

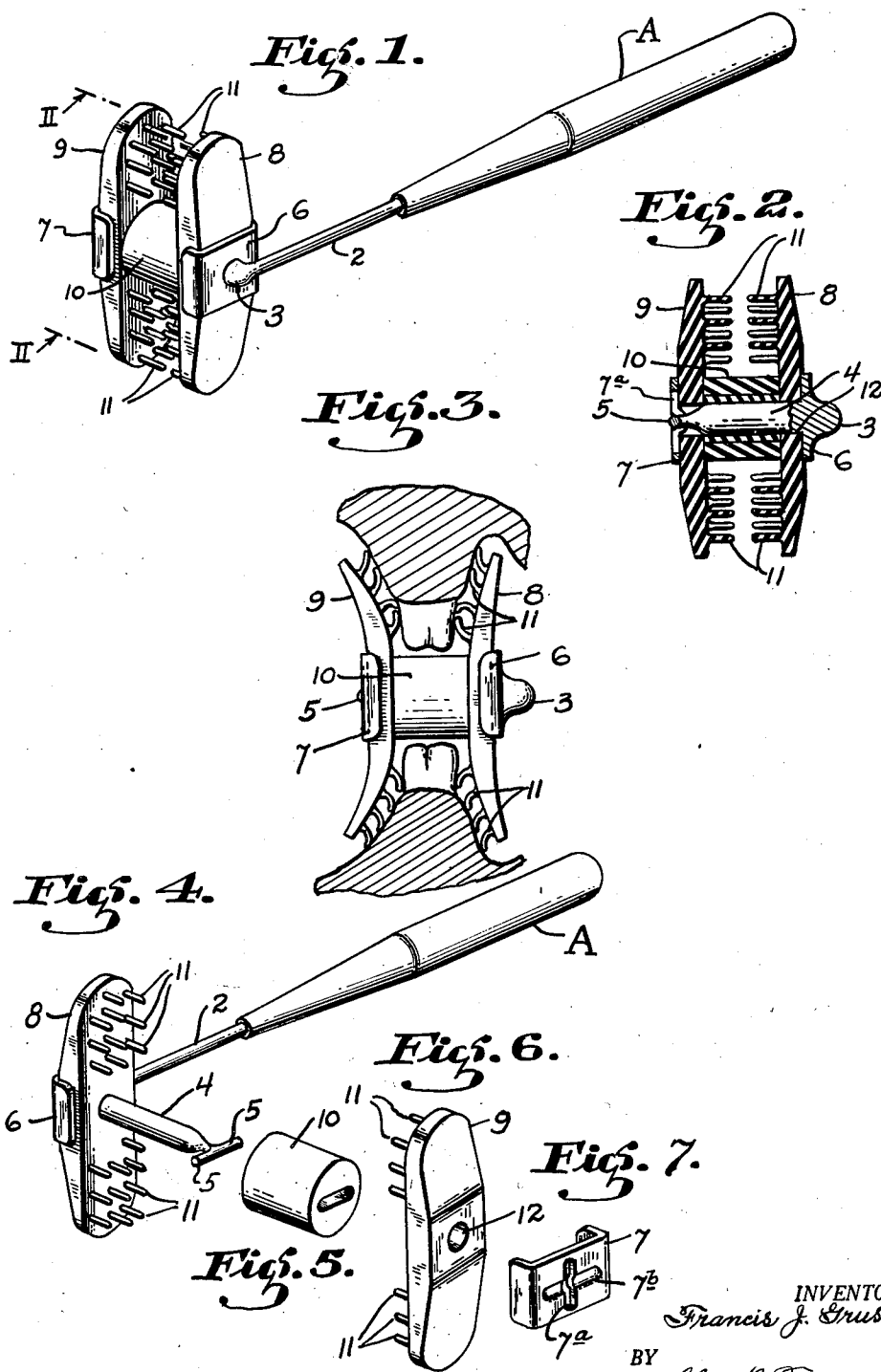
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GUM MASSAGING AND TEETH STRENGTHENING DEVICE

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GUM MASSAGING AND TEETH
STRENGTHENING DEVICE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 128-62)

This invention relates to a gum massaging and teeth strengthening device.

The object of the present invention is generally to improve and simplify the construction and operation of devices of the character described; to provide a gum massaging device which comprises a handle having a right angular shank at its outer end on which are mounted two spaced-apart head members, the adjacent surfaces of which are provided with rubber massaging tips adapted to engage the inner and outer gum surfaces adjacent the teeth; to provide head members of the character described which are flexible, to permit the massaging tips to conform to irregularities of the teeth and gums; to provide a rubber sleeve which serves to maintain the proper spacing between the massaging tips and which also functions as a member which may be grasped or bitten by the teeth to exercise and strengthen them; and further, to provide a device of the character described in which all parts are readily removable and separable for cleaning and sterilization after use.

The gum massaging and teeth strengthening device is shown by way of illustration in the accompanying drawing, in which

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the same;

Fig. 2 is a cross section taken on line II-II of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a diagrammatic view showing the manner in which the massaging device is applied to the gums adjacent the teeth;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the device showing the sleeve, together with the outer head and the detachable clamping plate removed from the shank;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the spacing sleeve;

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the outer head; and

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of the detachable clamping plate.

