

which is rotated by a shaft 112 connected to a central support block 114 attached to the center of the carousel by the fastener 116. The shaft 112 and central support block 114 are interconnected by a pair of oppositely disposed pins 113 on the shaft 112, which are received in oppositely disposed slots 115 in the lower portion of the support block 114. The shaft 112 and support block 114 are driven by a motor 118 through a worm gear 120 mounted in a centrally positioned frame 122. The shaft 112 and central support block 114 are received in a central aperture 126 of a support member 124 to maintain the carousel in a substantially central position during operation. The frame 122 is connected to the support member 124 by suitable fasteners (not shown), and hence, the support member supports the frame 122, motor 118 and carousel 110. The support member 124 is mounted at opposite ends on outer support blocks 129 attached to opposite side walls 131 of the refrigerator.

A series of large sample bottles 106 is mounted circumferentially adjacent the outer periphery of the carousel in a circular rack 128 supported on the carousel by support pins 130. The large bottles 106 are each positioned in circular holes 132 provided adjacent the outer periphery of the rack. In the embodiment shown, there are 20 such holes 132 for receiving 20 of the large bottles 106, e.g., of 60 mls capacity each.

There are also provided in the rack 128 three concentric circles of smaller holes 134 for receiving the small bottles 108, there being 20 of the small holes 134 in each of the three concentric circles of holes, for receiving 20 of the small bottles 108, e.g., having a capacity of 8 ml each in the present embodiment.

It will accordingly be seen that at the sample bottle-filling station X, as shown in FIGS. 10 and 11, there will be one large sample bottle 106 and three oppositely disposed small bottles 108.

Referring to FIG. 12, an overflow line 136 is connected to the discharge conduit 138 from the bottom of reservoir 104, such overflow conduit discharging into an overflow bottle 140. A vent 142 is provided at the top of the reservoir 104. A liquid level sensor 144, in the form of a photoelectric cell, is provided to monitor a predetermined volume of cloud water received in the reservoir 104.

Now referring to FIGS. 10 and 11, an auxiliary line 146 is connected to the discharge conduit 138, a valve B being disposed in the discharge line 146, for actuation to fill three of the small bottles 108, simultaneously with actuation of valve A for filling one of the large bottles 106 at the filling station X. An air cylinder powered device 148 is arranged to actuate a sliding assembly 149 carrying three hypodermic needles 150 communicating with line 146. Each of the needles 150 has a fluid inlet 151 communicating with the line 146 and a vent tube 153. Each of such needles pierces a septum 152 which tops each of the small bottles 108 when the support assembly 149 is urged downwardly. The air powered assembly is actuated by the opening of valve A, at which time valve B is also opened for filling the three small bottles 108 through the hypodermic needles.

Now referring also to FIG. 14, showing a block diagram of the automated sampler 100, it will be noted that a timer 154 is connected to valve B for introducing a predetermined amount of sample liquid from the reservoir 104 into each of the three small sample bottles 108, simultaneously during the filling of the large bottle 106 via valve A at the filling station X.

The automated sampler 100, when set up to collect cloud water samples in conjunction with the cloud water collector 20, operates as follows:

A fog detector indicated at 155, which is basically a miniature version of the cloud water collector 20, is actuated, and when fog is present, such fog detector collects a sample amount of the fog water and deposits it onto a resistance grid, indicated at 156. A circuit (not shown) senses the charge on the resistance grid 156, due to the presence of the fog water, and trips a relay 158 which supplies power from power source 160 to the various components in the device, as noted below, including fan 30 of the cloud water collector 20.

Fog water collected in the cloud water collector 20 is discharged via tube 76 into the reservoir 104. According to one mode of operation, when the liquid sample collected in the reservoir 104 reaches a predetermined volume, as indicated by the level sensor 144, the sensor actuates the valve A to open same to discharge the liquid sample into the bottle 106 at the fill station X. Simultaneously with the opening of valve A, a timer indicated at 154 opens valve B to discharge liquid from reservoir 104 via hypodermic needles 150 into each of the three small sample bottles 108 at station X. In one example of operation, valve B remains open for about 5 seconds to discharge a total of 15 ml of sample liquid (5 ml per bottle) in the three small 8 ml bottles 108. During this same period of time, sample liquid flows from reservoir 104 into the large 60 ml sample bottle 106. The timer 154 then closes valve B. However, valve A remains open to discharge the remainder of the liquid in reservoir into the large bottle 108. If the pre-set volume of liquid collected in reservoir 104 is 60 ml, then 45 ml of liquid is collected in a total period of 20 seconds in the large 60 ml sample bottle 106. When the reservoir 104 is emptied, valve A closes to permit the reservoir 104 to again fill with cloud water. When valve A closes, the air powered cylinder is actuated to withdraw the hypodermic needles 150 from the small bottles to the position shown in FIG. 11.

According to a second mode of operation, a timer 157 is employed in conjunction with valve A, instead of level sensor 144. In this mode of operation, the timer 157 times the interval for filling the reservoir 104, say, one hour. This is the "off" interval of the timer 157. At the end of such time, the timer actuates the valve A, while at the same time, the timer 154 actuates the valve B, to fill the large bottle 106 and the small bottles 108 simultaneously. During this filling operation of about 20 seconds, the timer 157 is in the "on" interval. The timer 157 then switches to the "off" interval again, closing valve A, while timer 154 closes valve B, to permit reservoir 104 to again be filled with sample liquid.

In a third mode of operation employing both the level sensor 144 and the timer 157, for actuating valve A, if either the time has elapsed as set by timer 157, for filling the reservoir 104 to a predetermined volume, or the collected volume of liquid as indicated by the level sensor 144 has been achieved, whichever occurs first, valve A will be opened by either the level sensor or the timer 157, to permit discharge of liquid into the large bottle 106, while at the same time simultaneously the timer 154 opens valve B to permit discharge of liquid sample into the small bottles 108, after which valves A and B are closed, as noted above, to permit repeated filling of the reservoir 104. This third mode of operation is preferred.