Feb. 21, 1928. 1,660,096

S. SCHIELE

GUM MASSAGING IMPLEMENT

Filed Sept. 13, 1926

FIG. 1

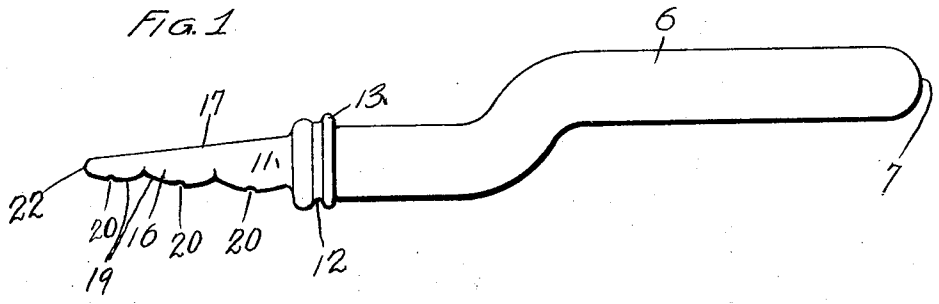


FIG. 2

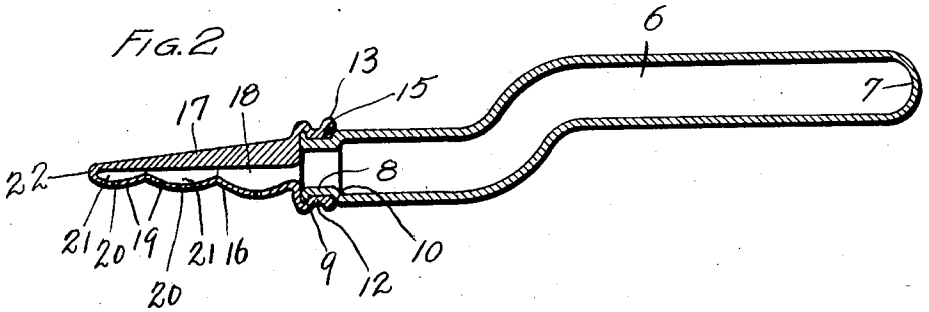


FIG. 3

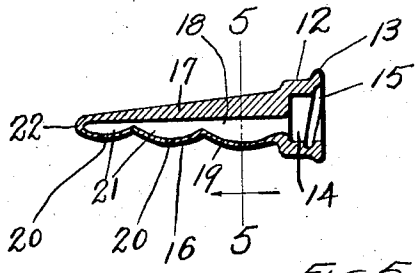


FIG. 4

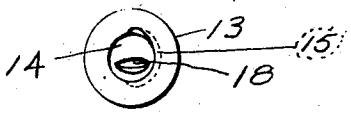
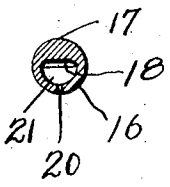


FIG. 5



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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GUM-MASSAGING IMPLEMENT.

Application filed September 13, 1926. Serial No. 135,012.

My invention relates to improvements in gum massaging implements, and has for its primary object an implement whereby the gums may be massaged so as to harden the same and restore the proper circulation of blood therein and restore them to a healthy condition.

Another object is to construct a gum massaging implement by means of which medicament can be applied to the gums during the massaging thereby making my implement extremely valuable in the treatment of pyorrhea as a medicament can be applied simultaneously with the massaging of the gums.

A still further object is to construct a gum massaging implement which has a resilient massaging head, the head also being sufficiently flexible to bend so as to conform to the shape of the gums, both on their inside and outside, and still not be stiff enough to injure the lining of the mouth when the end of the head comes in contact therewith.

A still further object is to construct a gum massaging implement in which the massaging head is tapered so that it can reach far back along the gums between the gums and the cheek thereby permitting all part of the gums to be reached during the massaging.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of my device;

Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section of the same;

Fig. 3 is a vertical longitudinal section of the massaging head removed from the handle;

Fig. 4 is an end view of the massaging head; and

Fig. 5 is a cross section taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 3.

