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TOOTHBRUSH

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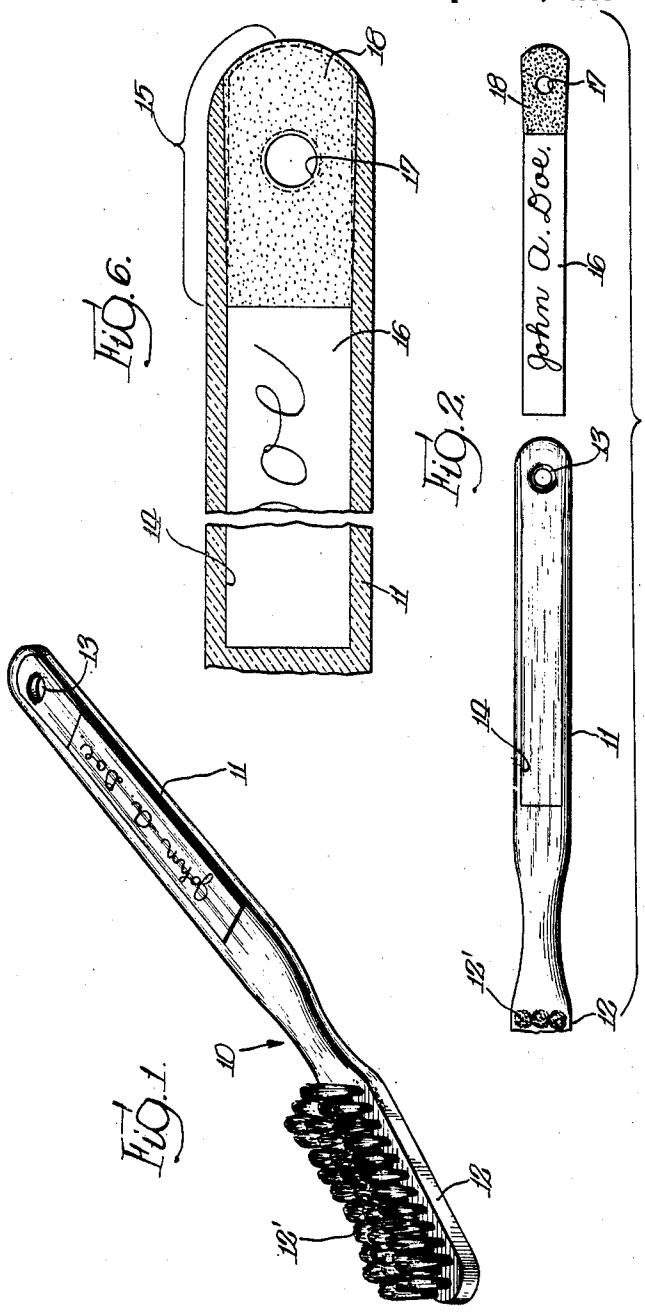


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.

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TOOTHBRUSH

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2 Claims. (Cl. 40—10)

The invention relates to brushes and more particularly to tooth brushes, and has a general object to provide a tooth brush having a handle of new and improved construction and design providing a unique feature.

Science and hygiene dictate that a tooth brush be used by a single person only, and that, moreover, is the practice which people inherently follow. However, with the tooth brushes for the various members of a family customarily kept in the same cabinet, and not infrequently in the same holder, the possibility of a tooth brush being used by other than the owner thereof is very great. This possibility of confusion is present, even though care may have been exercised to select tooth brushes of different color or of different make, for the particular color of make may be forgotten or the person intending to use a tooth brush may have become confused as to the color. It frequently becomes necessary, therefore, to discard the entire set of tooth brushes or to take a chance on using the wrong tooth brush, and frequently a person uses the wrong tooth brush confident that he is using his own tooth brush.

It is a more particular object of this invention, therefore, to provide a tooth brush having unique and improved means for indicating ownership of the tooth brush which means will not require memorizing a particular color or make of tooth brush.

Another object of the invention is to provide a tooth brush having such ownership indicating means incorporated therein without necessitating change from the standard shape of tooth brush handle and without forming raised portions, recesses, or crevices, in the corners of which dirt and germs may collect.

