

No. 628,487.

Patented July 11, 1899.

M. O. NELSON.  
ATTACHMENT FOR DENTAL DAMS.

(Application filed Nov. 14, 1898.)

(No Model.)

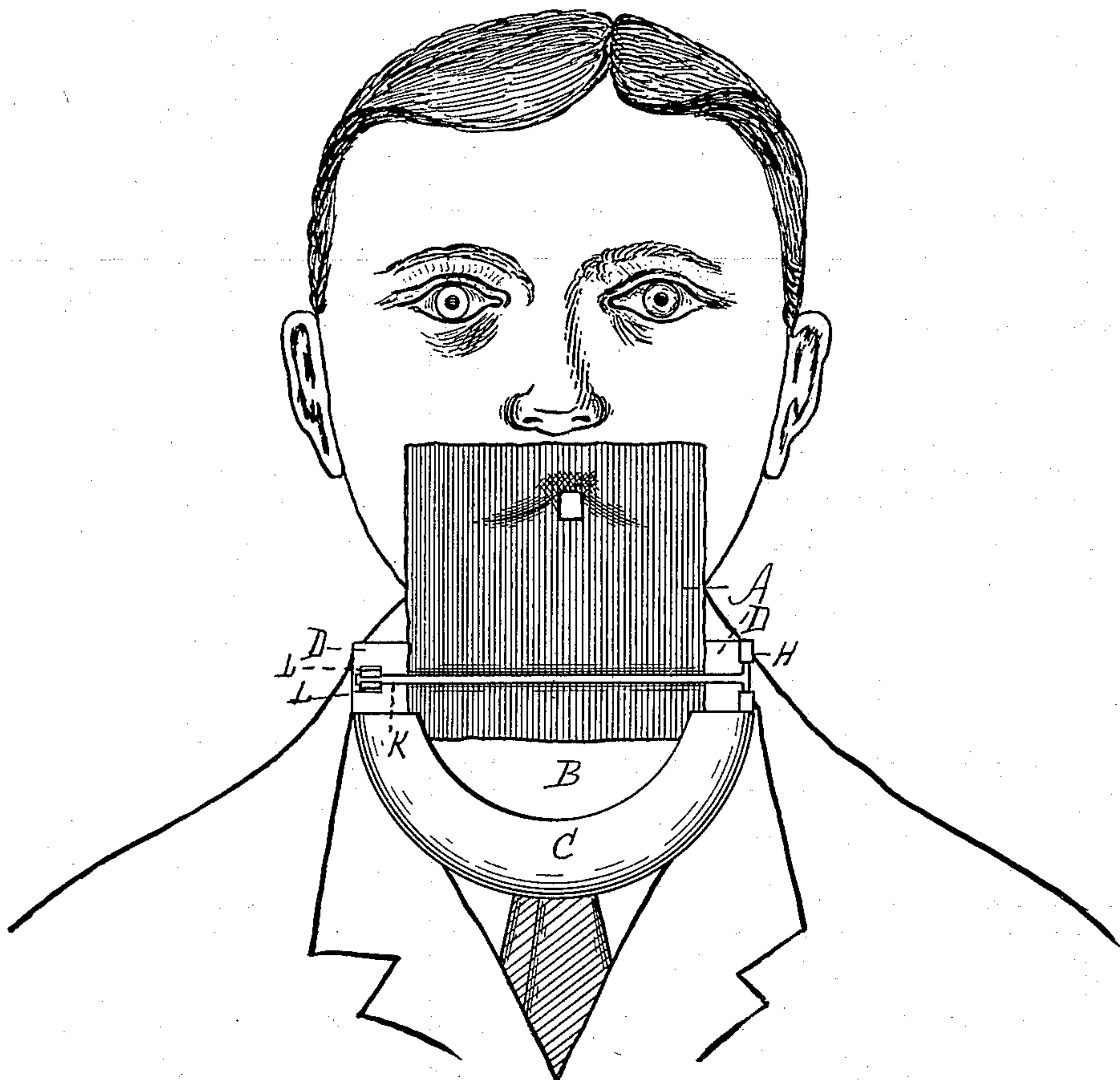


FIG. 1.

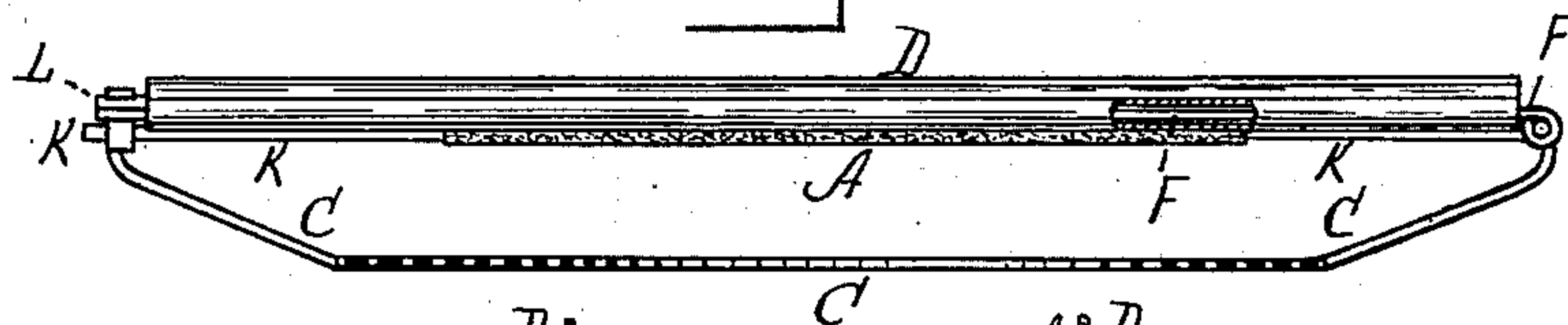


FIG. 2.

