To all whom it may concern:  
Be it known that I, THOMAS STEELE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Columbus, in the county of Franklin and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Instruments for Handling Artificial Teeth, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved dental instrument adapted for use in the handling of artificial teeth.

The object of the invention is to provide an improved dental instrument in the nature of an artificial tooth holder, and by means of which an operator may quickly, easily and precisely compare the color, conformation and symmetry of an artificial tooth with teeth, either natural or artificial which it is intended to match or conform.

Another object of the invention resides in the provision of a tooth holder for the purpose stated wherein is embodied a main handle member and an adjustable tooth holding section, the latter being pivotally mounted upon one end of the handle member, so that a tooth retained thereby may be caused to assume any desired angular position best calculated to permit of ease in comparison with adjoining or companion teeth.

Other objects of the invention reside in constructing the pivoted section in such manner that a tooth may be easily and quickly connected therewith and in a like manner to be conveniently detached, and in the provision of means for securely retaining a tooth against accidental displacement when supported upon the pivoted section.

For a further understanding of the invention, reference is to be had to the following description and to the accompanying drawings, in which similar characters of reference denote like and corresponding parts throughout the several views thereof.

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the improved tooth holder comprising the preferred form of the present invention,

Fig. 2 is a side or edge elevation thereof,

Fig. 3 is an enlarged longitudinal sectional view taken along the plane disclosed by the line x—x of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a transverse sectional view taken along the line x—x of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a detail perspective view of the pivoted section and companion parts of the holder, and

Fig. 6 is a similar view of an artificial tooth capable of being supported by the holder.

Referring more particularly to the structural details of the improved holder comprising the present invention, use is made of a main handle member A, which is preferably formed from a light flexible material, such as celluloid, although any other suitable material may be utilized. This handle member may be of any desired configuration or of any suitable length. The forward end of the handle member is angularly offset, as shown, and terminates in a relatively short apertured pivoting ear. A rivet or the like C passes through the aperture of said ear and also through a registering aperture formed in a pivoted tip section B, in order that the latter may be securely connected with the offset end of said handle member and yet be capable of assuming relatively angular positions with respect thereto, as is shown by dotted lines in Fig. 1.

The tip section has its outer end equipped with a tooth holding member D which may consist of a metallic anchor strip bent upon itself to provide a substantially enlarged rib portion and a reduced shank extremity, the latter being in turn suitably secured to the tip section in the manner indicated in Figs. 3 and 4. In the present instance the holding member is so formed as to be capable of fitting within a similarly formed longitudinally extending slot F, provided in the rear face of an artificial tooth F, which in practice is normally used for the purpose of securing the tooth in an applied position within a denture, hence the holding member D is similar in construction and shape to the “inlay”, so termed in the dental art. As is usual, the slot F is open at one end, so that the tooth may be readily slipped into engagement with the member D and thus retained in a well secured manner upon the tip section. Preferably, the latter is formed with a boss E which is of a substantially resilient nature and furnishes an abutment for the lower end of the tooth when the latter is situated upon the holding member, therefore, the boss serves to retain the tooth in its applied position in connection with the holder and prevents its accidental dis-
placement. However, by mere pressure the tooth held by the member D may be forced over the boss E and thus easily disconnected from engagement with the tip section.

From the foregoing it will be manifest that the present invention provides an improved holder for supporting artificial teeth of the type wherein are provided longitudinally extending inlay receiving slots, and furthermore the holder is of such construction as to permit the tooth supported thereby to be adjusted in such manner as to assume angular positions with respect to the main handle of the holder, in order that convenience and facility may be obtained in properly placing the tooth into such positions as will best permit of its comparison with companion teeth. By offsetting one end of the handle A, the holder is shaped so that the same will conform to the physical peculiarities of the mouth of a patient and by being thus offset will enable a tooth supported thereby to be easily placed in contiguous relationship with adjoining teeth. The holding or anchor member D is of such construction as to interchangeably receive artificial teeth of the solid variety, and by the provision of the boss E security will be obtained effecting the positive retention of teeth upon the tip section. The holder is preferably formed from celluloid or any other equivalent substance, in order that it may be readily cleansed and easily maintained in a sanitary condition.

What I claim is:

1. An artificial tooth holder comprising a handle member, a tip section pivotally connected with said handle member, and an elongated anchor rim carried by said tip section and of such form as to be capable of interchangeably receiving artificial teeth having longitudinally extending inlay slots.

2. An artificial tooth holder comprising a main handle member having an offset extremity, a tip section pivotally secured to said extremity, and means carried by said tip section for removably receiving artificial teeth.

3. An artificial tooth holder comprising a main handle member having an offset extremity, a tip section pivotally secured to said handle member and capable of assuming relatively angular positions with respect thereto, means carried by said tip section for removably receiving artificial teeth, and a boss formed upon said tip section and arranged for cooperation with a tooth carried by said holding means for retaining said tooth in an applied position upon said tip section.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

THOMAS STEELE.