

No. 800,907.

PATENTED OCT. 3, 1905.

W. B. CURTIS.
ANTISEPTIC TELEPHONE MOUTHPIECE.
APPLICATION FILED APR. 18, 1905.

Fig. 1.

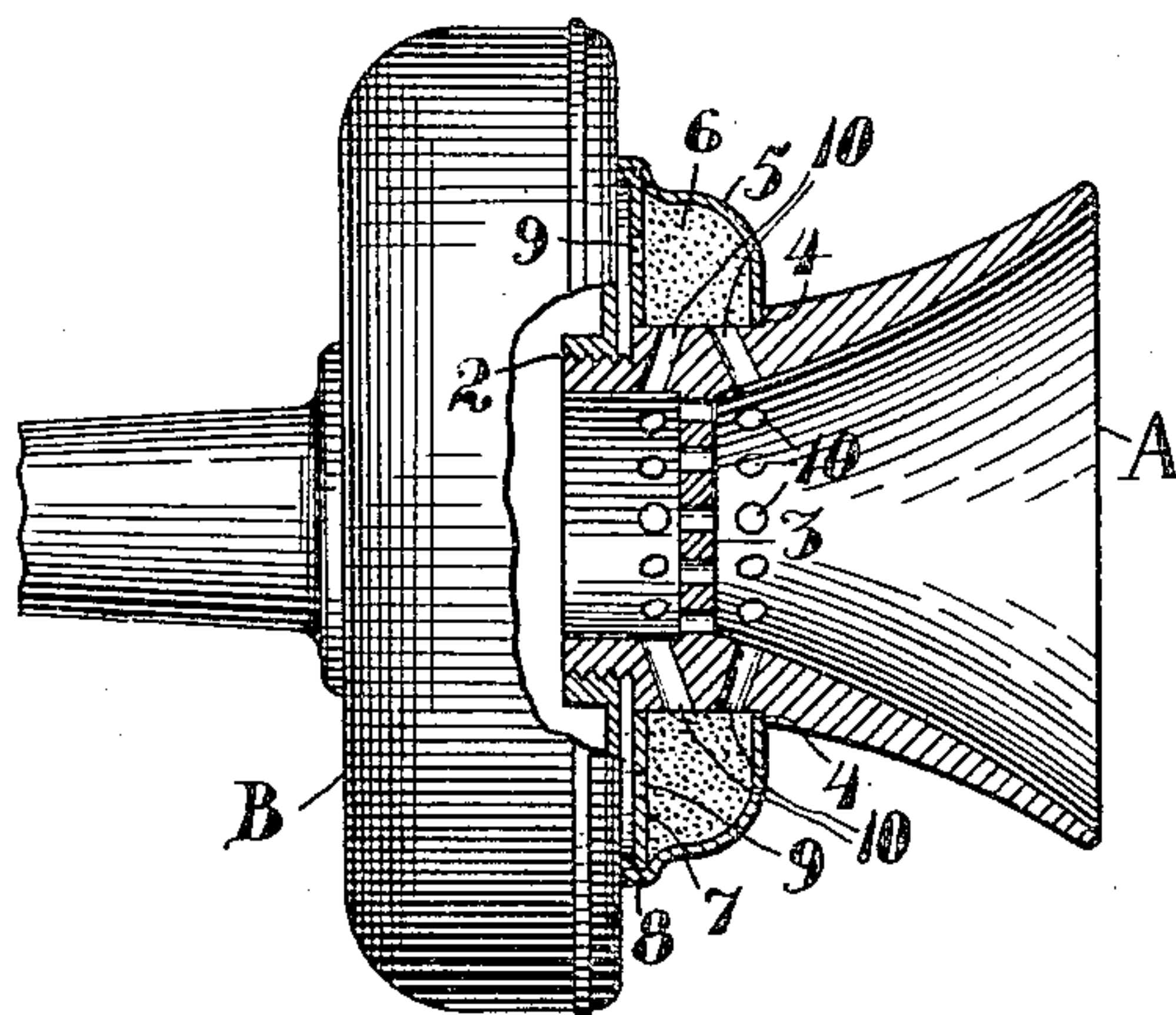
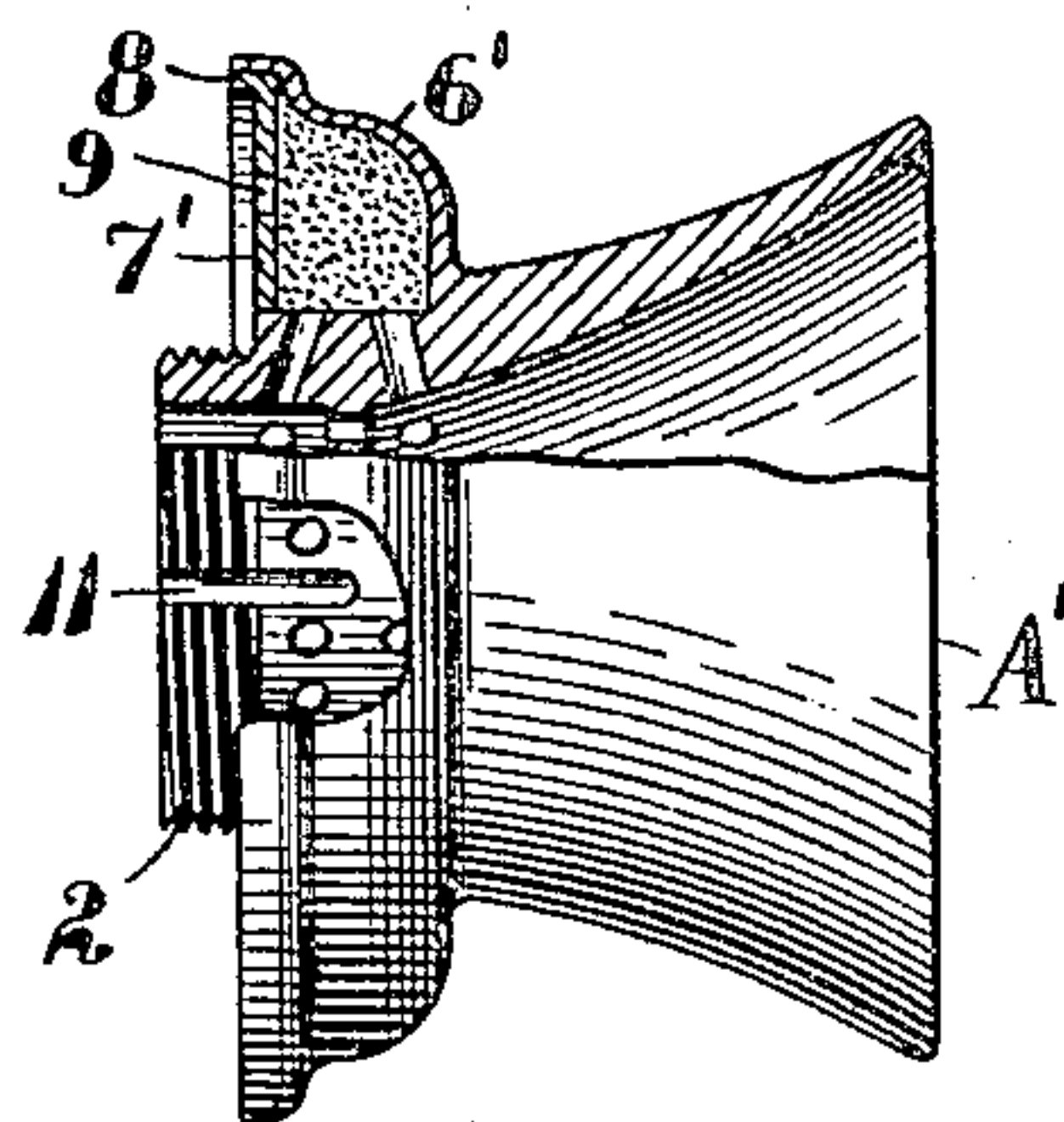


