UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE WASHINGTON MERRITT, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

ANTI-SEPTIC TELEPHONE-MOUTHPIECE ATTACHMENT.


To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE WASHINGTON MERRITT, a citizen of the United States, residing at the city and in the county of San Francisco and State of California, have invented and useful Improvements in Anti-septic Telephone-Mouthpiece Attachments, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an anti-septic mouth-shield for telephone-mouthpieces. Its object is to provide a simple, cheap, handy, individual mouth-protective germ destroying device which can be carried in the vest-pocket, which will always be ready for use, and which can be used anywhere at any time on any telephone.

The invention comprehends, essentially, a perforated diaphragm-plate of suitable material adapted to be easily attached to and detached from the telephone-mouthpiece and when not in use to be inclosed in a suitable pocket-case impregnated with a suitable anti-septic fluid which will destroy all the germs that may have been deposited on the plate and which will leave the plate perfectly sanitary for the next time.

Having reference to the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 shows the mouth-shield placed over a telephone-mouthpiece. Fig. 2 is a front view of the shield. Fig. 3 is a section on line z z of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a modification of same. Fig. 5 is a section on line y y of Fig. 4. Fig. 6 is an outside view of the case. Fig. 7 is a section on line o o of Fig. 6.

A represents a plate of suitable shape, size, and material. Preferably it is round so as to just fit over the end of a mouthpiece 2 and to enable it to be easily carried in the pocket. Preferably it is also inflexible, or moderately elastic, in order to be sufficiently strong and may be of celluloid, wood, rubber, or other suitable substance. This plate is perforated and is thin enough so as not to prevent or seriously interfere with the ready passage through of sound-waves. Preferably it is in the form of a thin disk with a surrounding peripheral reinforcing-rim a and is provided with suitable means for its attachment to the mouthpiece.

As here shown, the plate has two peripheral segmental flanges 3 of less than half a diameter and approximately concentric with the outer flared end of the mouthpiece 2 and grooved on their under sides and adapted each to be loosely hooked over the rim of the mouthpiece, leaving the plate hanging across

and in close contact with the end of the mouth-piece.

The two grooved flanges are disposed one on either side of the plate or the plate, so as to render the device reversible for the convenience of the operator.

When not in actual use over the end of the mouth-piece, the device is adapted to be inserted into a suitable pocket-case 4, having an absorbent lining 5, which may be impregnated with an agreeably-scented disinfectant.

As here shown, the case 4 is made with flexible or springy sides conformable in shape to the plate portion A and constituting a narrow pocket open at one side for the insertion of said plate portion, the edges of the case contiguous to the opening abutting against the grooved under sides of the flanges 3.

When the attachment is in its case, the perimeters of the case and of the exposed part of the attachment are practically continuous, and the entire device and case occupy no more room in one's pocket than an ordinary watch.

Where material such as leather, for instance, is used in the manufacture of the case and which material possesses little inherent elasticity, I may employ a spring 6 in each wall of the case on either side of the mouth of the opening and between the leather and lining or otherwise, so that the mouth of the opening will normally close and retain the strength of the disinfectant substance undiminished when the device is in use.

An attachment of this character and description will receive and retain sufficient of the disinfectant when in the case to destroy all germ life that may be deposited on it when in use. It affords an individual pocket-piece which is always clean, always ready for use, and which can be attached to any mouth-piece.

As the plate or shield A must have means for antisepticizing it, the case obviously becomes an essential part of the invention.

It is possible that various modifications in my invention may be made without departing from the principle thereof, and I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself to the specific construction as herein shown and described. For instance, in Figs 4 and 5 I have shown a modification wherein the flanges 3 are not attached their entire length to the plate, but are left with their end portions 3, which are made of suitable elastic material, as celluloid, free to spring in nor-
mally over the plate for the purpose of providing clamps to grip the sides of the mouthpiece when the device is hooked in position ready for use.

5 Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. An antiseptic telephone-mouthpiece attachment comprising a perforated inflexible plate, having means to detachably secure it over the end of a mouthpiece, and a pocket-case having an antisepticized lining for the attachment.

2. The combination with a perforated plate having means to attach it to a telephone-mouthpiece of an antisepticized case for the plate.

3. The combination with an antisepticized case, of an inflexible plate adapted to fit said case and having means for detachably and reversibly hanging it over the end of a telephone-mouthpiece.

4. The combination of a case having an antisepticized lining, and an inflexible, perforated plate having a peripheral reinforcing-rim and means for detachably and reversibly securing said plate over the end of a telephone-mouthpiece.

5. The combination of a case having an antisepticized lining, a perforated diaphragm having a reinforcing-rim said rim projecting right and left of the plate and having its inner surface circumferentially grooved to enable the plate to be hooked over the rim of the telephone-mouthpiece.

6. A telephone-mouthpiece attachment, comprising a thin diaphragm having a reinforcing-rim and peripheral flanges on said rim on opposite sides of the plane of the diaphragm, said flanges being grooved on their under side to permit the attachment to be loosely hung over the end of the mouthpiece.

7. A telephone-mouthpiece attachment comprising a diaphragm having a reinforcing-rim, said rim having a segmental lateral grooved flange to hook over the mouthpiece, and spring clamp members carried by the flange to grip the sides of the mouthpiece.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

GEORGE WASHINGTON MERRITT.

Witnesses:
S. H. NOURSE, JESSIE C. BRODIE.