

(No Model.)

C. A. MEISTER.
RUBBER DAM CLAMP.

No. 465,716.

Patented Dec. 22, 1891.

Fig. 1

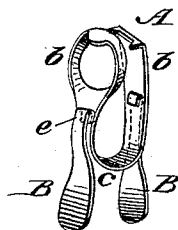


Fig. 2.

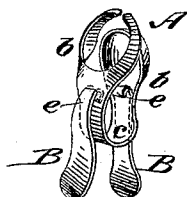
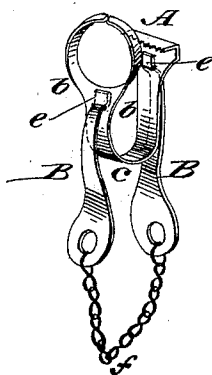


Fig. 3



WITNESSES:

F. M. Arde.
C. Sedgwick

INVENTOR

C. A. Meister
BY *Munn & Co.*
ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHRISTIAN A. MEISTER, OF ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA.

RUBBER-DAM CLAMP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 465,716, dated December 22, 1891.

Application filed September 16, 1891. Serial No. 405,873. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHRISTIAN A. MEISTER, of Allentown, in the county of Lehigh and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Rubber-Dam Clamps for Dental Use, of which the following is a full, clear and exact description.

This invention relates to clamps for holding a rubber dam in position around a tooth. These clamps usually consist of two opposing jaws united by a U-shaped closing spring portion at their back ends and generally integral with the jaws. There are various kinds of these clamps, each having its jaw of different construction and shape especially at their forward or gripping ends; but the closing spring portion uniting them at their back ends is usually the same. I shall here only illustrate my invention by selecting three of these clamps having the gripping portions of their jaws of different construction and shape; but the invention is applicable to other dam-clamps of like character differing more or less in construction and shape of the jaws. Much inconvenience and trouble is often experienced in opening these spring-clamps to adapt them to hold and release the rubber dam and to place the latter in position around an incisor and bicuspid. To facilitate this, or rather to put the rubber-dam clamp in position around a molar, a special and separate instrument has been used in the form of a forceps, the prongs of which, pivoted together, have been provided with studs engaging with perforations in the clamp, and having a slider on their handles for holding them at their proper distention; but such separate tool is expensive, very inconvenient and awkward to use, and is otherwise objectionable. My invention consists in providing the jaws of the clamp with simple levers or fingers not pivoted together as a separate instrument, but arranged to project beyond the spring portion of the clamp, whereby the clamp may be readily opened or manipulated. These fingers may be either permanent attachments to the jaws of the clamp or removable from them when desired, all substantially as hereinafter described, and more particularly pointed out in the claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification,

in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figures 1 and 2 represent views in perspective of two rubber-dam clamps, differing only in the construction and shape of the gripping portions of their jaws, with permanently-attached fingers for opening and manipulating the clamp; and Fig. 3 is a further view in perspective of another rubber-dam clamp with the fingers fitted so as to be removable from the jaws of said clamp when required.

A indicates the rubber-dam clamp; *b b*, the jaws thereof, having their forward gripping end portions of any suitable construction and shape and united at their back ends by a spring portion *c*, which operates to force the jaws toward each other.

B B indicate the fingers, separate from one another, applied to the jaws of the clamp and extending backwardly beyond the spring base or portion *c* of the clamp any required distance or length to facilitate the opening and manipulation of the clamp. In Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings these fingers are represented as being permanent attachments to the jaws of the clamp by having their forward ends *e* passed through perforations in the shanks of the jaws and bent backward or clinched on the inside of the jaws. In Fig. 3 said fingers B B are made removable from the jaws of the clamp when required—as, for instance, by constructing their forward ends *e* to only slightly crook forward to readily pass through and overlap the perforations in the shanks of the jaws and to admit of their easy withdrawal from the jaws when necessary. In this latter case a chain *f* may be used to loosely connect the fingers together, so that on removal from the jaws they will not be lost, but be always ready for attachment to the jaws of the clamp when required.

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

1. In a rubber-dam clamp having gripping-jaws united by a closing spring piece or portion at or near their back ends, the jaws provided with attached and separate fingers arranged to extend back of or beyond the closing spring portion of the clamp, substantially as specified.

2. In a rubber-dam clamp having gripping-

jaws united by a closing spring piece or portion at or near their back ends, the jaws provided with separate and removable fingers arranged to extend back of or beyond the closing spring portion of the clamp, essentially
5 as described.

3. In a dental spring dam-clamp of the character herein described, the combination, with the jaws having perforations in their

shanks, of the separate fingers extending in 10 rear of the clamp and crooked or bent at their forward ends and adapted to engage through said perforations with the jaws, substantially as specified.

CHRISTIAN A. MEISTER.

Witnesses:

EMERSON F. SCHOCK,
REUBEN BRADER.