

## **Specification of Robert Henry Emerson : siphon drinking cup.**

### **Contributors**

Emerson, Robert Henry.

### **Publication/Creation**

London : Great Seal Patent Office, 1865 (London : George E. Eyre and William Spottiswoode)

### **Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/hnjtpz4x>

### **License and attribution**

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



---

A.D. 1865, 15th FEBRUARY. N° 437.

---

S P E C I F I C A T I O N

OF

ROBERT HENRY EMERSON.

—  
SIPHON DRINKING CUP.  
—

LONDON:

PRINTED BY GEORGE E. EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,

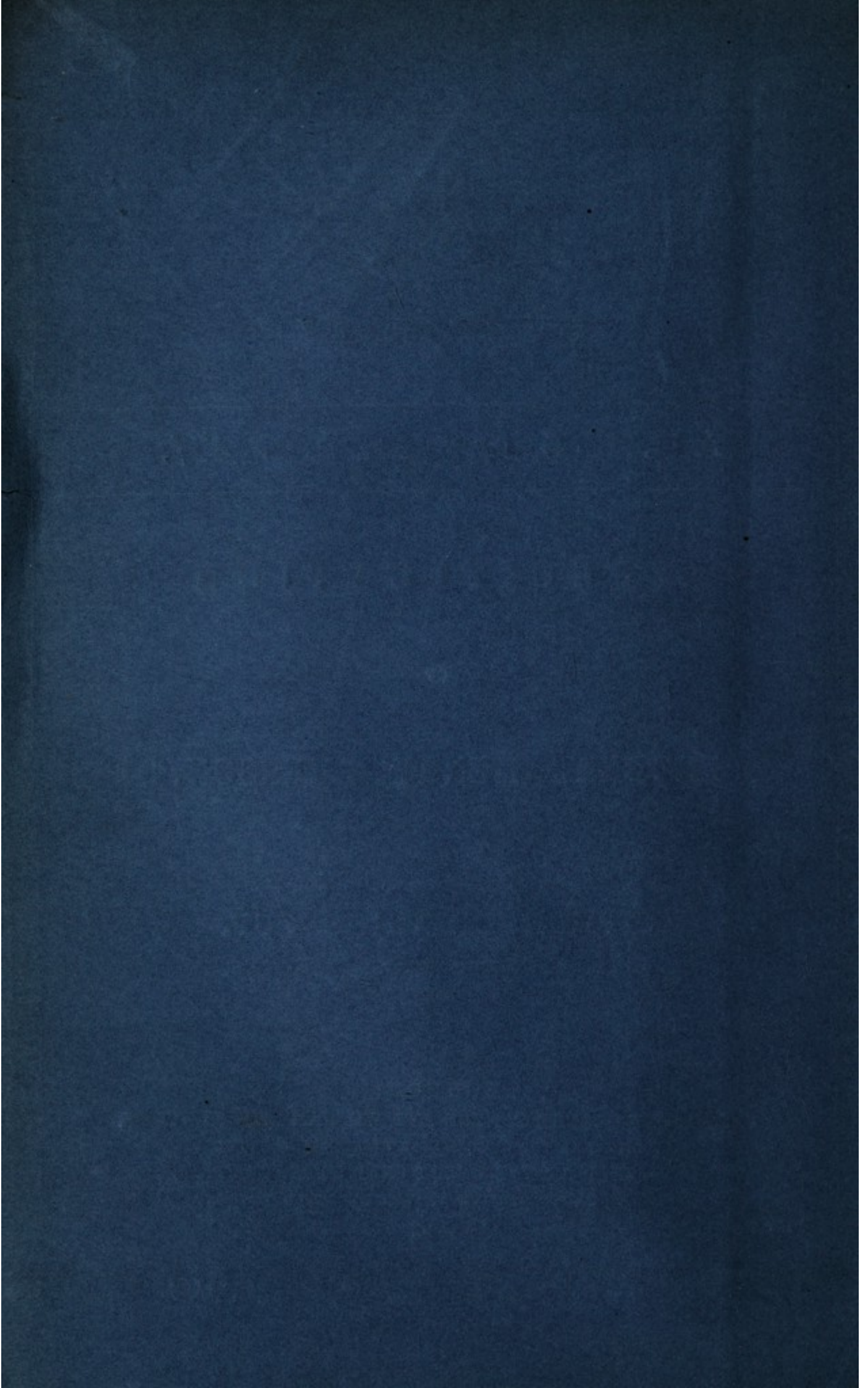
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY:

PUBLISHED AT THE GREAT SEAL PATENT OFFICE,

25, SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS, HOLBORN.

Price 8d.

1865.





---

A.D. 1865, 15th FEBRUARY. N° 437.

---

### Siphon Drinking Cup.

---

**LETTERS PATENT** to Robert Henry Emerson, of the City of Dublin, Ireland, for the Invention of "A NEW OR IMPROVED INVALID OR SIPHON DRINKING CUP."

Sealed the 11th August 1865, and dated the 15th February 1865.

---

**PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION** left by the said Robert Henry Emerson at the Office of the Commissioners of Patents, with his Petition, on the 15th February 1865.

