Oct. 26, 1948. C. H. FREDENBURG 2,452,450

THERAPEUTIC DEVICE

Filed Dec. 6, 1946

Fig. 1.

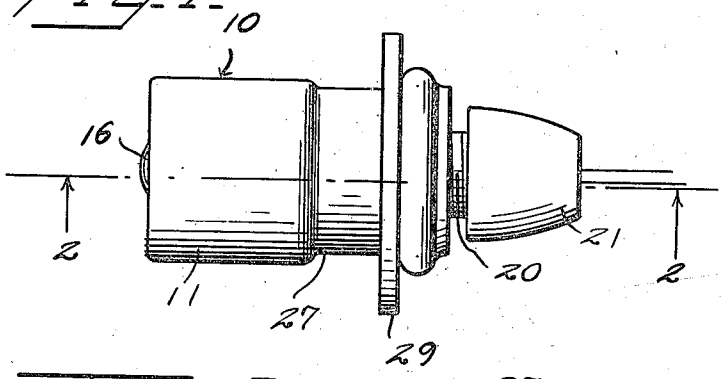
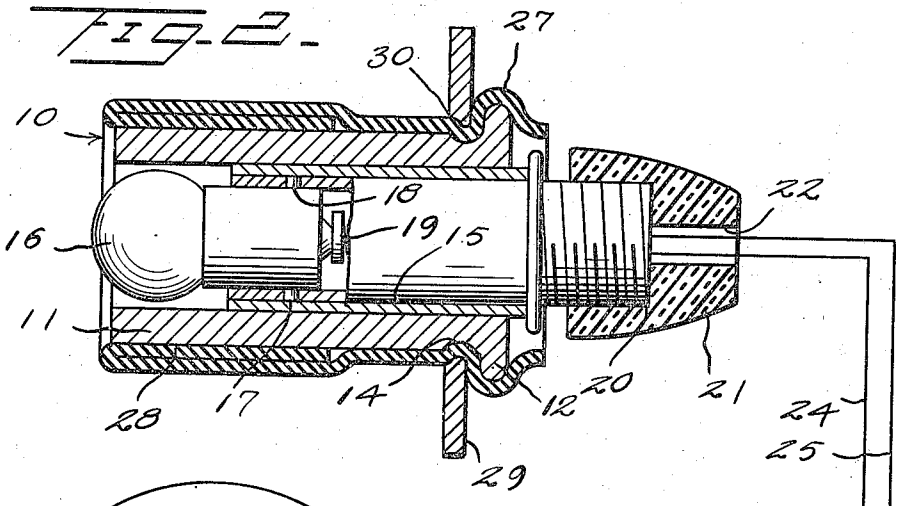
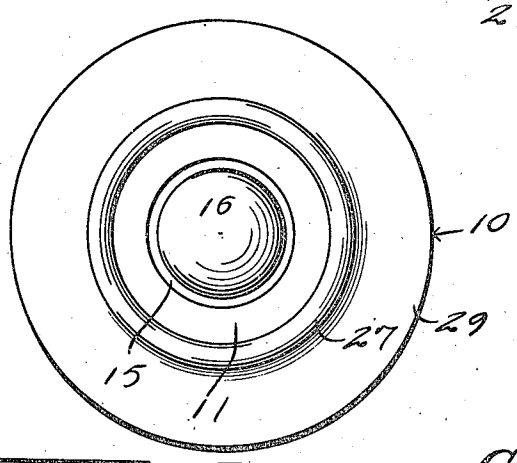


Fig. 2.





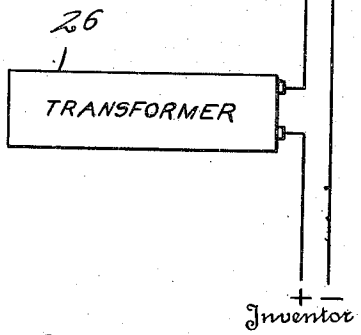


Fig. 3.

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THERAPEUTIC DEVICE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 128—399)

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This invention relates to a therapeutic device and more particularly to a device for applying light and heat to the inside of the mouth and throat of a patient.

The beneficial effects of light and heat for skin and other irritations is very well known and it is common knowledge that heat and light are very beneficial for killing and destroying many bacteria. It is a simple matter to apply this light and heat to any part of the exterior of a body or to an open wound, but the application of heat and light within the body presents many difficulties. Many irritations in the mouth and throat may be relieved or cured by destroying such bacteria in the mouth and throat as will be effected by heat and light by placing a light within the mouth of the patient. For applying such heat and light in the mouth of a patient, I have provided an insulating socket so constructed and designed that it will readily support a light bulb in the mouth with little or no discomfort to the patient, wherein the full effect of the heat and light may be applied directly to the irritated membranes.

It has been determined that certain microbes of diseases will not exist in sunlight and very little in artificial light. For relieving certain diseases and irritations in the throat and mouth it has been found that a pencil flashlight will be very effective and it is an object of this invention to provide a light with a large source of supply to be used in the mouth of a patient indefinitely.

