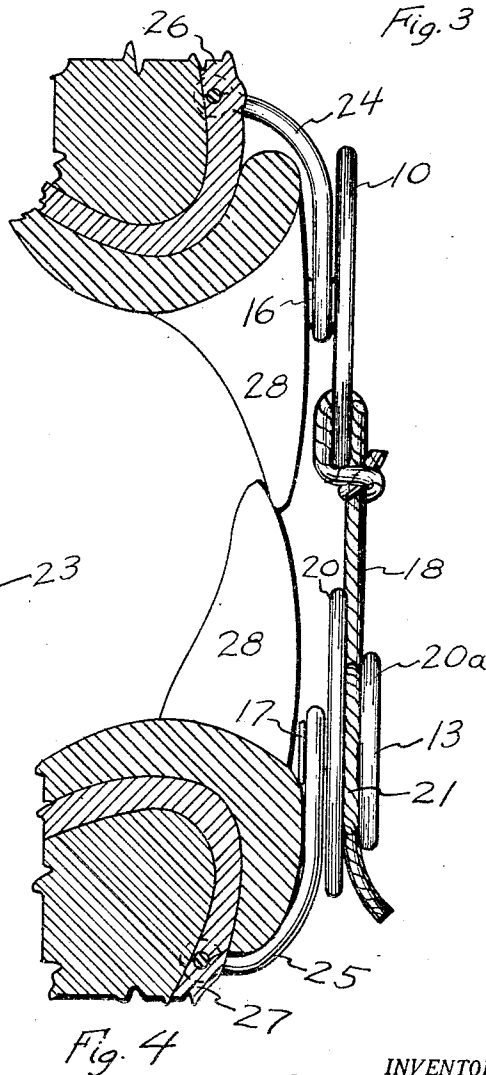
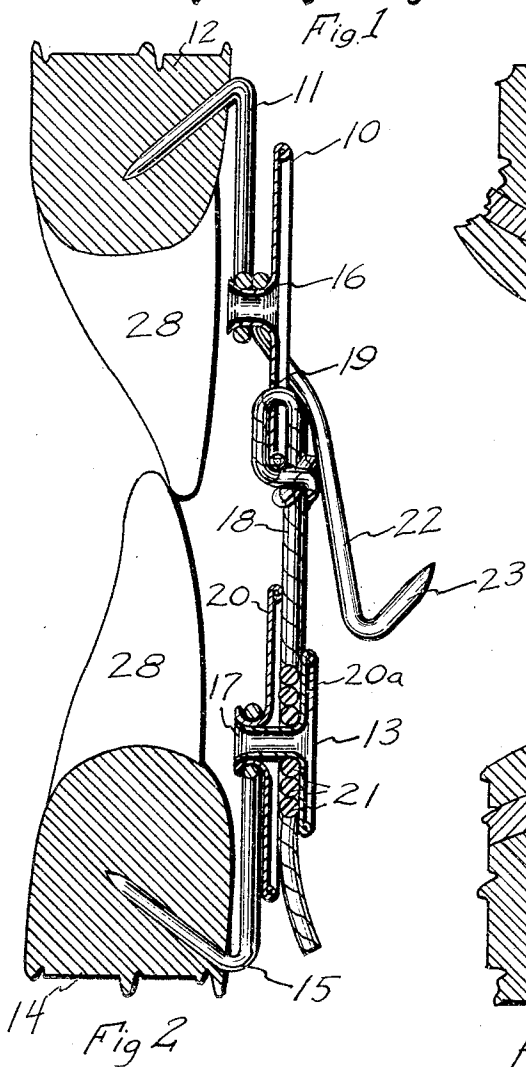
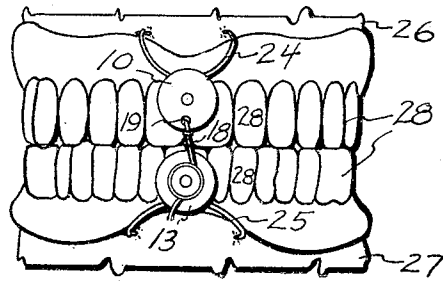
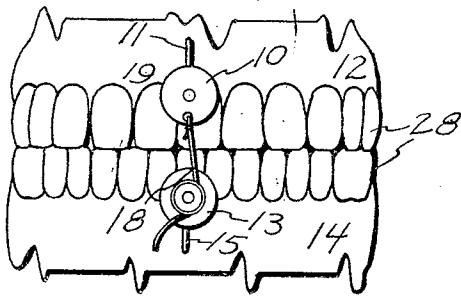


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E. G. HEITRITTER
MOUTH CLOSING DEVICE

1,870,566

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MOUTH CLOSING DEVICE

Application filed June 23, 1931. Serial No. 546,177.