Fig. 2.



Witnesses:-

F. C. Fiedner
For Scribe

Inventor,

William B. Curtis
By Geo H. Strong
att'y

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM B. CURTIS, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

ANTISEPTIC TELEPHONE-MOUTHPIECE.

No. 800,907.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 3, 1905.

Application filed April 18, 1905. Serial No. 256,220.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM B. CURTIS, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city and county of San Francisco and State of California, have invented new and useful Improvements in Antiseptic Telephone-Mouthpieces, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to antiseptic and germ-destroying attachments for telephone-mouthpieces. Its object is to provide a simple, attractive, cheap, and practical antiseptic mouthpiece or attachment therefor which will possess all the desired germ-destroying qualities without detracting from the appearance or efficiency of the telephone. The difficulty with most of these devices now in use is that they either interpose some medium in the path of the sound-waves which interfere with conversation, and are therefore objected to by telephone companies, or else they set up a series of interfering vibrations, as where the mouthpiece is made of metal, or else they are too expensive to manufacture to be of real practical value.

The present invention consists of the parts and the construction and combination of parts, as hereinafter more fully described and claimed, having reference to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a view in partial section of a mouthpiece, showing my invention. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing a modification.

In practicing my invention I purpose either constructing the mouthpiece and attachment separately and assembling them as in Fig. 1 or the making of the attachment and mouthpiece integral, as shown in Fig. 2, and which different constructions will be hereinafter more fully described.

