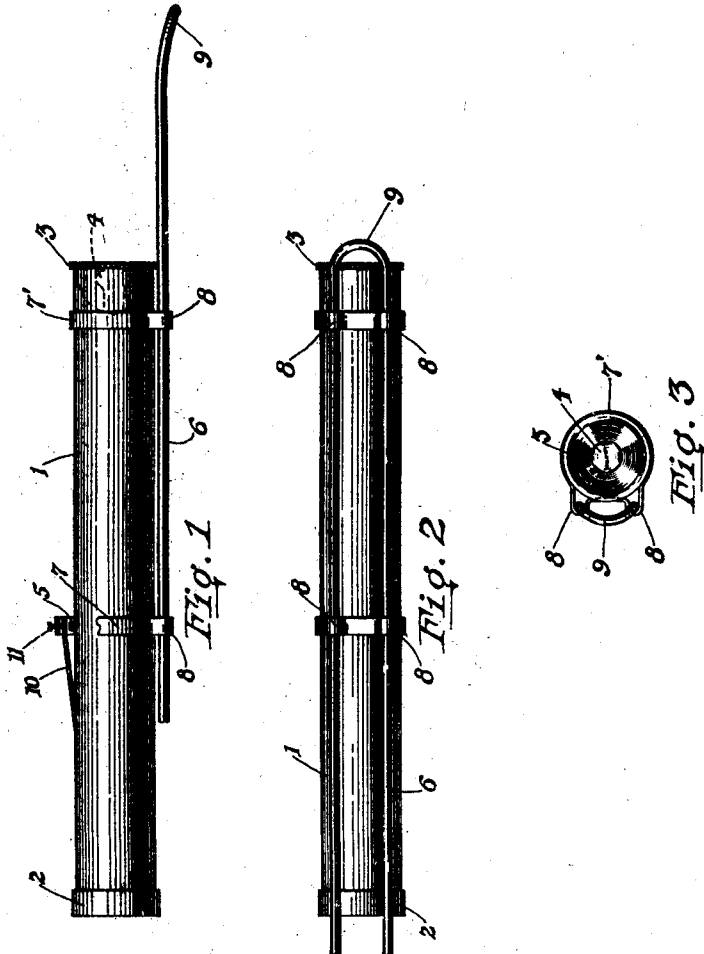


J. E. FITZGERALD.
 THROAT LAMP AND TONGUE DEPRESSOR.
 APPLICATION FILED MAR. 19, 1920.

1,364,873.

Patented Jan. 11, 1921.



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THROAT-LAMP AND TONGUE-DEPRESSOR.

1 364,873.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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Application filed March 19, 1920. Serial No. 367,226.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN EDWARD FITZGERALD, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Throat-Lamp and Tongue-Depressor, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, such as will enable other skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to throat lamps, and more particularly to electric throat lamps having means for depressing the tongue.

It is an object of the invention to provide an electric throat lamp and tongue depressor which will be simple and inexpensive in construction, and efficient in use.

It is another object to provide a throat lamp and tongue depressor which may be folded into a compact form and which comprises few parts, easily and quickly sterilized.

It is a further object to provide a throat lamp having automatic means for closing the circuit of the lamp upon operative pressure on the tongue depressor.

Other objects will be in part noted hereinafter in connection with the following detailed description.

In the drawings, which illustrate a preferred embodiment of the invention:

Figure 1 is a side view of the lamp;

Fig. 2 is a side view of the lamp viewed from another angle with the tongue depressor folded for carrying; and

Fig. 3 is a view of the lamp end of the apparatus.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, the lamp comprises the ordinary shell covering 1, in the present instance being cylindrical in form, containing a battery. The two ends of this casing are closed by screw caps 2, 3; the latter removably carrying the lamp 4. The circuit of the lamp is adapted to be closed, as will be described, through switch contacts including a depressible element 5.

The tongue depressor in the present instance comprises a bent wire 6, which is sufficiently heavy to resist bending. This wire is attached to the lamp proper by straps or bands 7, 7' encircling the lamp, these straps being substantially circular in form, but having two half eyelets 8, 8 pressed out-

wardly from their circumferences to inclose the respective forks of the tongue depressor. One band 7 encircles the lamp so as to include within its circumference the switch button 5, for a purpose which will be explained hereinafter. By this construction the tongue depressor is attached to the casing of the lamp in such a manner as to be readily adjustable lengthwise of the lamp, and to be easily removable therefrom for the purpose of sterilization. In the position shown in Fig. 1 the tongue depressor is extended for use. Fig. 2 illustrates the apparatus in a folded condition, the tongue depressor having been forced inwardly within the encircling bands, thus materially shortening the instrument for the purpose of carrying the same in the pocket or instrument bag.

