

March 6, 1928.

1,661,200

S. SPITZ

TOILET ARTICLE

Filed Aug. 24, 1927

Fig. 1

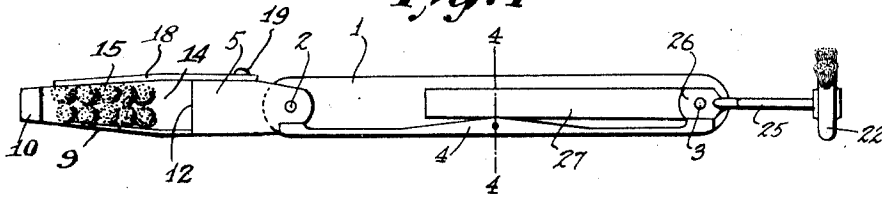


Fig. 2

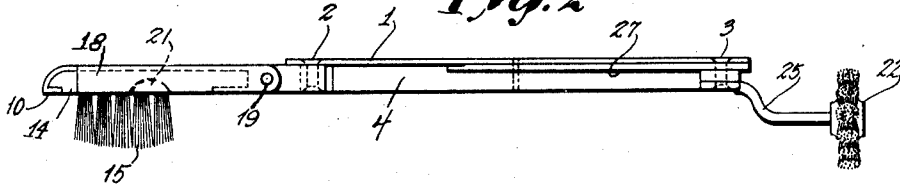


Fig. 3

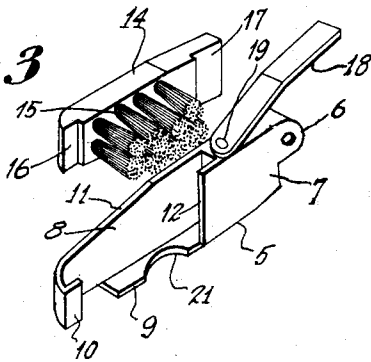


Fig. 6

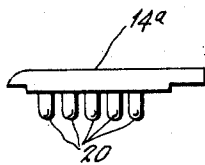
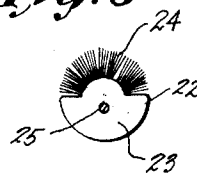


Fig. 5

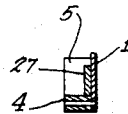


Fig. 4

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL SPITZ, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

TOILET ARTICLE.

Application filed August 24, 1927. Serial No. 215,006.

This invention is a toilet article and more particularly an article for the proper care of the oral cavity.

The object of the invention is to provide a simple and convenient appliance for maintaining a clean, sanitary and healthy condition of the oral cavity and, more particularly, for the cleaning of the teeth, the massage of the gums and scraping of the tongue.

In practically carrying out the invention, I provide a suitable handle, at one end of which is mounted a tooth brush embodying a substantially rectangular cluster of bristles adapted for the cleaning of the inner and outer surfaces of the teeth. At the other end of the handle is pivotally mounted another tooth brush of such shape as to efficiently clean between the teeth and at one end of the handle is also pivotally mounted a tongue scraper. The tongue scraper and both brushes are so pivotally supported on the handle that they may be moved into and out of cooperative relation therewith after the manner of blades of a jack-knife, the handle having a spring for maintaining the implements against inadvertent shifting from one position to the other.

Particular attention is directed to the brush for cleaning the surfaces of the teeth. This brush has a highly novel and efficient manner of mounting the bristle portion in a holder by which it is mounted on the handle. The holder is pivoted to the handle in a manner similar to jack knife blades and is of box-like form. One side of the box-like holder is normally open, so as to permit the brush to be moved laterally in an edge-wise direction into or out of the holder and a latch is associated with the holder to lock the brush in operative position therein. This arrangement provides for the easy substitution of refills, so that when the brush becomes worn or unsanitary, it may be discarded and a new one substituted in its stead.

