Dec. 5, 1950 E. S. COMSTOCK 2,532,696

MEDICAL SPOON

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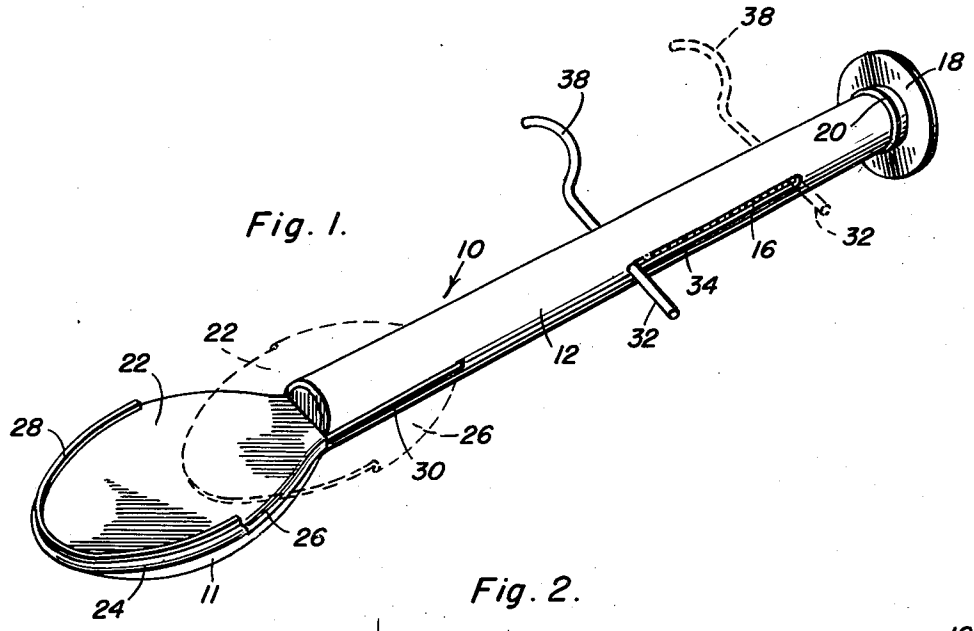
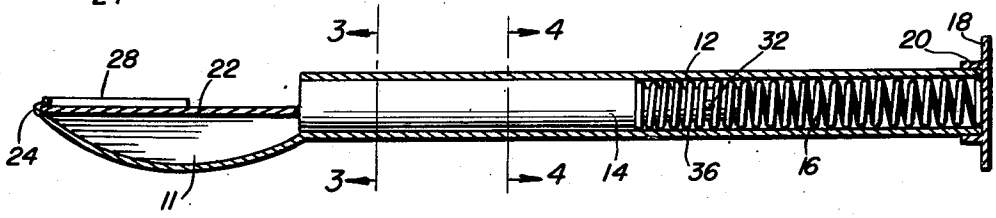


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.



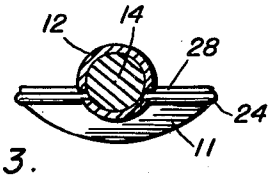


Fig. 3.

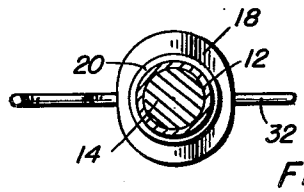


Fig. 4.

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MEDICAL SPOON

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2 Claims. (Cl. 30—326)

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in spoons and the primary object of the present invention is to provide a spoon whereby liquid and powdered material may be conveniently measured and retained in a safe and sanitary measure.

Another important object of the present invention is to provide a medical spoon including a closure and novel and improved means for retaining the closure in position on the spoon to prevent loss of material held by the latter, even though the same may be inclined at various angles.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a spoon for medical use including novel and improved means conveniently located for actuating the spoon closure so that the material held thereby may be readily and quickly emptied into a conveniently located mixing flask or the like.

A still further aim of the present invention is to provide a medical spoon that is simple and practical in construction, strong and reliable in use, neat and attractive in appearance, relatively inexpensive to manufacture, and otherwise well adapted for the purposes for which the same is intended.

Other objects and advantages reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the present invention, and with dotted lines showing the position of the closure when actuated to an open position;

Figure 2 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view taken substantially through the center of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a transverse vertical sectional view taken substantially on the plane of section line 3—3 of Figure 2; and

Figure 4 is a transverse vertical sectional view taken substantially on the plane of section line 4—4 of Figure 2.