In Fig. 1 A represents a telephone-mouthpiece such as now commonly used, having a reduced threaded portion 2 to screw into a telephone stand or box B and provided with the transverse perforated partition 3. If a mouthpiece of this character is used without proper sanitary precautions, dust and health-destroying germs will find lodgment within the mouthpiece and on each side of the perforated diaphragm 3. Any absorbent for a suitable antiseptic placed between the partition 3 and the transmitter will seriously interfere with the proper passage of the sound-waves. I have designed and have successfully used a holder for a suitable antiseptic, which holder is placed entirely outside of

the mouthpiece and out of all interference with the passage of the sound-waves, and yet will operate to destroy all germs that might otherwise collect within the mouthpiece on either side of the partition 3 or in the threads between the end 2 of the mouthpiece and the threaded socket into which it screws. Accordingly the mouthpiece proximate to the threaded part 2 is turned down, as here shown, or otherwise provided with a suitable shoulder or shoulders 4, adapted to abut against an annular holder 5. This holder may be of any suitable size or design, but need not be very large, and is preferably made of such attractive shape as not to mar the appearance of the telephone or appear cumbersome. This holder is provided with an annulus 6, of some suitable absorbent material, such as felt, and the open end, or that end of the holder toward the stand, is closed by an annular cap 7, which is preferably removable, as here shown, and is provided with an outwardly-extending peripheral flange 8 and also with the perforations 9. The thickness of the holder preferably does not exceed the width of the turned-down portion on the mouthpiece or the distance from the ledge 4 and the inner end of the threaded part 2, the mouthpiece, holder, contents, and cap being held in position by simply screwing the mouthpiece into the regular telephone stand or box. That portion of the exterior surface of the mouthpiece which is within the holder is in direct contact with the absorbent filling, and the holder is radially perforated, as shown at 10, to permit of the vapors or fumes from the disinfectant with which the filler is proposed to be saturated passing into the mouthpiece and on either side of the perforated diaphragm 3. Also in order that the joint between the threaded part 2 and the socket into which it screws should be properly disinfected I run a series of longitudinal peripheral channels 11. By using a cover 7 for the holder and having it fit snug within the holder and against the outside of the mouthpiece the contents of the holder remain unimpaired for quite a long time, since evaporation can take place only through the radial perforations 10. The perforations 9 in the cap admit of the saturation of the filler after the parts are assembled and before being placed on the telephone-stand and avoiding the necessity of handling the medicated filler.

In the modification shown in Fig. 2 the mouthpiece A' is provided with a suitably-

shaped annular flange 6', proximate to the threaded end of the holder and adapted when the mouthpiece is screwed in position to inclose a suitable annular space for the medicated filler. If desired, this holder may be

provided with a removable cap or cover 7'. The mouthpiece is perforated similarly as in the first instance to allow the disinfecting vapors proper circulation.

It is possible that various modifications in my invention may be made without departing from the principle thereof, and I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself to the specific construction as herein shown and described.

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

1. The combination with a telephone stand or box, of a mouthpiece screwing thereinto and an annular disinfectant-holder surrounding the mouthpiece and held thereby against the stand, said mouthpiece having radial perforations communicating with the space within the holder.

2. The combination with a telephone stand or box, of a mouthpiece attached thereto and provided with a perforated diaphragm and an annular disinfectant-holder surrounding the base of the mouthpiece, said holder being open toward the stand or box, and an annular cap to close said open end, said mouthpiece having radial perforations communicating directly with a space upon each side of the diaphragm.

3. The combination with a telephone or like mouthpiece having a perforated diaphragm, of a disinfectant-holder having perforations leading to a space upon each side of the diaphragm.

4. The combination with a telephone-mouthpiece having a means at one end for the attachment to a telephone stand or box and also having proximate to said end a perforated diaphragm and an annular holder surrounding said mouthpiece, said mouthpiece perforated on either side of said diaphragm, said perforations opening into the chamber in said holder.

5. The combination of a telephone-mouthpiece having a perforated diaphragm, of a holder outside of and carried by the mouthpiece, said mouthpiece having passages connecting the interior of the holder with a space on each side of said diaphragm.

6. The combination with a telephone-stand or like support of a mouthpiece attached thereto, an annular holder surrounding the mouthpiece and abutting against said stand and held to the latter by the same means by which the mouthpiece is held in position, an absorbent filler for said holder, said mouthpiece having a diaphragm, and means connecting the filler-chamber with a space on each side of the diaphragm.

7. A telephone-mouthpiece having means of attachment at one end to a telephone-stand or the like and provided with an annular flange proximate to said end, an absorbent filler inclosed by said flange, said mouthpiece having a perforated diaphragm and having ports connecting the filler-chamber with a space upon each side of the diaphragm.

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

WILLIAM B. CURTIS.

Witnesses:

CHAS. E. TOWNSEND,
D. B. RICHARDS.