I am aware that the use of refills for tooth brushes has heretofore been proposed, but the holders for these refills have possessed certain disadvantages which it is one of the objects of this invention to overcome and which are in fact obviated by the improved construction of this invention.

The brush for cleaning between the teeth is also of novel construction. The body of the brush is substantially semi-circular and supports an arcuate group of bristles with

the peripheral contour of the bristles and the peripheral contour of the body of substantially the same diameter, so as to permit the spaces between the teeth to be efficiently cleansed, while preserving the mouth from contact with the bristles. The body of this latter brush is in the form of a metal shank flattened out and perforated to receive the pivot pin by which it is mounted on the handle.

The structure is simple, economical to manufacture and thoroughly efficient in the performance of its functions.

Features of the invention, other than those specified, will be apparent from the herein-after detailed description and claims, when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

The accompanying drawing illustrates one practical embodiment of the invention, but the construction therein shown is to be understood as illustrative, only, and not as defining the limits of the invention.

Figure 1 is a side elevation of an article embodying the present invention.

Figure 2 is a plan view of the structure shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the holder for the tooth surface brush showing a brush removed from the holder.

Figure 4 is a section on the line 4-4 of Figure 1.

Figure 5 shows a massage tool which may be employed in the holder in lieu of the brush.

Figure 6 shows the brush at the right hand end of Figures 1 and 2 and which brush is employed to clean between the teeth.

Referring to the drawings, 1 designates a handle which is open at one side as shown in Figures 2 and 4 and is provided at its opposite end with pivot pins 2 and 3. A spring 4 similar to the spring used in the jack knife is associated with the handle. Mounted for pivotal movement on the pivot 2 is a brush holder 5 best shown in Figure 3. A hole 6 shown in the brush holder is for the pivot 2 and the holder is mounted so as to swing into and out of the handle after the manner of the blade of a jack knife. The holder is formed with a solid body 7, the forward end of which is shaped to form a hollow receptacle 8, one side of the receptacle is substantially closed by a flange 9, while the free end of the receptacle is provided with a return lip 10.

The base 11 of the receptacle is made substantially flat and from the body 7 extends an overhanging flange 12.

As shown in Figure 3, the receptacle is open at one side to receive a brush 14 having bristles 15 of such number, arrangement and shape as to adapt it to brush between the surfaces of the teeth. The back or solid portion of the brush is of a shape and size to be received within the receptacle 8 of the holder and is provided at its forward and rear ends with stepped projections 16 and 17, which, when the brush is in position in the holder, are adapted to underlie the flanges 10 and 12, respectively. Moreover, the stepped ends may be of any suitable shape and may be dove-tailed or otherwise, interfit with the holder beneath the flanges 10 and 12.

When thus positioned in the holder, one lateral edge of the brush will rest against the flange 9 of the holder and the brush is adapted to be removably held in its position by means of a spring finger 18 mounted on a pivot 19 on the body of the holder. When the spring finger 18 is in the position shown in Figure 3, the brush may be readily slipped into and out of the holder, but when the brush is positioned in the holder and the spring finger 18 swung around into position to bear against the exposed edge of the brush, the brush will be held by said finger in rigid position within the holder and cannot possibly become inadvertently displaced.

Instead of employing the brush shown in Figure 3, I may substitute therefor a gum massage implement 14^a shown in Figure 5. This implement has a rigid back of the same shape as the back of the brush and is provided with resilient massage projections 20 in lieu of the bristles. It is adapted to be used to massage the gums and maintain them in a perfect condition. In practice, the brush and massage implement may be used interchangeably in the holder as may be desired by the user.

In order to allow for easy removal of the brush or implement from the holder, the flange 9 is cut away as shown at 21 to allow the operator's finger to enter and remove the implement. It will be noted that the holder opens from the side and I have found this to be very convenient and to provide for a very tight and efficient grip of the implement held therein.

