March 1, 1932. T. P. HAZARD 1,847,649

OPERATIVE SUPPORT FOR TELEPHONE SETS AND THE LIKE

Filed Oct. 5, 1929

FIG. I.

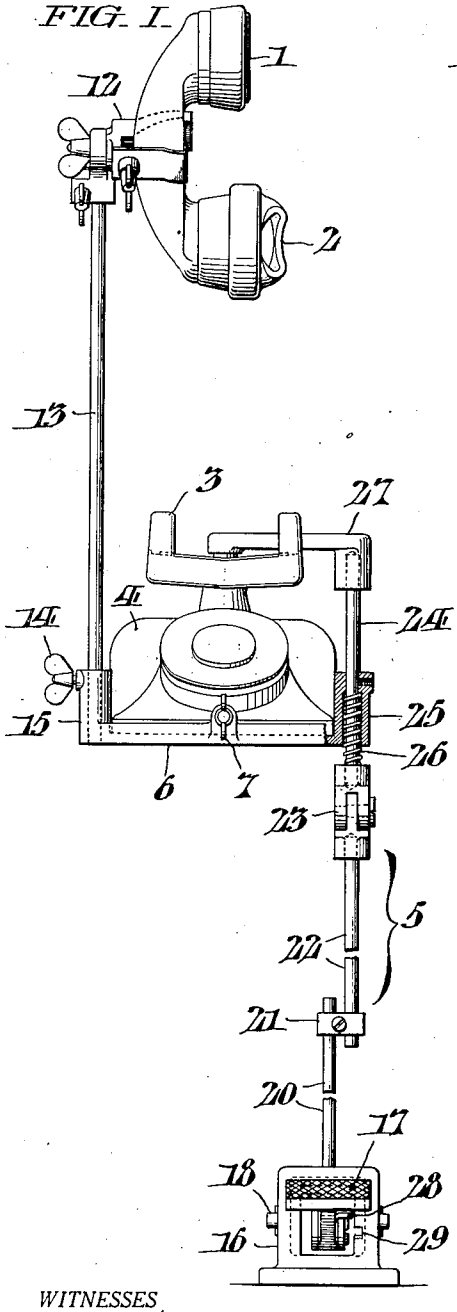
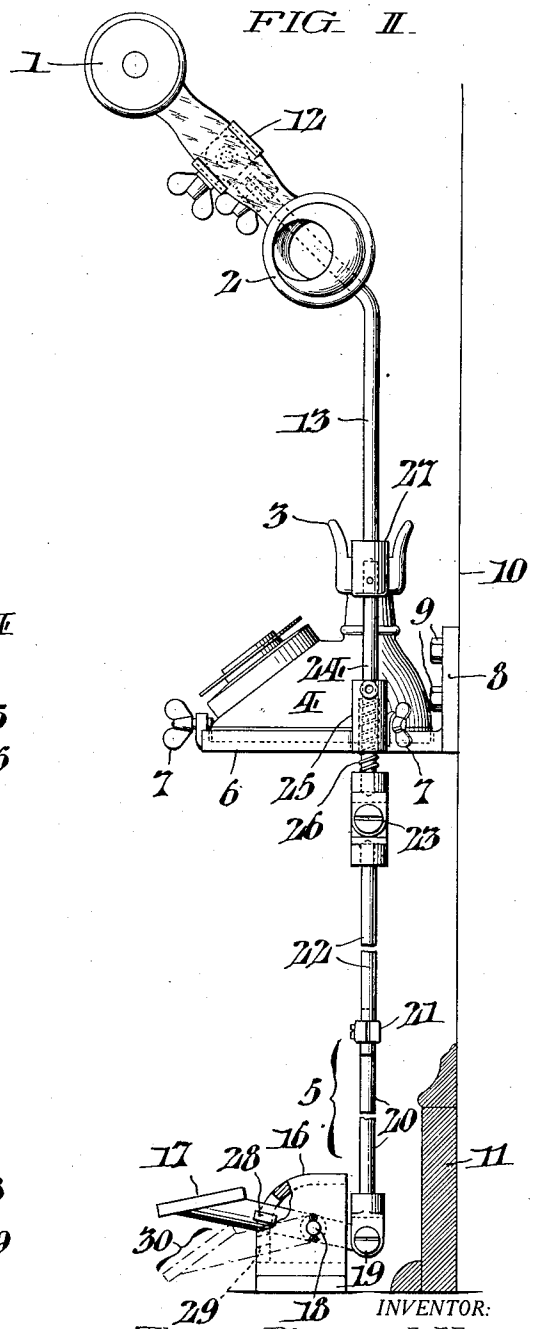


FIG. II.



WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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OPERATIVE-SUPPORT FOR TELEPHONE SETS AND THE LIKE

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This invention relates in its broader aspects to means or devices for supporting instruments adapted by manipulation to effect some useful purpose or work. More particularly the present improvements are directed to the provision of what may be conveniently termed an "operative-support" for instruments—such as telephone sets—ordinarily manipulated by the user's hands; but which it is highly desirable, at times, should be capable of utilization without actual "handling" in the interests of sanitation; as well as to obviate the avoidable fouling by contagious or infectious matter.

The primary object of this invention, accordingly, is to furnish a novel means whereby telephone calls can be answered or made without manual removal of the receiver and transmitter from the set.

Another object of my invention is the provision of an operative-support for telephone sets that is easily switched from "out-of-use" location into "service" position by a slight mechanical movement, in which the user's hands take no part whatever.

