UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES F. MORRISON, OF BELLAIRE, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN DEVICES FOR MEDICINAL INHALATION.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **223,058**, dated December 30, 1879; application filed May 17, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES F. MORRISON, of Bellaire, in the county of Belmont and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Devices for Medicinal Inhalation, which is fully described in the following specification.

Certain herbs, such as belladonna and stramonium, have been and are used for giving relief to persons afflicted with spasmodic asthma.

The common methods of employing such herbs is by burning them and permitting asthmatic persons to inhale the fumes. Three modes have been practiced in applying the herbs for the purpose stated. One mode consists in taking a small quantity of the dried herbs, placing them upon a plate of metal, or a disk of porcelain, then igniting them, and with the hands, or any improvised funnel, guiding the fumes of the burning herbs to the mouth and nostrils to be inhaled. Another method consists in saturating slips of common paper in a decoction of the herbs, then drying the slips so treated, and using them by inhaling the fumes when they are burning. Another method consists in using the herbs by smoking them in a common pipe or in the form of cigarettes. All these methods of employing the herbs are defective.

The soaked paper slips described are convenient for use; but they cannot be, and are never, charged with a sufficient strength of the medicinal properties of the herbs to render them quick and efficient in giving relief to afflicted persons. The loose herbs to be burned openly upon a porcelain or other plate are inconvenient to carry and apply; and respecting the third mode, it is sufficient to state that persons suddenly attacked with asthma cannot well smoke pipes or cigarettes, and they are unsuited for children.

My improvement combines the virtues or benefits and convenience of the prepared paper slips described and the direct strong fumes of the burning herbs, and the difficult operation of smoking is not involved nor required.

My invention consists in securing thin layers or sheets of the medicinal herbs in fixed flat sheaths of paper, which can be conveniently carried in the pocket ready prepared, and which can be used instantly by igniting them, and then inhaling the direct fumes of the herbs.

To prepare my remedy I take sheets of any good porous paper and cut them into slips of about three inches in length and two inches in width. Each such slip is doubled and folded lengthwise, and a thin layer of the dry herbs is inclosed in the whole length of the fold; then the slip is sealed at the edges with any suitable paste or gum, and, when dried, it is ready for use.

Each fixed herb-sheath so made is a most convenient and effective device to be carried in the pocket ready for immediate use. By simply holding it in the hand and igniting it with a match, its fumes can be easily directed and inhaled, so as to afford the common relief sought by afflicted persons from such agencies. The full strength of the fumes of the herbs is thus secured and applied with all the convenience of the simple paper slips.

The paper sheaths which I make are first prepared by soaking the sheets of paper in a weak solution of the nitrate of potash, (and the herbs themselves may also be so treated;) then they are dried for subsequent operations.

My device burns very slowly and steadily until the herbs are consumed. The devices thus made are also very convenient for packing and carriage as mercantile commodities.

Various medicinal herbs may be inclosed in such fixed sheaths and made in the same way to afford relief or effect cures in persons afflicted with other diseases besides asthma.

I claim—

The asthma remedy described, consisting of medicinal herbs inclosed in sealed flat sheaths of paper impregnated with the nitrate of potash, as set forth, and for the purposes stated.

JAMES F. MORRISON.

Witnesses:

W. B. GILMOR,

JOHN S. GILL.