

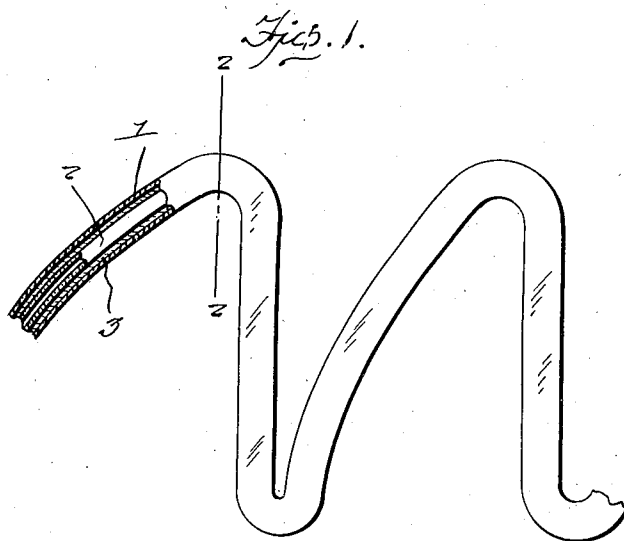
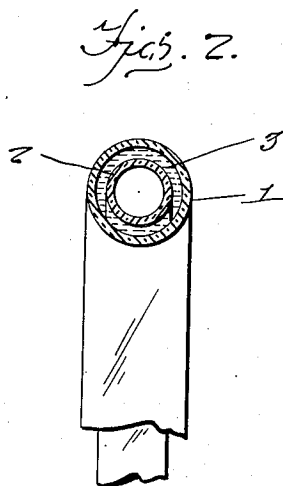
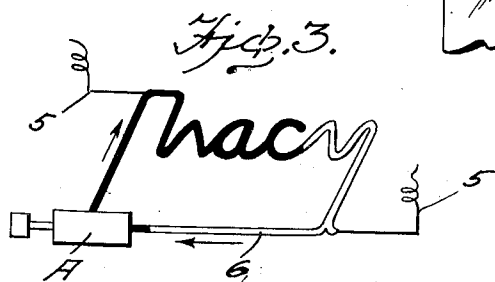
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T. PEARSON ET AL

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WRITING SIGN

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WRITING SIGN

Application filed April 9, 1928. Serial No. 268,737.

The present invention pertains to improvements in what is known in the particular art as writing signs, and which usually consists in providing means for the successive illumination of figures forming a word, or words, of a sign, to the end that this means of illumination will resemble the actual motion of legible writing.

The present invention aims to improve upon these types of signs, and consists briefly of providing an elongated or continuous tube of transparent material, shaped to form the letters of a word in the usual manner. Such tube construction as this is at present being employed in the construction of neon gas illuminated signs; but the present invention goes further in providing a tube of smaller diameter than the first-mentioned tube for disposition through said enlarged tube, and in spaced relation through the latter.

The smaller tube is adapted to contain a suitable illuminary means, such for instance, as neon gas, other illuminating gases, and any suitable form of incandescent filament.

A suitable material such as liquid of substantially opaque density is normally adapted to fill the entire space between the outer and inner tubes, and when it is desired to actuate the sign, the opaque material is slowly forced through the space so as to gradually expose the illuminated element, within the inner tube.

The prime object of this invention is to provide a sign of the above character which will resemble in all respects a natural writing motion without the expense of providing complex structures and systems now being employed.

Certain other objects and advantages of this invention will become apparent as the same is better understood from the following specification and claims.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 represents a fragmentary portion of a transparent tube employed in the formation of a writing sign, this figure also being partly sectional and disclosing the inner tube arranged therein and in spaced relation thereto, and

Fig. 2 is a sectional view through the arrangement disclosed in Fig. 1, and taken substantially on line 2—2 of Figure 1, and Figure 3 is a diagrammatic view of the novel structure and the means for forcing the liquid through the transparent tube.

Now for a more specific description of the present invention, reference is made to the drawing, wherein like numerals designate like parts. In carrying out the present invention, an exterior tube 1 of suitable diameter, and of sufficient length to form a predetermined number of figures of desired size, is provided, and adapted to have arranged therein, a smaller tube 2, disposed in concentric relation with the outer tube 1 and in spaced relation, as shown in the drawings, to provide a passageway 3, for the purpose hereinafter fully described.

It is preferred that the tubes be arranged in the manner aforementioned, and supported in any suitable manner, so that a liquid of substantially opaque density, may be injected into the space 3, and adapted to normally fill the entire space throughout the length of the tubes, in order to completely conceal the inner tube 2.

As is disclosed in Figure 3, the ends of the tube 1 are connected to a suitable pump A, so that the liquid 4 may be forced in a circuit through the tube from the pump and again back to the pump. The wires 5—5 indicate conductors which are adapted to produce an electrical discharge within the tube 2, whereby the gas therein will be illuminated in the usual manner, this gas being preferably neon or any other gas having substantially the same properties. A column of air or suitable transparent liquid that will not mix with the opaque fluid is interposed between the ends of the opaque fluid column, so that a complete circuit will be provided, and against which the pump may act. The transparent liquid is denoted in the drawings by numeral 6.

When the liquid in the space 3 is completely concealing the illuminary element conduit 2, and preferably inert, so as not to reveal any portion of said conduit, the sign is dark and is not readily visible at night. However, when it is desired to operate the sign, suit-

able pressure is applied at the prime end of the tube, and the opposite end of the tube opened, so as to allow the drain of fluid therefrom.

5 Obviously, as the end of the liquid moves along the tube, the inner tube 2 will be gradually exposed. The constantly lighted tube 2, as the liquid gradually exposes the same, simulates the natural writing motion in spelling the various words of the sign.

10 It is to be understood that suitable supporting means and other features may be employed, which form no part of this invention, and that any desired case A or materials may be employed in the manufacture of the present invention, without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the appended claims.

15 Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new is:—

20 1. In a writing sign comprising an elongated tube bent to form intelligent matter, an opaque liquid disposed within said tube, an elongated illuminary structure disposed longitudinally through the tube, and means
25 for forcing said fluid through the tube to gradually expose said illuminary structure.

2. In a writing sign comprising an elongated tube bent to form intelligent matter,
30 a tube disposed longitudinally to the first mentioned tube and in spaced relation thereto, illuminary means arranged within the inner tube, an opaque liquid for disposition within the first mentioned tube, and
35 means for forcing said liquid through the outer tube to gradually expose the inner tube.

3. In a writing sign comprising an elongated transparent tube bent to form intelligent matter, a predetermined quantity of
40 opaque liquid for disposition within said tube, illuminary means disposed through said tube in spaced relation in the same, and means for forcing the liquid through the tube to gradually expose the said illuminary means.

45 4. In a writing sign comprising an elongated transparent tube bent to form intelligent matter, a hollow member disposed through the said tube in which suitable illuminary means may be disposed, and a quantity
50 of opaque liquid disposed within the said tube, and means for forcing the same through the tube to gradually expose the said hollow member.

55 In testimony whereof we affix our signatures.

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