I, ROBERT HENRY EMERSON, of the City of Dublin, Ireland, do hereby  
5 declare the nature of the said Invention for "A NEW OR IMPROVED INVALID OR SIPHON DRINKING CUP," to be as follows:—

For the purpose of allowing the fluid contents of cups or other drinking vessels, whether used for medicinal or other purposes, to be administered to invalids or other persons while in a recumbent position, I adapt to or form  
10 as part of cups or other drinking vessels a bent tube, forming a siphon, in communication with the interior of the cup or other vessel; a small opening or air course penetrates the siphon tube, this opening being easily stopped or closed by the finger of the attendant in administering the drink or medicine, when, the end of the siphon tube being placed in the mouth of the patient and the air opening being closed, a very slight inspiration creates the necessary vacuum, and the contents of the vessel will flow through the siphon until the vessel is empty, or until the finger of the attendant is removed from the air hole or opening. I prefer to adapt the size and shape of cups or drinking

*Emerson's New or Improved Invalid or Siphon Drinking Cup.*

vessels, according to my Invention, to the particular uses for which they are intended. The form of the siphon and its position in relation to the several parts of the cup may be varied, as also that of the air course or opening by which the action of the siphon is controlled. The cups or vessels may be made of china, glass, earthenware, or other suitable material or combination 5 of materials, and they may be either open or be provided with a lid, and be made to any suitable design, or ornamented in any manner which may be desired. The siphon tube may either form part of the vessel, or the vessel and the siphon may be made separately and be afterwards combined together, and the siphon tube may be adapted to receive mouth-pieces of varying lengths. 10 The cups used for administering medicines and stimulants may be graduated to indicate the necessary doses.

**SPECIFICATION** in pursuance of the conditions of the Letters Patent, filed by the said Robert Henry Emerson in the Great Seal Patent Office on the 15th August 1865. 15

**TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, I, ROBERT HENRY EMERSON,** of the City of Dublin, Ireland, send greeting.

**WHEREAS** Her most Excellent Majesty Queen Victoria, by Her Letters Patent, bearing date the Fifteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, in the 28th year of Her reign, 20 did, for Herself, Her heirs and successors, give and grant unto me, the said Robert Henry Emerson, Her special license that I, the said Robert Henry Emerson, my executors, administrators, and assigns, or such others as I, the said Robert Henry Emerson, my executors, administrators, or assigns, should at any time agree with, and no others, from time to time and at all times 25 thereafter during the term therein expressed, should and lawfully might make, use, exercise, and vend, within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Channel Islands, and Isle of Man, an Invention for "A NEW OR IMPROVED INVALID OR SIPHON DRINKING CUP," upon the condition (amongst others) that I, the said Robert Henry Emerson, my executors or adminis- 30 trators, by an instrument in writing under my hand and seal, or under the hand and seal of one of them, should particularly describe and ascertain the nature of the said Invention, and in what manner the same was to be performed, and cause the same to be filed in the Great Seal Patent Office within six calendar months next and immediately after the date of the said Letters 35 Patent

*Emerson's New or Improved Invalid or Siphon Drinking Cup.*

NOW KNOW YE, that I, the said Robert Henry Emerson, do hereby declare the nature of my said Invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement and accompanying Sheet of Drawings:—

5 For the purpose of allowing the fluid contents of cups or other drinking vessels, whether used for medicinal or other purposes, to be administered to invalids or other persons while in a recumbent position, I adapt to or form as part of cups or other drinking vessels a bent tube, forming a siphon, in communication with the interior of the cup or other vessel; a small opening  
10 or air course penetrates the siphon tube, this opening being easily stopped or closed by the finger of the attendant in administering the drink or medicine, when the end of the siphon tube being placed in the mouth of the patient and the air opening being closed a very slight inspiration creates the necessary vacuum therein, and the contents of the vessel will flow through the siphon  
15 until the vessel is empty, or until the finger of the attendant is removed from the air hole or opening; or where the air passage can conveniently be formed within the spout and parallel to the passage in which the fluid or semi-fluid is intended to pass from the vessel to the mouth of the patient, the opening by which the vacuum is regulated and the siphon action produced may terminate  
20 close to the nose or opening of the spout, and the lip of the patient may perform the same functions as the finger or stopper. I adapt the size and shape of cups or drinking vessels, according to my Invention, to the particular uses for which they are intended. The form of the siphon and its position in relation to the several parts of the cup may be varied, as also that  
25 of the air course or opening by which the action of the siphon is controlled. The cups or vessels may be made of china, glass, earthenware, or other suitable material or combination of materials, and they may be either open or be provided with a lid, and be made to any suitable design, or ornamented in any manner which may be desired. The siphon tube may either form part of the vessel,  
30 or the vessel and the siphon may be made separately, and be afterwards combined together, and the siphon tube may be adapted to receive mouth-pieces of varying lengths. The cups used for administering medicines and stimulants may be graduated to indicate the necessary doses.

