

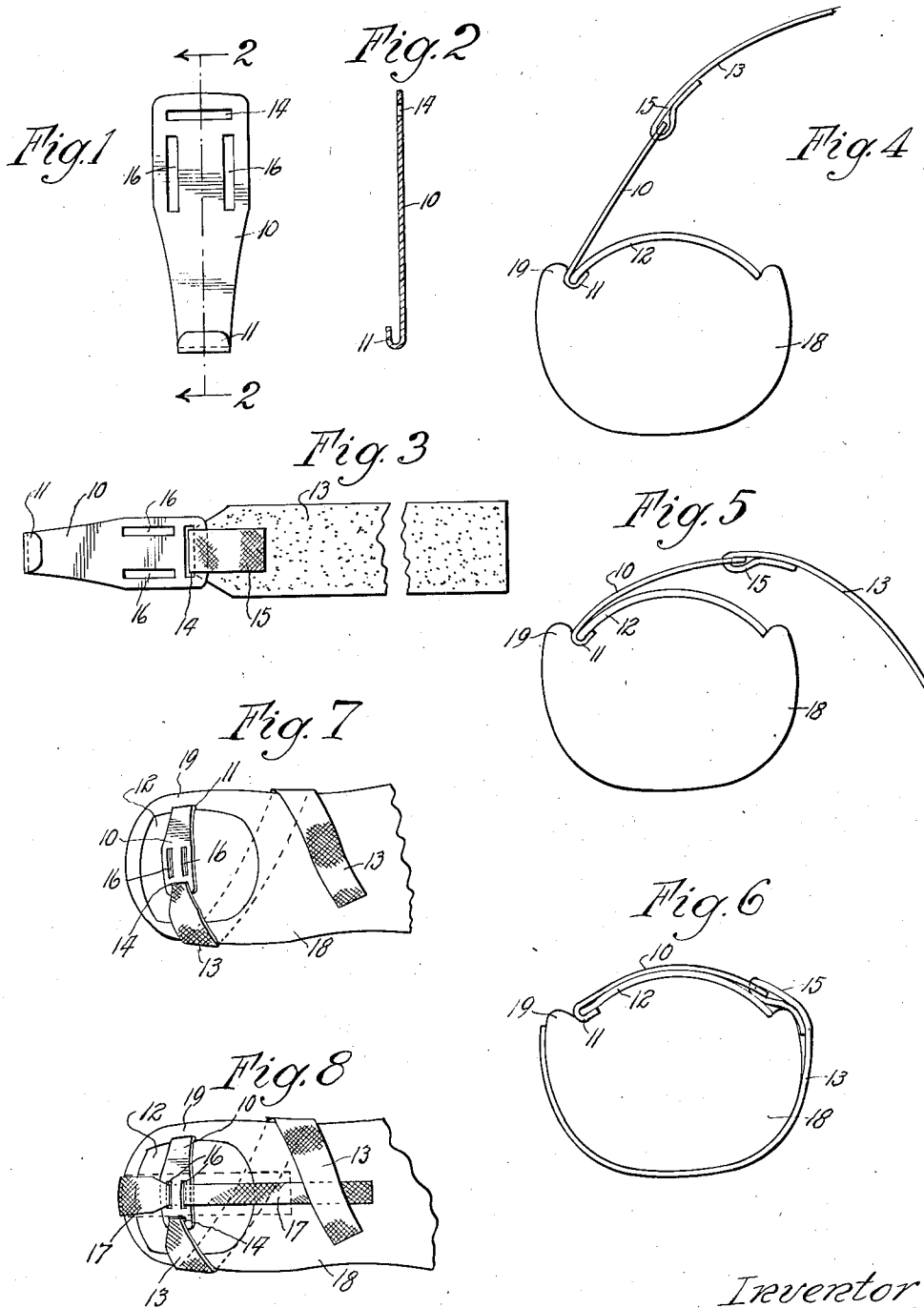
June 4, 1940.

E. SCHMIDTHOFER

2,202,926

DEVICE FOR CURING INGROWING TOENAILS

Filed Feb. 25, 1938



Inventor
Ernest Schmidhofer
by Henry Fleck
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,202,926

DEVICE FOR CURING INGROWING
TOENAILS

Ernest Schmidthofer, Chicago, Ill.

Application February 25, 1938, Serial No. 192,549

1 Claim. (Cl. 128—81)

My invention relates to improvements in devices for curing ingrowing toenails, and particularly to a device which may be applied expeditiously.

Devices for curing ingrown toenails, which are known, have proven to be either too uncomfortable to be worn on the toe for the necessary length of time required to effect a cure, or are too bulky and unwieldy to be worn except when the toe is uncovered and the user is resting.