Referring now to the drawings in detail, wherein for the purpose of illustration, there is disclosed a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the numeral 10 represents the present medical spoon generally, comprising a substantially concavo-convexed preferably elliptical member or mouth portion 11, which is rigidly secured by welding or the like to an elongated

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tubular shank or handle 12, or this member may form an integral part of said shank.

A cylindrical plunger 14 is slidably mounted in the forward end of the handle 12 and is urged by a coil spring 16 biased between the plunger and a closure plate 18 that is rigidly secured to a band or sleeve 20 that frictionally engages the rear end of the handle 12. It should be apparent that the plate 18 is of a diameter greater than the diameter of the handle 12, so that the same will function as a hand-retaining element.

Rigidly secured by welding or the like to the forward outermost terminal of the plunger 14, is a substantially elliptical closure 22 conforming to the shape of the upper edge of the member 11. A peripheral substantially channel shaped beading 24 is formed about the forward end of the member 11, adjacent its outer edges and a pair of arcuate flanges depend from the rear side edges of the closure 22. The rear ends of the flanges 26 are spaced sufficiently to permit the rear end of the closure 22 to enter a slot 30 provided in the forward end of the handle 12. The slot 30 is of a thickness substantially equal to the thickness of the closure 22.

The forward semi-elliptical end portion or edge of the closure 22 is frictionally received in the beading 24, and the flanges 26 bear against the outer surface of the rear portion of the member 11 so that the closure will be tightly positioned to the member 11 in a normal position, to prevent materials placed in the member 11 from spilling therefrom.

To strengthen and reinforce the beading 24 of the member 11, there is provided an arcuate upstanding, semi-elliptical flange 28, integrally formed with the forward portion of the member.

As previously described, the spring 16 urging the plunger 14 will normally retain the closure in position with member 11. However, for actuating the closure into the longitudinal slot 30 provided in the forward end of the handle, for emptying material in the member 11, there is provided a transverse rod 32 attached to reduced end 36 of the plunger which rod is slidably mounted in a longitudinal slot 34 provided in the handle adjacent its rear end. This slot extends from a point near where the rod is attached to the plunger outwardly beyond the reduced end 36 of the plunger and the portion of the spring 16 that engages the reduced end 36. Both terminals of the rod 32 project outwardly from the handle, however, one terminal of this rod 32 is bent to provide an arcuate finger-receiving portion 38.

In use of the device, the closure is pulled into slot **30** by means of the hand-grip **38**. Member **11** is then thrust into a powdered or liquid material and by releasing the finger-grip **38**, the closure will slide in position over the member **11** and will remove all excess material therefrom during its positioning relative to the beading **24**. The spoon may then be carried to a convenient location whereby the material in the member **11** may be emptied by merely actuating the closure into the slot **30**. Obviously, by the use of such a device, an equal amount of material may be measured by the spoon at all times. Also, by pulling the rod **32** rearwardly slowly, the amount of opening between the closure **22** and member **11** may be selectively adjusted so that the material may be emptied from member **11** in a convenient controlled manner.

In view of the foregoing description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings it is believed that a clear understanding of the construction, operation and advantages of the device will be quite apparent to those skilled in this art. A more detailed description is accordingly deemed unnecessary.

It is to be understood, however, that even though there is herein shown and described a preferred embodiment of the invention the same is susceptible to certain changes fully comprehended by the spirit of the invention as herein described and the scope of the appended claims.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A medical spoon comprising a concavo-convexed member, a tubular handle carried by said member, a longitudinal slot provided in one end of said handle adjacent said member, a closure for said member slidably mounted in said slot, a spring urged plunger slidably mounted in said handle, said plunger being rigidly secured to said closure, a longitudinal slot intermediate the ends of said handle, a finger grip secured transversely to said plunger and slidably mounted in said last slot for actuating said closure into said first slot, a peripheral channel shaped beading about the forward end of said member, a pair of arcuate flanges at the rear portion of said closure slidably engaging the rear portion of said member and disposed exteriorly of said member, and an arcuate upstanding reinforcing and strengthening flange at the forward portion of said member.

2. A medical spoon comprising a concavo convexed member, a tubular handle carried by said member, a longitudinal slot provided in the forward end of said handle adjacent the rear end of said member, a closure for said member slidably mounted in said slot, a plunger slidably mounted in said handle, said plunger being rigidly secured to said closure, means for actuating said closure into said slot, a peripheral beading about the forward portion of said member, a pair of arcuate flanges depending from the rear portion of said closure slidably engaging the rear portion of said member, a closure plate at the end of said handle remote from said member, and a spring member biased between said plunger and said closure plate for urging the closure to a normally closed position with the forward end of said closure against said beading and with said arcuate flanges against the rear portion of said member.

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The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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