The invention claimed is:

1. An applicator for dispensing a liquid, the applicator comprising:

a body,

a holder for holding a supply of liquid to be dispensed,

a nozzle mounted on the body for dispensing the liquid,

an elongate priming chamber within the body for receiving the liquid from the holder,

an elongate delivery chamber within the body for receiving the liquid from the priming chamber,

a piston assembly having a piston located in the delivery chamber and being moveable in a first direction to draw the liquid from the priming chamber into the delivery chamber and in a second opposite direction for passing the liquid from the delivery chamber to the nozzle,

a drive arrangement capable of effecting incremental movement of the piston in the second direction for metered dispense of the liquid, and

a first actuator for operating the drive arrangement for effecting said incremental movement, wherein the delivery chamber and the priming chamber are coaxial with each other.

2. An applicator as claimed in claim 1 wherein the drive arrangement is configured such that the drive to arrangement is not engaged during initial movement of the piston assembly in the second direction from a limit of the piston assembly's movement in the first direction.

3. An applicator as claimed in claim 1 wherein the piston assembly is moveable in the second direction from an initial fourth position to a fifth position without engagement of the drive arrangement and is moveable from the fifth position to a sixth position by operation of the drive arrangement.

4. An applicator as claimed in claim 3 comprising a carriage engageable by the piston assembly when at the fourth position and being operable to effect movement of the piston assembly in the second direction from the fourth to the fifth position.

5. An applicator as claimed in claim 4 wherein a second actuator is rotably mounted on the body of the applicator, said second actuator having a screw thread formation operatively associated with a complementary screw thread formation provided on the carriage, whereby rotation of the second actuator effects movement of the carriage in the second direction to move the piston assembly from the fourth to fifth position.

6. An applicator as claimed in claim 1 wherein the applicator is configured such that the holder is linearly moveable in the first direction and adapted, during the linear movement, to engage the piston assembly and effect movement thereof in the first direction and subsequently rotationally moveable towards a limit of the holder's movement in the first direction to disengage the holder from the piston assembly to permit movement thereof in the second direction.

7. An applicator as claimed in claim 1 wherein the holder holds an elongate frangible ampoule of the liquid to be dispensed, the holder being associated with a mechanism for fracturing the ampoule.

8. An applicator as claimed in claim 7 wherein the ampoule is coaxial with the piston.

9. An applicator as claimed in claim 7 wherein the ampoule is held in a sleeve and said sleeve is provided with a filter element at a sleeve end adjacent to the piston assembly.

10. An applicator as claimed in claim 7 wherein the holder is rotatable to fracture the ampoule.

11. An applicator as claimed in claim 10 wherein the holder has camming surfaces effective, on rotation of the holder, to fracture the ampoule.

12. An applicator as claimed in claim 6 wherein the holder is linearly moveable to fracture the ampoule.

13. An applicator as claimed in claim 1 wherein the liquid is a curable cyanoacrylate composition.

14. An applicator for dispensing a liquid, the applicator comprising:

a body,

a holder for holding a supply of liquid to be dispensed,

a nozzle mounted on the body for dispensing the liquid,

an elongate priming chamber within the body for receiving the liquid from the holder,

an elongate delivery chamber within the body for receiving the liquid from the priming chamber,

a piston assembly having a piston located in the delivery chamber and being moveable in a first direction to draw the liquid from the priming chamber into the delivery chamber and in a second opposite direction for passing the liquid from the delivery chamber to the nozzle,

a drive arrangement capable of effecting incremental movement of the piston in the second direction for metered dispense of the liquid, and

a first actuator for operating the drive arrangement for effecting said incremental movement, wherein during movement of the piston assembly in the first direction the drive arrangement is disengaged from the piston assembly.

15. An applicator as claimed in claim 14 wherein the piston assembly is linearly moveable in the first direction from a first position to a second position and is then rotationally moveable from the second position to a third position to allow for movement of the piston assembly in the second direction by operation of the drive arrangement.

16. An applicator as claimed in claim 15 wherein the piston assembly has an arm extending externally of the delivery chamber parallel to the second direction and the drive arrangement comprises a set of rack teeth provided on the arm, and a drive element operable by the first actuator and capable of engaging the rack teeth to effect movement of the piston assembly in the second direction.

17. An applicator as claimed in claim 14 wherein the priming chamber and the delivery chamber are coaxial.

18. An applicator as claimed in claim 17 comprising an intermediate chamber between adjacent ends of the priming and delivery chambers and coaxial therewith, a liquid outlet connected to the intermediate chamber, and an axially moveable filter in the intermediate chamber, said axially moveable filter being configured as a valve and being moveable from a first position in which the liquid outlet is closed to liquid flow from the delivery chamber but the valve allows the liquid to pass from the priming chamber to the delivery chamber, to a second position in which the liquid can flow from the delivery chamber to the outlet but not between the priming chamber and delivery chamber.

19. An applicator as claimed in claim 14 wherein the drive arrangement is configured such that the drive to arrangement is not engaged during initial movement of the piston assembly in the second direction from a limit of the piston assembly's movement in the first direction.

20. An applicator as claimed in claim 14 wherein the piston assembly is moveable in the second direction from an initial fourth position to a fifth position without engagement of the drive arrangement and is moveable from the fifth position to a sixth position by operation of the drive arrangement.

21. An applicator as claimed in claim 14 wherein the applicator is configured such that the holder is linearly moveable in the first direction and adapted, during the linear movement, to engage the piston assembly and effect movement thereof in the first direction and subsequently rotationally moveable towards a limit of the holder's movement in the first direction to disengage the holder from the piston assembly to permit movement thereof in the second direction.

22. An applicator as claimed in claim 14 wherein the holder holds an elongate frangible ampoule of the liquid to be dispensed, the holder being associated with a mechanism for fracturing the ampoule.

23. An applicator as claimed in claim 14 wherein the liquid is a curable cyanoacrylate composition.