One of the difficulties that has hitherto been encountered is the tendency of the known devices to slip off the digit when the foot is used. While attempts have been made to correct this condition, they have all resulted in the creation of devices which are either painful to the user or which so press the afflicted digit, by reason of being secured by clamping or other means, that no beneficial results are obtained. Furthermore, the known devices do not lend themselves to a comfortable use while wearing a shoe.

It is, therefore, an object of my invention to provide a device for curing ingrowing toenails, which may be worn without discomfort or pain.

It is another object of the invention to provide a device for curing ingrown toenails which will permit full unrestricted use of the afflicted digit while the device is being used;

It is still another object of the invention to provide a device for curing ingrown toenails which may be secured to the digit, so that the same cannot slip off the digit, to which it is secured, and yet will cause no discomfort or pain to the user.

It is a further object to provide a device which is placed under tension by its securing means, so that a continuous lifting effect is exerted on the nail.

It is still another object of the invention to provide a device for curing ingrown toenails which will fit snugly around the curvature of the toe without being bulky or unyieldy, and which will cause no pressure upon the toe.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a device for curing ingrown toenails which, upon being applied to the afflicted member, will give instant relief, and which may be worn on the toe without removal therefrom until the cure is effected.

With these and other equally important objects in view, which will appear from a perusal of the invention, the latter comprises the means described in the following specification, particularly pointed out in the claim forming a part

thereof, and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front view of the device, constructed in accordance with my invention, with the securing means omitted.

Fig. 2 is a section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a top plan view of the device with the securing means attached thereto.

Fig. 4 is an end view of a toe, to which the device has been applied.

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 4, with the parts shown in intermediate position.

Fig. 6 is a view similar to Fig. 4, with the device in operative position.

Fig. 7 is a top plan view of a toe with the device secured thereon and

Fig. 8 is a view similar to Fig. 7, with additional securing means for the device.

As shown in the drawing, the device comprises a thin flexible metal strip 10 provided at one end with an inwardly curled hook 11, constituting a clip, which is adapted to engage the edge of a nail 12. A ribbon of adhesive tape, or other pliable material 13 is passed through a transverse slot 14 in the strip and secured thereto by doubling, as at 15. Longitudinal slots 16 are provided in the metal strip and are adapted to receive a ribbon of adhesive tape 17, which is drawn through the slots and is secured to the nail and digit 18 in longitudinal position.

In the application of the device, the curled hook 11 is inserted, as shown in Fig. 4, between the edge of the ingrowing nail 12 and the adjacent flesh 19, to engage the edge of the nail, and the strip of adhesive 13, together with the clip 10, is drawn taut across the surface of the nail 12 in transverse direction. By securing the strip of tape about the digit, the metal strip is flexed to act as a spring and lifts the nail away from the adjoining flesh, giving instant relief to the user.

Furthermore, the clip 10 will retain the nail in raised position and permits it to grow normally away from the flesh, and at the same time, the adjoining flesh 19 will be relieved of the pressure of the nail and will proceed to assume its natural contour.

To ensure retention of the device in proper position, another strip of tape 17 is threaded through the slots 16 and underneath the portion of the metal strip 10 between the slots 16.

The ends of the tape 17 extend longitudinally and adhere to the top and bottom of the toe, as will be evident by referring to Fig. 8.

Thus, the device will be held in stationary

position, and the digit may have unrestricted movement, and be flexed as if the device were not applied.

Furthermore, the device need not be removed
5 until the ingrown nail has been cured, or until growth of the nail requires re-setting of the clip. Where the latter condition arises, it will not be necessary to remove the tape from the clip to renew the adhesive properties. It is only re-
10 quired to cut the old tape so that a fresh piece of adhesive tape may be attached to the remaining piece.

It is noteworthy that the use of the clip, in combination with the tape, provides the user
15 with a device which may be readily adjustable by controlling the pull of the tape and the resulting spring action of the clip on the nail.

Thus, where the nail has commenced its normal growth, and the adjacent flesh resumes its
20 natural contour, the adhesive tape or ribbon may be adjusted from time to time, so that the ten-

sion of the clip on the nail will be decreased at intervals until a complete cure is effected.

While the drawing shows a preferred embodiment of the invention, numerous changes, alterations and revisions may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention. 5

I, therefore, do not limit myself to the details of construction, as shown, but wish to include all modifications, revisions and changes, constituting departures within the scope of the invention, as defined in the appended claim. 10

I claim:

A device of the character described, comprising a clip provided at one end with a curled hook adapted to engage the edge of a nail, and means
15 for securing said clip to the toe of the user, said means comprising an adhesive strip secured to the opposite end of said clip, and adapted to be wound transversely about the toe, and an adhesive strip secured to said clip and adapted to
20 be secured longitudinally about the toe.

ERNEST SCHMIDTHOFER.