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EMBALMER'S LIP HOLDER

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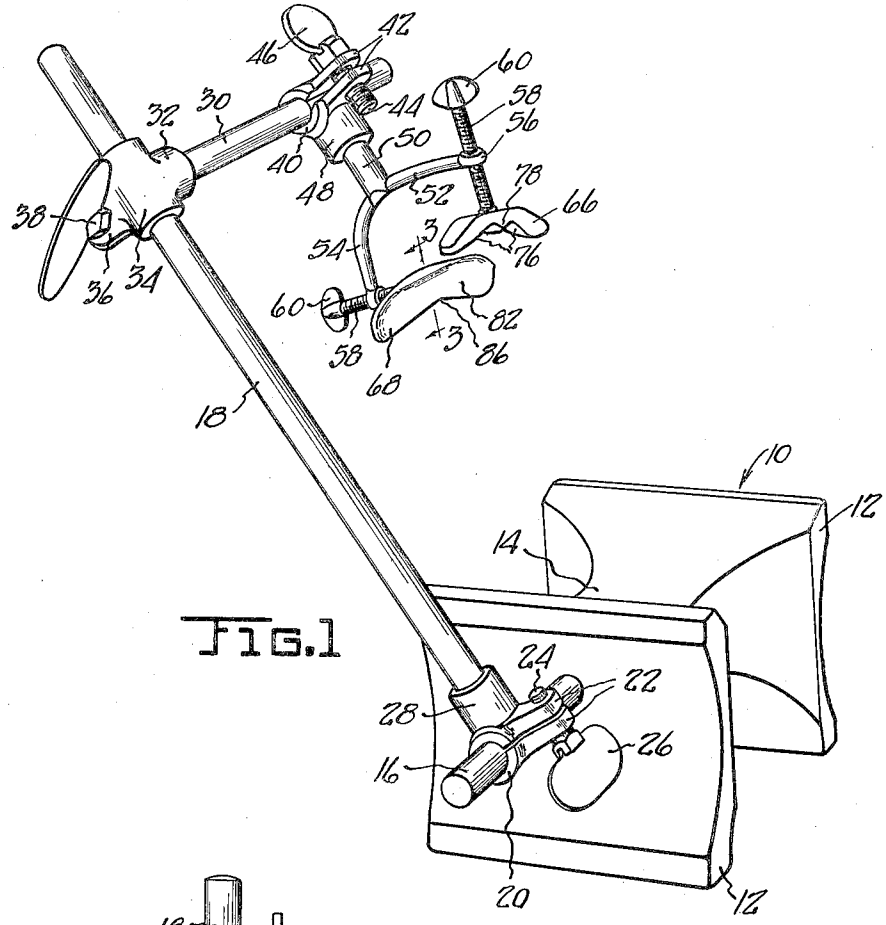


FIG. 1

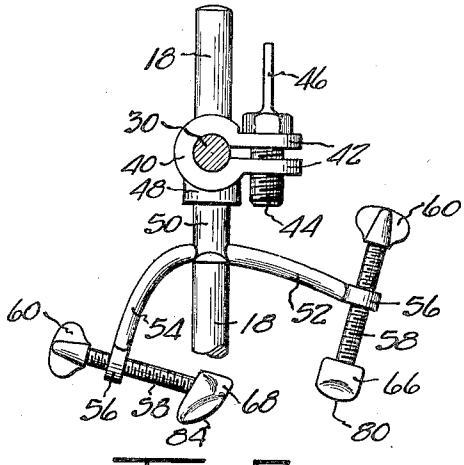


FIG. 2

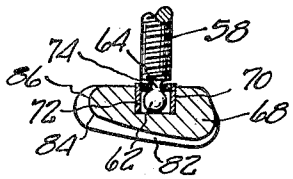


FIG. 3

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EMBALMER'S LIP HOLDER

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8 Claims. (Cl. 27—21)

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This invention relates to improvements in embalmer's lip holders.

At death all body parts or tissues assume a fully relaxed position. This position is not natural in appearance. The relatives of a deceased person desire the embalmer to prepare the corpse to have as natural an appearance as possible by reason of sentiment. Accordingly, it is the aim and desire of an embalmer to restore the position of the various parts of the face of the deceased to as natural a position as possible to meet the desires of the members of the family of the deceased person.

One of the greatest problems which an embalmer encounters in preparing a body for burial is the positioning of the lips. In many cases the lips have a tendency to separate after death. This is particularly true in cases of protruding teeth. In this connection the reclining position of the body also tends to cause the lips to assume an open position.

