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A. P. GILDERSLEEVE

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DRINKING TUBE

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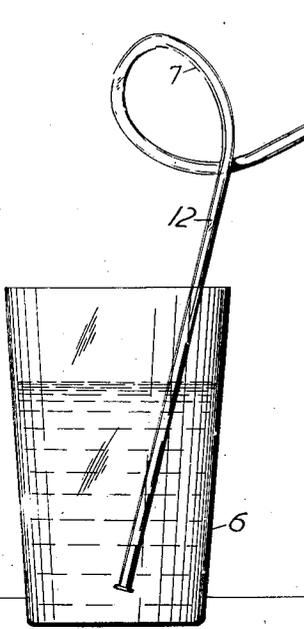


Fig. 1.

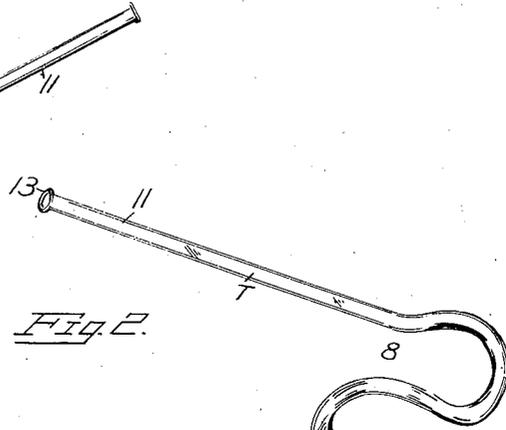


Fig. 2.

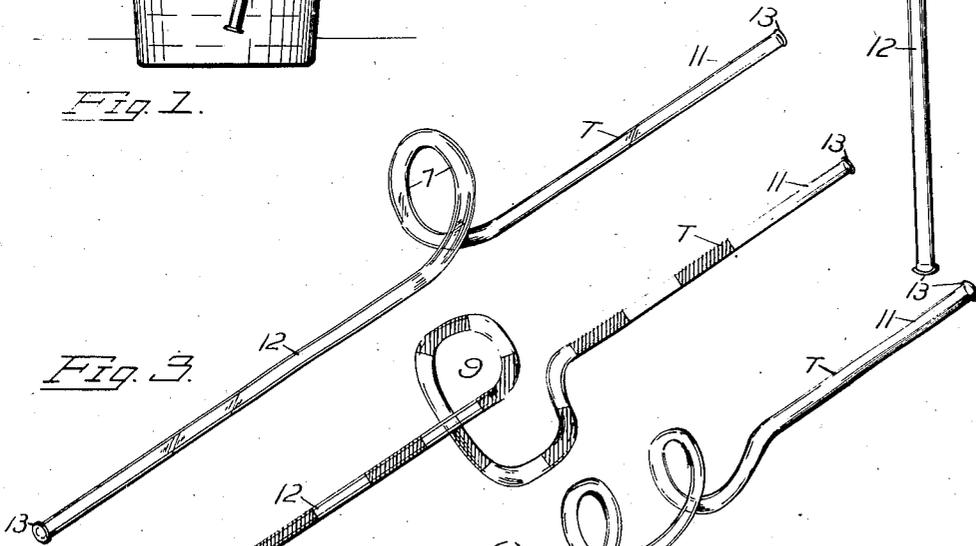


Fig. 3.

