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MEDICAL TABLET CONTAINER

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7 Claims. (Cl. 206-42)

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The invention described herein, if patented, may be manufactured and used by or for the Government for governmental purposes, without the payment to me of any royalty thereon.

The present invention relates to a medical tablet container. It has to do particularly, but, of course, not exclusively, with an improved container or phial-like holder for glyceryl trinitrate tablets and the like which are carried constantly by most cardiac sufferers for emergency self-treatment. While designed, shaped and proportioned for use in the carrying and hand-dispensing of medical tablets, dragees, etc., the container of the present invention is equally well adapted for holding and dispensing candy articles, pills and the like.

As is known, it is very important, in the handling, packaging and carrying-for-use of medical tablets for cardiac sufferers, to protect them from the so-called "powdering" or "dusting off" action to which they would be subjected if they were packaged loosely in a container. For this purpose, it is customary to stuff a plug of wadding, such as cotton, into the bottle or phial of tablets to fill the space below the stopper and thus prevent the tablets from being shifted about. This was not wholly satisfactory since "powdering" or "dusting off" occurred, and the manufacturers of pharmaceuticals were forced to employ glass tube-like bottles or phials which have an inside diameter only slightly in excess of the over-all diameter of the tablets to be placed therein. The latter represents the current practice in this specialized field.

Moreover, since the cardiac sufferer must carry the emergency medicine on his person at all times, it is important, in the case of a male patient, that he have a package, or container, which is not only preferably break-proof and one in which the tablets will not "powder" but one which is small enough and thin enough so that it can be inserted in, carried by, and quickly removed from his billfold or wallet; and in the case of a female patient, one which is small enough, etc., to be easily placed in and carried in a pocket, or compartment of her purse.

It is, therefore, an important object of the instant invention to provide a new and improved medical tablet container and dispenser of novel and unique construction which is relatively thin and streamlined, permitting it to be inserted into a billfold or wallet, or in the pocket of a purse, along with identification cards and the like, without adding any noticeable bulk to the contents of said billfold; another object being to provide such a container having means incorporated in the removable closure therefor which will maintain the medical tablets in a columnar arrangement against the undesirable "dusting off" or "powdering."

A further object of the invention is to provide a new and improved container as aforesaid which is ornamental, which presents no sharp or pointed corners to hinder its insertion into a billfold or pocket, nor to damage other articles located therein; one in which there is no danger

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of accidentally loosening the closure cap or stopper; and one which is capable of being manufactured from plastic material and the like at low cost and by mass production methods.

5 The foregoing and other objects and advantages of the present invention will appear from the following description and appended claims when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification wherein like reference characters 10 designate corresponding parts in the several views.

In said drawing:

Figure 1 is an exploded perspective view of the medical tablet container and dispenser, showing the closure member or stopper removed;

15 Figure 2 is a front elevation of the same;

Figure 3 is a side edge view of the container of Figures 1 and 2;

20 Figure 4 is a vertical section taken substantially along the line 4-4 of Figure 5, but with the closure cap removed, looking in the direction of the arrows;

Figure 5 is a vertical sectional view, partly in elevation, of the container, taken substantially through the center thereof, revealing the cavity with a stack of tablets therein.

25 Figure 6 is a top plan view of the top or upper end of the container of the preceding views, with the closure or stopper removed; and

30 Figure 7 is a horizontal sectional view taken substantially along the line 7-7 of Figure 2, looking in the direction of the arrows.

Before explaining in detail the present invention, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and arrangement of parts illustrated in the accompanying drawing, since the invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced or carried out in various ways. It is to be understood also that the phraseology or terminology employed herein is for the purpose of description and not of limitation, and it is not intended to limit the invention claimed herein beyond the requirements of the prior art.

Referring now to the drawing, the container and dispenser of the present invention is shown as a whole at 3. It comprises a body portion 9 which is formed from any suitable non-breakable material such, for example, as plastic, which may be of amber color to exclude light. The front and rear faces of the body portion, as shown, are tapered outwardly in opposite directions as indicated at 9a, see particularly Figs. 1, 6 and 7. The body portion has a short dimension bottom or lower wall edge 10, substantially parallel long dimension side wall edges 11 toward which the front and rear faces are tapered, and a top wall or edge 12 which has inwardly and downwardly converging portions 12, see particularly Figs. 1, 2, and 5. The four corners of the body are preferably rounded as indicated at 13 to provide for easy insertion into the pocket of a billfold, or the like, without damage to any papers or cards that may already be located within said pocket.

The inwardly and downwardly tapered top edges or wall portions 12 extend from the rounded corners 13 to the approximate center of the body portion 9 and terminate at and define a longitudinal bore or cavity 14 in said body portion. The cavity or pocket 14 is adapted to receive and protect, for authorized easy hand dispensing, a plurality of medical tablets T, see Fig. 5. As shown, the cavity 14 extends inwardly from the top edge 12 to a point slightly beyond the longitudinal center of the body 9. This depth or length of cavity can, of course, be varied in accordance with the quantity of stacked tablets or pills T which the container may be designed to hold. The upper end portion or neck of the cavity 14 is internally threaded at 15 for the reception of a removable