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W. E. WALSH

1,858,694

THROAT APPLICATOR

Filed Aug. 11, 1930

Fig. 1.

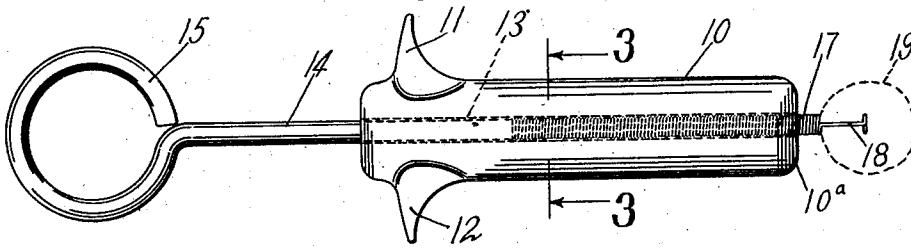


Fig. 2.

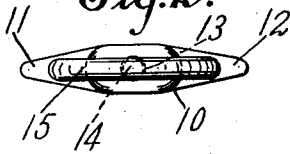


Fig. 3.

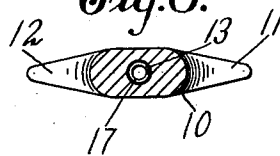


Fig. 4.

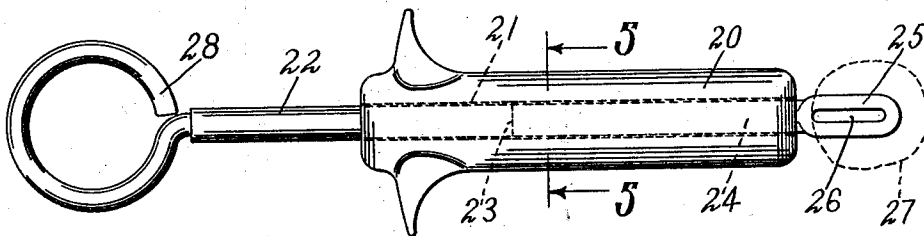


Fig. 5.



Fig. 6.

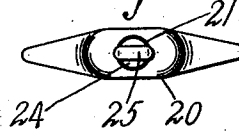
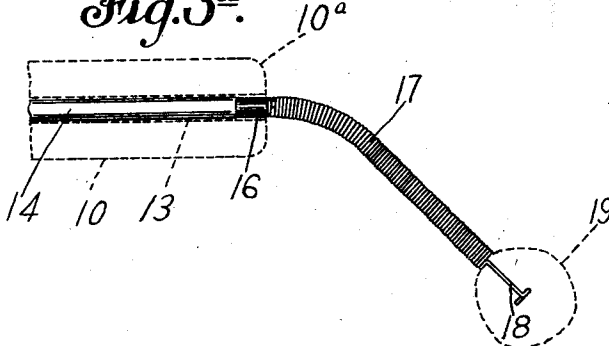


Fig. 3^A.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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THROAT APPLICATOR

Application filed August 11, 1930. Serial No. 474,557.

My invention relates to a throat applicator and more especially to a device for applying an antiseptic or the like to the throat.

The usual method of applying an antiseptic to the throat is by means of a swab introduced into the throat while the mouth of the patient is held open. Usually, the patient gags when the swab is introduced, making it difficult to secure a thorough application of the antiseptic and causing considerable discomfort to the patient. This is usually brought about by the fact that the muscles of the jaw and throat are tense and rigid while the tongue is arched, the swab striking the tongue at the back of the mouth.

It is, in general, an object of the present invention to bring about an arrangement by means of which an antiseptic or the like may be readily and quickly applied to the throat, and in a more thorough manner than has heretofore been possible.

In a more specific aspect the invention relates to an applicator which may be used while the mouth of the patient remains substantially closed with the muscles of the jaw and throat relaxed, the tendency to gag being largely, if not entirely, eliminated.

A further object of the invention is to produce a throat applicator by means of which the tongue may be held in depressed position during the act of applying the antiseptic.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of a throat applicator which may be easily manipulated by a patient to apply medication to his own throat.

Still another object of the invention is the provision of a throat applicator in which the swabbing element is carried by a flexible member whereby the swab will automatically follow the curvature of the throat.

Still another object of the invention is the provision of an applicator of such construction which may readily be taken apart for cleansing and sterilization.

A feature of the invention resides in an arrangement whereby the whole area of the throat over which it is desired to apply the antiseptic may be readily reached.

To these and other ends, the invention consists in the novel features and combinations

of parts to be hereinafter described and claimed.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a throat applicator according to my invention;

Fig. 2 is a view of the left-hand end of the applicator shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view along line 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3^A is a view of the applicator in position to apply the antiseptic to the throat;

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 1, but showing a modification;

Fig. 5 is a cross-sectional view taken along line 5—5 of Fig. 4, and

Fig. 6 is a view from the right-hand end of the applicator shown in Fig. 4.

Referring to the drawings in which I have illustrated my invention by showing some preferred embodiment of the same, and with special reference to Figs. 1 to 3^A inclusive, the reference numeral 10 indicates an elongated relatively flat tube or body, preferably made of hard rubber and provided at one end thereof with oppositely directed laterally extending arms or finger pieces 11 and 12, and an axially directed bore 13. While the cross-sectional shape of the body 10 may be varied, I prefer to use a relatively flat form in order that the tongue may be readily depressed in a manner to be hereinafter pointed out.