Mounted on the pivot 3 at the opposite end of the handle is a brush 22 particularly adapted for cleaning between the teeth. This brush has a solid back 23 of substantially segmental shape and with the solid back is associated a segmental group of bristles 24. The contour of the bristles form a continuation of the contour of the solid back, so that this brush is substantially circular.

The brush is mounted on one end of a

wire rod 25 in any suitable manner and the other end of the rod is flattened out as shown at 26 and is perforated to receive the pivot pin 3, so that the brush can be moved into extended or collapsed relation with respect to the handle after the manner of a jack-knife blade. A tongue scraper 27 is mounted on either of the pivots 2 or 3 and operates thereon after the manner of a jack-knife blade. It is to be understood that the spring 4 functions to hold the several pivotal parts of the structure in either extended or collapsed condition.

The parts of the construction which I have described may be made of any suitable materials and I do not therefore limit the invention in this regard.

It will be noted from the foregoing detailed description that the toilet article of this invention provides thoroughly efficient means for keeping the oral cavity clean, healthy and sanitary. The construction is compact and may be conveniently carried in a traveling bag or any other suitable receptacle.

The description sets forth the invention in its preferred practical form, but the invention is to be understood as fully commensurate with the appended claims.

Having thus fully described the invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a toilet article, a handle, a brush holder pivotally mounted on one end of the handle, a brush detachably secured in said holder and shaped to brush the surfaces of the teeth, a second brush pivoted to the other end of the handle and shaped to brush between the teeth, and a spring mounted on the handle and engaging with the brush holder at one end and the brush at the other end to hold them against inadvertent pivotal movement.

2. In a toilet article, a handle, a brush holder pivotally mounted on one end of the handle, a brush detachably secured in said holder and shaped to brush the surfaces of the teeth, a second brush pivoted to the other end of the handle and shaped to brush between the teeth, a tongue scraper pivoted at one end of the handle, and a spring mounted on the handle and engaging with the brush holder at one end and the brush at the other end and with the tongue scraper to hold them against inadvertent pivotal movement.

3. In a toilet article, a handle having an open side, a brush holder pivoted to one end of the handle and embodying a receptacle having an open side, a brush adapted to be inserted into the holder through the open side thereof, means to removably hold the brush in the holder, and a spring on the handle for securing the brush holder against inadvertent pivotal movement with respect to the handle.

4. In a toilet article, a handle, a brush holder pivoted to one end of the handle and embodying a receptacle having an open side and an open front and into which a brush is adapted to be introduced edgewise, said holder having flanges at the open front overhanging the bristle side of the brush at both ends thereof, a spring finger pivotally mounted on the holder and adapted to be moved into a position to engage the edge of the brush for the purpose of precluding the brush from falling out of the open side.

5. In a toilet article, a handle having an open side, a brush holder pivoted to one end of the handle and embodying a receptacle having an open side and an open front and into which a brush is adapted to be introduced edgewise, said holder having flanges at the open front overhanging the bristle side of the brush at both ends thereof, a spring finger pivotally mounted on the holder and adapted to be moved into a position to engage the edge of the brush for the purpose of precluding the brush from falling out of the open side, and a spring mounted on the handle and bearing against the brush holder to preclude inadvertent rotation of the holder on the handle.

6. In a toilet article, a brush holder comprising a hollow receptacle having a closed bottom and closed ends, a flange extending from the bottom to at least partially enclose one side, flanges from the ends to partially close the front, and a pivoted spring finger for partially closing the other side, in combination with an implement of a shape and size to be introduced into the receptacle by edgewise movement through the open side thereof when the spring finger is moved out of the way, the spring finger being thereafter movable into a position to engage with the implement to hold it in position in the holder.

7. In a toilet article, a brush to clean between the teeth comprising a body of segmental shape having bristles also segmentally disposed and of such contour that the periphery of the bristle portion of the brush will form a continuation of the periphery of the body of the brush, a shank extending from the brush and having its free end flattened and perforated to permit it to be secured to the handle.

In testimony whereof I have signed the foregoing specification.

SAMUEL SPITZ.