

(No Model.)

G. NITHACK.

TONGUE DEPRESSOR AND THROAT ILLUMINATOR.

No. 510,516.

Patented Dec. 12, 1893.

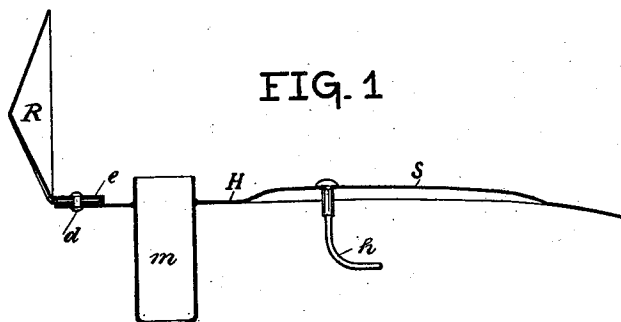


FIG. 1

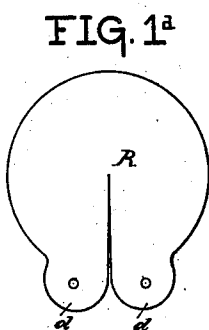


FIG. 1a

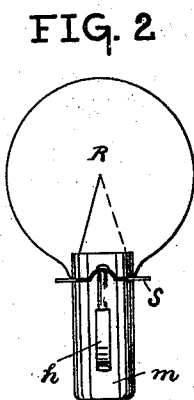


FIG. 2

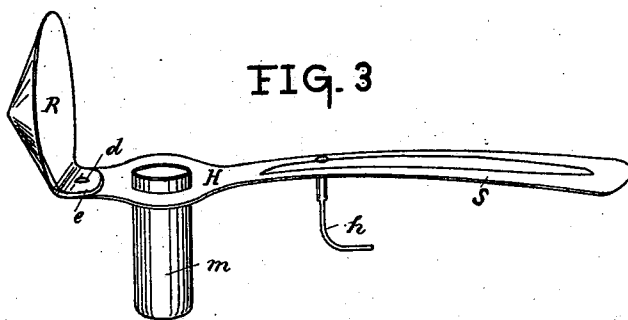


FIG. 3

Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GUSTAV NITHACK, OF OBERNIGK, GERMANY.

TONGUE-DEPRESSOR AND THROAT-ILLUMINATOR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 510,516, dated December 12, 1893.

Application filed February 15, 1893. Serial No. 462,473. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GUSTAV NITHACK, a subject of the King of Prussia and Emperor of Germany, and a resident of Obernigk, Germany, have invented a new and useful Instrument for Pressing Down the Tongue and for Illuminating the Throat, of which the following is a specification.

The object of this invention is to provide for the manufacture of an effective instrument of the utmost simplicity and lightness to be used in surgical and similar operations for illuminating the mouth and throat, and at the same time holding down the tongue to facilitate examination; the instrument to be adapted to be made wholly of metal so as to be readily sterilized, and constructed with reference to preventing the tongue-depressor from slipping on the tongue, and with reference to readily concentrating the light-rays in different directions as required.

In order that my invention may be the better understood, I now proceed to describe the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings and to the letters marked thereon.

Figure 1 is a longitudinal section of my instrument. Fig. 1^a is a developed view of the mirror. Fig. 2 is a transverse section of the instrument; and Fig. 3 is a perspective elevation thereof.

A flat bar H, of suitable metal, horn, ivory or similar material, is of a spoon-handle shape or of a similar shape at the end, hereinafter termed the mouth-end, which is introduced into the mouth of the patient for holding down the tongue. Said mouth-end of the tongue-depressor H is preferably provided with a longitudinal hollow rib s, which serves not only to stiffen it, but also to keep the bar from slipping laterally on the tongue. Near the outer end of the tongue-depressor H, a vertical open-ended tube m is provided for the reception of any suitable light. Projecting rigidly downward, said tube m serves also as the handle of the instrument, being obviously adapted to be conveniently grasped by the hand of the operator. The bar H has also a trigger-shaped finger-rest or holder h opposed

to said handle to facilitate manipulating the instrument.

A concave mirror R is pivotally attached to the outer end of the tongue-depressor H to serve as a reflector. The specific mirror shown in the drawings is made in the following manner: A circular piece of sheet-metal, Fig. 1^a, having at a part of its periphery two lugs d d, has a recess between these lugs which reaches to the center. The parts bordering on the recess are placed over each other until the two lugs are overlapped. The piece of sheet-metal thus forms a concave mirror in the form of a cone, which is riveted to the end of the tongue-depressor H by means of a pivotal rivet e passing through the lugs. Owing to the pivotal attachment of the mirror to the tongue-depressor, the mirror can be readily turned so as to throw the light-rays to any part of the mouth or throat.

Instead of the light being at the tube m it may be located at one side of the patient. In this case the pivotal attachment of the mirror to the instrument is especially advantageous, adapting it to receive the light-rays from such points and to send them into the cavity of the mouth.

The concave mirror R as well as the tongue-depressor H being adapted to be made of thin sheet-metal as above, it will be apparent that the instrument may be readily made wholly of metal so as to be easily sterilized as above, and at the same time may be of so little weight as to be easily held and manipulated.

Having now fully described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In an instrument for pressing down the tongue, a flat tongue-depressor having a longitudinal hollow rib, and provided with a downwardly projecting tube serving as a handle, and with a trigger-shaped finger-rest or holder in front of said handle, substantially as hereinbefore specified.

2. In combination, in a throat-illuminator, a flat tongue-depressor having a longitudinal hollow rib over the tongue, a trigger-shaped finger-rest or holder attached thereto outside the mouth, a cylindrical tube attached to said

tongue-depressor at a farther distance outside the mouth to contain any suitable light, and a reflector pivotally attached to the outer end of said tongue-depressor, substantially as described.

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3. In combination, in a throat-illuminator, a flat tongue-depressor, a trigger-shaped finger-rest or holder and a light receptacle attached thereto outside the mouth, and a conical reflector, formed out of a flat sheet, pivotally attached to the rear end of said tongue-de-

pressor by two bent lugs thereof superposed and secured by a single rivet, substantially as described.

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

GUSTAV NITHACK.

Witnesses:

RICHARD SPAUCKE,
CARL HIRSCHBERG.