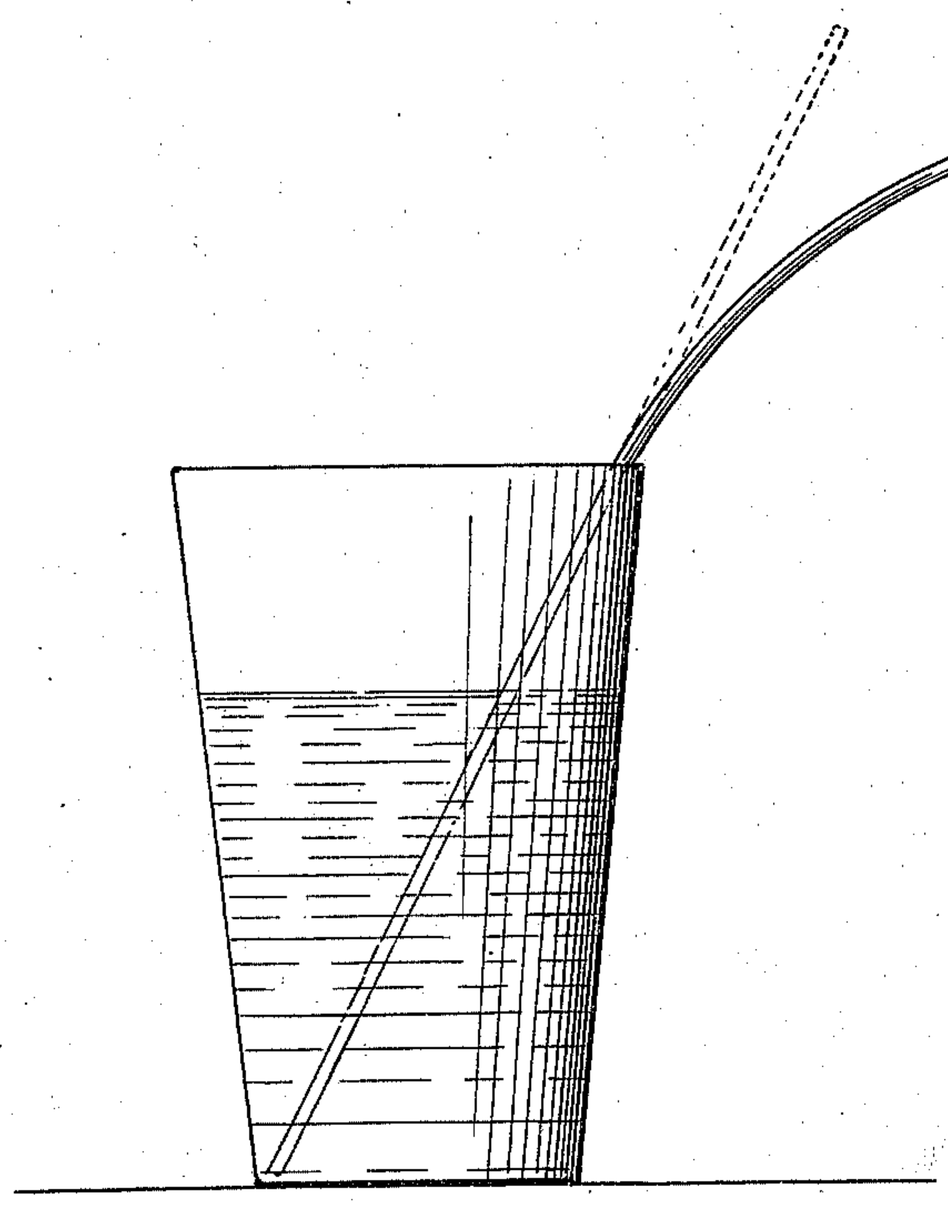
(No Model.)

L. H. BRITTON.

ARTIFICIAL STRAW FOR IMBIBING BEVERAGES.

No. 575,206. Patented Jan. 12, 1897.



Witnesses.
Robert Ewalt.
Albert H. Norris.

