May 6, 1952 A. B. JOHNSON 2,595,462

SANITARY AND SAFE BABY TEETHING DEVICE

Filed Aug. 5, 1950

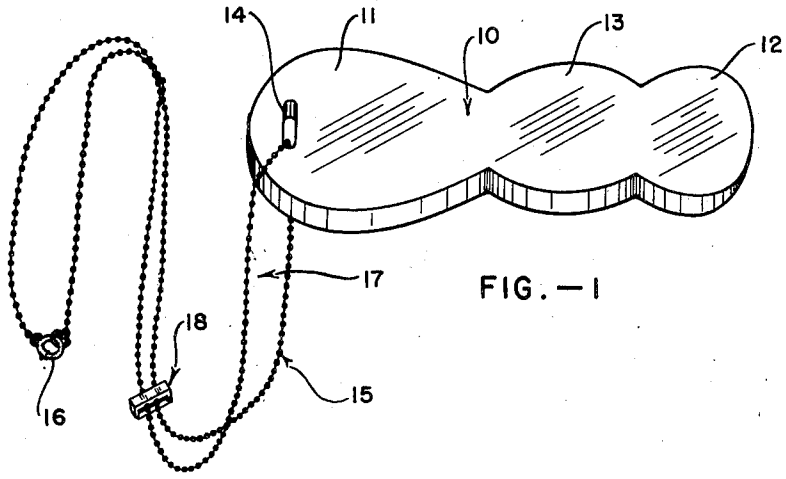

FIG. — 1

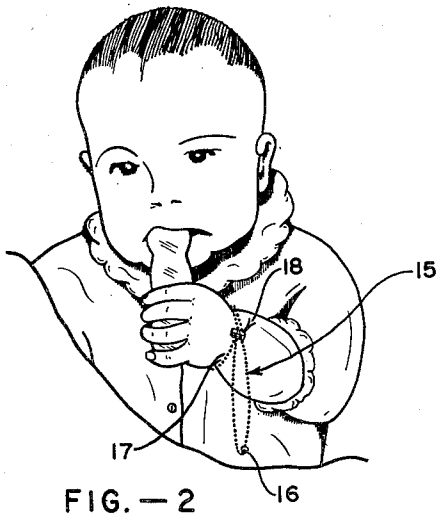

FIG. — 2

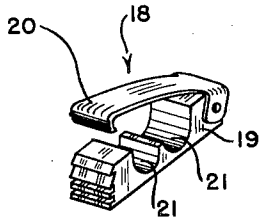

FIG. — 3

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Patented May 6, 1952 2,595,462

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,595,462

SANITARY AND SAFE BABY TEETHING DEVICE

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Application August 5, 1950, Serial No. 177,897

3 Claims. (Cl. 128—359)

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The present invention relates to a sanitary and safe baby teething device. It has to do particularly, although not exclusively, with sanitary teething devices in which the body thereof is formed from some sanitary non-metallic material such as bright colored plastic.

One of the objects of the present invention is to provide a sanitary and safe baby teething device which will assist small children to cut their teeth in an easier and safer manner than heretofore.

Another object of the invention is to provide a sanitary and safe baby teething device whose entire exposed surface area is smooth finished, thus being dirt and germ resistant.

A further object of the present invention is to provide an improved sanitary and safe baby teething device which is capable of being suspended from the wrist of the infant by flexible means which is adjustable to fit wrists of different sizes.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an improved sanitary and safe baby teething device having a body portion formed preferably from bright colored smooth-finished plastic having a bead-like sanitary chain removably attached thereto and providing means for loop-supporting the device from the wrist of an infant.

A further object of the present invention is to provide an inexpensive sanitary and safe baby teething device of the foregoing nature formed of few parts and which is attractive in appearance and extremely practical for use by an infant.

The foregoing and other objects and advantages of the present invention will appear from the following description and appended claims when considered in connection with the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification wherein like reference characters designate corresponding parts in the several views.

In said drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of sanitary and safe teething device embodying the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a front elevational view of an infant and illustrating one use of the device of the present invention; and

Fig. 3 is an enlarged scale perspective view of the adjustable slide fastener for the bead-like chain of the device for varying the size of the loops in the chain to fit wrists of different sizes.

Before explaining in detail the present invention it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and arrangement of parts illustrated in the accompanying drawing, since the

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invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced or carried out in various ways. It is to be understood also that the phraseology or terminology employed herein is for the purpose of description and not of limitation, and it is not intended to limit the invention claimed herein beyond the requirements of the prior art.

Various types of baby teething devices have appeared upon the market but none of them have been practical for the reason that they were subject to dirt-collecting and thus became unsanitary after only a few minutes use. Moreover, some of the devices, particularly those made from soft rubber, were objectionable for the reason that they misshaped the infant's mouth when used for any length of time. Another objectionable feature of some of the earlier baby teething devices was that it was difficult for the infant to place them in his mouth and because of the fact that many of them were not provided with means for attaching them to the arm or wrist of the infant, they fell on the floor and became soiled and in other cases worked their way beneath the infant's body and out of his reach.

It is one of the important features of the present invention to provide an improved sanitary baby teething device including a stainless steel bead-like chain with releasable fastening means at its ends and with a preferably silver or silver-plated adjustable clamping slide member for varying the size of the loop formed in the chain so that the loop can be made to rather snugly engage and encircle the wrist of the infant so that the body of the teething device extends to the finger tips of the infant, thus making it convenient for the child to use the teething device and also making it convenient to gauge the proper positioning of the device for the particular infant using it. It is desirable that the outer or narrower end of the body portion of the device extend even with the finger tips when the infant's hand is in flatwise condition. Thus, when he tends to put his fingers in his mouth, the body of the teething device will be in position to enter the mouth before the fingers come in contact with the lips.

