

W. L. WEBSTER.  
TOOTHBRUSH.  
APPLICATION FILED OCT. 31, 1919.

1,378,157.

Patented May 17, 1921.

Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

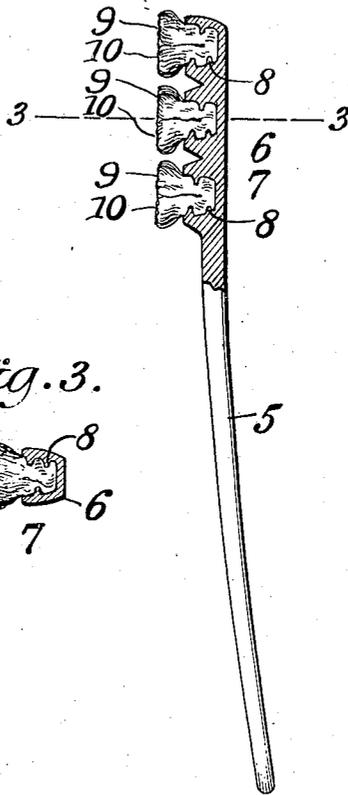
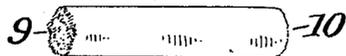


Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## TOOTHBRUSH.

1,378,157.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 17, 1921.

Application filed October 31, 1919. Serial No. 334,794.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM LLOYD WEBSTER, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Toothbrushes, which invention is fully set forth in the following specification.

One object of my invention is to provide a tooth-brush which will polish the teeth without injuring the gums. An excellent material for the purpose is readily available in the staple article known as absorbent cotton roll. This material is available in an absolutely sterile condition, and at so low a price that it can be economically discarded after use.

A further object of my invention is to provide for the rubbing-medium a holder which can be readily kept in a clean and sterile condition in the home. The form of holder which I prefer has no part to wear out and, therefore, can be readily sterilized, and will not be discarded, hence, it may take the form of a permanent ornamented toilet-article.

A further object of my invention is to provide a holder which is specifically adapted to receive readily and firmly retain during use a piece of absorbent cotton roll as the rubbing-medium, in such manner that the roll, after use, may be readily removed and discarded.

The invention will be best understood by reference to the accompanying drawings, which disclose one embodiment, but only as an example for the purpose of illustration. And it is to be distinctly understood that the invention may take other forms than that shown, and is limited only by the appended claims.

In these drawings:

Figure 1 is a side-elevation of a tooth-brush embodying my invention;

Fig. 2 is a side-elevation of the same, but partly in section;

Fig. 3 is a section of the line 3—3 of Fig. 2; and

Fig. 4 is a view showing the preferable re-filling rubbing-medium.

In the drawings, the same reference-numerals refer to the same parts throughout the several views.

A handle 5 of the usual configuration is provided at one end with one or more sockets 6. These sockets may be formed in a metallic member 7 which is securely fastened to the handle 5, or may be made integral with the handle 5, as desired.

The socket or sockets are internally threaded, as at 8. These threads have a high pitch so as to afford considerable space between adjacent threads. The sockets are also preferably tapered so that the outer portion or mouth of the socket has a larger diameter than the inner portion.

As previously stated, the preferable re-filling element is absorbent cotton roll, 9—10, as illustrated in Fig. 4. This roll can be bent upon itself centrally, and then readily forced, by a screwing movement, into the threaded sockets 6, as illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3. The socket is made large enough at its mouth to readily receive the middle or doubled-over portion of the roll. When this roll is forced into the socket and twisted or screwed at the same time, it passes down to the bottom of the socket as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, and is securely held in place by the screw-threads. As these screw-threads are preferably tapered, the cotton is thus securely compressed into the bottom of the socket so that it cannot be easily pulled out. After use, however, it is readily removable, by merely unscrewing the wad, which can then be discarded and the handle sterilized.

I have found that by the use of this type of tooth-brush the teeth are polished and the gums massaged without injuring them as does a bristle tooth-brush, and that no foreign material is deposited between the teeth.

Instead of internal threads 8, one or more internal projections may be supplied to the inside of sockets 6 adapted to engage a wad of absorbent cotton roll inserted into the sockets and whereby the wad of absorbent cotton roll will be removably held in position on the handle while the brush is in use.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A tooth-brush comprising, a handle and a plurality of units of fibrous rubbing-material, said handle being provided with a plurality of tapered screw-threaded sockets arranged side by side near one end thereof,

each of said units being removably secured in one of said sockets by being twisted there-into.

2. In a tooth-brush, the combination with a handle, a tapered socket carried by the handle near one end thereof, of means with-  
5 in the socket for the securement of a dou-  
bled-over piece of absorbent cotton roll

therein, said means comprising screw-threads adapted to directly engage the cot-  
ton roll whereby the free ends of the cotton  
roll may be presented in operative position.

In testimony whereof I have signed this specification.

W. LLOYD WEBSTER.