Referring to the drawing in detail, and particularly to Figs. 1, 2 and 4, A indicates a handle having a metallic rod or extension 2 terminating in a shoulder 3. Extending outwardly from the shoulder, at right angles to the rod, is a shank 4, the outer end of which is provided with a pair of opposed fingers 5-5 to form a T-shaped interlocking head, the purpose of which will hereinafter be described, and adapted to be slipped over and secured to the shank are a pair of clamping plates 6 and 7, a pair of massaging

heads 8 and 9, and a combination bite and spacing sleeve 10.

The massaging heads are identical in construction, the head part of each being made of rubber and the heads tapering from the center outwardly, being of maximum thickness at the center and thinnest at the outer end, to give flexibility. Bristle-like rubber massaging tips 11 are provided at the outer end of each head member, and a central opening 12 is formed in each head to permit the heads to be slipped over and into place on the shank 4. The clamping plate 6 has two right-angular flanges one at each end, to grip the side edges of the adjacent massaging head, and it is rigidly secured against the shoulder 3, as removal of this plate is not necessary. The clamping plate 7 is identical in construction, with the exception that a slot 7a is formed therein, and recesses 7b are formed on opposite sides of the slot to receive the fingers 5-5, as will later be described.

If the several parts, to wit, the massaging heads, the clamp 7, and the sleeve, have been removed from the shank for cleaning or sterilizing, they are replaced as follows: First, the head 8 is applied to the shank and forced against the clamping plate 6; the sleeve 10 is next placed in position, then the head 9 and finally the clamping plate 7. The application of plate 7 is accomplished by turning it so that the slot 7a lies parallel to the fingers 5-5; the plate is then pushed inwardly against the head 9, causing this together with the sleeve 10 and head 8 to be slightly compressed. When this happens, the fingers 5-5 pass through the slot 7a, and by then turning the plate so that the slot assumes a position at right angles to the fingers 5-5, it may be released, permitting the fingers to enter the depressions 7b, thereby forming an interlock which secures the plate 7 and the remaining parts in position and against removal while the device is being used. However, when the parts are to be removed for cleaning or otherwise, it is quickly and easily accomplished by merely depressing the plate 7 and turning it until the slot 7a aligns with the fingers 5-5. In this event the plate is removable, and so are the other parts, and they may thus be individually cleaned and sterilized.

The device is not intended merely for massaging of the gums adjacent the teeth, but it is also used for strengthening the teeth. This may be accomplished by biting the flexible rubber sleeve 10, which strengthens teeth that may have been loosened by pyorrhea action or otherwise.

Also, by biting the sleeve and pulling on the handle in a sidewise direction, the teeth are further exercised and strengthened.

The device is equally applicable to the upper and lower teeth, and as the head members 8 and 9 are disposed at right angles to the handle A and the shank 2; the handle will normally assume a horizontal position when the gums are being massaged, while the heads will assume a vertical position, and as they are comparatively narrow, all parts of the gums, from the innermost molars to the front, may be thoroughly massaged, such massaging bringing about free circulation of blood, with the result that a healthy tough gum tissue is formed.

While this and other features of my invention have been more or less specifically illustrated and described, I nevertheless wish it understood that changes may be resorted to within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described and illustrated my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A gum massaging and teeth straightening device comprising a handle, a shank secured to one end of the handle and at right angles thereto, a pair of spaced head members carried by the shank, rubber massaging tips formed at each end of each head and pointing toward each other, said head members and the rubber tips carried thereby being flexible throughout their length, a rubber sleeve carried by the shank and disposed between the head members, and detachable means on the shank to permit application or removal of the head members and sleeve from the shank.

2. A gum massaging and teeth strengthening device comprising a handle, a shank secured to one end of the handle and at right angles thereto, said shank terminating in an interlocking head, a clamping plate on the shank, an inner head member on the shank and disposed in engagement with the clamping plate, a rubber sleeve on the shank in engagement with the

head member, an outer head member on the shank engaging the opposite end of the sleeve, said head and the inner head being constructed of rubber and both heads having rubber massaging tips formed on their adjacent surfaces, and a detachable clamping plate engaging the outer head member and interlocking with the interlocking head, said detachable clamping plate when removed permitting removal of both of the head members and the sleeve.

3. A gum massaging and teeth strengthening device comprising a handle, a shank secured to one end of the handle and at right angles thereto, said shank terminating in a T-shaped head, a pair of spaced elongated rubber head members carried by the shank, rubber massaging tips formed on the adjacent faces of the heads, a rubber sleeve disposed between the heads, an inner and an outer clamping plate on the shank, said plates engaging the respective head members and maintaining them in a position at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the handle, and a transverse slot formed in the outer clamping plate through which the T-shaped shank head extends to form a detachable interlock between the outer clamping plate and the shank.

4. A gum massaging and teeth strengthening device comprising a handle, a shank secured to one end of the handle and disposed at right angles thereto, a pair of spaced head members carried by the shank, massaging tips formed at each end of each head and pointing toward each other, said head members and massaging tips being constructed of rubber and the head members decreasing in thickness towards the opposite ends so as to render them increasingly flexible, a rubber sleeve carried by the shank and disposed between the head members, and detachable means on the shank to permit application or removal of the head members and sleeve from the shank.

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