

(No Model.)

C. P. PITMAN.
RUBBER DAM.

No. 484,046.

Patented Oct. 11, 1892.

Fig. 1.

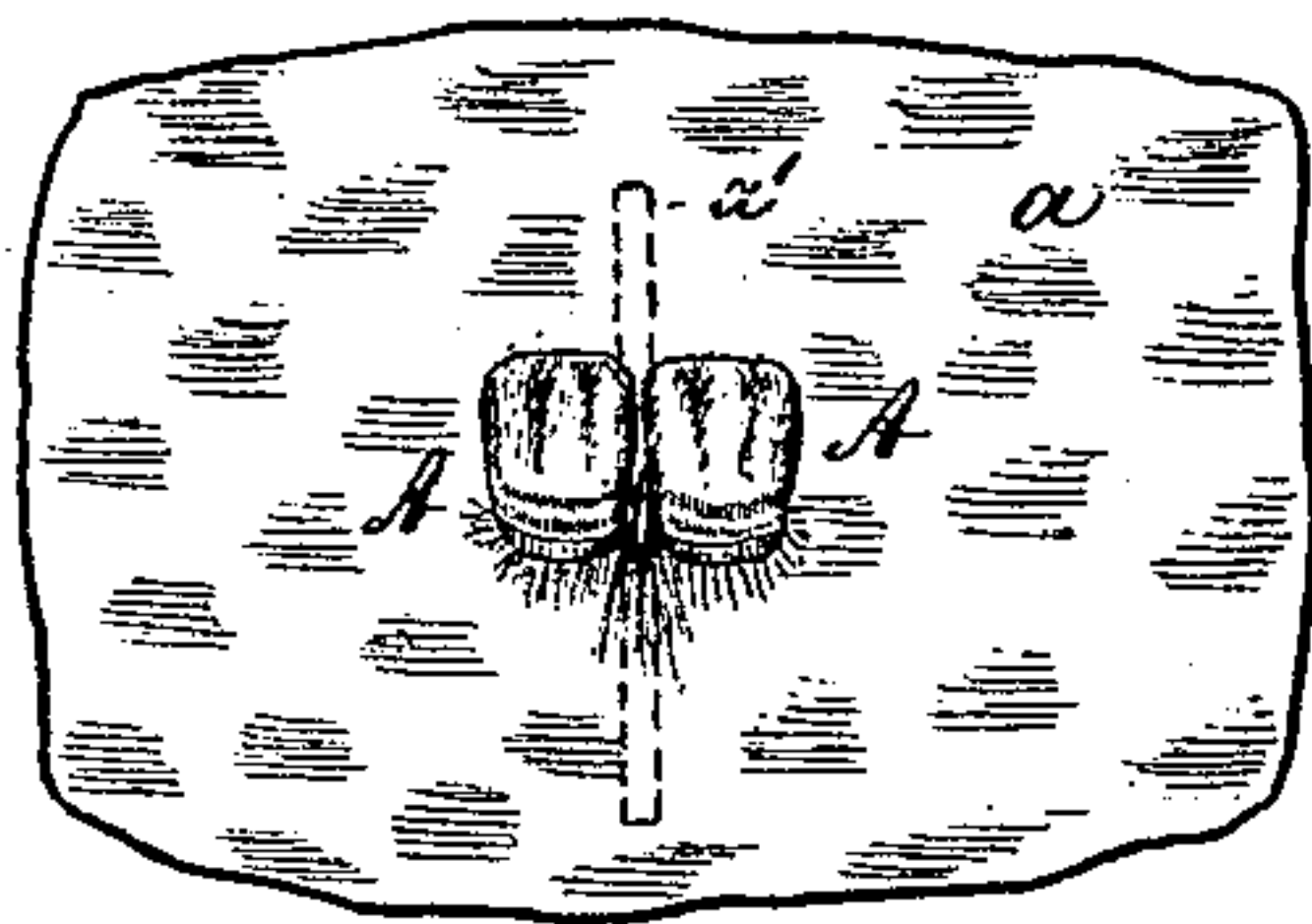


Fig. 4.