Certain specific advantages accrue from the use of light and heat supplied in this manner. First, the treatment does not affect the person in any other or adverse manner as do the medicines and other treatments; and secondly this treatment will not interfere with or affect any other treatment for the same or other afflictions which the patient may be taking, and may then be used or taken at the same time.

With the above and other objects in view, my invention consists in the arrangement, combination and details of construction disclosed in the drawings and specification, and then more particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawing,

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a therapeutic device constructed according to an embodiment of this invention,

Figure 2 is a vertical section taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1,

Figure 3 is a front end elevation.

Referring to the drawing the numeral 10 designates generally a therapeutic device for applying light and heat to the throat and mouth of a patient in the treatment of colds and sore throat, certain lung troubles, and particularly respiratory ailments. The use of light and heat in the treatment of respiratory ailments and many other ailments of the human body has long been appreciated and many devices have been provided for applying light and heat exteriorly of the body, and it is an object of this invention to apply light and heat within the throat of a patient.

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The numeral 10 designates a device of this kind which may be placed in the mouth of the patient without undue discomfort. The device 10 is formed with a cylindrical body 11 which may be made of wood, rubber, plastic or other suitable insulating material, having an annular flange 12 at one end thereof and an annular groove 14 about the body forwardly of the flange 12. A light bulb socket 15 is secured within the body 11 at the rear end thereof for supporting a light bulb 16 within the body 11. The socket 15, as shown in Figure 2, is provided with slots 17 for the connection of a bulb having lugs or bayonets 18 on the base thereof. A metal base contact 19 is secured within the socket 15 for engagement of the lower or center contact of the light bulb 16. The outer end of the socket 15 is exteriorly threaded as at 20, and a cap 21 or handle is adapted to be engaged about the rearwardly extending portion 20 of the socket 15. The handle 21 is made of plastic or other suitable insulating material and is formed with a central opening 22 through which the wires 24 and 25 are adapted to be extended to be connected to the socket 15 and the center contact 19.

The wires 24 and 25 connect the light bulb 16 to an exterior source of supply. The light bulb 16 will preferably be made for a low voltage and so a transformer 26 is provided in the supply line for reducing the standard alternating current of 110 volts to the 6 volts required for the light 16.

The body 11 is adapted to be placed in the mouth of the patient so that the heat and light from the bulb 16 may be applied directly to the membrane of the mouth and throat and it has been found that the heat and light applied at this point is also advantageous in treating diseases in the lungs.

To provide for the comfort of the patient, a rubber sleeve 27 is provided about the body 11, along the entire length thereof. The sleeve 27 will be cylindrical in shape and made of rubber or other resilient material of a length greater than the length of the body 11. The forward end of

the sleeve 27 is reverted inwardly as at 28 to provide a double layer at the forward end of the body 11 and the rear end of the sleeve 27 encompasses the flange 12. An apertured disk 29 fits about the sleeve 27 for securing the sleeve on the body 11 and to provide a limiting stop to prevent the device 10 from being placed too far within the mouth of the patient.

The central opening 30 of the disk 29 is greater than the diameter of the body 11 and is smaller than the diameter of the sleeve 27 in its normal expanded position in order to press the sleeve 27 in place. The bulb 16 is completely housed within the body 11 so that no part of the bulb may be extended to touch the walls of the mouth or any of the delicate membranes in the throat of the patient. While a bayonet type bulb is shown, it is understood that other types of bulbs as those having a threaded base or otherwise may be used with the appropriate type of socket and while the device as shown in the drawing is for use with a 6 volt transformer, other voltages and suitable bulbs may be used with the necessary changes in the wiring for the required bulb.

I do not mean to confine myself to the exact details of construction herein disclosed, but claim all variations falling within the purview of the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. A therapeutic device for applying heat and light to the mouth and throat of a person comprising a cylindrical body, a metal socket in said body, a contact member in said socket, a light bulb in said socket engaging said contact member, an annular flange on the rear end of said body, said body formed with an annular groove adjacent said flange on the forward side thereof, an open ended cylindrical insulating cover about said body, said cover engaging in said groove and about said flange, an annular disk about said body engaging in said groove, and means connecting said socket and said contact with a source of electric supply.

2. A therapeutic device for applying heat and light to the mouth and throat of a person comprising a cylindrical body, a metal socket in said body, a contact member in said socket, a light bulb in said socket engaging said contact member, an annular flange on the rear end of said body, said body formed with an annular groove adjacent said flange on the forward side thereof, an open ended cylindrical insulating cover about said body, said cover engaging in said groove and about said flange, an annular disk about said body engaging in said groove, means connecting said socket and said contact with a source of electric supply, a portion of said socket extending rearwardly of said body, an insulating handle about said rearwardly extending portion, and means connecting said light with a source of electric supply.

3. A therapeutic device for applying heat and light to the mouth and throat of a person comprising an open ended cylindrical body, a light bulb in said body, an annular disk about said body at the rear end thereof, an open ended cylindrical insulating cover for said body, and means connecting said light bulb with a source of electric supply wherein said cover is reverted inwardly upon itself at the front end about said body.

CHARLES HENRY FREDENBURG.

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