Therefore, it is the primary object of this invention to provide a simple and inexpensive device by means of which the lips may be held in a closed or substantially natural position until the body tissues set up or take a form and shape-retaining position as a result of the action of embalming fluid.

A further object is to provide a device of this character which is adapted to apply a small and steady pressure to hold the lips of the corpse closed during the time required for reaction of embalming fluid upon all tissues while at the same time avoiding application of pressure sufficient in amount or applied in such manner as to cause pinching or distorting of tissues incident to or as a result of the application of pressure.

A further object is to provide a device of this character which is simple in construction, which is easy to apply and to use, and which is adjustable to accommodate differences in size, shape, and other properties of the head and face of a corpse.

Other objects will be apparent from the following specification.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the device.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary end view of the upper portion of the device as viewed from the right in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged detail sectional view.

Referring to the drawing which illustrates the preferred embodiment of the invention, the numeral 10 designates an embalmer's head-supporting block of the character well known in the

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art. This block may be formed of wood, metal, plastic or any other suitable rigid material, and is characterized by end portions 12 which are substantially square and of the same size, and a reduced intermediate portion 14. The block may be so constructed that the intermediate portion 14 is concave from end to end of the block, that is, is concavely curved from one end portion 12 to the opposite end portion. The degree of concavity preferably varies at each of the four sides of the device. This support 10 is of a size and proportion sufficient to receive and support the head of the corpse, and the difference in concavity of the different surfaces of the reduced portion 14 accommodates different positions natural to different bodies.

My new lip-holding device is adapted to be mounted upon the block 10 to be adjustable with respect thereto but to be held in a fixed position with reference to said head block so that it cannot shift independently of the head block when the parts have once been adjusted. In other words, when the head of the corpse is positioned upon the head block and, thereafter, the lip holders are adjusted upon that head block, then the parts of the device will assume and maintain a predetermined correlation as required for the particular body, and the danger of misplacement of the lip holder with respect to the head block is avoided. The lip holder is connected to the block 10 by means of a rigid rod or bar 16 which is fixedly secured to and projects endwise from the block 10 preferably at the center of one end thereof and preferably parallel to the longitudinal axis of the block 10. The lip holder includes a carrier formed in part by a rigid elongated bar 18 which mounts a clamp at one end. The clamp is preferably in the nature of a split sleeve 20 having a pair of projecting flanges 22 positioned at opposite sides of the split and provided with aligned apertures to receive a screw 24 having a wing-type head 26 affording means to be grasped by the fingers of the user to manipulate the screw 24. The split sleeve 20 preferably has a socket 28 extending perpendicularly therefrom and preferably formed integrally therewith. This socket 28 mounts the elongated bar 18 which is secured therein in any suitable manner, as by provision of a threaded connection, the use of a set screw, or by the use of a bonding agent, such as welding material or metal solder.

The bar 16 is of substantial length compared to the length or axial dimension of the split sleeve 20 of the clamp which holds the bar 18, so that

when the sleeve 20 is loosened the clamp may be slid lengthwise along the bar 16. The clamp therefore serves to accommodate two different adjustments, that is, the positioning of the bar 18 along the bar 16 to effect the lateral spacing of the bar 18 from the adjacent end 12 of the block 10, and also to effect the angular position of the bar 18 with respect to the surface upon which the block 10 rests.

The carrier also includes a cross-member in the nature of a rigid bar 30. This rigid bar is mounted fixedly in a socket portion 32 projecting from a clamp 34. The clamp 34 fits upon the bar 18 and is slidable on the bar 18 and also rotatable upon that bar when loose. The clamp 34 preferably is of the type having a continuous bore therethrough of a size to slidably and snugly fit upon the bar 18 and has a boss 36 projecting therefrom in which is threaded a thumb screw 38. It will be understood, however, that, if desired, the clamp 34 may be of other construction. Thus, each of the clamps 20 and 34 may be of the same construction.

