

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DARIUS SMITH, OF SYRACUSE, NEW YORK.

## STERILIZED SURGICAL DRESSING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 617,474, dated January 10, 1899.

Application filed February 15, 1897. Serial No. 623,449. (No specimens.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, DARIUS SMITH, of Syracuse, in the county of Onondaga, in the State of New York, have invented new and useful  
5 Improvements in Surgical Dressing, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The object of my present invention is to provide a marketable sterilized surgical dressing  
10 ing for surgeons, hospitals, private use, &c., in which the deterioration, when not in use, is effectually prevented and the danger of inoculating diseases to patients treated with said dressing is avoided.

Heretofore surgical dressing has been put  
15 up in glass or porcelain jars or in wooden boxes, and was thus exposed to the air when said jars or boxes were opened for use, and even when the said dressing was sterilized  
20 before being placed in said jars or boxes the danger of inoculating diseases was not excluded, as the said dressing was liable to become impure when being exposed to the air.

The most essential feature of my said in-  
25 vention is to sterilize the dressing; together with the receptacle containing the same, and to construct said receptacle of compressible material—such as lead or analogous ductile and impervious metal—with a very small dis-  
30 charge-opening, so as to be able to easily handle said receptacle and dressing and to regulate the quantity desired and necessary for immediate use.

For the above purpose the dressing is put  
35 into the well-known paint-tubes, and after the air has been expelled from the interior of said tubes the latter are closed hermetically

and are subjected to any well-known sterilizing process.

The preferred alloys used in the manufac- 40  
ture of my compressible tubes are, lead, one percent.; copper, one-fourth of one percent.; and tin; or, aluminium, one-eighth of one percent.; lead, one-fourth of one percent., and tin.

By proceeding in the manner above stated 45  
a surgical sterilized dressing is obtained which obviates the danger of inoculation to patients treated with it or to persons handling the same.

The dressing is readily accessible and the 50  
desired quantity can easily be obtained by compressing the lower end of the tube without unduly exposing to the air that part of the dressing which is contained in the tube.

I do not claim a dressing put up in com- 55  
pressible tubes. Neither do I make any claim on the process of sterilizing dressing which is not contained within a tube of this kind, as neither of them would be within the spirit of my invention and would furnish a dressing 60  
of the character above referred to; but

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

As a new article of manufacture sterilized surgical dressing put up in compressible her- 65  
metically-sealed sterilized ductile and impervious metal tubes, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name this 11th day of February, 1897.

DARIUS SMITH. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

J. J. LAASS,  
M. A. LEYDEN.