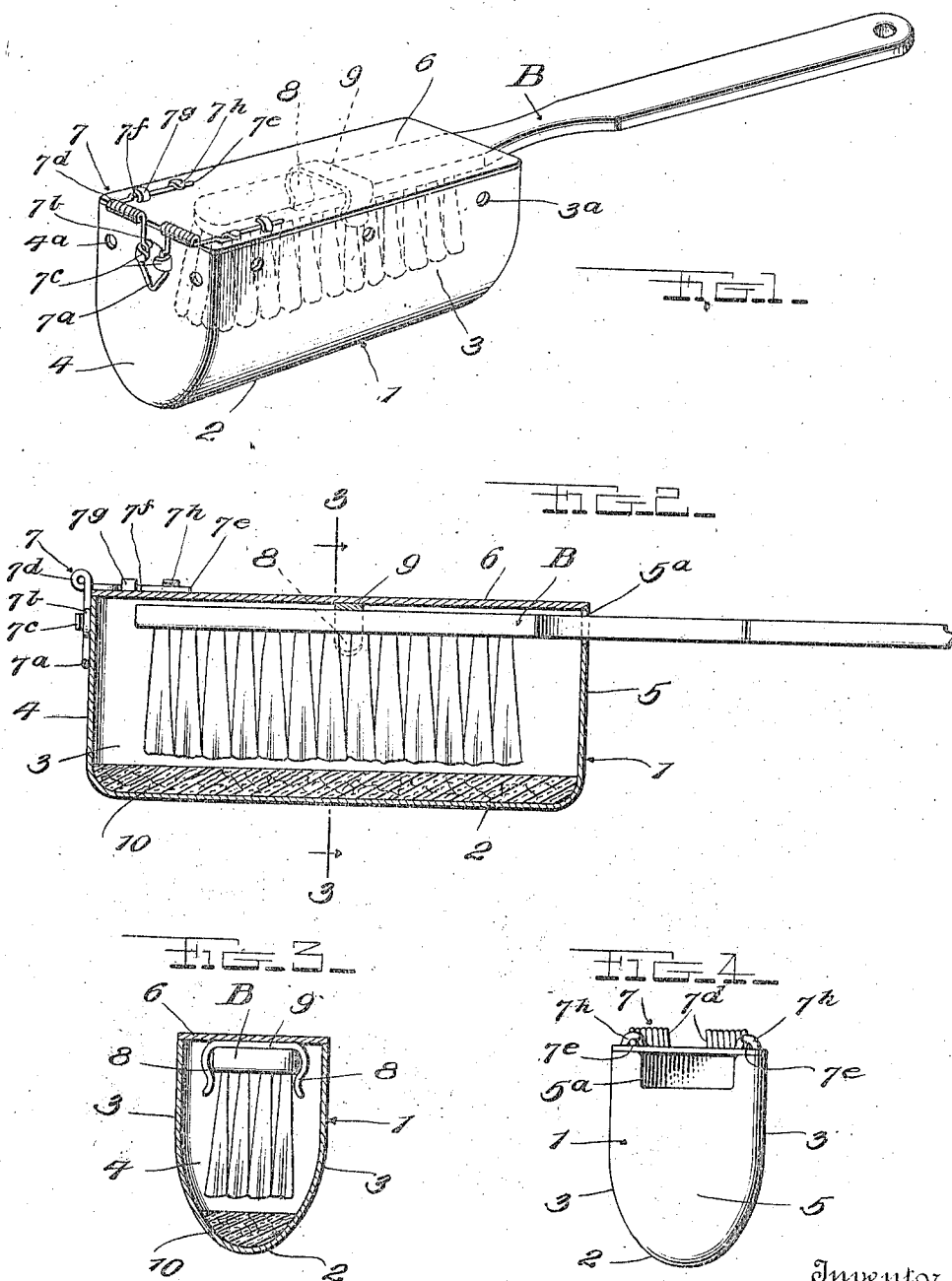


V. C. QUARTARARO.
 TOOTH BRUSH STERILIZER.
 APPLICATION FILED JAN. 6, 1916.

1,194,540.