Slidably mounted in the bore 13 is a rod 14, having at its outer end a ring-like handle 15, rod 14 being reduced at its inner end 16 (Fig. 3^A) for the reception of a flexible element 17, which may be a flexible wire and in this instance in the form of a coiled spring, to the other end 18 of which may be applied a swab 19 in the form of a wad of cotton adapted to receive the antiseptic.

In use, the applicator is adjusted into the position shown in Fig. 1, with a wad of cotton attached to the outer end 18 of spring 17, the wad of cotton containing the antiseptic. The mouth of the patient being open, the end 10^a of body 10 is inserted between the jaws and above the tongue, whereupon the mouth may be closed until the teeth rest on either side of

the body 10, the finger pieces 11 and 12 remaining outside of the mouth.

One of the opposite flat faces of the body 10 will rest on the tongue and hold the latter depressed so that the rod 14 may be readily and quickly moved into the bore 13 to force the spring 17 out of the opposite end of the bore 13 and the swab 19 into the throat, the spring and swab taking generally the position shown in Fig. 3^A of the drawings as the swab passes down into the throat. In this position, the handle 15 may be rotated as the rod 14 is moved back and forth in the bore 13, thus bringing the swab 19 into contact with all parts of the throat. Owing to the fact that the mouth is closed, the tongue held depressed by the body 10, and the muscles of the jaws and throat relaxed, the tendency of the patient to gag is largely, if not entirely, eliminated. Furthermore, when the body 10 is held in the mouth of the patient, the swab 19 may be readily and quickly introduced into the throat by moving the rod 14 into the bore 13, the doctor or nurse holding the body 10 immovable by grasping finger pieces 11 and 12 in one hand while the handle 15 is manipulated by means of the other hand.

Upon the withdrawal of the applicator from the mouth of the patient, the applicator may be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected by removing the swab 19 from the end of spring 17 and withdrawing the rod 14 and spring 17 from the bore 13 whereupon the several parts of the applicator may be separately sterilized.

In that form of the invention shown in Figs. 4, 5 and 6 of the drawings, a tubular body 20, preferably made out of hard rubber, is provided with an axially directed bore 21 in which a rod 22, preferably made out of hard rubber, is received for sliding movement, rod 22 having cemented or vulcanized thereto at an end 23 a second rod 24 of relatively soft flexible material, preferably rubber, having a relatively flat end 25 apertured at 26 for the reception of a wad of cotton 27. A handle 28 is provided on the end of rod 22 remote from end 23, by means of which the swab 27 may be readily moved into the throat of the patient upon insertion of the body 20 into the mouth. The operation of the form shown in Figs. 4, 5 and 6 is substantially the same as that of the form shown in Figs. 1 to 3^A inclusive, the relatively soft rubber rod 24 permitting the swab 27 to pass down into the throat of the patient and to move around in the throat as the rod 22 is moved back and forth in body 20, and rotated by means of handle 28.

From the above description of the invention, it will be readily understood that by means of the improved throat applicator an antiseptic may be applied to the throat while the muscles of the jaws and throat remain in relaxed condition, the tongue being effectively held in depressed position, and out of the

way of the swab, by the body of the applicator, thus effectively preventing gagging and providing for a more complete application of the antiseptic, due to the fact that the throat passage is more open and on account of the ease and speed with which a number of strokes of the cotton wad or swab may be had.

While in the form of my invention shown the flexible members upon which the swabbing elements are supported are attached to a relatively stiff rod upon which the manipulating ring is formed, it will be understood that the relatively stiff rod may be dispensed with and the flexible element itself be carried through the bore of the tube and the manipulating ring formed directly on the end of the flexible element. Moreover while the body of the applicator, as shown, is sufficiently long to depress the tongue during the use of my device, it will be understood that, if desired, this portion of the device may be made only long enough to be held between the teeth of the patient if the tongue depressing action is not desired.

While I have shown and described a preferred embodiment of my invention, it will be understood that it is not to be limited to the details shown but is capable of modification and variation within the spirit of the invention and the scope of the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. In a throat applicator, a flattened body adapted to be received in the mouth and having an axial bore, a rod extending through said bore, and means on the end of said rod adapted to receive and support antiseptic treated material, said flattened body being relatively wide and adapted to contact with the tongue over an extended area to depress the same, and being relatively thin whereby the mouth may be substantially closed during the application of the antiseptic.

2. In a throat applicator, a flattened body adapted to be received in the mouth and having an axial bore, a rod extending into the bore from one end thereof, a relatively long flexible extension on said rod adapted to be drawn into the bore before the applicator is placed in the mouth, and to be protruded from the bore when the applicator is in position in the mouth, and means at the end of said flexible extension adapted to receive and support antiseptic treated material, said flattened body being relatively wide and adapted to contact with the tongue over an extended area to depress the same, and being relatively thin whereby the mouth may be substantially closed during the application of the antiseptic.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 5th day of August, 1930.

WILLIAM E. WALSH.