like without interruption. It is to be noted that the device is always in plain sight on the top of the dog's neck when in leash, and that the germicide reservoir is thus positioned to deliver its contents as required to best advantage. I am aware that the invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit or essential attributes thereof and I therefore desire the present embodiment to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive, reference being had to the appended claims rather than to the foregoing description to indicate the scope of the invention.

Having now described my invention, what I

I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

- 5 1. A coupling device for animal collars, consisting in a housing composed of members hinged together, one thereof bearing a stud adapted to pass through holes in the collar ends, a lock for holding said members together, and a holder for disinfectant mounted on said housing.
- 10 2. A coupling device for animal collars, consisting in members hinged together and

equipped with means for holding the collar ends, an address plate removably carried by said housing, a germicide reservoir also detachably mounted on said housing, and a 15 single locking device constructed and arranged to lock said housing members together, and also to hold said reservoir and said address plate locked to the housing.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification.

GEORGE S. CARR.