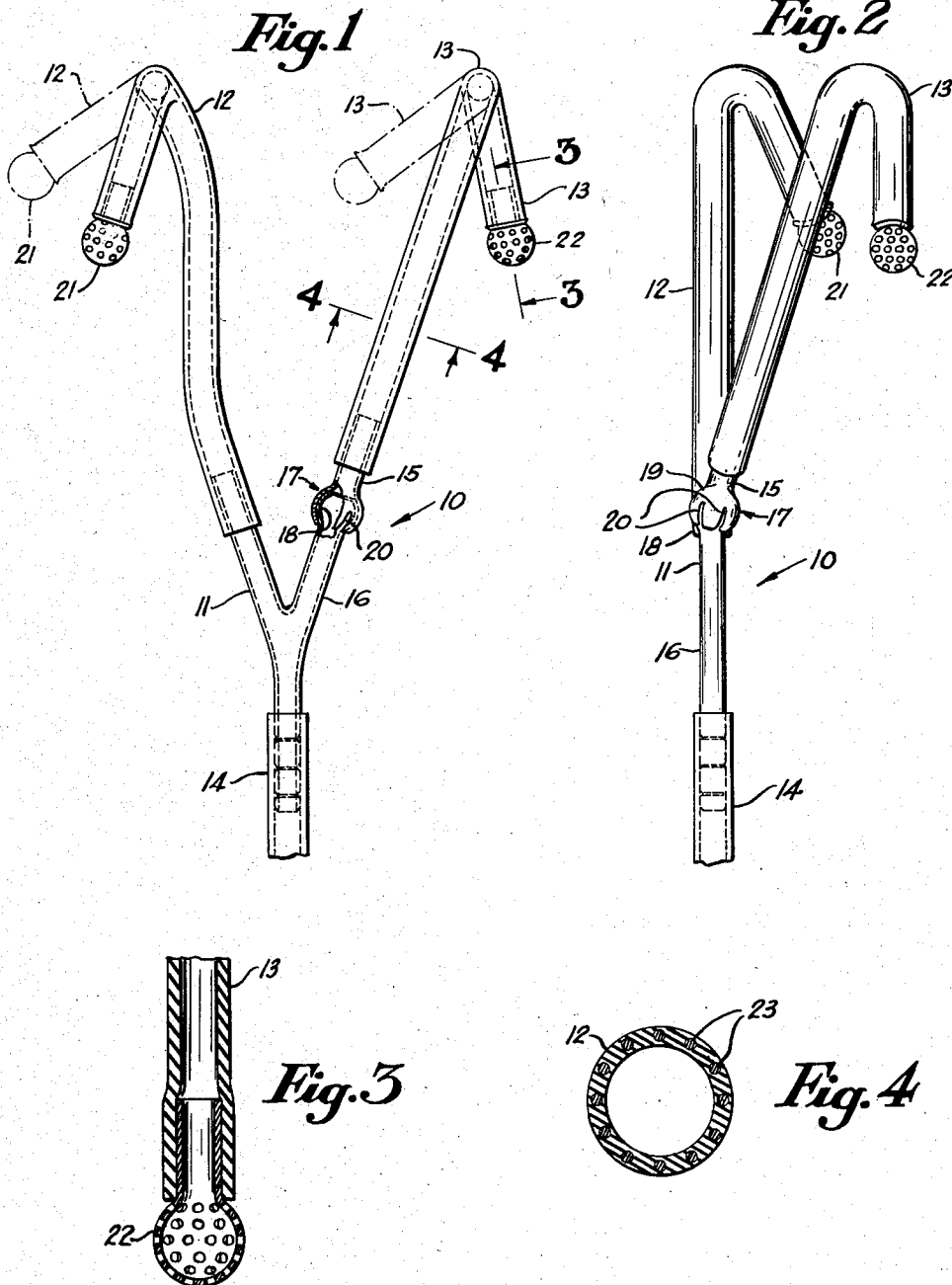


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SALIVA EJECTING DEVICE

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SALIVA EJECTING DEVICE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 32—33)

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This invention relates to a saliva ejecting device adapted for use in dentistry.

It is an object of the instant invention to provide a saliva ejecting device that can be adjustably applied under and at both sides of the tongue.

A further object is to lessen patient discomfort.

Another object is to facilitate the work of the dentist.

Other objects of the instant invention will become apparent in the course of the following specification.