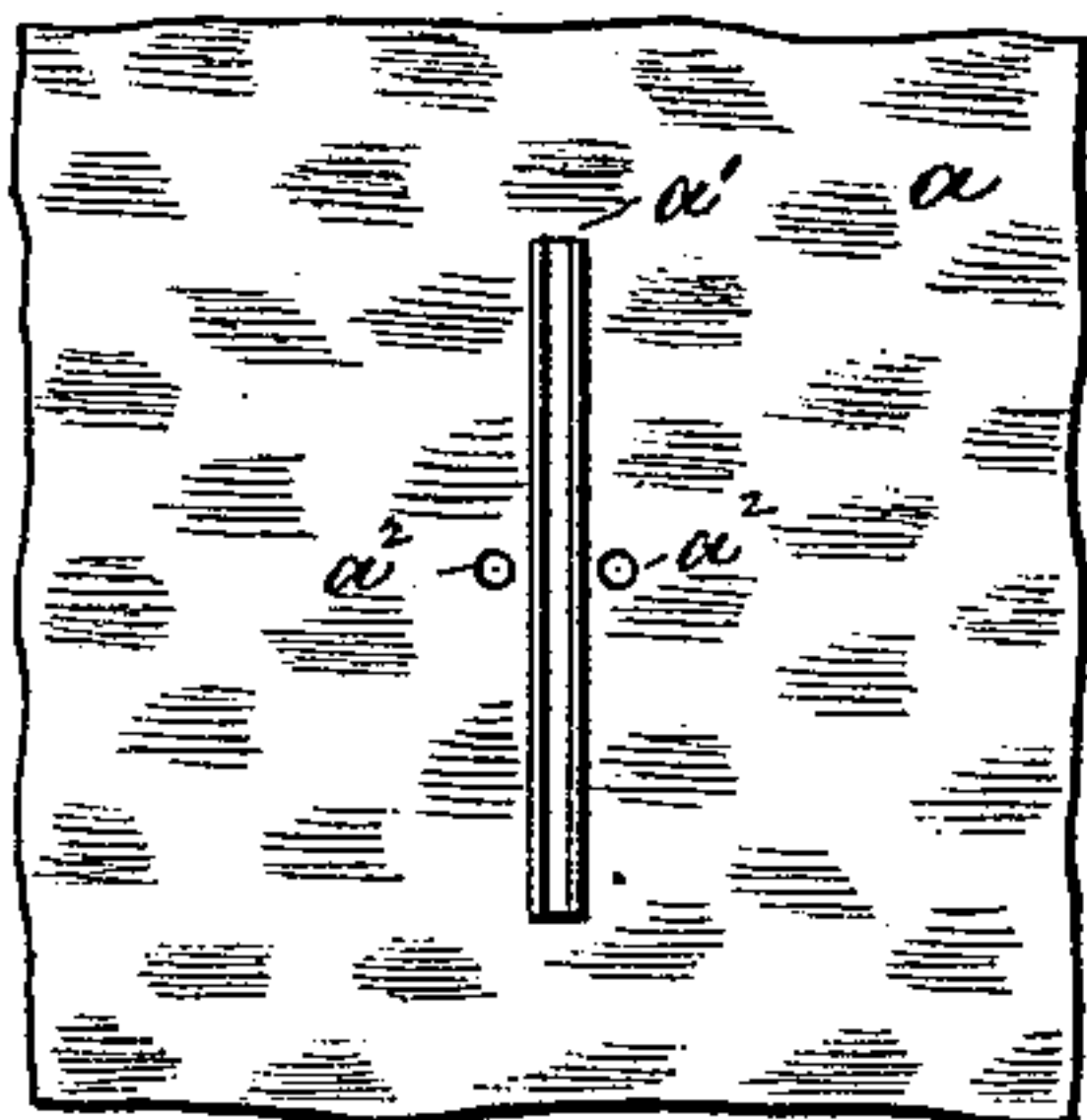


Fig. 2.