With particular reference to the drawing, there is shown in Fig. 1 the entire sanitary baby teething device in accordance with one form of the present invention. The device therein shown comprises a preferably one-piece relatively flat body, shown as a whole at 10 which may be formed from any suitable non-metallic material, such as plastic which is preferably brightly colored. The inner end portion 11 of body 10 is

somewhat wider than the outer end portion 12 thereof, with the intermediate portion 13 being of a width slightly less than portion 11 and slightly greater than portion 12. It will be seen that the body 10 is preferably the same thickness throughout its length. As shown, the relatively flat body has gradually curved symmetrical side edges of generally scallop-like formation which merge with one another to provide smooth surfaces for engagement with the mouth of an infant. Moreover, it is to be understood that the entire exposed surface area of body 10 is smooth finished so as to resist the accumulation of dirt or other foreign matter. By providing such a smooth surface finish, it is extremely easy to clean the body 10.

The inner or wider body portion 11 is preferably provided with a slot or opening 14 adapted to receive some suitable and if desirable, removable flexible means for suspending the body 10 from the wrist of an infant. As shown, such flexible means in the present instance comprises a length of sanitary and stainless steel bead-like chain 15 having a releasable clasp 16 at its free ends. It is desirable to slip the chain 15 over the hand of an infant and to form a loop, such as loop 17 of Fig. 2 about the infant's wrist, as seen in this figure. For the purpose of forming and maintaining loops of variable size so as to fit wrists of different sizes, I have provided a preferably silver or silver-plated slide member or clip, shown as a whole at 18. This clip may be of any desired shape and as shown comprises a body portion or base 19 and a pivoted or hinged plate-like closure member 20. The body 19 is provided with grooves, such as grooves 21, see Fig. 3, to receive the lengths of the chain or other flexible suspending member 15, this arrangement being illustrated best in Fig. 1 of the drawing.

After the loop, indicated at 17 in Figs. 1 and 2 has been slipped over the hand of the infant, the top portion 20 of the slide member 18 is elevated and the slide moved along the two sections of chain 15 to adjust the loop 17 about the wrist of the infant. After it has been determined as to the proper size loop for the particular infant, the slide fastener or clasp 18 is closed to frictionally engage the beads of the chain and maintain the loop as adjusted. The size of the loop will depend, of course, upon the size of the infant's wrist and also upon the length of his hand, it being desirable to adjust the loop and arrange the body portion 10 upon the palm of the infant's open hand so that the outer end portion 12 of the body extends to the tips of the fingers. The loop may be adjusted at will and it is merely advisable to arrange the loop in such a manner that it will not easily slide or be capable of being pulled by the infant, over his hand. The clamping slide member 18 cannot be easily opened by tampering on the part of the infant. Thus, once the sanitary teething device is suspended from his wrist, it is virtually impossible for him to remove it. Therefore it will be seen that the device cannot become misplaced nor will it become soiled easily because it is impossible for it to fall onto unclean surfaces or come into contact with soiled matter.

While I have illustrated the use of a body 10 which is preferably formed from highly colored plastic material, and have illustrated the use of a bead-like preferably stainless steel chain, together with a preferably silver or silver-plated slide member 18, it will be understood that other materials may be employed for making the body

10 and other flexible means, including other types of chains, may be substituted for the bead-like chain 15. Moreover, some other means for producing and maintaining at will loops of different sizes may be substituted for the slide member 18. While I have shown the chain 15 as having been passed through the opening or slot 14, I may desire to provide some other manner by which the chain may be attached to the body 10. Furthermore, while the body as shown has gradually curved sides and rounded ends and is preferably of somewhat greater width at its inner end portion than at its outer end portion, the shape and conformation, as well as the size and proportions of body 10 may be varied from that illustrated in the accompanying drawing.

I claim:

1. A sanitary and safe teething device for infants comprising a relatively flat one-piece body formed from non-metallic material, such as plastic or the like having a smooth surface throughout its entire exposed area, said body being of substantially the same thickness throughout its entire area but being somewhat wider at its inner end portion than at its outer mouth-entering end portion, said inner end portion having an enlarged opening formed therein, a quick-detachable bead-like chain extending freely through the opening and having a releasable fastening clasp thereon, and a removable slide fastener grippingly engaging both stretches of said bead-like chain and adapted to be moved thereon for providing a wrist-engaging and encircling loop of variable size in said chain located adjacent said relatively flat one-piece body and remote from said releasable fastening clasp whereby to suspend the teething device from the arm of the infant in the vicinity of the wrist and maintain it in a convenient and comfortable position to be placed in the infant's mouth.

2. A sanitary and safe teething device according to claim 1, wherein the relatively flat body has gradually curved merging smooth scallop-like side edges.

3. A sanitary and safe teething device for infants comprising a relatively flat one-piece body formed from non-metallic material, having a smooth finished surface throughout its entire exposed area, the body being of substantially the same thickness throughout its length and width, the inner end portion of said body being wider than the outer mouth-entering end portion thereof, and said inner wider body end portion having an opening formed therein of ample size for the free reception of flexible and quick-detachable means for suspending the teething device from and adjacent to an arm of an infant using said device, said relatively flat body having gradually curved symmetrical side edges of scallop-like formation merging with one another to provide smooth surfaces for engagement with the mouth of an infant.

ANNA B. JOHNSON.

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