A further object of this invention is the provison of an operative-support, of the type referred to, that is simple in construction, effective in use, comparatively cheap to manufacture, and which is devoid of parts susceptible to derangement.

With the foregoing objects in view, the invention also comprehends features of a constructional character which are fully described hereinafter; while in the claims annexed there are summarized such features upon which patent protection is sought.

I will now explain the invention more in detail by reference to the accompanying drawings, in which there is conventionally illustrated a telephone-set operative-support embodying the present improvements.

Fig. I is a front elevation of a desk telephone equipment embodying the present invention with portions broken out and in section to facilitate ease in illustration; while,

Fig. II is a side view of the same.

Referring more in detail to the drawings, the specific adaptation of my invention shown contemplates the use of the so-called "French" combination telephone receiver 1 and transmitter 2 which, ordinarily, rest or seat upon a switch operating plate 3 in the stand or base 4: said parts being in conformity with known means and forming no feature, in themselves, of the instant invention.

My novel device or operative-support, comprehensively designated 5, in general is purely a mechanical adjunct to the telephone receiving equipment above referred to, and requires no structural changes in the set, no cutting into the electrical circuits, and no additional electrical switching.

As illustrated my operative-support 5 comprises a bracket 6, adapted to snugly receive the desk stand base 4; said base being conveniently held in position by clamp screws 7, in an obvious manner; while the bracket 6 is provided with an attaching flange 8 through the medium of which it is securable, as by screws 9, to a wall—for example, as conventionally indicated by the line 10 and basal skirting 11.

The bracket 6 is so arranged that the foot or pedal operating mechanism can be mounted as shown, or the position of the receiver-transmitter clamp 12 and said mechanism reversed, so as to adapt the telephone for left-hand use. The bracket 6 may be set upon the edge of a desk, on a table, or mounted against the wall 10, as will be readily understood.

The receiver-transmitter combination 1, 2 is supported by a clamp 12 on an adjustable arm 13, in turn secured by a clamp screw 14 in a socket 15 on the bracket 6, so that the receiver-transmitter combination 1, 2 may be located at any height convenient for the user.

A foot treadle operating means is so arranged in relation to the bracket 6 as to release the switch operating plate 3 when the telephone is to be used. This operating means comprises a box-like bearing 16, in which a pedal lever 17 is freely fulcrumed on a bearing pin 18; said lever having pivoted thereto at 19, one end of a rod 20, the other end whereof is gripped by one-half of a tandem clamp device 21. Similarly gripped by the other half of the tandem clamp device 21 is a second or connector rod 22, whose upper end has oscillatory connection at 23, to a vertically

movable operating rod 24. This operating rod 24 is conveniently housed in a tubular enlargement 25, integral with the bracket 6 aforesaid, and it is subject to a spring 26, under compression, normally tending to hold an angled arm 27 attached to the upper end of said operating rod 24 downwardly pressed upon the telephone switch operating plate 3, in an obvious manner.

A projection 28 is formed on one side of the pedal lever 17, in such relation to a notch 29 in the box-like bearing 16, so that a slight axial movement of said lever along the pin 18 to the right, as viewed in Fig. I, will serve to enter such projection 28 into the notch 29, to retain the lever 17 in the down position, in part indicated by dot-and-dash lines 30 in Fig. II. By this means the user of the telephone is enabled to leave the receiver-transmitter combination 1, 2 temporarily, without cutting-off the telephone connection. Obviously, after the user has completed the phone call, a reverse axial movement of the pedal-lever 17, or to the left, will release the projection 28 from the notch 29; whereupon the spring 26 automatically functions to return the arm 27 and switch fork 3 to the position shown, or that which they normally occupy, when the telephone is not in use.

While I have illustrated and explained my device as being pedal actuated, it will be readily apparent the same may be adapted for operation by the knee, without departure from the primary object of avoiding manual manipulation. Again, when an incoming message is to be received, the user simply places one foot on the pedal lever 17 and answers the call without touching the receiver-transmitter 1, 2 with the hands; whereas in the case of a non-dial phone an outgoing call may be made by like procedure.

From the foregoing it is thought the use and advantages of my novel operative-support will be clearly apparent without further detail explanation herein. However, it is deemed essential to point out that my novel device is particularly useful to doctors, dentists, and others who may be performing operations or duties when their hands are sterilized to avoid infection or contagion. Under ordinary conditions when answering or making telephone calls re-washing of the hands is essential with attendant delays; but where my novel operative-support is employed such calls can be attended to, without manual aid or loss of valuable time. Furthermore, the novel device is extremely useful in places where operatives hands are dirty or fouled by grease, oil and other matter, as in the case of garage attendants, painters or paint mixers, hair dressers, and many other instances, too numerous to mention.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. An operative-support for telephone sets comprising a bearer for the set base, an adjustable support on said bearer for the receiver and transmitter, and pedal-actuated mechanism controlling the set switch with provisions for effecting release and usage of the telephone.

2. An operative-support for telephone sets comprising a bearer for the set base, an adjustable support on said bearer for the receiver and transmitter, a switch governing use of the telephone, and pedal operated mechanism co-acting with said switch for effecting its release and usage of the receiver-transmitter combination.

3. An operative-support for telephone sets comprising a bearer for the set base, an adjustable support on said bearer for the receiver and transmitter, a switch governing use of the telephone, pedal operated mechanism co-acting with said switch for effecting its release and usage of the receiver-transmitter combination, and means whereby said mechanism may be temporarily retained in the operative position.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto signed my name at Peace Dale, R. I., this first day of October, 1929.

THOMAS PIERREPONT HAZARD.