

H. HUBBELL.  
 SELF CLOSING FLUSH RECEPTACLE PLATE.  
 APPLICATION FILED DEC. 13, 1909.

961,720.

Patented June 14, 1910.

Fig. 1.

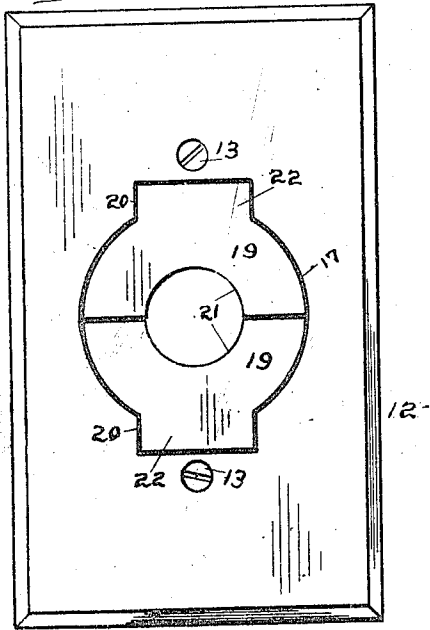


Fig. 2.

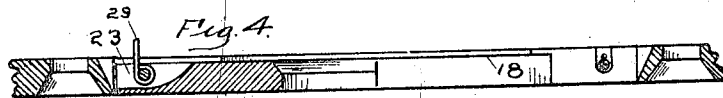
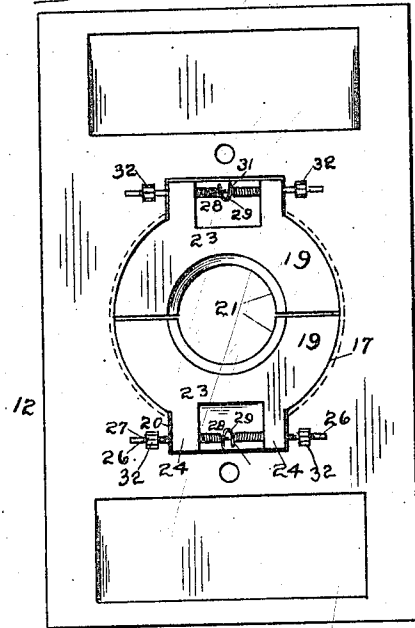


Fig. 4.

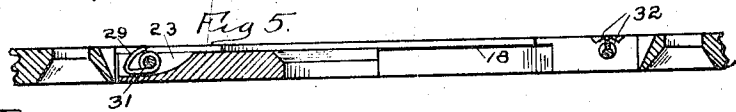


Fig. 5.

Fig. 3.

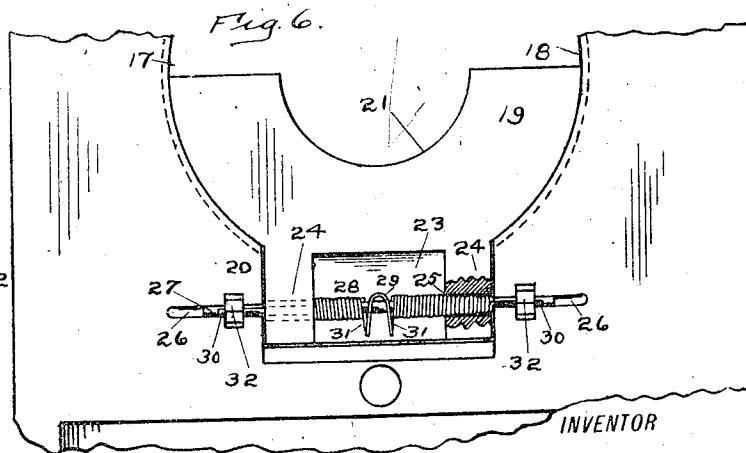
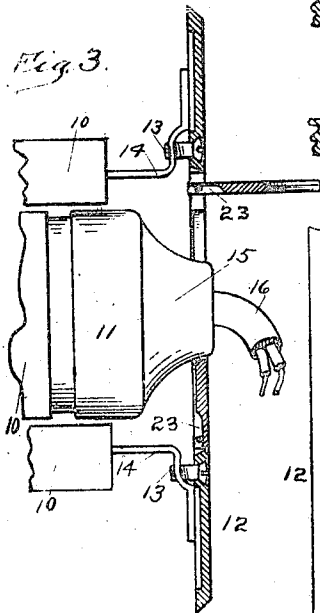


Fig. 6.

WITNESSES:

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARVEY HUBBELL, OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT.

SELF-CLOSING FLUSH-RECEPTACLE PLATE.

961,720.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 14, 1910.