In operation, the element 6 is extended to the position shown in Fig. 1. The instrument is then placed in the mouth and the tip 9 of the element 6 is pressed firmly against the tongue in the usual manner. The element 6 then acts as a lever, pivoting adjacent the lower front end of the casing, and forces the band 7 against the button 5, depressing the latter and closing the circuit of the lamp and affording a sufficient light for the examination of the mouth. In the construction shown, a spring clip 10 is included between the band 7 and the button 5 for the purpose of yieldingly separating the two elements before operative pressure on the tongue depressor. A set screw 11 may also be provided in the band 7 for controlling the delicacy of the apparatus.

The apparatus is not limited to the shape of the element as illustrated. It is also evident that other similar fastening devices might be employed. Furthermore, the shape of the bands 7, 7' might be altered to accommodate the ordinary flat wooden tongue depressor used in institutional work where a single use is required. With the present construction the tongue depressor may be easily and quickly attached and removed, and the apparatus is thus especially suited for use of this kind. The device as described is compact and reliable. The assembly of the parts whereby the lamp circuit is closed when the depressor 6 is extended and in use serves both to economize current from the battery and to afford the physician free grasp on and manipulation of the device at all times.

Having described my invention, what I

claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. In an electric throat lamp, the combination with a handle containing a battery and a bulb, of a tongue depressor carried by said handle and adapted to project beyond the same in substantially parallel relationship thereto, and means controlled by said depressor to close the circuit through the battery and bulb.

2. In an electric throat lamp, in combination, a handle containing a battery and a bulb, a tongue depressor adjustable along said handle and removable therefrom, and automatic means controlled by said depressor to close the circuit of the lamp.

3. In an electric throat lamp, in combination, a handle containing a battery and a bulb, a tongue depressor removably carried by said handle and adapted to be extended lengthwise of said handle from an inoperative to an operative position, and means to close the circuit of the lamp upon pressure on the free end of said depressor when extended.

4. In an electric throat lamp, in combination, a handle containing a battery, a bulb, a reflector, a tongue depressor attached to the handle by encircling bands and adapted to slide lengthwise of the handle within said bands, one of said bands adapted to close the circuit of the lamp upon operative pressure on the tongue depressor.

5. In an electric throat lamp, in combination, a handle containing a battery, a bulb and a reflector, a tongue depressor held by said handle in substantially parallel relationship thereto and adapted to pivot slightly at a point adjacent an end of said handle, and means to close the circuit of the lamp upon such pivotal motion.

6. In an electric throat lamp, in combination, a handle containing a battery, a bulb, a reflector, a tongue depressor lying adjacent said handle and adapted to slide lengthwise thereof, a plurality of rings or straps encircling said handle and said depressor, and conforming closely to the outline of said members, one of said rings being adapted to

close the circuit of the lamp upon pressure on the extended end of the tongue depressing element.

7. In a device of the character indicated, in combination, an attachment for an electric flashlight comprising a tongue depressing element and bands to bind said element along the body of said flashlight, one of said bands being adapted to effect closure of the lamp circuit upon operative pressure on the extended end of said tongue depressing element.

8. In a device of the character described, in combination, an attachment for electric flashlights comprising a tongue depressing element and means to bind said element along the body of said flashlight, said binding means being adapted to effect closure of the lamp circuit upon operative pressure on the extended end of said tongue depressing element.

9. In a device of the character described, in combination, an attachment for electric flashlights comprising a tongue depressing member, and common means for fastening said member to said flashlight and for effecting closure of the lamp circuit upon operative pressure on said tongue depressing member.

10. In a device of the character described, in combination, an attachment for electric flashlights comprising a tongue depressing member, means for fastening said member to said flashlight adapted to allow extension of said member from an inoperative position along the body of said flashlight to an operative position projecting therefrom, means for normally resisting closure of the circuit of the lamp when in the operative condition and means for causing closure thereof upon pressure on the tongue depressing member.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature, in the presence of two witnesses.

JOHN EDWARD FITZGERALD, M. D.

Witnesses:

EDNA PAINE DUVAL,
MARY A. CASHIN.