A clamp, here illustrated as of the split sleeve type, is mounted upon the cross-carrier member 30, said clamp having a longitudinally split sleeve 40 from which project the flanges 42 at opposite sides of the split. The flanges 42 are apertured and screw-threaded to receive the screw 44, preferably in the nature of a thumb screw having a wing-type finger grip 46. A socket member 48 projects radially from the sleeve 40. It will be apparent that the clamp 40, 48 may be positioned as desired along the length of the cross-carrier rod 30 and also in any selected or desired rotative position upon that cross-carrier rod. A short shank or rod member 50 is mounted in the clamp socket 48 by any suitable means, as by being screw-threaded therein, soldered therein, or clamped therein as by a set screw. The shank 50 mounts a pair of cross-arms 52 and 54 at its free end, said arms being rigid and fixedly secured to the shank 50 in any manner found suitable. The arms 52 and 54 preferably project from the shank 50 in diametrically opposed relation at the end of that shank and form with the shank a member of substantially Y-shape. Each of the arms 52 and 54 is bent, as best illustrated in Fig. 2. The arm 52 is preferably bent only slightly as illustrated, while the arm 54 is bent to a much larger extent. The arms 52 and 54 terminate in end portions 56, each having a screw-threaded bore, and the arms 52 and 54 are so bent that the bores in the terminal portions 56 thereof are disposed substantially at right angles to each other. A screw 58 is threaded in each head 56 and, as best seen in Fig. 2, these screws extend substantially at right angles. Each screw has an enlarged finger-engaging head 60 at its outer end, and at its inner end preferably has a spherical or part-spherical head 62 and a reduced neck portion 64 between the head 62 and the shank 58.

Each of the screws 56 mounts a lip-engaging member, there being an upper lip-engaging member 66 and a lower lip-engaging member 68. The members 66 and 68 are preferably formed of rigid material, such as wood or plastic although they may also be formed or metal. Each is elongated and preferably has a socket to receive the head 62 of the screw 58 on which it is mounted. The construction of the parts 66, 68 may be of any character found suitable, and, in the construction here shown in Fig. 3, each of the members has an opening 70 in its back face which receives a liner member 72 having an inwardly projecting flange 74 which fits around the reduced neck portion 64 of the screw between the body of the screw and the head 62. The liner is anchored in the bore 70 in any manner found suitable, and the parts are so arranged that the lip-engaging body member may swing in any substantially universal tilting movement relative to the screw 58 through a wide angle. In other words, the members 66 and 68 are so mounted that they can be adjusted into one of a large number of different positions or attitudes with reference to the screw 58 which mounts the same.

The members 66 and 68 are preferably of different shapes and configurations best suited to conform to the general characteristics of the parts of the face which they are to engage. Thus as seen in Fig. 1, the lip-engaging member 66 has a face-engaging surface 76 opposite the surface in which the socket 70 is formed, which is generally concave from end to end thereof and which is interrupted by a transversely extending ridge 78. The transverse contour and configuration of the member 66 at its face-engaging surface is preferably convex, as seen at the surface 80 in Fig. 2. The shape of the surfaces 76, 78 and 80 is preferably such that the member 66 will in general follow the usual contour of the outer surface of the upper lip, that is, will engage the portion of the face immediately below the nose and follow the contour of the portion it engages. The other lip-engaging member 68 preferably has a face-engaging surface 82 which is longitudinally concave and transversely convex, as seen at 84 in Fig. 2. The member 68 is also preferably characterized by a reduced dimension portion at its center at 86 formed by longitudinal concavity in the lower edge or margin of the member 68 with the upper edge or margin of that member 68 and preferably being substantially flat.

This device is particularly well suited for its intended purpose because of the fact that it is adjustable to the full extent required to adapt it to heads of different sizes and shapes and because its adjustment will enable pressure to be applied to lips in a manner to hold the lips in a natural position. The general dimensions of the head can be accommodated by the adjustable connection of the various clamps to the various carrier parts which make up the holder or mounting for the lip-engaging members or pads. Thus the lateral dimensions of a head can be accommodated by adjustment of the clamps 20 and 40. The longitudinal dimension of a head can be accommodated by the angles at which the clamps 20 and 40 are positioned, and also by the position of the clamp 34 upon the bar 18. The particular shape and contour of the face can be accommodated by adjustment of the screws 56. Thus it is possible to hold the pads or lip-engaging members 66, 68 in such a manner that pressure is applied as desired. The elongated nature of the pad members 66 and 68 insures that the pressure as applied is distributed substantially throughout the length of the lips rather than being localized. The shape of the pads accommodates this distribution of pressure along the length of the lips, and also insures that positioning action can be secured without entailing any pinching action. The swivel mounting of each pad upon its mounting screw enables the pad to seat itself to a natural position to conform to the contour of the parts of the face which are engaged. The substantially right angular position of the screws 58 enables the application of pressure

through the pad members 66, 68 to the face in a direction inwardly toward the face and also in a direction to move the lips together. Furthermore, the nature of the device is such that, because of the large extent of surface contact of the members 66 and 68 with the face, the amount of pressure required to be applied is small and there is no necessity, therefore, to apply an amount of pressure which would tend to compress the tissues or in any other way tend to cause them to resume an unnatural or pinched appearance in any way indicating the use of a positioning member.