An object of my invention is to provide a convenient means for closing the mouth of a corpse, either in the case of a corpse with false or with natural teeth.

5 Another object of my invention is to provide a suitable arrangement whereby the lower lip of a corpse having receding jaws can be drawn forward into a natural position and held in such a position by means of hooks.

10 A further object of my invention is to provide a mouth closing device of the character hereinafter specified without resorting to cumbersome arrangements outside of the mouth.

15 A still further object of my invention is to provide a device of such character which can be quickly and easily put in place without undue tearing or rupture of the fleshy portions of the jaws.

20 Another object of my invention is to provide a device of such character which is of simple and inexpensive construction.

25 With these and other objects in view, my invention consists in the construction, arrangement, and combination of the various parts of my device whereby the objects contemplated are attained, as hereinafter more fully set forth, pointed out in my claims, and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:

30 Figure 1 is a front view of the device as applied to the mouth of a corpse,

Figure 2 is a section taken medially of Figure 1,

35 Figure 3 is a front view of a modified form of the device as applied to the mouth of a corpse having false teeth, and

Figure 4 is a section taken medially of Figure 3.

40 I have used the reference character 10 to indicate the upper portion of the device which consists of a circular disc of metal to which is attached the bent pin 11 which is forced into the upper gum 12.

45 Likewise 13 indicates the lower disc which is attachable to the lower gum 14 by the pin 15. Both of these pins 11, 15 are fastened about their respective hubs 16, 17 of the discs 10, 13.

50 A flexible and pliant connecting means 18

is suitably secured by tying through the small opening 19 in the lower portion of the disc 10. The lower end of said pliable connecting means 18 is placed between the flange portions 20 and 20a of the disc 13 and pulled 53 around a continuation of the hub 17 until the mouth of the corpse is closed and then said pliable connection 18 is wound spirally about said hub a sufficient number of times to secure a frictional and wedged connection as shown 60 at 21.

In use on a corpse with a receding lower jaw, the device, which consists of a pair of hooks as shown in the side view at 22, and which hooks are made of one piece of wire 65 wound around the hub portion 16 of the disc 10 at said wire's middle portion, serves to draw the lips forward, the lips being thereby positioned over the upturned portions 23 of the hooks 22. 70

When used in the mouth of a corpse having false teeth, as shown in Figures 3 and 4, the same general construction throughout is used with the exception that instead of using the pins 11, 15 as shown in Figures 1 and 2, 75 the wire loops 24 and 25 are used. These loops 24, 25 are passed through the gum portions 26 and 27 in a direction parallel to the plane of the front teeth 28 and said loops 24, 25 are also secured around the hub portions 80 16, 17 of the discs 10, 13 to provide a solid, connecting means therewith and also, said loops 24, 25 are twisted together at their free ends to provide a comparatively rigid loop structure. 85

The hooks 22 are not used in this form of the device.

It will be noted that my invention incorporates certain desirable features.

It is extremely simple in that it consists of 90 a minimum number of parts.

It can be used without the necessity of expert manipulation.

Ordinarily, in undertaking work, the tendency of the jaws to sag open necessitates some 95 closing arrangement of the jaws and such arrangements have, in the past, consisted of bulky, external contrivances which only tend to take up space and cause the corpse to present an awkward appearance. 100

It will be seen that in using this device described herein after suitably closing the mouth of the corpse, the device is practically completely hidden.

Often a corpse has a receding lower jaw. My invention, by the provision of the hooks 22 provides a convenient means for positioning and holding the lower lip, thereby drawing forward the receding lower jaw and effecting a more natural expression on the face of the corpse.

In the modified form of the device to be used in the case of a corpse having false teeth, it will be seen that any inconvenience resulting from this condition can be well taken care of by the use of my device in a similar, satisfactory manner throughout with the exception that the hooks as shown in the original form of the device, illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, will not be necessary since in this case the lower jaw portion of the teeth can be readily adjusted thereby dispensing with the use of the hooks.