In carrying out my device I provide a handle 6 which is hollow and which is closed at one end as indicated by the numeral 7. The opposite end of the handle is reduced so as to form a neck portion 8. This neck is provided on its outer end with an external bead or flange 9. By providing a reduced neck portion a flange or abutment 10 is formed between the neck and the handle proper. Secured over the neck and retained in position by means of the bead is a massaging head which has a tapered portion 11 and a straight portion 12. The straight portion 12 is provided with a bead or stiffening ring 13 and with a bore 14. The bore 14 is provided with an inwardly inclined groove 15. This groove extends only partially around the bore as indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 4, the purpose of this will be explained in detail later.

The tapered portion 11 is provided with a front or massaging face 16 and with a back 17. The tapered portion is also provided with a bore 18 which extends partially therethrough and which communicates with the bore 14. The massaging face 16 is provided with a plurality of corrugations 19 or other irregularities through which perforations 20 are formed. The corrugations 19 in conjunction with the bore 18 form pockets 21 in which medicament from the hollow handle is designed to lodge. The massaging head is preferably made so that that portion of the back nearest the handle is stiffer than the portion adjacent the end or point 22. This is to prevent the head from flexing too close to the handle with the possible result of leakage, and it also provides for better frictional contact with the gums throughout the length of the head.

It will be noted that the massaging face of the head is relatively thin so that when pressure is applied during the massaging it will be a tendency for the corrugations to close the passage 18 or at least partially close the same and to restrict the flow of medicament through the openings 20.

The manner of assembling my device is as follows: The handle 6 which is formed of glass, bakelite, hard rubber or similar material, is first filled with a medicament. The massaging head is then placed in position by introducing the bead or flange 9 into the beginning of the inclined recess or groove 15, and by turning the head the same will gradually screw itself on over the bead, it being understood, of course, that as the bead passes into the groove and passes from the groove at its innermost position, it will force the rubber or resilient material, out of which the head is made, outward and thus form a thread for itself. This thread, however, as soon as the bead has passed will again contact and fit tightly around the neck of the handle as illustrated in Fig. 2 thereby effectually preventing any leakage of medicament between the handle and the rear end of the massaging head.

The massaging head is preferably made of rubber as it is resilient, flexible, and offers a good friction surface without any danger of scratching or injuring the gums although I do not desire to limit myself to rubber as there may be other materials which will accomplish the same result.

After the implement has been thus assembled, it is handled in the same manner as an ordinary tooth brush except that instead of operating on the teeth, the gums are massaged both on the outside and the inside.

My device is not intended for cleaning the teeth but is designed, purely and simply, for gum massaging and therefore is not to be confused with various tooth brushes on the market. While I have shown the handle in my device as having an offset portion, I do not desire to limit myself to this precise construction as the handle can be made perfectly straight without in any way effecting the utility of my device.

An important feature of my device is that the massaging head while being both flexible and resilient is still sufficiently rigid so as to prevent its doubling over upon itself while in use, because if this would happen, the medicament would not reach the gums and be rubbed in.

It will also be seen that by the use of my device in the treatment of pyorrhea no special or separate medical treatment of the gums is necessary, that is, all hypodermic injections and similar separate treatments are entirely eliminated and the gums are not made sore because the massaging while being sufficient to stimulate the flow of blood in the gums and to work in the medicament is not violent enough to cause any soreness or irritation of the gums.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A gum massaging implement comprising a hollow handle closed at one end, a reduced neck formed on the opposite end of said handle, and a hollow tapered massaging head closed at one end and gradually decreasing in flexibility toward the end opposite the closed end mounted on said neck, the massaging surface of said head being of uniform thickness throughout and the remainder of said head gradually decreasing in thickness toward the closed end.

2. A gum massaging implement comprising a hollow handle closed at one end, a reduced neck formed on the opposite end of said handle, a bead surrounding the outer end of said neck, and a tapered massaging head having a relatively thin corrugated and perforate massaging face of uniform thickness throughout and a relatively thick tapering portion opposite said massaging face mounted on said neck.

3. A gum massaging implement comprising a hollow handle closed at one end, the opposite end of said handle being offset, a reduced neck provided with an outwardly extending bead formed on the offset portion of the handle, and a flexible resilient hollow tapering massaging head removably secured on said neck, the massaging surface of said head being smooth and wavy and of uniform resiliency throughout and the remainder of said head increasing in thickness from its outer end to the neck of said handle.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

SEYMOUR SCHIELE.