Feb. 22, 1927. 1,618,189

A. J. HANSEN

TEETHING DEVICE

Filed Dec. 2, 1925

Fig. 1.

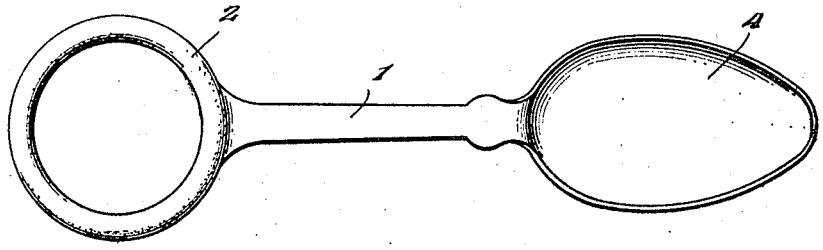


Fig. 3.

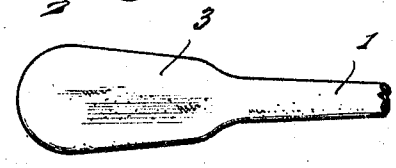


Fig. 2.

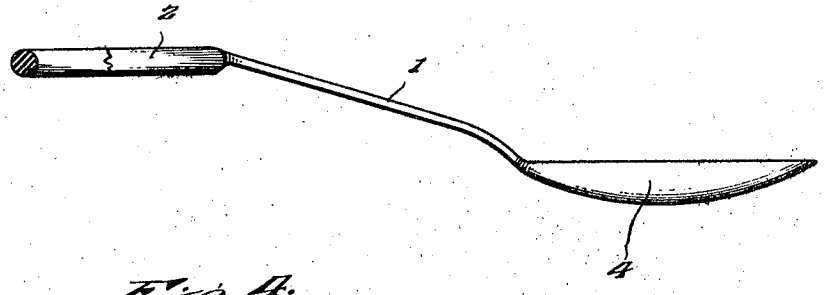
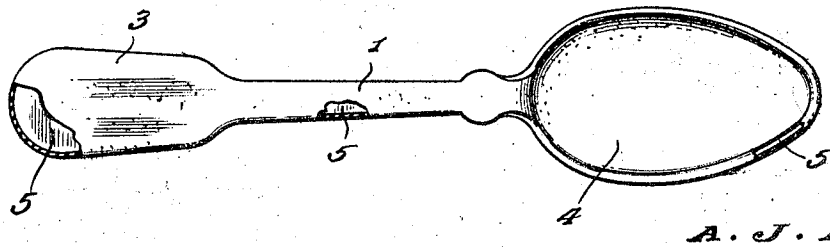


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TEETHING DEVICE.

Application filed December 2, 1925. Serial No. 72,748.

This invention relates to a teething device for use by infants in cutting teeth and one object of the invention is to so construct the teething device that the infant may readily hold it and place one end thereof in its mouth when in either a sitting or a reclining position.

Another object of the invention is to provide the teething device with a head portion to be inserted in the mouth, this head being so shaped that the child may readily bite it with the front portions of the gums and thereby permit the front teeth which are the first to appear to be easily cut

Another object of the invention is to so form the head that it may be used with equal facility by children having mouths of various sizes and to further so construct it that it will to some extent conform to the contour of the gum line at the front of the mouth.

Another object of the invention is to provide the handle or shank portion of the device with a head at one end by means of which the device may be hung from a support and which will serve as abutment means to engage the hand and prevent the shank from slipping out of the child's grasp, the abutment head further serving as a teething ring upon which the teeth at the sides of the mouth may be cut if they cannot be easily reached with the head at the other end of the shank.

This invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, wherein—

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the improved teething device,

Figure 2 is a view showing the teething device in side elevation with one portion of the abutment head broken away,

Figure 3 is a fragmentary view illustrating a modified form of handle, and

Figure 4 is a view illustrating a teething device of a modified construction.

The teething device forming the subject-matter of this invention includes a shank or handle 1 having at one end an abutment head which may be of a ring-like formation as shown in Figures 1 and 2 and indicated by the numeral 2 or may be solid as shown at 3 in Figure 3 and of the specific shape disclosed therein or of a modified outline if so desired. At the other end of the handle is a head 4 of a concavo-convex formation and of greater width than the handle. The teething device is preferably formed of molded rubber which is of sufficient softness to permit of its being compressed somewhat when gripped between the gums but sufficiently stiff to prevent the gums from biting into the rubber and forming permanent depressions therein. It will thus be seen that, when in use, the device will serve very effectively to cause the gums to be pressed upwardly or downwardly and the teeth forced through the gums. The head 4 has been provided with a concavo-convex formation so that when placed in the mouth the forward portion of the gums may readily grip the head when a biting action is applied and the teeth at the front easily cut. It should be further noted that the head is somewhat of an elliptical shape in top plan, as shown in Figure 1, but has its rear end portion substantially semicircular and gradually tapers forwardly and merges into a rounded end. Therefore, the width of the head 4 increases towards its rear end so that children having mouths of different sizes may thrust the head into the mouth the proper distance to permit of the front teeth and certain of the side teeth being readily cut. By having the head 2 formed as a ring, this head may be used as a teething ring and the side teeth readily cut. The heads extend substantially parallel to each other, as shown in Figure 2, and the handle or shank extends at the incline shown so that when the child is sitting or reclining in a carriage or crib the device may be readily held and either head placed in the mouth. There has, therefore, been provided a teething device which is so formed that it can be readily held and further provided with a head by means of which the teeth at the front and sides may be easily cut.

If it is desired to provide a teething device which will have greater strength and not be as liable to be destroyed by rough usage, the construction shown in Figure 4 may be employed. Referring to this figure it will be seen that instead of forming the device of solid rubber there has been provided a body portion 5 which is formed of a rigid substance such as metal. This body portion which conforms to the shape of the teething device and is of the proper size is coated with melted rubber which is then vulcanized. A teething device formed as indicated above will be very durable as it cannot be broken

if pulled from opposite ends or destroyed by being twisted.

Having thus described the invention, I claim:

As a new article of manufacture, a teething device comprising a shank, a ring-like head upon one end thereof, a hollow head upon the opposite end of the shank, said shank being diagonally disposed with respect to the respective heads to retain the heads in offset spaced relation with the rim of the hollow head in a parallel plane with the ring like head.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

ALFRED J. HANSEN.