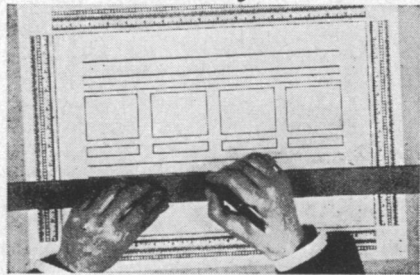


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10-2-65

INVENTION

Current U. S. Patents

A new alarm system which can respond to a variety of conditions in a building will use normal telephone circuits to relay emergency signals by codes.

➤ A NEW ALARM SYSTEM, developed by Bell Telephone Laboratories, will halve the cost of older systems, if the company decides to offer publicly the apparatus that received a U.S. patent in Washington, D.C.

The new system is automatic as are most alarm devices. Its advantage lies in the fact that it uses normal telephone circuits to relay emergency signals by codes. As many as 100 telephones can be connected to one emergency route, meaning an entire apartment building could be serviced at relatively low cost.

The system is claimed to be a significant advance over old alarm methods. It can be made to respond to conditions within a building such as temperature.

Inventors Fred B. Crowson, Brooklyn, N.Y., and Walter S. Michel, Forest Hills, N.Y., received patent number 3,206,551 for their invention, assigned to Bell Telephone Laboratories.

Missile Restraining Device

A method of preventing accidental ignition of U.S. Navy missiles on ships was granted patent 3,205,778. Myron J. Bauer, St. Paul, and Anthony J. Hogan of Minneapolis, Minn., invented a series of metallic rings to hold missiles set for vertical launch from ship magazines.

The device prevents inadvertent ignition by fire or electrical short. Rights have been assigned to the Navy.

Surgeon's Hand Washer

Surgeons on the run can clean their hands in 30 seconds instead of the seven minutes this necessity now requires. The American Sterilizer Company was assigned rights to patent 3,205,620 for an alcohol and abrasive cleaning machine invented by Harmon H. Woodworth, Las Altos, Calif., and Peter M. Newgard, Redwood City, Calif.

A tank is filled with alcohol and abrasive

particles. In the bottom of the tank is a motor that drives the particles (plastic, sand or metal) through jets at high velocity while the doctor holds his hands under the stream.

If any stubborn particles refuse to be washed off, the jets will continue to shoot alcohol. The inventors claim that the "comfort level" of the machine is superior to that of the bristle brush.

Other Interesting Patents

An air-cushion vehicle in which air is drawn in from the front instead of down from above was granted patent 3,205,959. Christopher Sydney Cockerell, Bassett, Southampton, England, assigned rights to Hovercraft Development Limited, London.

A way of making missile and satellite windows that will transmit infrared as well as visible light won patent 3,206,279 for Edward Carnall Jr., Rochester, N.Y., who assigned rights to Eastman Kodak Company, also in Rochester. The windows, made of compressed lanthanaum fluoride powder, would be very dense and very resistant to thermal shock and temperature extremes.

A "hole-within-a-hole" method of drilling holes in earth formations has been developed and patented after a series of tests with a translucent plastic model. A second hole is sunk into the stress zone in the bottom center of a first, according to patent 3,205,954, which was awarded to Nathan Theodore Burdine, Dallas, Texas, with rights assigned to Socony Mobil Oil Company, Inc., New York.

An alarm-ashtray equipped with an electrically operated signal warns smokers if their cigarettes have burned down too far. The heat of a cigarette will cause a bimetallic strip around the ashtray to bend, switching on an electric motor which operates the alarm. The device received patent 3,205,900 for Calvin M. Dahl of Blue Island, Ill.

• Science News Letter, 88:222 October 2, 1965

Do You Know?

About 95% of water used by U.S. industry is reusable.

The number of large craters per unit area on the *Martian* surface is closely comparable to the densely cratered upland areas on the moon.

The use of duck embryo vaccine to counteract rabies minimizes the risk of *encephalitis* and is replacing nerve tissue vaccine for immunization.

• Science News Letter, 88:222 October 2, 1965

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