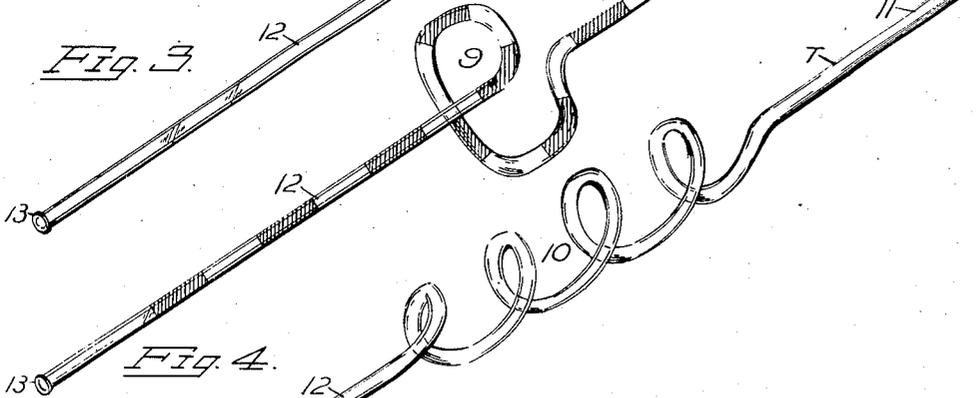


Fig. 4.

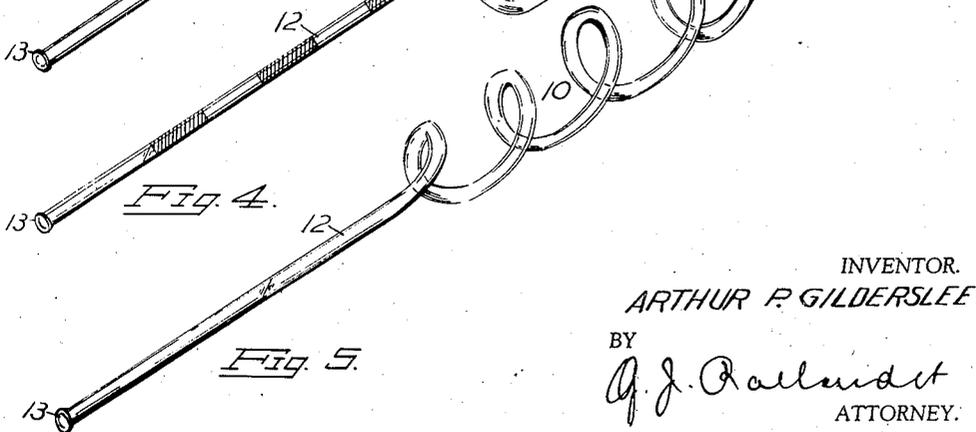


Fig. 5.

INVENTOR.  
ARTHUR P. GILDERSLEEVE

BY  
*A. J. Rolland*  
ATTORNEY.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## DRINKING TUBE

Arthur P. Gildersleeve, Denver, Colo.

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5 Claims. (Cl. 299—17)

This invention relates to improvements in drinking tubes, and has reference more particularly to tubes designed for use in feeding young children.

5 It frequently happens that children, whether well or sick, refuse obstinately to drink certain liquids, such as fruit juices, milk and the like, which are necessary in a balanced diet.

10 It is the object of this invention to produce a drinking tube of such construction that its use will interest the child and its attention will be directed to observing the flow of liquid, while it uses the tube, thereby making its use somewhat like a game or the operation of an interesting toy.

15 This invention, briefly described, consists of a glass tube, of the size ordinarily used for drinking tubes, which is bent intermediate its ends into various different shapes or designs that will serve to attract the child's attention when liquid flows through such intermediate portion, preferably disposed in the normal line of vision of the child; and which, therefore, serve as an incentive to induce the child to drink in order to observe the liquid flowing through the tube.

20 Having thus briefly described the invention, it will now be described in greater detail, and for this purpose reference will be had to the accompanying drawing in which the invention has been illustrated in its preferred form, and in which

25 Figure 1 shows one form of the invention in position in a glass containing liquid; and

30 Figures 2, 3, 4 and 5 each show a slightly different design of tube, with Figure 4 lined to indicate the color red.

35 In the drawing, reference numeral 6 indicates a drinking glass which contains a liquid, such as orange juice. The drinking tube has been designated in each view by the letter T. The tube is bent intermediate its ends into a loop like that shown in Figures 1 and 3 and designated by reference numeral 7, or into any other shape such as those designated by numerals 8, 9 and 10, in Figures 2, 4 and 5 respectively.