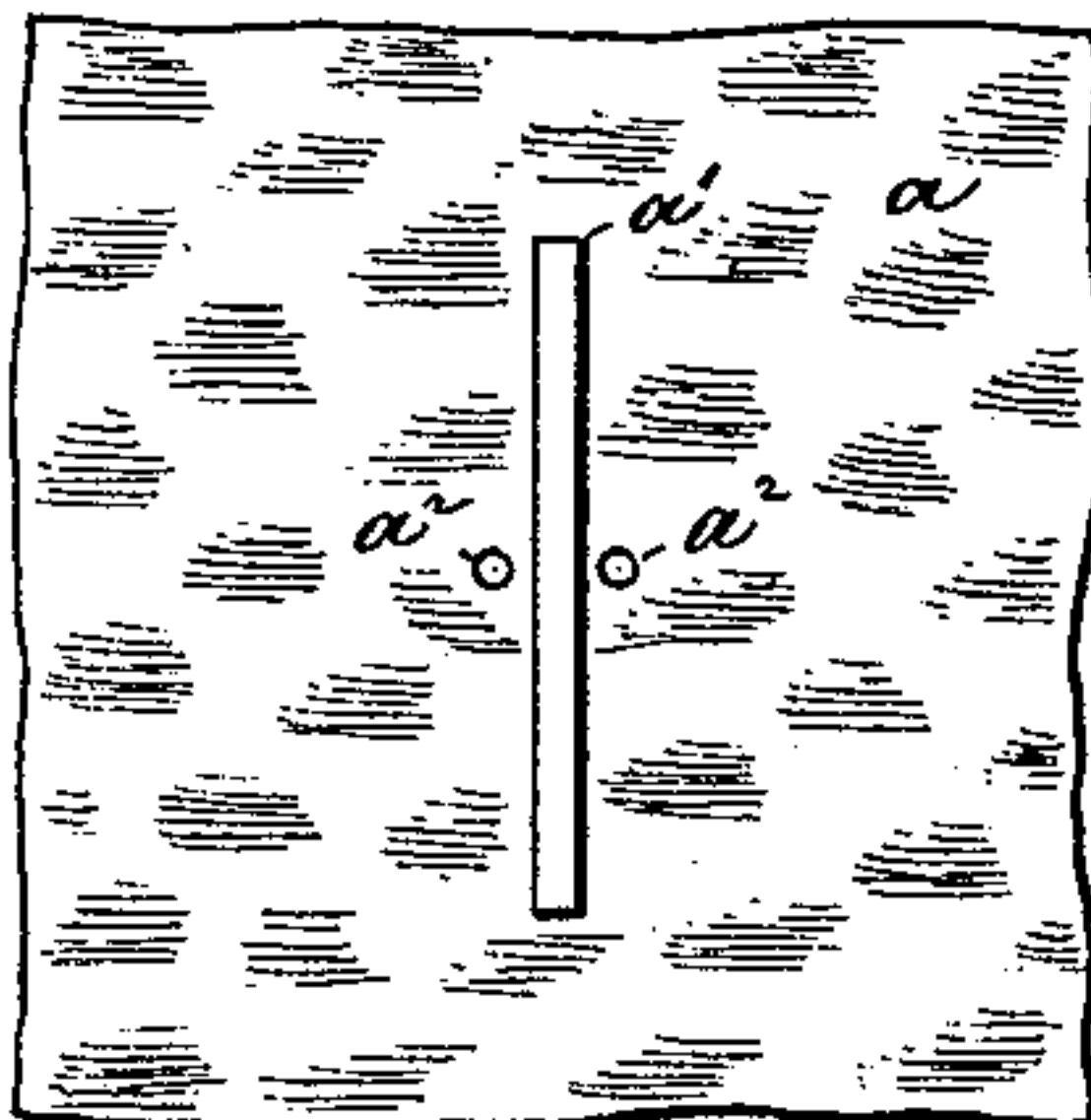


Fig. 6.

