PATENT SPECIFICATION

We, BERKEL & PARNALL'S SLICING MACHINE MANUFACTURING COMPANY LIMITED, a British Company of Aden Road, Ponders End, Middlesex, and SEYMOUR THOMAS, a British Subject, of the Company's address, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to slicing-machines and more particularly to slicing-machine substance-holders, for end-piece holder units supplied as auxiliary fittings for attachment to and detachment from the usual feed-table or other machine part which is adapted to receive feed movements (such part being hereinafter referred to generally as a "feed-part") and which is provided with some form of adjustable member supporting or partly supporting means for clamping the substance, usually when the substance-holder is not in use. The said adjustable member usually takes the form of a sleeve which is slidable along an upright on the feed-table or other feed-part; and the clamping means usually takes the form of a clamp bar pivotally attached to the sleeve.

The object of this invention is to make provision whereby a substance-holder unit, when being fitted to the machine, can be quickly and securely located in position by the operator in an improved manner, the arrangement being such that the substance-holder unit will be particularly well fitted to resist turning when the substance is subjected to the slicing action of the knife.

The invention broadly comprises the provision in or for a slicing machine of a feed-part wherein the substance-holder unit and the said adjustable member are made to inter-engage and to serve in conjunction with at least one other pair of inter-engaging parts to lock the said unit in position on the feed-part.

More specifically, in the case of a machine having a feed-table which has an upright with an adjustable sleeve thereon wholly or partly supporting a substance clamp and which is adapted to be fitted with an end-piece holder unit, the end-piece holder unit and said sleeve are made so that the sleeve can be slid into engagement with the said unit and will serve in conjunction with at least one other pair of inter-engaging parts to lock the unit in position on the feed-table.

To obtain the requisite locking inter-engagement, parts of the end-piece holder or other substance-holder unit and the adjustable sleeve or other member are formed with counterpart relatively non-turnable faces which register with one another when the adjustable member is moved into engagement with the substance-holder unit.

Where the substance-holder unit is fitted to an upright supporting the adjustable sleeve or other member, a register part may be provided at the foot of the upright to engage a counterpart part at or near the foot of the holder unit, the inter-engaging parts being relatively non-turnable. Such an arrangement is suitable in cases where the substance-holder unit is completely supported and locked at one side of the feed-table or other feed-part. Alternatively, the arrangement may be such that the substance-holder unit has means for engaging the foot of the upright and means for engaging a part at the other side of the feed-table.

Preferably, the positioning and locking parts by virtue of which engagement between the adjustable sleeve or other member and the end-piece holder or other substance-holder unit is effected include inclined contact faces, the arrangement being such that the operator simply requires to place the unit approximately in position and force down the clamp, this action causing the adjustable member to engage the unit and the inclined contact faces to interact, so that the unit is automatically forced to adopt its proper position with precision and is tightly clamped in said position against movement in any direction.

The term substance-support "unit" herein used is intended to refer not only