40 The ends of the tube are usually straight as indicated by reference numerals 11 and 12, and these ends may be angularly inclined in the manner shown in Figures 1 and 2, or in axial alignment as shown in Figures 3, 4 and 5. The ends of the tube have been fused, as indicated by numeral 13, so as to make them smooth and to remove the possibility of cutting the user.

45 When a tube formed in this manner is in use the child can see the intermediate bent portions, and will watch the liquid flowing through the

5 tube, and will derive a certain amount of amusement from watching the liquid flow, particularly in its passage through the bent portions, and this will serve as an inducement for it to drink the liquid.

6 The tube can be of plain glass, colored glass, or of glass ornamented in any way, but it must be transparent to the extent that the child can see the liquid flowing therein.

7 While the invention has been illustrated in certain special shapes, it is to be understood that the type of design employed is practically unlimited, so long as an indirect passage is provided intermediate the ends of the tube, and preferably within the normal range of vision of a person using the tube.

8 This indirect passage may be transverse to the normal course of liquids through the tube, or it may be directed to cause liquids to travel away from the discharge end at an intermediate point in the tube.

9 It will also be apparent without illustration that satisfactory results may be obtained by enlarging a portion of the tube to effect an indirect travel of liquids through the tube, as by blowing or the like.

10 The design of the irregular portion may represent signs, symbols, letters, or it may be in the nature of a caricature.

11 It has been found that when the bent portion of the tube departs from a straight line a distance equal to at least twenty per cent of the distance between the extremities, it will cause the liquid flowing therein to come within the normal line of vision of the user. This is clearly shown in Figures 1 and 2.

12 While the invention is particularly adapted to promote the feeding of small children, it is within contemplation of the invention that glass tubing formed in the manner herein described may be used whenever glass tubing or drinking straws are used to facilitate the consumption of liquids and beverages.

13 It is to be understood that, when desired, the ends of the tube may be flattened or formed into other irregular shapes. It is likewise within contemplation of the invention that "tubes" or "tubing", as used in the specification, shall be construed to include irregular tube-like parts of other than annular section.

14 Changes and modifications may be availed of within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the hereunto appended claims.

15 Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A transparent drinking tube, especially intended for the use of children, and having intermediate its ends a portion bent so as to provide a circuitous passage for the flow of a liquid, said portion being so related to the remainder of the tube that it extends into the normal range of vision of the user, whereby the flow of the liquid therethrough can be seen by the child using the tube, and attract and hold its attention.
2. A transparent drinking tube, especially intended for the use of children, and having intermediate its ends a portion bent so as to provide a circuitous passage for the flow of a liquid, the passage having a portion in which the liquid flows away from the user, said portion being so related to the remainder of the tube that it extends into the normal range of vision of the user, whereby the flow of the liquid therethrough can be seen by the child using the tube, and attract and hold its attention.
3. A transparent drinking tube, especially intended for the use of children, and having intermediate its ends a portion bent so as to provide a circuitous passage for the flow of a liquid, said portion being so related to the remainder of the tube that it extends into the normal range

of vision of the user, whereby the flow of the liquid therethrough can be seen by the child using the tube, and attract and hold its attention, the ends of the tube being substantially straight and angularly related.

4. A drinking tube, especially intended for the use of children, and having alternately transparent and opaque sections, the tube being bent intermediate its ends so as to provide a tortuous passage, portions of the passage extending transversely of a line joining the ends of the tube, the portion of the tube forming the tortuous passage being so related to the remainder of the tube that it extends within the normal range of vision of the user whereby the flow of liquid, seen through the transparent portions, will attract and hold the child's attention while it is using the tube.

5. A transparent drinking tube for children, having intermediate its ends a bent portion providing a circuitous passage for liquid flowing therethrough, the bent portion ranging laterally from an imaginary line connecting the ends of the tube, a distance not less than twenty per cent of the distance between the extremities.

ARTHUR P. GILDERSLEEVE.