In the accompanying Sheet of Drawings Figure 1 represents a vertical  
35 section of a cup the siphon forming an integral part thereof, it being supported or strengthened by means of a web between the side of the cup and the projecting leg of the siphon. In this Figure the air channel or means of regulating the siphon action of the apparatus is formed around the rim or upper edge of the cup, and the opening by which the action is regulated by

---

*Emerson's New or Improved Invalid or Siphon Drinking Cup.*

---

means of the finger is shewn on one side of and near to the handle of the cup. Figure 2 is a horizontal section of Figure 1 taken on the line A, B; Figure 3 is a vertical section of a siphon drinking cup, according to my Invention, having an opening at the top of the siphon pipe which may be closed by the finger of the patient or of the person administering the contents of the cup. 5  
In this Figure the mouth of the siphon pipe is curved outwards.

Figure 4 exhibits the siphon arrangement in which the air channel is made to communicate at the upper end of the siphon, is enclosed within the spout, and terminating at its lower end at the mouth-piece, so as to be controlled by the lip of the patient. 10

*a, a*, is the body of the cup; *b*, the handle; *c*, the bottom; *d*, the upper edge or rim of the cup; *e*, the web of the siphon; *f*, the siphon passage; *g*, the air passage; *h*, the opening communicating with the air passage, by which the siphon is brought into or put out of action. In each of the Figures the same letters represent corresponding parts. 15

Although in the several Figures in the accompanying Sheet of Drawings the cups are shewn as being moulded or formed together with the siphon in one piece, it is evident that the siphon may be attached to a cup, and that cups according to my Invention may be either composed wholly or in part of metal, or wholly or in part of china, earthenware, or other material; and 20 although in the accompanying Drawing I have shewn but three modes of producing and controlling the siphon action, it is evident that the position of the air channel, as also that of the controlling opening, may be changed to suit the particular requirements or the fancy of the person requiring such vessels. 25

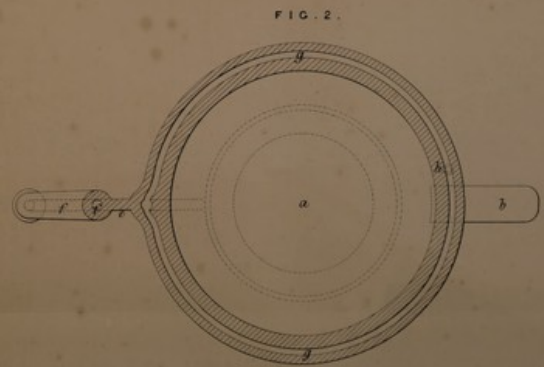
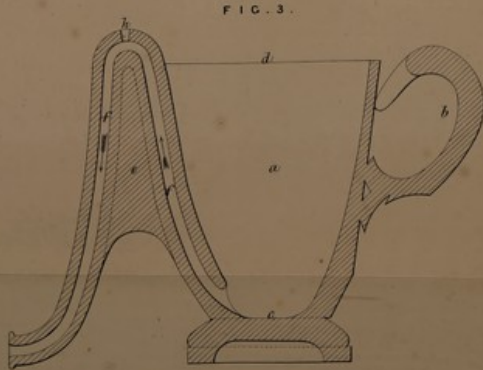
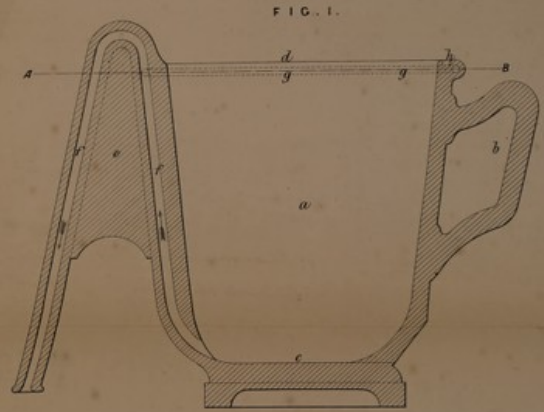
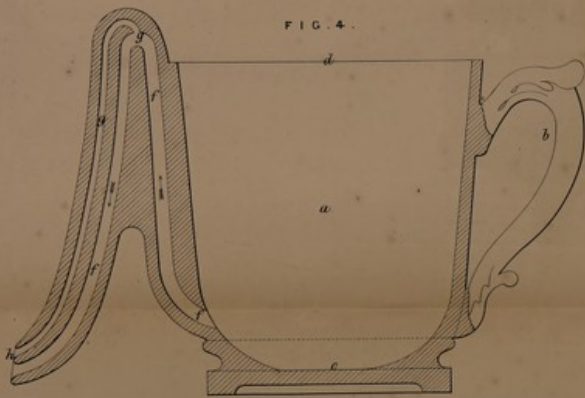
In witness whereof, I, the said Robert Henry Emerson, have hereunto set my hand and seal, this Fifteenth day of August 1865.

(L.S.) ROBERT HENRY EMERSON.

---

LONDON:

Printed by GEORGE EDWARD EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,  
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty. 1865.



The filed drawing is not colored.

Drawn on Stone by Malby & Sons.