Some changes may be made in the construction and arrangement of the parts of my invention without departing from the real spirit and purpose of my invention, and it is my intention to cover by my claims any modified forms of structure or use of mechanical equivalents which may be reasonably included within their scope.

I claim as my invention:

1. In a mouth closing device, a pair of anchor elements including parts adapted to pierce and be embedded in the respective gums of a corpse, and a flexible tie element secured to one of said anchor elements and adapted to be adjustably secured to the other of said anchor elements.

2. In a mouth closing device, a pair of anchor elements including parts adapted to pierce and be embedded in the respective gums of a corpse, and a flexible tie element secured to one of said anchor elements and adapted to be adjustably secured to the other of said anchor elements, said anchor elements including an upper and lower disc.

3. In a mouth closing device, a pair of anchor elements including parts adapted to pierce and be embedded in the respective gums of a corpse, and a flexible tie element secured to one of said anchor elements and adapted to be adjustably secured to the other of said anchor elements, said anchor elements including an upper and lower disc, said upper disc including the flexible tie element attached thereto and said lower disc including a hub portion, about which the tie element is twisted to allow frictional engagement thereto.

4. In a mouth closing device, a pair of anchor elements including parts adapted to pierce and be embedded in the respective gums of a corpse, and a flexible tie element secured to one of said anchor elements and

adapted to be adjustably secured to the other of said anchor elements, said other anchor element comprising a lower disc including an extended hub portion, and an auxiliary disc positioned parallel to and spaced from said lower disc about which hub portion the flexible tie element is twisted to be secured.

5. In a mouth closing device, a pair of anchor elements including parts adapted to pierce and be embedded in the respective gums of a corpse, and a flexible tie element secured to one of said anchor elements and adapted to be adjustably secured to the other of said anchor elements, said other anchor element comprising a lower disc including an extended hub portion, and an auxiliary disc positioned parallel to and spaced from said lower disc about which hub portion the flexible tie element is twisted to be secured, and a further extension of said hub portion providing attaching means for the lower anchor element.

6. In a device for closing a corpse's mouth including upper and lower gums, hooks embedded in the upper and lower gums, discs attached to the hooks, and securing means between the discs.

7. In a device for closing a corpse's mouth including upper and lower gums, hooks embedded in the upper and lower gums, discs attached to the hooks, and securing means between the discs, said discs including hubs to provide attaching or securing means.

8. In a device for closing a corpse's mouth including upper and lower gums, hooks embedded in the upper and lower gums, discs attached to the hooks, and securing means between the discs, said discs including hubs to provide attaching or securing means, said securing means comprising a solid connection at one disc and a spirally wound connection at the other.

9. In a device for closing a corpse's mouth including upper and lower gums, an upper and lower hook in the respective gums, an upper and lower disc attached to each hook, the lower disc including an extended hub, an auxiliary disc attached to the outer end of said hub and spaced parallel to the said disc, and an adjustable tie element secured between the upper and lower discs.

10. In a device for closing a corpse's mouth including upper and lower gums, an upper and lower hook in the respective gums, an upper and lower disc attached to each hook, the lower disc including an extended hub, an auxiliary disc attached to the outer end of said hub and spaced parallel to the said disc, and an adjustable tie element secured between the upper and lower discs, said tie element being solidly attached to the upper disc and wound about the extended hub of the lower disc to provide frictional retention.

11. In a device for closing a corpse's mouth including upper and lower gums, an upper

and lower hook in the respective gums, an upper and lower disc attached to each hook, the lower disc including an extended hub, an auxiliary disc attached to the outer end
5 of said hub and spaced parallel to the said disc, and an adjustable tie element secured between the upper and lower discs, said tie element being solidly attached to the upper disc and wound about the extended hub of
10 the lower disc to provide frictional retention, and hooks attached to the upper disc for positioning the lower lip of a corpse.

12. In a device for closing a corpse's mouth including upper and lower gums, an upper
15 and lower hook in the respective gums, an upper and lower disc attached to each hook, the lower disc including an extended hub, an auxiliary disc attached to the outer end of said hub and spaced parallel to the said disc,
20 and an adjustable tie element secured between the upper and lower discs, said tie element being solidly attached to the upper disc and wound about the extended hub of the lower disc to provide frictional retention, and up-
25 turned hooks attached to the upper disc for positioning the lower lip of a corpse.

Signed at Sioux City, Iowa, this 18th day of June, 1931.

EDWARD G. HEITRITTER.

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