

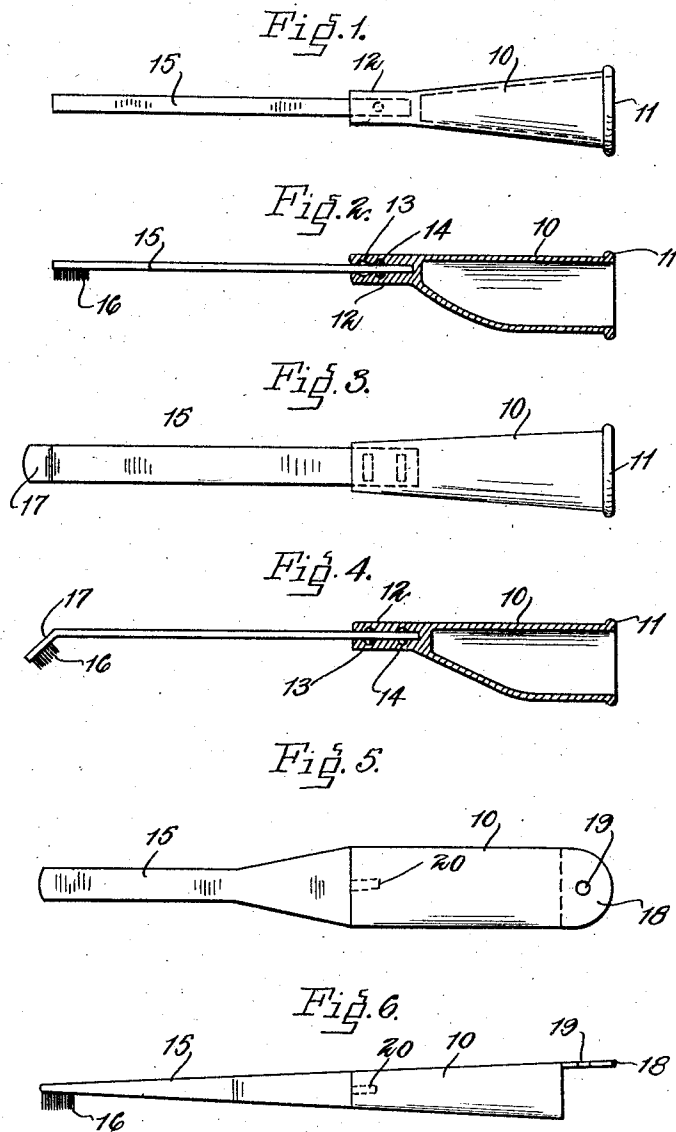
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TOOTHBRUSH

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TOOTHBRUSH.

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This invention relates to improvements in tooth brushes, particularly tooth brushes used in hospitals for cleaning the teeth and tongue of insane patients of violent disposition, unconscious patients, who are apt to injure the fingers of the nurses by biting etc., and it is the principal object of my invention to provide a tooth brush positively avoiding such injury.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a tooth brush by which a thorough cleaning of the teeth from all angles may be effected.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a tooth brush having a handle in the form of a resilient finger stall adapted to snugly fit the finger of a nurse, and one which allows a ready exchange of the brush head and may be conveniently carried on the person or in grips etc.

These and other objects and advantages of my invention will become more fully known as the description thereof proceeds, and will then be specifically defined in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawing forming a material part of this disclosure:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a tooth brush constructed according to my invention.

Fig. 2 is a sectional side view thereof.

Fig. 3 is a top plan view of a modified form of my invention.

Fig. 4 is a sectional side view thereof.

Fig. 5 is a plan view of a still further modification, and

Fig. 6 is a side elevation thereof.

As illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 on the drawing, my novel and improved tooth brush or brush for cleaning the tongue consists of a hollow handle 10 tapered and hollow in the form of a resilient finger stall which carries at its outer end a rubber ring 11 and allows a finger to be inserted into the handle and to snugly fit the same while the rubber ring prevents slipping. The inner end of the handle oppositely disposed to the rubber ring has the form of an elastic sleeve 12 or the like having a plurality of recesses formed in its inner wall into which snap the warts 13, 14 at the end of a brush stem 15 to the opposite end of which the bristles 16 are secured in the usual well known manner. As shown, the bristles are the usual tooth brush bristles but they take up a very limited space of the bristle holder, so that the brush head is very small. This brush, while serv-

ing well the purpose of cleaning the teeth of a person properly, will prevent a patient from biting the fingers of the person using the brush, and thus positively prevent injury and eventually blood poison due to such injury by demented persons, for instance.

In the form of my invention illustrated in Figures 3 and 4, the end of the stem 15 is angularly disposed to body of the stem, to form the brush head 17, while otherwise the construction is the same as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2.

In the form of my invention illustrated in Figures 5 and 6, the handle 10 may have a rearwardly directed extension or tongue 18 formed therewith on one side thereof with a perforation 19 allowing a suspension of the tooth brush from a nail, etc. The stem 15 is united to the handle 10 by means of the plug 20 snugly fitting into a bore in the handle and frictionally held therein.

It will be evident from the above description and from the illustration of the preferred forms of my tooth brush, shown here as some of the many ways of practically constructing my brush, that such changes as come within the scope of the appended claims may be made in the general arrangement and in the construction of the minor details of my invention without departure from the scope, gist and spirit of the invention.

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

1. A tooth-brush comprising a handle in the form of a finger stall, an extension on said handle, a shank detachably held in said extension, and a brush head having bristles at the end of said shank, said shank having a space between said handle and brush head providing a tooth engaging space to protect the finger against injury, a means for uniting shank and handle, and a means for ensuring a firm hold of the tooth brush on a finger.

2. A tooth-brush comprising a hollow handle in the form of a resilient finger stall, a rubber ring at the outer end of said handle to ensure a firm hold, a hollow extension provided at the free end of said stall, a shank frictionally and detachably held in said extension, a brush head on said shank, said head having a limited area of bristles, and a space on said shank for protecting the finger of a user against injury by the teeth.

3. A tooth- and tongue-brush comprising a hollow handle in the form of a resilient finger stall, a rubber ring upon the free end of the handle to ensure a tight fit and hold
5 of the handle on the finger of a user, an elastic sleeve formed at the opposite end of said handle having a plurality of depressions in its inner wall, a stem detachably held to said handle, a plurality of projec-
10 tions on said stem adapted to engage the depressions in said sleeve, a small brush head at the outer end of said stem leaving a free area on said stem between said brush head
and said handle to be engaged by the teeth and protecting the finger against injury. 15
4. A tooth-brush comprising a handle in the form of a resilient finger stall, a hollow extension at the free end of said finger stall, and a brush head having a shank frictionally and detachably held in the hollow of said ex- 20
tension.
- Signed at New York in the county of New York and State of New York this 3rd day of February, A. D. 1927.
- GERTRUDE NEUMERKEL.