Still another object is to provide a tooth brush having a hollow handle of transparent material and a name card or plate, insertable within the handle, to which the purchaser himself adds the ownership indicating indicia, and which is constructed to be readily inserted and sealed in the handle by the purchaser himself.

A further object is to provide a tooth brush having a hollow, transparent handle and a name card or plate insertable within the handle wherein the name card or plate carries means automatically effective to seal the recess in the handle against moisture as an incident to complete insertion of the card or plate within the handle.

Other objects and advantages will become apparent from the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a tooth brush embodying the features of the invention.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary plan view showing the handle of the tooth brush with the name card or plate removed therefrom.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged and broken longitudinal sectional view of the handle of the tooth brush.

Fig. 4 is a transverse sectional view taken approximately along the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a transverse sectional view taken approximately along the line 5—5 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary and broken horizontal sectional view of the handle taken approximately along the line 6—6 of Fig. 3.

While the invention is susceptible of various modifications and alternative constructions, it is shown in the drawing and will be described hereinafter in a preferred embodiment, but it is not intended that the invention is to be limited thereby to the specific construction disclosed, but it is intended to cover all modifications and alternative constructions falling within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

For purposes of disclosure, the invention is shown emobdied in a tooth brush 10 of generally conventional construction. The tooth brush comprises a handle 11 composed of a transparent material such as some cellulose or resinous condensation product, a head 12, and bristles 12' secured in tufts in the head 12 in the usual manner. If desired, the handle of the tooth brush may have an aperture 13 formed in the end thereof for the purpose of suspending the tooth brush from a hook or nail.

As previously stated, the handle 11 of the tooth brush is of new and improved construction and design embodying a unique feature, namely, improved means for indicating ownership of the tooth brush. Broadly, the ownership indicating means is adapted to be received within the handle of the tooth brush so as to eliminate raised or depressed portions on the external surface of the handle which might serve as traps for dirt and germs. This means, moreover, is standard for all purchasers with the identifying indicia applied to the means by the purchaser himself. Accordingly, the handle 11 is formed with a flat, elongated recess 14 extending longitudinally of the handle and which, in the present instance, opens through the free or apertured end of the handle. This recess may be very thin and thus may be formed in a handle of stand-

ard or conventional thickness and does not require an especially designed handle. Throughout the major portion of its length the recess 14 has parallel sides. However, at its outer end, over the portion 15 of its length, all of the walls of the recess diverge gradually outwardly, as best seen in Figs. 3 and 6, so as to form a diverging and wedge-shaped opening for the recess. The purpose of this diverging opening will presently become more apparent.

The means insertable in the recess 14 and which bears the ownership indicating indicia herein constitutes a name card or plate and takes the form of an elongated strip 16 composed of some suitable material which has a desired degree of stiffness and rigidity enabling the same to be inserted in the recess 14 and enabling indicia to be written thereon with ink or pencil readily available to any purchaser. The strip 16 may be composed of any one of a variety of materials, such as cardboard, "Celluloid," etc., and, though an opaque material is preferred, a transparent material is also usable. As best seen in Figs. 1 and 2, the original strip 16 over its major portion is a blank space in which the name of the purchaser or owner of the tooth brush may be written. The strip 16 is just wide enough and just thick enough to be receivable in the recess, preferably with a sliding fit, and is also of a length corresponding to the length of the recess. At its outer end the strip 16 conforms to the configuration of the end of the handle which as here shown is rounded, and the card also has an aperture 17 which registers with the aperture 13 in the handle when the card is fully inserted.