Application filed December 13, 1909. Serial No. 532,873.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HARVEY HUBBELL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Bridgeport, county of Fairfield, State of Connecticut, have invented an Improvement in Self-Closing Flush-Receptacle Plates, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has for its object to provide a cover plate for flush receptacles, so called, the opening in which shall be provided with a two-member self-closing cover having the usual hole for the electrical connections or for the neck of an attachment plug, the essential feature being that the cover will remain closed whether or not an attachment plug is in place therein and without regard to the position of the receptacle, the cover remaining closed equally well whether the receptacle is used in a floor, a wall or a ceiling.

In order to accomplish the desired result I have devised the novel self-closing flush receptacle plate which I will now describe, referring to the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification and using reference characters to indicate the several parts.

Figure 1 is a plan view of my self-closing plate; Fig. 2 an inverted plan view thereof; Fig. 3 a view partly in vertical section and partly in elevation, illustrating the operation of my novel plate; Figs. 4 and 5 are longitudinal sections, on an enlarged scale, illustrating the construction of the plate and the mode of forming the closing springs, one cover member being removed; and Fig. 6 is an inverted plan view, on an enlarged scale, showing the construction and mode of attachment of the closing spring.

It is of course well understood that flush receptacle plates cover a pocket in a wall, floor or ceiling, in which is placed the fixed portion of an attachment plug and which is adapted to receive the separable portion thereof.

10 denotes the fixed portion and 11 the separable portion of an attachment plug.

12 denotes the plate as a whole which is shown as attached by means of screws 13 to brackets 14 which extend from and are rigidly secured to the fixed portion of the attachment plug. The separable portion of the plug is ordinarily provided with a neck 15 to which the electrical connections, indicated by 16, are attached. The plate is pro-

vided with a central opening 17 which is provided with a shoulder 18 against which corresponding members 19, which comprise the cover, rest in the closed position. On opposite sides of opening 17 are angular enlargements 20 of said opening, said enlargements receiving the attaching portions of the cover members. Each of the cover members is provided with a semi-circular recess 21 shown as beveled on the underside, the two recesses together forming a hole through which the electrical connections pass and which may or may not receive the neck of the separable portion of an attachment plug. The attachment of the cover members to the plate is as follows: Each cover member is provided with an angular portion 22 which fits within the corresponding enlargement of the opening in the plate. At the center of each angular portion on the under side is a depression 23, on opposite sides of which are bearing portions 24 which are provided with transverse holes 25. In alinement with holes 25 are grooves 26 in the under side of the plate.

27 denotes hinge rods which pass through depressions 23 and the bearing portions and the ends of which lie in the grooves in the under side of the plate.

28 denotes a double coil spring formed from a piece of wire which is bent upon itself at its mid-length to form a loop 29. From the loop the wire of the spring is coiled in opposite directions inclosing the hinge rod, the coils extending through holes 25 in bearing portions 24 and the ends of the piece of wire being bent outward and lying parallel with the hinge rod, as at 30. The hinge rod and the ends of the spring are rigidly secured in place in the plate in any suitable manner as by striking in the metal of the plate upon opposite sides of the grooves and swaging it down tightly upon the hinge rod and upon the ends 30 of the spring, as at 32. The spring action is secured by bending loop 29 from the position shown in Fig. 4 to the position shown in Fig. 5, the end of the loop being bent down upon the hinge rod and spring arms 31 being formed which bear against the under side of the cover member back of the hinge rod and are connected to the opposite coils. The action of the spring arms and the coils is to lift the rear ends of angular portions 22 of the cover members upward and conse-

quently to throw the forward ends of the cover members downward against the shoulder surrounding the central opening in the plate.

5 The operation will be obvious from the drawing: The spring arms and coils normally retain the cover members in the closed position, as clearly shown. To insert the separable portion of an attachment plug the  
10 cover members are lifted against the power of the springs, as at the top in Fig. 3. When the separable portion of the attachment plug is in place the cover members are released and the springs throw them back to the  
15 closed position, the hole formed by the semi-circular recesses in the cover members giving ample room for the electrical connections and for the neck of the separable portion of an attachment plug should it extend  
20 outward far enough. To remove the separable portion of an attachment plug, it is simply required to pull it out by means of the electrical connections, the cover members yielding and permitting the plug to be  
25 pulled out and being returned to place by the springs as soon as the plug is removed.

Having thus described my invention I claim:

A flush receptacle plate comprising a plate with a central opening having angular 30 enlargements and transverse grooves on opposite sides of the enlargements, cover members in said opening having angular portions corresponding with the enlargements, said angular portions having depressions 35 and bearing portions on opposite sides thereof, hinge rods passing through the bearing portions and lying in the depressions and grooves and springs coiled about the hinge rods, extending through the bearing por- 40 tions and having central portions bent to form angle arms which bear upon the under sides of the cover members and ends lying parallel with the hinge rods and secured in place, whereby the cover members are re- 45 tained in the closed position.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

HARVEY HUBBELL.

Witnesses:

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S. W. ATIERTON.