In the accomplishment of these objectives, the saliva ejecting device is formed with a Y-shaped central body, the upper portion of one arm of which is made rotatable upon the lower portion. Over the ends of both the rotatable and non-rotatable bifurcated members or arms of the Y-shaped member, a semi-flexible mouth tube is drawn and the two free ends thereof fitted in the patient's mouth on either side of the tongue by bending over the lower teeth. A flexible tube between the bottom of the Y member and any known suction means completes the device.

The invention will appear more clearly from the following detailed description when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings showing by way of example a preferred embodiment of the inventive idea.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a front elevational view of the saliva ejecting device with the mouth pieces shown in full in one position of bending and rotating and in dot and dash in another position and constructed in accordance with the principles of this invention.

Figure 2 is a side elevational view of the saliva ejecting device shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a sectional view along the line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a sectional view along the line 4—4 of Figure 1.

Referring now in greater detail to the drawings in which like reference numerals indicate like parts, reference numeral 10 indicates the saliva ejecting device comprising the Y formed central body 11, the two mouth pieces or semi-flexible ducts 12 and 13, and the tube 14 leading from the base of the Y body to any suction means (not shown).

The Y formed body 11 is made of any suitable material and in which the upper member 15 of one of the bifurcated members or arms is made rotatable about the lower member 16. While any reasonably tight rotatable joint might be used, it has been found convenient for reasons of sanita-

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tion to use the ball and socket joint 17 which is formed by the ball like protuberance 18 at the top of the lower member 16 adapted to be engaged by the socket 19 disposed at the bottom of the upper member 15. By forming the slots 20 in the body of the shell like socket 19, it may be snapped on and off the ball 18 for cleaning or the like and in addition to providing rotation of the upper member 15 about the lower member 16 in a given plane, similar rotation in other planes within the limits of manufacture may also be attained. Obviously both of the bifurcated members or arms of the Y member could be made rotatable.

The mouth pieces or semi-flexible ducts 12 and 13 are formed of any suitable semi-flexible material reinforced with the stiffening members 23 (Fig. 4) so that when said ducts are bent to any position it is possible to straighten the same for cleaning and then to rebend to accommodate the varying characteristics of another mouth.

In the ends of the mouth pieces or semi-flexible ducts 12 and 13 are the sieve-like plugs 21 and 22 which permit liquids to pass freely there-through but screen out any foreign matter that might clog the device.

At the base of the Y body 11 the tube 14 is attached in the usual manner with the free end connected to any water suction pump or the like which creates a sufficient vacuum in the mouth pieces or semi-flexible ducts 12 and 13 to draw off the saliva as it accumulates.

The operation of the saliva ejecting device 10 is as follows: The semi-flexible duct 12 is bent to fit over the lower teeth with the end 21 under and on one side of the tongue. The semi-flexible duct 13 is then rotated by virtue of the ball and socket joint 17 to the most desirable position so that when the duct 13 is bent, as in the manner of the duct 12, it will have the end 22 under the tongue on the side opposite the end 21 and to fit over and to be supported by the lower teeth. The free end of the tube 14 is then connected to a known water suction device which removes the natural and other liquids from the mouth substantially at the points of greatest concentration and with relatively less annoyance to the patient than heretofore possible. In the course of the operation, foreign particles which might be detrimental to the device are screened out by the screen-like plugs 21 and 22 for subsequent removal.

It is apparent the specific illustrations shown above have been given by way of illustration and not by way of limitation and that the structures above described are subject to wide variation and

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modification without departing from the scope or intent of the invention, all of which variations and modifications are to be included within the scope of the present invention.

What is claimed is:

A saliva ejecting device, comprising a Y-shaped tubular piece having two arms and a central portion connected with said arms, one of said arms having an upper member, a lower member and a ball-and-socket joint interconnecting said members, said ball-and-socket joint comprising a ball-shaped protuberance upon one of said members, and a shell-like socket upon the other one of said members, said shell-like socket enclosing said protuberance and having a plurality of substantially axially extending slots formed therein, the joint-carrying arm being longer than the other arm, two semi-flexible tubes, stiffening members in said tubes, each of said tubes having one end

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connected to a separate arm of the Y-shaped tubular piece, two plugs, each of said plugs having a hollow, spherical, perforated end portion and a tubular portion connected with said end portion, each of the tubular plug portions being connected to the other end of a separate tube, and a third tube connected with the central portion of the Y-shaped tubular piece.

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