

G. W. DOWNS.
 SANITARY TELEPHONE ATTACHMENT.
 APPLICATION FILED OCT. 31, 1912.

1,066,388.

Patented July 1, 1913.

Fig. 1.

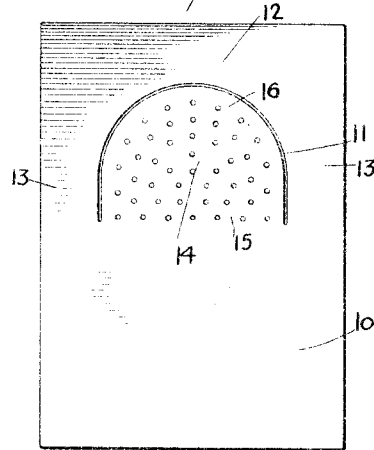


Fig. 2.

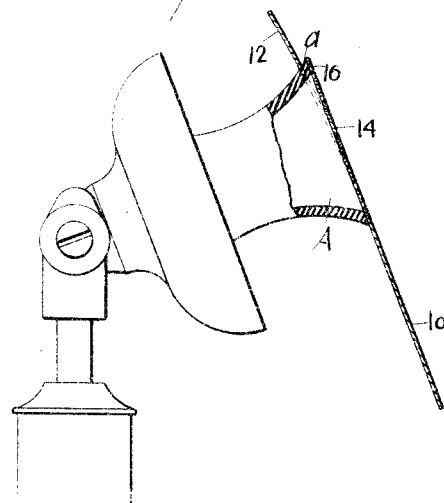


Fig. 3.

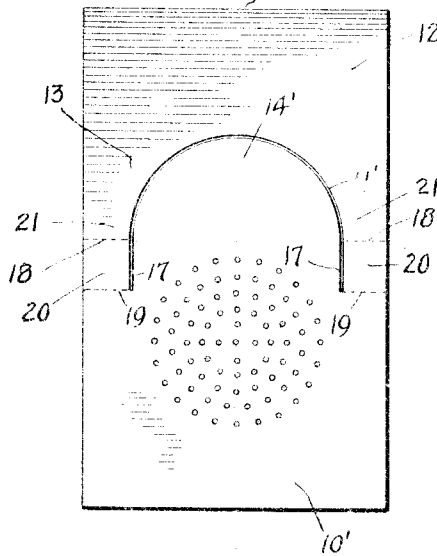


Fig. 4.

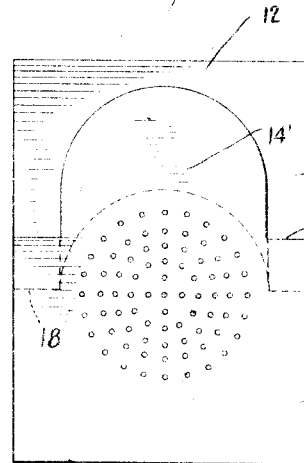


Fig. 5.

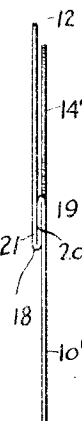


Fig. 6. Fig. 7.

Fig. 6.

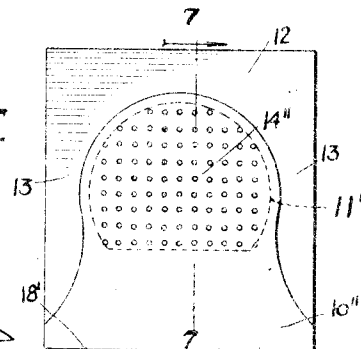
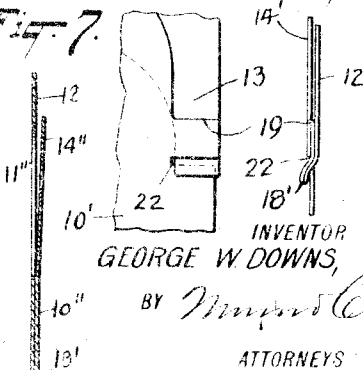


Fig. 7.



WITNESSES
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 ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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SANITARY TELEPHONE ATTACHMENT.