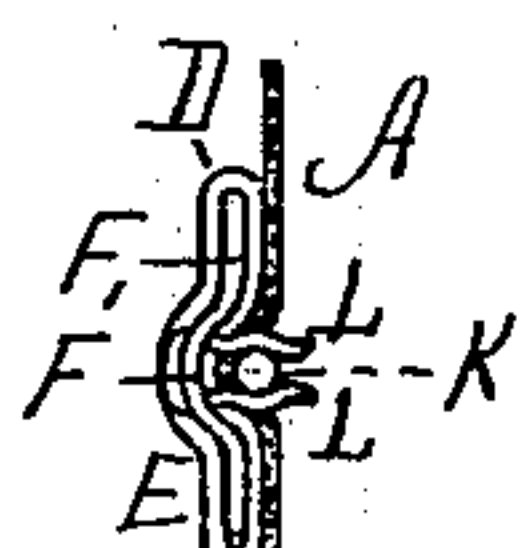


FIG. 3.

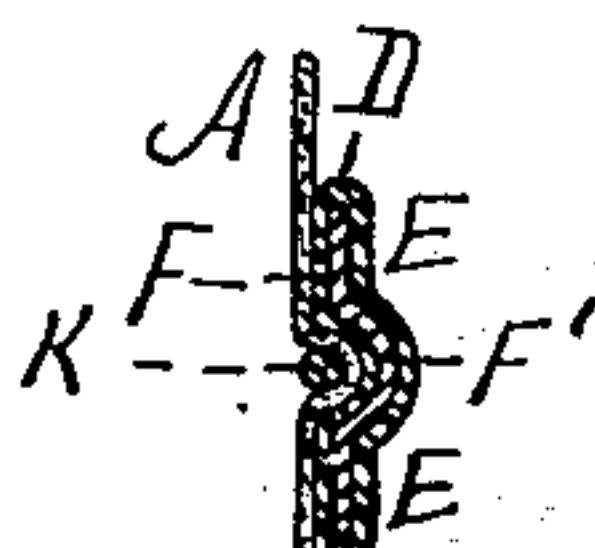


FIG. 4.

WITNESSES

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## ATTACHMENT FOR DENTAL DAMS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 628,487, dated July 11, 1899.

Application filed November 14, 1898. Serial No. 696,335. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, MARTIN O. NELSON, a citizen of the United States, residing in Natick, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and Improved Attachment for Dental Dams, of which the following is a specification.

This is a device adapted to be attached to and suspended from the sheet of rubber or analogous material known in dentistry as a "dam," and intended to prevent moisture from getting into the cavity or upon the tooth, which is being operated upon by the dentist.

The object of the device is to catch and receive scraps of gold filling, which drop from the tooth while the dentist is operating upon it and which would be otherwise lost or would only be saved by a careful subsequent examination of the sweepings of the office.

The nature of the invention is fully described below and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 represents my device properly secured to a rubber dam which has been applied to a tooth which is to be operated upon by the dentist. Fig. 2 is a top view or plan of the device attached to the dam, a small portion being represented as broken out. Fig. 3 is an end view of the device attached to the dam. Fig. 4 is a central cross vertical section of the same.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

A represents an ordinary rubber dam through which the tooth to be operated upon has been thrust and from which it hangs.

The receptacle which is adapted to catch the gold scraps falling from the tooth comprises a back piece B with its lower edge formed up into the flap or lip C and with its upper edge folded over into the horizontal pocket D. The flap or lip C extends up in front of the back piece B, and the portion E extends down behind said back piece and is cemented or otherwise adhesively secured thereto, or is made integral at its lower edge therewith in order to form said pocket D.

The parts B, C, D, and E are preferably made of an integral piece of rubber, and the

lower edge is preferably curved, as shown in Fig. 1, the lip C extending well up at the sides, so as to prevent any scraps from falling outside the receptacle. Within the pocket D is laid a bar or plate F, of metal or other rigid material, said bar being strengthened and provided with a groove on its front surface by means of a longitudinal corrugation F'. This prevents the receptacle from dragging down at the sides and preserves its form. The bar F extends entirely through the pocket D and is provided at one end with a hinge H, to the pintle of which a rod or pin K is secured and thereby adapted to swing horizontally. This rod is so located as to be exactly opposite or coincident with the groove in the front surface of the plate F formed by the corrugation F' and extends entirely across the front of said pocket. At the opposite end of the pocket a pair of jaws L is placed, said jaws consisting of a piece of metal whose central portion lies between the rear wall E of the pocket and whose two jaws or prongs extend through the stiffening-plate F above and below the groove therein and are bent, as shown, to receive and lock in position the free end of the swinging rod K.

To apply the device, the upper portion is laid behind the lower edge of the dam and the rod K swung back against the front portion of the said dam and caught in the catch L, as indicated in the drawings. In this position the rod or pin K presses the rubber into the groove formed by the corrugation F' and thus holds the dam securely. When in such position, any scraps of gold or other material which fall down over the dam drop into the space behind the flap or lip C. After the operation upon the tooth is finished the device is detached from the dam by swinging back the rod K, and the contents of the receptacle can be removed.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The herein-described attachment for dental dams, comprising the receptacle consisting of the back piece B, flap or lip C extending upward from the front surface of said

back piece, and pocket D; the bar or stiff-  
ener F within said pocket and provided with  
a horizontal groove on its front surface; the  
fastening rod or pin K hinged to one end of  
5 said bar and adapted to swing in front of the  
pocket; and mechanism for locking the free  
end of the rod or pin to the opposite end of

the bar, said locking rod or pin being oppo-  
site or coincident with said groove, substan-  
tially as described.

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