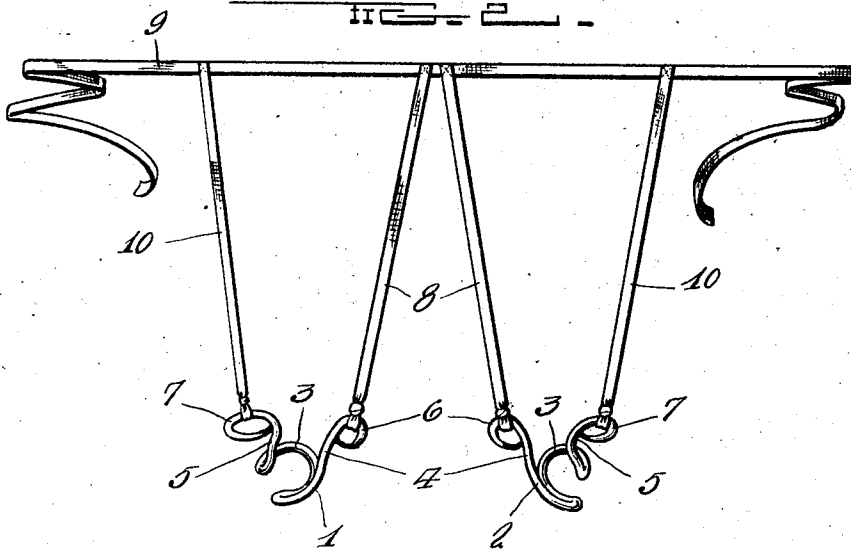


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J. A. ROUNTREE  
ORTHOPEDIC APPLIANCE  
Filed Nov. 10, 1921



Inventor

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPHINE ALMA ROUNTREE, OF FOREMAN, ARKANSAS.

## ORTHOPEDIC APPLIANCE.

Application filed November 10, 1921. Serial No. 514,237.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOSEPHINE ALMA ROUNTREE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Foreman, in the county of Little River and State of Arkansas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in an Orthopedic Appliance, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to orthopedic appliances and has particular reference to an appliance adapted to be worn by the user, after retiring, whereby certain facial muscles will be trained to gradually produce the permanent effect of a smile on the countenance of the person using the appliance. The primary object of the invention is to produce such an effect and to counteract the sagging of the muscles around the corners of the mouth, due in most cases to advancing years.

Another object of the invention is to provide an appliance which will gradually train the muscles at the corners of the mouth into the position assumed by the act of smiling, without inconvenience to the user.

A further object is the provision of such an appliance that may be readily applied and worn, and which is simple in construction and most efficient in operation, the appliance being adjustable to suit individual requirements.

With these and such other objects in view as will be apparent from the description, my invention resides in the novel, construction, combination, and arrangement of parts hereinafter described and claimed, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, of which;

Figure 1 is a view illustrating my invention as applied and worn by a person using same, and

Figure 2, a detail elevation of the device.

The appliance in detail comprises a pair of members 1 and 2 which are made in rights and lefts. Inasmuch as in their construction, these members are exactly the reverse of one another, a description of one will suffice for both.

Each member is composed of a strip of composition material, such as a celluloid compound or the like, bent upon itself at substantially the center to provide an enlarged loop 3. At the open end of the loop the strip is again bent upon itself to provide arms 4 and 5, one of which as at 4 is doubled upon the adjacent portion of the

loop in slightly spaced relation and then curved outwardly therefrom, ending in a terminal eye 6 which is disposed appreciably beyond the head of the loop 3 and substantially in alignment with the center of the loop head. The arm 5 is doubled upon itself in slightly spaced relation at the adjacent end of the loop 3 and is extended divergently therefrom and from the arm 4, terminating in an eye 7 formed by bending the terminal portion of the arm upon itself as will be understood.

The disposition of the arms is such that these arms 4 and 5 and the terminal eye 6 and eye 7 will lie in a common plane, which roughly parallels the plane of the loop 3, and in slightly spaced relation therefrom. The two members 1 and 2 are carried by tape straps 8 fastened to the terminal eyes 6 at one end, and at their opposite ends to the center of a supporting tape 9 adapted to encircle the head of the user whereby the central portion will be disposed about the middle of the forehead, as clearly illustrated in Figure 1. Tape straps 10 connect the eyes 7 with the tape 9 at points which will cover approximately the temples of the user.

In operation, the loops 3 are inserted between the lips and the teeth, at each corner of the mouth, with the high points, comprising the terminal eyes 6 towards the nostrils. The loops 3 are then slanted upwardly in the corners of the mouth, and the tape 9 is fastened at the back of the head, the degree of tightening of the tape, determining the adjustment of the members. The various parts are so arranged that the corners of the mouth will be supported in a slightly upturned position, which is the position assumed in the act of smiling, and by consistent use of the appliance the muscles at the corners of the mouth will be trained into the position productive of the effect of a smile. By reason of this, the droop at the corners of the mouth, which increases with advancing years, will be nullified and eliminated, thereby eradicating the lines which form in the face due to this droop.

In the preferred form as illustrated, the strips of which the members 1 and 2 are formed, are circular in cross section and are of light composition material. The appliance is therefore of no inconvenience to the user when worn, and may be adjusted and applied each night before retiring and worn

throughout the night. While I have described and illustrated certain details and materials which enter into the construction and operation of my invention, I desire it to be understood that I do not intend to limit myself to these, but that any such may be used, and any changes made therein, as will fall within the scope of the invention as claimed.

10 I claim:—

1. An orthopedic appliance of the character described comprising a pair of hook members adapted to engage the corners of the mouth, and means engageable with each hook member and supported on the head of the user to exert an upward and outward pull on said members to hold certain facial muscles under slight distortion.

2. An orthopedic appliance of the character described comprising a pair of hook members adapted to engage the corners of the mouth, a pair of tapes for each hook member extending upwardly and outwardly therefrom, and a head band supported on the head of the user and connecting said tapes to normally hold the same under slight tension.

3. An orthopedic appliance of the character described, comprising a strip of material bent upon itself at substantially its center to form an enlarged loop, the ends

of the strip being bent backwardly upon the loop in spaced relation and formed with terminal eyes, and supporting tape disposed in said eyes for supporting said strip on the head of a user with the loop engaged in a corner of the mouth.

4. An orthopedic appliance of the character described, comprising a strip of composition material bent upon itself at substantially its center to form an enlarged loop, the ends of the strip being bent upon the loop at the open end thereof to parallel said loop in slightly spaced relation, eyes on the ends of said strip, and a supporting tape arranged in said eyes for supporting said strip on the head of a user with the loop engaged in a corner of the mouth and the strip ends outwardly of the lips.

5. In an orthopedic appliance of the character described a strip of material bent upon itself substantially at its center to form two arms, one of said arms being adapted to be inserted in the mouth at the corner thereof, the end of the other arm being angularly disposed with respect to said bend and having a terminal loop thereon, and said other arm being disposed outside of the mouth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JOSEPHINE ALMA ROUNTREE.