A feature of the invention is the provision herein of means for conveniently and effectively sealing the recess 14 after the strip 16 has been inserted in order to prevent entry of moisture into the recess. Herein sealing the recess means closing the opening thereto in such manner that the sealing compound overlies the end of the strip 16 and becomes a part of the handle, as best seen in Fig. 3, and overlies the edge of the strip at the aperture 17, as best seen in Figs. 3 and 5. In the present instance, such sealing of the recess is rendered extremely simple and readily effected by the purchaser of the tooth brush. To that end the apertured end of the strip 16 has a coating 18 of some suitable plastic sealing compound such as crystalline wax, latex, or resin which, upon insertion of the strip within the recess and the application of pressure thereto, conforms to the recess and thus effectively seals the recess. The coating is applied to the strip when made, and thus becomes a prominent part thereof, making the strip immediately insertable by the purchaser without necessity of applying additional adhering or sealing means. Preferably this coating 13 grows progressively thicker from the beginning of the coating outwardly to the end of the strip 16, as best seen in Figs. 3 and 6, in order to conform to the diverging opening of the recess 14. The coating 18 covers the end of the strip 16 as well as the walls of the strip forming the aperture 17, in order to prevent the strip from becoming saturated should the same be made of a material, such as cardboard, which would absorb moisture.

The tooth brush would be sold with the strip 16 removed from the handle 11. Upon purchasing the tooth brush the owner would inscribe his name in the blank space provided on the strip 16 and would then simply insert the card in the recess 14, pressing the same firmly into the recess so as to cause the coating 18 of sealing compound to conform to the opening of the recess 14 and thus in conjunction with the strip effectively close and seal the recess against the entry of moisture, as clearly shown in Figs. 3, 5 and 6. Once the strip is thus sealed in the recess, it would remain therein and usage of the brush would not tend to destroy the seal which has been made, inasmuch as the strip is received wholly within the recess and thus is not subjected to pressure or stress of any kind.

It will be apparent from the foregoing that I have perfected a greatly improved tooth brush embodying means for indicating ownership of the brush. With my construction possible confusion of the brushes is definitely eliminated, for the name of the owner of the brush constitutes the identifying indicia and, though this identifying indicia necessarily is different for each purchaser, yet with my construction the tooth brushes as sold are all of a common and standard construction. Contributing greatly to the improved construction and particularly to the salability of the brush, is my mode of forming the name card or plate and the means for sealing the same in the handle of the brush. With my construction, there is but one piece to be inserted in the handle of the brush, and such insertion is so easily and readily accomplished that any purchaser of the brush can perform the operation. Moreover, once inserted, the name plate and the sealing means become a more or less permanent part of the brush and leave no protrusions which during the use of the brush might become stressed, and thus there is little likelihood that the seal will ever be broken. Not only is there no protruding of the name card or of the sealing means, but likewise there is no recess formed as a result of inserting the card too far, and the coating being a plastic compound may be conformed to the end of the handle so as to avoid the formation of cracks or crevices in which dirt or germs might lodge.

I claim as my invention:

1. A brush comprising a brush head, an elongated handle composed of transparent material, an elongated and flat recess formed in said handle extending longitudinally thereof and opening through the free end of said handle, said recess at its outer end flaring slightly outwardly to form a wedge shaped opening to the recess, an elongated flat strip insertable within said recess, said strip conforming at its outer end to the shape of the end of said handle, a major portion of said strip being originally blank to provide for the inscription of identifying indicia by the owner of the brush, and a coating of plastic sealing compound carried by the end of said strip, said coating growing progressively heavier as the end of the strip is approached and being operable upon insertion within the flared opening of said recess to conform, under the application of manual pressure, to the flared opening of said recess and conjointly with the end of said strip closing and sealing the recess against the entry of moisture.

2. A brush comprising a brush head, an elongated handle composed of transparent material, an elongated and flat recess formed in said handle extending longitudinally thereof and opening through the free end of said handle, said recess at its outer end flaring slightly outwardly to form a wedge-shaped opening to the recess, an aperture near the free end of said

handle extending transversely therethrough to provide means for suspending said brush, an elongated flat strip insertable within said recess, said strip conforming at its outer end to the shape of the end of said handle and having an aperture therein adapted to register with the aperture in said handle when the end of said strip is flush with the end of said handle, a major portion of said strip being originally blank to provide for the inscription of identifying indicia by the owner of the brush, and a coating of plastic sealing compound carried by the apertured end of said strip, said coating growing progressively heavier as the end of the strip is approached and being operable upon insertion within the flared opening of said recess to conform, under the application of manual pressure, to the flared opening of said recess and conjointly with the end of said strip closing and sealing the recess against the entry of moisture.

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