1,066,388.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented July 1, 1913.

Application filed October 31, 1912. Serial No. 728,834.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE W. DOWNS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of New York, borough of Manhattan, in the county and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Sanitary Telephone Attachment, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to telephony and has particular reference to means for safeguarding a user of an ordinary telephone from infection or disease which is likely to be transmitted to his lips by contact with a public telephone mouthpiece.

Among the objects of the invention is to provide an attachment of the character set forth which may be of a simple and cheap nature and hence may be easily applied to the ordinary form of telephone mouthpiece and used by any individual or in the case of a public telephone such attachment may be carried in one's pocket and easily applied and removed after being used, either to be discarded or returned to the pocket for subsequent use.

A further object of the invention is to improve this sort of devices in such a way as to render them cheaper and therefore more readily accessible for use as required and also to provide a device which may be more reliable in its coöperation with the mouthpiece.

The foregoing and other objects of the invention will hereinafter be more fully described and claimed and illustrated in the drawings accompanying this specification in which like characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views, and in which—

Figure 1 represents a face view of one form of this invention; Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of the same applied to a telephone; Fig. 3 is a face view of a blank for the formation of a modification of the invention; Fig. 4 is a face view of such modification complete; Fig. 5 is an edge view of the same looking toward the right in Fig. 4; Fig. 6 is a further modification embodying the same principles as the other forms; Fig. 7 is a vertical sectional view on the line 7—7 of Fig. 6; and Figs. 8 and

9 are front and edge views respectively of a still further modification.

Referring more particularly to the drawings it is to be noted that in all forms of this invention the attachment is designed to be made of a single strip of any suitable sheet material and so slitted, stamped or formed as to provide a substantially stiff or rigid body portion of any suitable form or size, a tongue free and preferably rounded at one end and connected at its other end to the body, and a hanger adjacent the tongue and including a pair of comparatively narrow and hence flexible straps through which the hanger is connected to the body, all of said parts being integral when the attachment is made of a single strip of material.

The material may be cardboard, paper, celluloid or any other suitable fibrous or plastic material. The attachment, therefore, may be produced in large quantities very cheaply, or if it is to be made of a more permanent nature the material may be accordingly more expensive. The primary object, however, in this regard is to produce them so cheaply as to bring them within the use of every telephone user or operator. It is to be noted furthermore that the attachment may be of such a nature as to render it an excellent medium for advertising purposes, the advertisement to be printed or otherwise arranged upon the face thereof where it may be conspicuous when the person is about to use the telephone.

Referring more particularly to Figs. 1 and 2, it will be noted that the strip of material comprises a pendant body portion shown as substantially rectangular in form and so slitted at 11 as to provide an opening, the upper portion of which is preferably circular and of such a size as to receive the mouthpiece of an ordinary telephone. That portion of the strip of material surrounding the opening 11 constitutes what may be termed a "hanger" 12 which includes a pair of straps 13 whereby the hanger is connected to or made integral with the body portion 10. The straps 13 being comparatively narrow, they will be relatively flexible, making it easy for the hanger to be pressed back at its top for engagement

with the upper edge or lip *a* of the mouth-
 piece. It is to be noted furthermore that
 the hanger is continuous from one strap to
 the other whereby it is sufficiently strong
 5 for its purpose and well adapted for sup-
 porting the attachment in place upon the
 mouthpiece. This device also includes an
 upwardly projecting tongue 14 formed sim-
 ultaneously with the cutting of the slit
 10 forming the opening 11 above described.
 The base 15 of the tongue opposite its round-
 ed free end 16 is therefore integral with
 the upper portion of the body 10 when the
 device is made from a single strip of ma-
 15 terial. The invention in this form, there-
 fore, may be made very cheaply and put
 out as attractive souvenirs. It is possible,
 therefore, to supply any suitable number of
 them for any telephone which is used re-
 20 peatedly by the public or different individ-
 uals. A person about to use the telephone
 may take one of these cards or devices and
 apply it to the telephone mouthpiece in the
 manner set forth, the position thereof being
 25 such that the tongue 14 will substantially
 cover or guard the usually exposed edge or
 lip of the mouthpiece, keeping the same
 from contaminating the person or user of
 the telephone.