Patented Aug. 15, 1916.



Witness
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TOOTH-BRUSH STERILIZER

1,194,540.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, VINCENT C. QUARTARARO, a citizen of the United States, residing at San Francisco, in the county of San Francisco and State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Tooth-Brush Sterilizers; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention which relates to improvements in sterilizing devices of the class used for tooth brushes, has for its object to provide an article of this character which will be extremely simple and inexpensive, yet highly efficient and durable.

With this general object in view, the invention resides in certain novel features of construction, and in unique combination of parts to be hereinafter fully described and claimed, the descriptive matter being supplemented by the accompanying drawing which constitutes a part of this application and in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a sterilizer constructed in accordance with the invention; Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section through the sterilizer in use; Fig. 3 is a vertical transverse section as seen on the plane indicated by the line 3—3 of Fig. 2; Fig. 4 is an end view thereof.

In specifically describing the invention shown in the drawing above briefly described, similar reference characters will be placed on corresponding parts throughout the several views and reference will be made to the numerous elements by their respective indices. To this end, the numeral 1 designates a horizontally elongated casing having an imperforate channel-shaped bottom 2, upright side walls 3 having perforations 3^a near their upper edges, and a pair of upright end walls 4 and 5, the former having perforations 4^a near its upper edge, while the latter is formed with a notch 5^a opening through its upper edge and adapted for the reception of the handle of a tooth brush.

For closing the open top of the casing 1, a horizontal closure 6 in the form of a flat plate is used said closure being connected by the spring hinge 7 with the end wall 4. The intermediate portion of the closure 6 is provided with a pair of depending resilient fingers 8, which are shown in the present em-

bodiment of the invention as formed by bending the opposite ends of a resilient metal strap 9 downwardly. In use, the fingers 8 are adapted to embrace the head of a tooth brush B as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, and to thereby support said head in a position elevated above the bottom 2, this being rather essential in order that the bristles of said head may not come in contact with an absorbent pad 10 carried in the bottom of the casing 1, said pad being saturated with any suitable highly volatile sterilizing fluid. Thus, as this fluid slowly evaporates within the casing, fumes or the like exuding therefrom will permeate the bristles of the brush and will thus effectively sterilize the same.

From the foregoing description, and explanation, the general construction and the numerous advantages of my improved device will be readily understood. However, before concluding, I will briefly describe the preferred construction of the hinge 7, seen most clearly in Fig. 1. This hinge is formed of a single piece of resilient wire having its center bent in the form of a U as disclosed at 7^a, the arms of said U being struck inwardly at their centers to form seats 7^b receiving hooks 7^c snugly therein, said hooks being struck outwardly from the end wall 4. After forming the arms of the U 7^a, the ends of the wire are coiled as disclosed at 7^d, the two coils being in alinement and having their free ends extended above and in contact with the closure 6 in the form of horizontal arms 7^e. Near their anchored ends, the arms 7^e are struck laterally to form seats 7^f which snugly receive outwardly facing hooks 7^g struck upwardly from the closure 6, the other ends of said arms being sprung into inwardly facing hooks 7^h also struck upwardly from said closure. This preferred construction of the hinge is obviously very simple and inexpensive yet is highly efficient and durable.

I claim as my invention:

A tooth brush sterilizer comprising a horizontally elongated casing adapted to contain a sterilizing medium in its bottom, said casing being open at its top to allow the head of a tooth brush to be received therein and having the upper edge of one of its end walls formed with a notch to receive the handle of the brush, a horizontal closure for the open top of the casing hinged thereto at the end thereof remote from the notch.

and a pair of transversely spaced resilient fingers secured to and depending from the intermediate portion of said closure to embrace the head of the brush and hold the bristles of the latter elevated above the sterilizing medium.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set

my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

VINCENT C. QUARTARARO.

Witnesses:

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