Inventor.
Louis H. Britton.
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Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LOUIS H. BRITTON, OF LISBON, OHIO, ASSIGNOR OF TWO-THIRDS TO JOSIAH B. MORGAN AND WILLIAM H. PRITCHARD, OF SAME PLACE.

ARTIFICIAL STRAW FOR IMBIBING BEVERAGES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 575,206, dated January 12, 1897.

Application filed July 2, 1896. Serial No. 597,900. (No specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LOUIS H. BRITTON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Lisbon, in the county of Columbiana and State of Ohio, have invented new and useful Improvements in Artificial Straws for Imbibing Beverages, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to artificial straws or tubes designed for imbibing beverages, such as wines, liquors, soda-water, lemonade, and the like.

The object of my present invention is to provide a new and improved artificial straw or tube for the purpose stated which possesses a desirable flexibility that renders it susceptible of being bent when placed in the liquid contained in a glass or receptacle in such manner that the upper end portion of the straw or tube will extend or project laterally with reference to the glass or receptacle, so that it can be taken into the mouth in an easy, natural, and convenient manner, which is advantageous over prior articles designed for the same purpose which cannot be practicably bent.

The invention also has for its object to provide a new and improved artificial straw or tube for the purpose stated which can be made very thin, while possessing sufficient rigidity or stiffness to stand upright in a glass of liquid, and which will not collapse and melt immediately on being taken into the mouth, will not dissolve out particles and thereby make the article defective, and which, after serving its purpose of conducting liquid from a glass to the mouth, can be consumed by the user as an agreeable chewing-gum.

These objects are accomplished in the manner and by the means hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claim.

In the accompanying drawing the figure is a side elevation of a glass containing liquid and in which the artificial straw or tube is placed.

In carrying my invention into effect I form a homogeneous mass composed of chicle or other chewing-gum, flour, glucose, grain-sugar, starch, and gum-tolu or some other partially or wholly insoluble gum. The proportions of the several ingredients should be such as to produce a paste possessing a somewhat stiff characteristic. This homogeneous mass is forced, under considerable pressure, through a die specially constructed for the purpose. The pressure compacts the homogeneous mass or paste into a hard tube, which, after being dried, possesses sufficient flexibility to be more or less bent to suit the wishes of the person while imbibing the liquid, but is sufficiently rigid to stand upright in a glass.

The flexibility of the straw or tube resulting from the peculiar composition of the mass from which it is made is very desirable, useful, and advantageous in that either before or after the straw or tube has been placed in the glass of liquid the upper end portion can be bent from the position indicated by dotted lines to the position shown in full lines, whereby the tube may be taken into the mouth in an easy, natural, and convenient manner, which result cannot be accomplished with ordinary artificial straws or tubes now in the market.

The artificial straw or tube made as described possesses the requisite degree of stability, so that while immersed in the liquid it will not speedily dissolve, and, furthermore, the particles of saccharin matter will not be dissolved out and leave the tube perforated and wholly useless for the purpose in hand.

An artificial straw or tube composed of chewing-gum and a reducing-paste is not commercially useful unless it can be made of comparatively small diameter and have a thin wall and also possess a certain stability and moderate flexibility, coupled with sufficient rigidity, so that while it can be easily bent by the user to the position, for example, represented in the drawing, it will stand upright in a glass of liquid, while no part of the composition will be quickly dissolved out and make small perforations in the tube, which would render it useless.

An artificial straw or tube made according to my invention meets all the requirements above mentioned and provides an article which will fulfil all the conditions required of a tube for imbibing a beverage and that can be subsequently consumed as a chewing-gum,

thus serving two entirely distinct uses, as well as furnishing a very attractive inducement to customers.

The composition may have added thereto any aromatic or other desired flavoring substance, so that the taste and odor of the beverage, if wine or other liquid is used, may be wholly removed from the mouth by subsequently chewing the tube.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

An artificial straw or tube for imbibing beverages, consisting of a homogeneous mass of chewing-gum, flour, glucose, grain-sugar and starch, and possessing the characteristics of flexibility, which enables it to be bent, and semirigidity which enables it to stand upright in a glass of liquid, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

LOUIS H. BRITTON.

Witnesses:
W. W. THOMPSON,
J. F. ADAMS.