While the preferred embodiment of the invention has been illustrated and described, it will be understood that changes in the construction may be made within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit of the invention.

I claim:

1. An embalmer's lip holder adapted to be mounted on a member adapted to support the head of a corpse, comprising a carrier adapted to be mounted adjustably on said member to extend around a portion of said head and to terminate in spaced relation to the face, a substantially Y-shaped member mounted adjustably on said carrier and including diverging portions extending toward said face, and a pair of lip pads each adjustably carried by one of said diverging portions and adapted to bear against the face above and below the lips.

2. An embalmer's lip holder adapted to be mounted on a member adapted to support the head of a corpse, comprising a carrier adapted to be mounted adjustably on said member to extend around a portion of said head and to terminate in spaced relation to the face, a substantially Y-shaped member mounted adjustably on said carrier and including diverging portions extending toward said face, and a pair of lip pads each adjustably carried by one of said diverging portions and adapted to bear against the face above and below the lips, said lip pads each constituting an elongated substantially rigid member swiveled adjacent to its center.

3. An embalmer's lip holder adapted to be mounted on a member adapted to support the head of a corpse, comprising a carrier adapted to be mounted adjustably on said member to extend around a portion of said head and to terminate in spaced relation to the face, a substantially Y-shaped member mounted adjustably on said carrier and including diverging portions extending toward said face, a pair of lip pads, each of the diverging portions of said Y-shaped member having a transverse screw-threaded bore, and a screw threaded in each bore and swivelly mounting a pad, said screws extending in converging relation from said Y-shaped member whereby said pads are adapted to bear against the face above and below the lips, respectively.

4. An embalmer's lip holder adapted to be mounted on a member adapted to support the head of a corpse, comprising a carrier adapted to be mounted adjustably on said member to extend around a portion of said head and to terminate in spaced relation to the face, a substantially Y-shaped member mounted adjustably on said carrier and including diverging portions extending toward said face, and a pair of lip pads each adjustably carried by one of said diverging portions and adapted to bear against the face above and below the lips, one of said pads being longitudinally concave at its face-engaging and lower surfaces for engagement adjacent to the lower lip and the other pad being generally longitudinally concave and centrally and transversely thickened at its face-engaging surface.

5. An embalmer's lip holder adapted to be mounted on a member adapted to support the head of a corpse, comprising a carrier adapted to be mounted adjustably on said member and adapted to extend around a portion of said head and to terminate in spaced relation to the face, a substantially Y-shaped member mounted adjustably on said carrier and including diverging portions extending toward said face, and a pair of lip pads each adjustably carried by one of said diverging portions and adapted to bear against the face above and below the lips, said carrier including a plurality of adjacent angularly disposed rigid elongated members and clamps adjustably connecting said elongated members in selected relation.

6. An embalmer's lip holder comprising a support, a carrier mounted on said support and adapted to extend around a portion of the head of a corpse, a pair of lip-engaging pad members, and a pair of spaced elongated members adjustably mounted by said carrier and extending in converging relation, each elongated member having a swiveled connection with a pad.

7. An embalmer's lip holder comprising a support, a carrier mounted on said support and adapted to extend around a portion of the head of a corpse, a pair of lip-engaging pad members, and a pair of elongated members adjustably mounted by said carrier and extending in converging relation, each elongated member having a swiveled connection with a pad, said pads being elongated and centrally supported and having a contoured surface substantially conforming with the contour of the portion of the head of the corpse to be engaged thereby.

8. An embalmer's lip holder comprising a support, a carrier mounted on said support and adapted to extend around a portion of the head of a corpse, a pair of lip-engaging pad members, and a pair of spaced elongated members adjustably mounted by said carrier and extending in converging relation, each elongated member having a swiveled connection with a pad, said carrier being formed of at least three angularly disposed parts connected detachably by clamps whereby said pads may be disposed in any selected relation to said support and may be adjusted in any of three dimensions relative to said head.

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