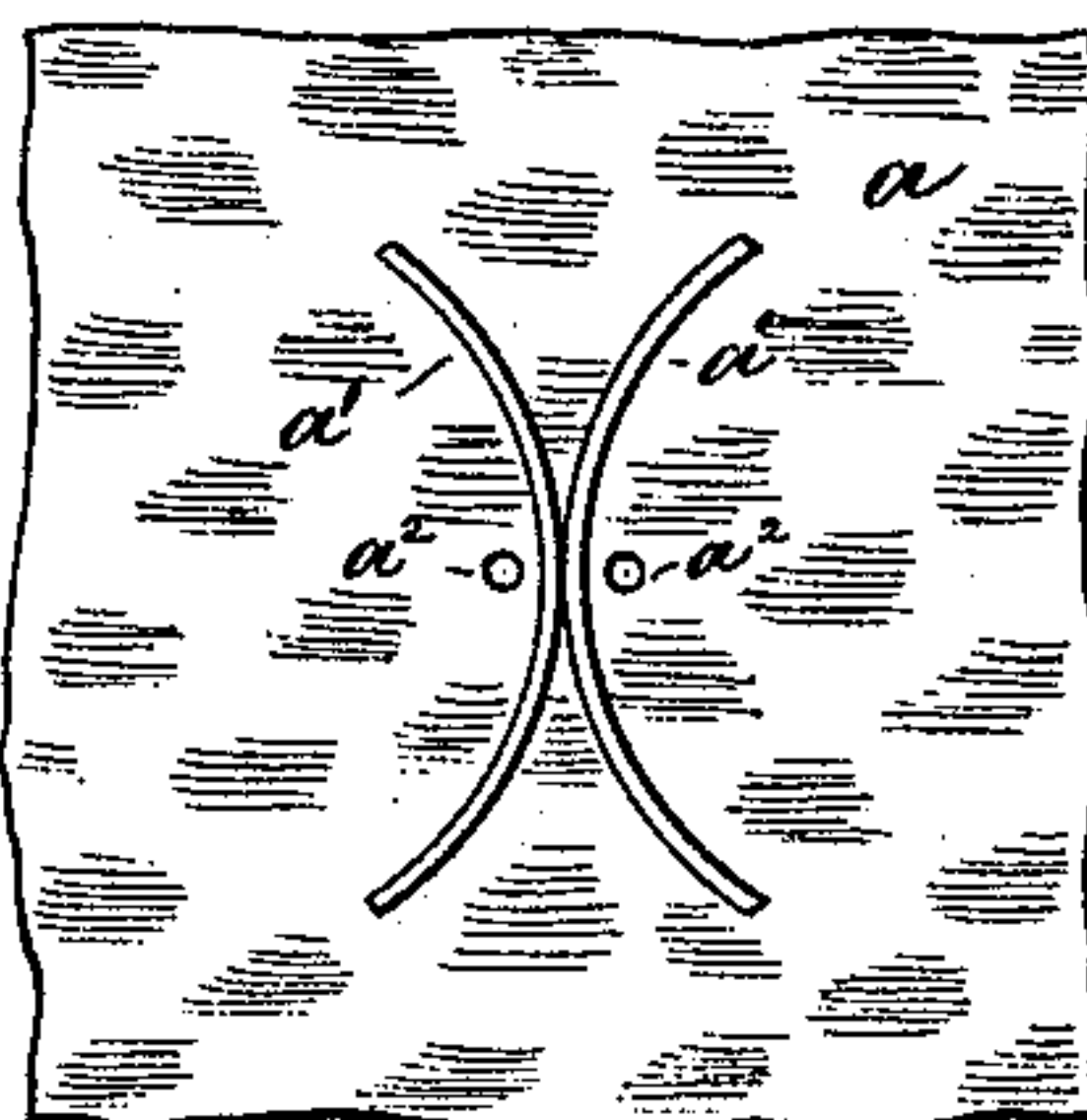


Fig. 5.