30 I have found by a series of experiments of
 considerable extent that the tongue of such
 an attachment may be of comparatively
 thick or stiff nature without materially af-
 fecting the acoustic properties of the instru-
 35 ment, especially when one's mouth is placed
 directly in front thereof. If desired, how-
 ever, the tongue 14 may be provided with a
 series of perforations which will more freely
 transmit the sound vibrations of the voice
 40 and yet will not detract from the sanitary
 nature of the attachment.

Figs. 3, 4 and 5 illustrate a slightly mod-
 ified form of the invention in which the strip
 of material is preferably a little longer than
 45 that previously described and in the cutting
 of the blank there is formed an opening 11'
 for the reception of the mouthpiece as be-
 fore, and this opening is surrounded by a
 hanger 12 having the same character of
 50 straps 13 as before described. The tongue
 14', however, is formed below the opening
 11' by slits 17, and the portions of the
 blank adjacent the slits 17 may be shortened
 in any suitable manner, hence, as shown,
 55 are folded, each twice upon itself substan-
 tially on the lines 18 and 19, the parts 20
 being folded upon the outer face of the
 portions 21 to which the lower ends of the
 straps are connected. The body portion 10'
 60 is bent downwardly on the line 19 and up-
 on the original rear faces of the parts 20. By
 virtue of the slits 17, however, the tongue
 14' will remain in its original position with
 respect to the body 10' and will occupy a

place directly over the opening 11' and 65
 preferably such tongue should be slightly
 longer than said opening so as to more thor-
 oughly guard or protect the mouthpiece
 from contaminating tendencies. The parts
 folded as described and shown in Fig. 5 may-
 70 be loose or positively secured in permanent
 position. As in the other form of the inven-
 tion, however, the tongue will still be of a
 single thickness of material and the same is
 true also of the hanger which should be 75
 made of a comparatively flexible nature for
 easy cooperation with the mouthpiece.

Figs. 6 and 7 show another form of the
 invention made from a single blank and so
 stamped as to provide an opening 11'' and 80
 hanger 12 having characteristics identical
 with those already described. The body
 portion 10'' in this form of the invention
 is produced by bending a portion of the strip
 upon itself along the line 18', such lower 85
 portion when bent up constituting the
 tongue 14'' and conforming to the afore-
 said opening 11''. The two parts of the
 body thus formed may be gummed together,
 making a relatively rigid body but leaving 90
 the tongue and hanger portions each of sin-
 gle thickness and comparatively thin and
 flexible as in the other forms.

In the form of the invention shown in
 Figs. 8 and 9, each side edge of the device 95
 is provided with an inwardly projecting
 transverse slot 22 into or through which the
 folded end 18' of the strap is projected for
 the purpose of maintaining the parts folded
 and substantially in the position in which 100
 they are intended to operate. By virtue of
 this construction it is possible to make a de-
 vice of the character herein described, of
 thin paper and maintain the proper form
 without depending upon any special fasten- 105
 ing means for the straps.

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

1. The herein described sanitary tele- 110
 phone attachment comprising a relatively
 stiff pendant body portion, an upwardly
 projecting tongue integral at one end with
 the body portion, and a continuous support-
 ing hanger adjacent the tongue, said hanger 115
 including a pair of flexible straps adjacent
 the base of the tongue and formed integral
 with the body portion, substantially as set
 forth.

2. The herein described sanitary tele- 120
 phone attachment comprising a single strip
 of cheap sheet material so formed as to
 provide and include a relatively stiff body
 portion, the strip adjacent the body portion
 being provided with an opening to receive 125
 the telephone mouthpiece, the strip sur-
 rounding the opening being continuous and
 constituting a hanger including a pair of

flexible straps connected to the body portion,
and an upwardly projecting tongue conforming to said opening and adapted to guard the mouthpiece embraced by the
5 hanger, said straps being shortened to cause the hanger to extend downward in the rear of the upper free end of the tongue.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

GEORGE WASHINGTON DOWNS.

Witnesses:

GEO. L. BEELER,

PHILIP D. ROLLHAUS.