

G. ROWLANDS.
 ANTISEPTIC MOUTHPIECE FOR TELEPHONES.
 APPLICATION FILED JUNE 1, 1909.

941,173.

Patented Nov. 23, 1909.

Fig. 1.

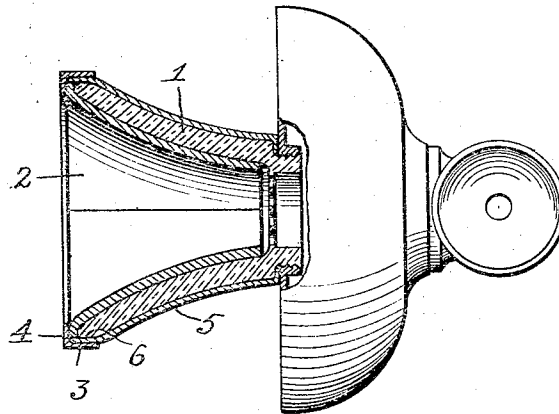


Fig. 2.

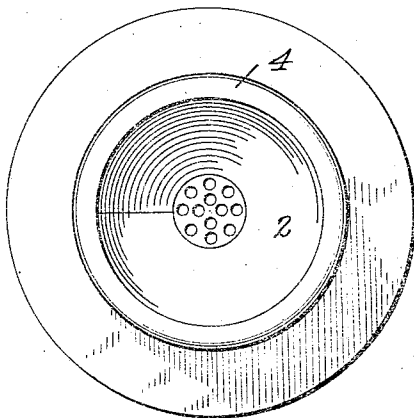
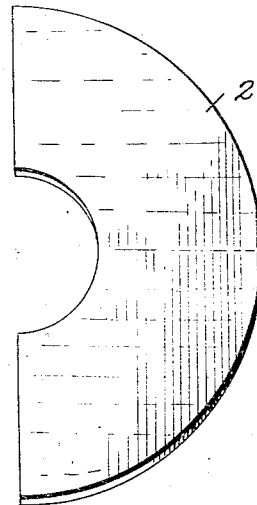


Fig. 3.



Inventor

George Rowlands

By

Geo. S. Shumway
 Attorney

Witnesses

Edwin L. Jewell

Ed. H. H. H.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE ROWLANDS, OF SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO
WALTER S. WOOD, OF SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK.

ANTISEPTIC MOUTHPIECE FOR TELEPHONES.

941,173.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE ROWLANDS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Schenectady, in the county of Schenectady and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Antiseptic Mouthpieces for Telephones, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to telephones, and its object is to provide an improved antiseptic guard for the mouth-piece which will effectually prevent the transmission of germs of contagious diseases between persons using the same telephone.

Every one of ordinary intelligence knows that the promiscuous use of telephones by the public is a frequent means of communicating disease, owing to the deposit on the mouth-piece of germs of phthisis, bronchitis, influenza and the like, which when dry are readily removed from said mouth-piece by actual contact of the lips or by the air currents produced in speaking into the mouth-piece. If, however, the germs are deposited upon a moist surface there is far less liability of their being transmitted to the next user of the telephone, and the object of my invention is to provide not only an antiseptic receiving surface for such germs, but one which will automatically maintain itself in a moist condition.

To this end, my invention consists in a protector or guard for a mouth-piece composed of absorbent material impregnated with an antiseptic hygroscopic liquid which will absorb moisture from the atmosphere, and thus for a comparatively long period will resist the effects of evaporation.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 is a side elevation, partly in section, of a telephone mouth-piece embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the same, and Fig. 3 is a plan view of the blank from which the antiseptic hygroscopic guard is made.

To the inside of the customary vulcanite mouth-piece 1 is fitted a lining 2 of absorbent material, preferably thick bibulous paper. The paper is cut from a sheet in the form of the blank shown in Fig. 3 and after

being saturated with an antiseptic solution is bent into shape and placed inside the mouth-piece 1. In order to retain it in place, an annular cover 3 is slipped upon the outer edge of the mouth-piece, having a flange 4 which overlaps the outer end of the guard.

I prefer to provide the mouth-piece with a jacket 5 of thin sheet metal, such as aluminum, and to make the cover of this metal also, the jacket having a cylindrical outer end 6 upon which the cover fits and is held by friction. The jacket may however be omitted; and moreover the mouth-piece 1 may be made of aluminum or other suitable material instead of vulcanite.

The antiseptic solution with which the lining or guard is saturated may contain any suitable ingredients, but in addition to or in lieu of the usual antiseptic and the deodorant I use a suitable quantity of glycerin, which is colorless, tasteless, antiseptic, and hygroscopic, so that the lining will remain moist by the automatic absorption of moisture from the atmosphere. A single lining or guard will last for four or five weeks, and can then be removed and burned, and a fresh one inserted. The constantly moist surface of the guard will hold all germs and prevent them from being accidentally brushed off or blown off by persons using the telephone. Moreover, the moist surface assists in keeping the germs in contact with the antiseptic ingredient long enough to kill them.

Having thus described my invention what I claim is:

1. A telephone mouth-piece having a hygroscopic guard applied thereto.

2. A telephone mouth-piece having a lining impregnated with a hygroscopic substance.

3. A telephone mouth-piece provided with a guard carrying an antiseptic solution containing a hygroscopic substance.

4. A telephone mouth-piece having a lining of bibulous material treated with glycerin.

5. A telephone mouth-piece having a lining of bibulous paper carrying a hygro-

seopic substance, and an annular cover applied to said mouth-piece for holding said lining in place.

- 5 6. A telephone mouth-piece having a lining of absorbent material carrying a hygroscopic substance, a jacket of sheet metal for said mouth-piece, and an annular cover fitting on said jacket and retaining said lining.

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

GEORGE ROWLANDS.

Witnesses:

BENJAMIN B. HULL,
HEWLETT SCUDDER, Jr.