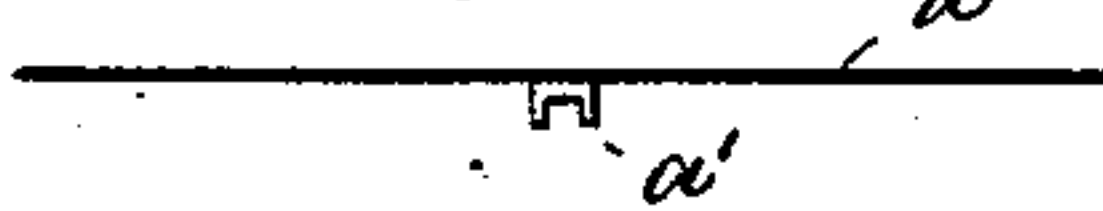
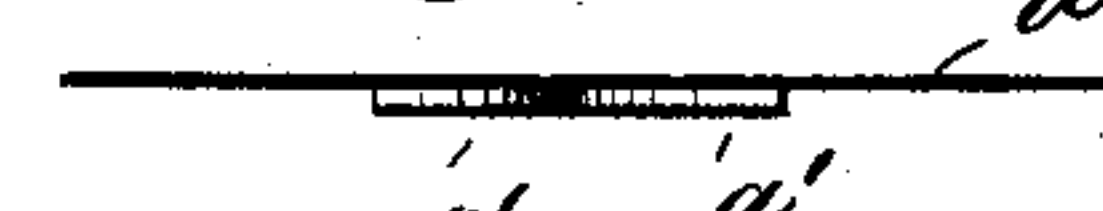


Fig. 3.



Fig. 7.



WITNESSES:

A. Schehl.
Wm. Schulz.

INVENTOR

C. P. Pitman
BY *Roeder & Bonnen*

ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES P. PITMAN, OF FREEHOLD, NEW JERSEY.

RUBBER DAM.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 484,046, dated October 11, 1892.

Application filed April 14, 1892. Serial No. 429,097. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES P. PITMAN, of Freehold, Monmouth county, New Jersey, have invented an Improved Rubber Dam for
5 Dentists' Use, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved rubber dam for dentists' use, which will effectively prevent the moisture from striking
10 through between the teeth, and which may also be used for spreading the teeth.

In using a dentist's rubber dam two or more perforations are made into the rubber dam to receive the adjoining teeth preparatory to filling. The portion of the dam which lies between the teeth is necessarily very narrow and weak and the saliva will therefore readily force its way toward the crown, which is, of course, very objectionable. It is the object
15 of my invention to so construct this portion of the dam that a tight joint will be produced which will effectively exclude moisture while the dentist is preparing cavities and treating or filling the teeth.

25 In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the dam, showing it in use. Fig. 2 is a top view of the dam. Fig. 3 is a cross-section thereof. Figs. 4 and 5 are corresponding views of a modification, and
30 Figs. 6 and 7 corresponding views of a further modification.

The letter *a* represents the rubber dam proper, being a sheet of thin rubber, as usual. Upon either one or both of the faces of this
35 rubber dam I form upwardly-projecting elastic bridges or ribs *a'*, either by molding or

otherwise. The bridges *a'* may have various forms and dimensions, according to the particular uses to which they are to be put. Thus in Figs. 2 and 3 the bridge consists of a plain
40 straight elastic strip, in Figs. 4 and 5 the strip *a'* is grooved, while in Figs. 6 and 7 two curved diverging strips *a'* are used. In this way other modifications will suggest themselves.

45 In use two openings *a*² are punched into the dam to the right and left of the bridge. The dam is spread and drawn over and between the teeth A, Fig. 1, with the bridge resting against the gum. In stretching the
50 dam the bridge will have become distended and reduced in thickness, and after the dam is in place the bridge or rib in contracting will crowd against the teeth and produce a very tight packing. Thus the teeth are kept
55 dry and the gum is crowded away. That this is highly desirable will be apparent to every dentist.

Beside the ordinary use of the dam it may also be employed to spread a pair of adjoining teeth, as will be readily understood.
60

What I claim is—

1. A dentist's rubber dam provided with a raised elastic bridge, substantially as specified.
65

2. A dentist's rubber dam provided with a raised elastic bridge and perforations at the sides of the bridge, substantially as specified.

CHARLES P. PITMAN.

Witnesses:

F. V. BRIESEN,
A. JONGHMANS.