(No Model.)

C. K. BARLOW.

DENTAL INSTRUMENT RUBBER COVER.

No. 336,781. Patented Feb. 23, 1886.

Fig 1.

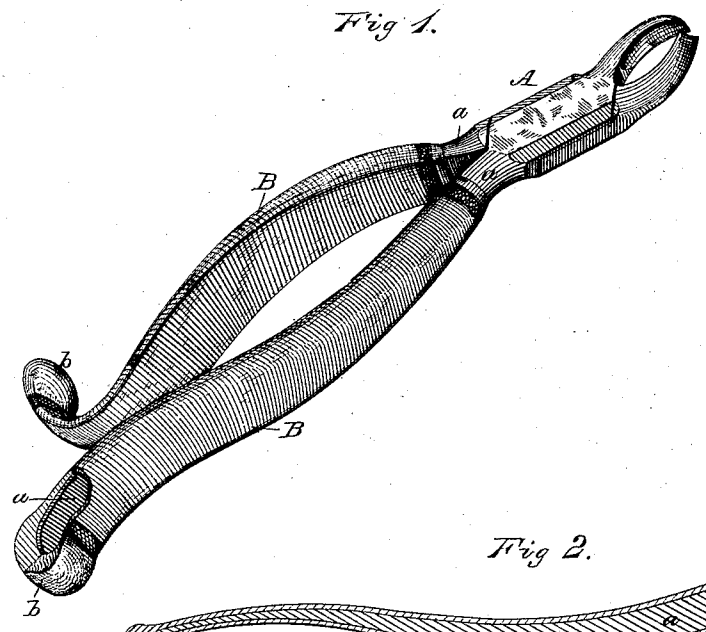


Fig 2.

Fig 3.

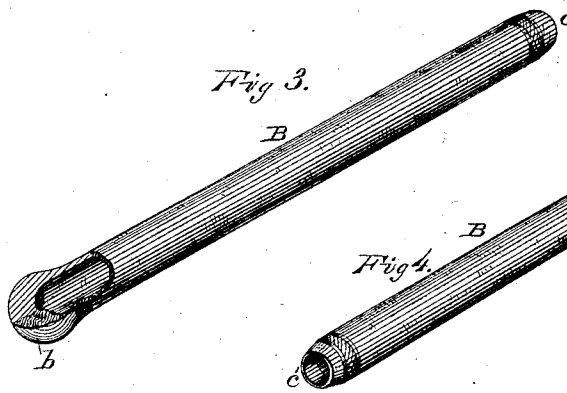


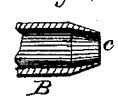
Fig 4.

Witnesses.

Harry King.

J. W. Townsend

Fig 5



Inventor

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES K. BARLOW, OF POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK.

DENTAL-INSTRUMENT RUBBER COVER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 336,781, dated February 23, 1886.

Application filed November 13, 1885. Serial No. 182,746. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES K. BARLOW, a citizen of the United States, residing at Poughkeepsie, in the county of Dutchess and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Soft-Rubber Covering for Instrument-Handles, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in the covering of the handles of surgical and dental implements.

It consists of a soft-rubber tubing cap provided on its outer surface with small annular or transverse corrugations, the bore of the cap being made thickened at its outer end and smaller than the size of the handle it is intended to cover, so that it remains firmly fixed in its place after being stretched over the handle in the manner hereinafter more fully set forth.

By the use of this improved covering the following advantages are attained:

First, avoidance of any slipping of the instrument in the hands of the operator; second, firmness in holding (especially in the case of instruments whose points are to be operated at an angle) is thus gained with an expenditure of much less strength than is required in grasping metal handles; third, avoidance of all strain on muscles and nerves, with consequent fatigue, so that both time and strength are saved for the operator; fourth, avoidance of injury to the hand of the operator in case sudden strong pressure is brought to bear in the use of the instrument; fifth, avoidance of injury to the mouth of a patient in dental operations in case of a tooth crushing or of the instrument suddenly losing its grip; sixth, avoidance of laceration when the sudden closing of the handles pinches the hand of the operator; seventh, avoidance of the rusting of the handles from moisture of the hand; eighth, applicability to any instrument-handle (old or new) together with quickness of adjustment by operator; ninth, cleanliness secured by this readiness of change after use for a certain time. I attain these advantages by means of the device illustrated in the accompanyings drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a dental instrument, showing my improved soft-rubber tubing-cap applied to the handles thereof. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal horizontal section cut through one of the dental-instrument handles, showing the tubing-cap also in section. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of one form of tubing-cap, showing one end closed and re-enforced. Fig. 4 is a like view of another form of the same, showing both ends open; and Fig. 5 is a longitudinal sectional view cut through an open end of the cap.

In Fig. 1 A represents a dental instrument.

B represents the soft-rubber tubing-cap, which by moistening can be readily worked over the handle *a*, where it remains firmly fixed for use until it is desired to remove it.

b represents the re-enforcement of the end of the tubing cap to take the force of a blow or of strong steady pressure from the hand. The outer surface of the tubing is provided with a series of small annular or transverse corrugations, which offer extra friction, and thus prevent the operator's hand from slipping.

In Fig. 2 the adjustment of the tubing-cap over the handle is clearly shown in section, *a*, *b*, and B designating, respectively, the parts above mentioned in Fig. 1.

In Figs. 3, 4, and 5, *c* represents the open end, which is made somewhat smaller in diameter than the rest of the tubing-cap, (shown in detail in Fig. 5,) so as to fit the more snugly to the handle, an object attained still more completely by a beveling or thinning of the rubber tubing at that point.

In Fig. 4, *c'* represents the upper end of the tubing-cap open as applied to plugging or similar instruments where no pressure needs to be exerted against the end of the handle, or where the end is used for malleting.

I am aware that prior to my invention soft-rubber caps have been applied to broom-handles, to prevent friction against the hand; but such caps or covers have not been contracted at their ends for the purpose of more firmly holding the cover in position on smooth surfaces; nor have such covers been thickened heretofore, for the reason that there has been no necessity for the provision of a cushion for the hand where strong pressure has to be employed, as in dental tools.

I am also well aware that soft-rubber covers have heretofore been vulcanized directly on the instrument-handles, but they remain fixed and immovable in their seats. I therefore do not claim such soft-rubber tubing-cap, broadly, in its application to any article; but

What I do claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

As an article of manufacture, the combined removable cap and sleeve, of corrugated soft rubber, for dental tools, contracted at its open end and thickened at its outer end for the purpose of forming a cushion for the hand, as set forth.

CHARLES K. BARLOW.

Witnesses:
J. M. TOWNSEND,
CHAS. MORSCHAUSER.