

S. E. FLORSHEIM.  
 SANITARY GUARD FOR TELEPHONES.  
 APPLICATION FILED APR. 5, 1909.

928,373.

Patented July 20, 1909.

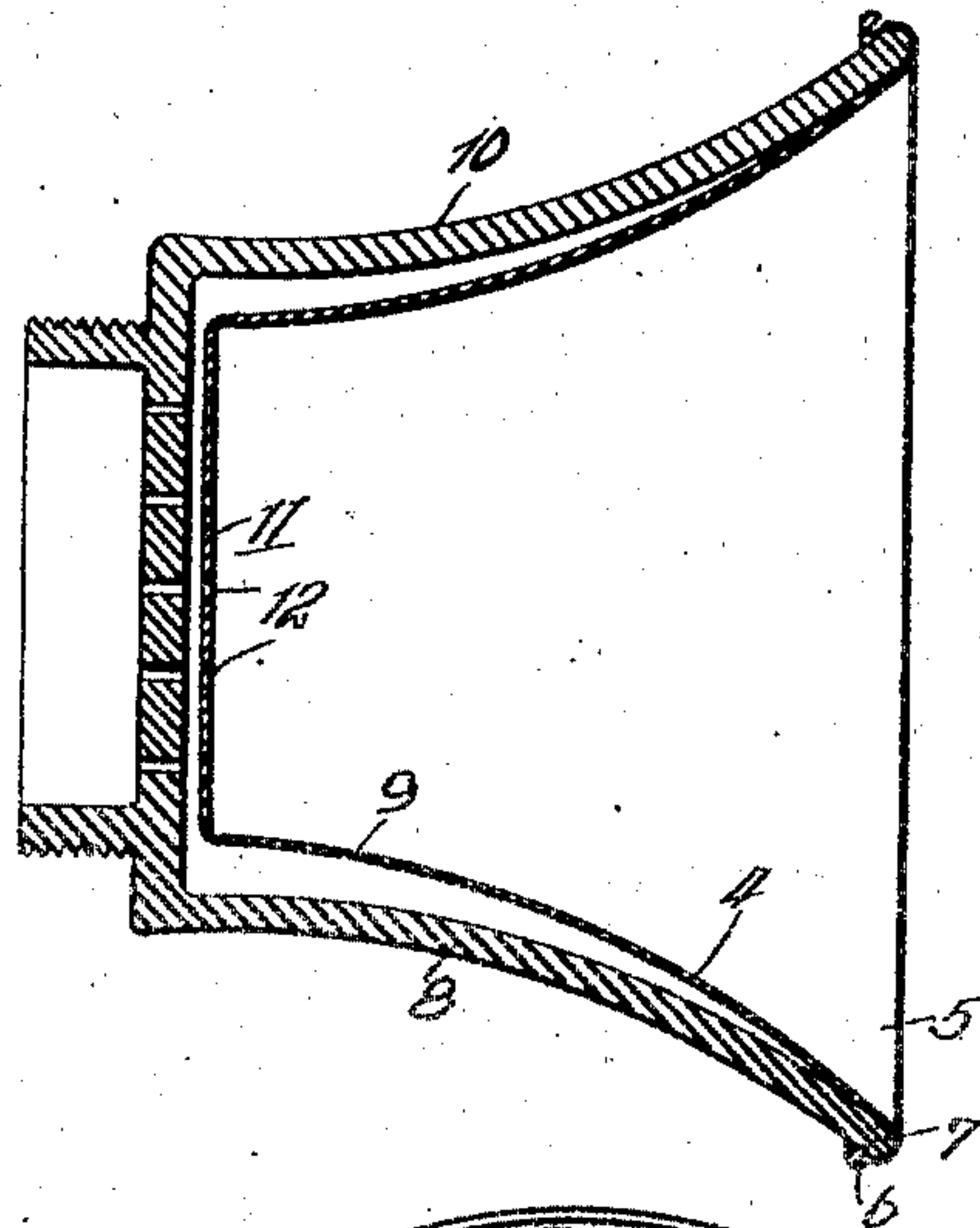


Fig. 1.

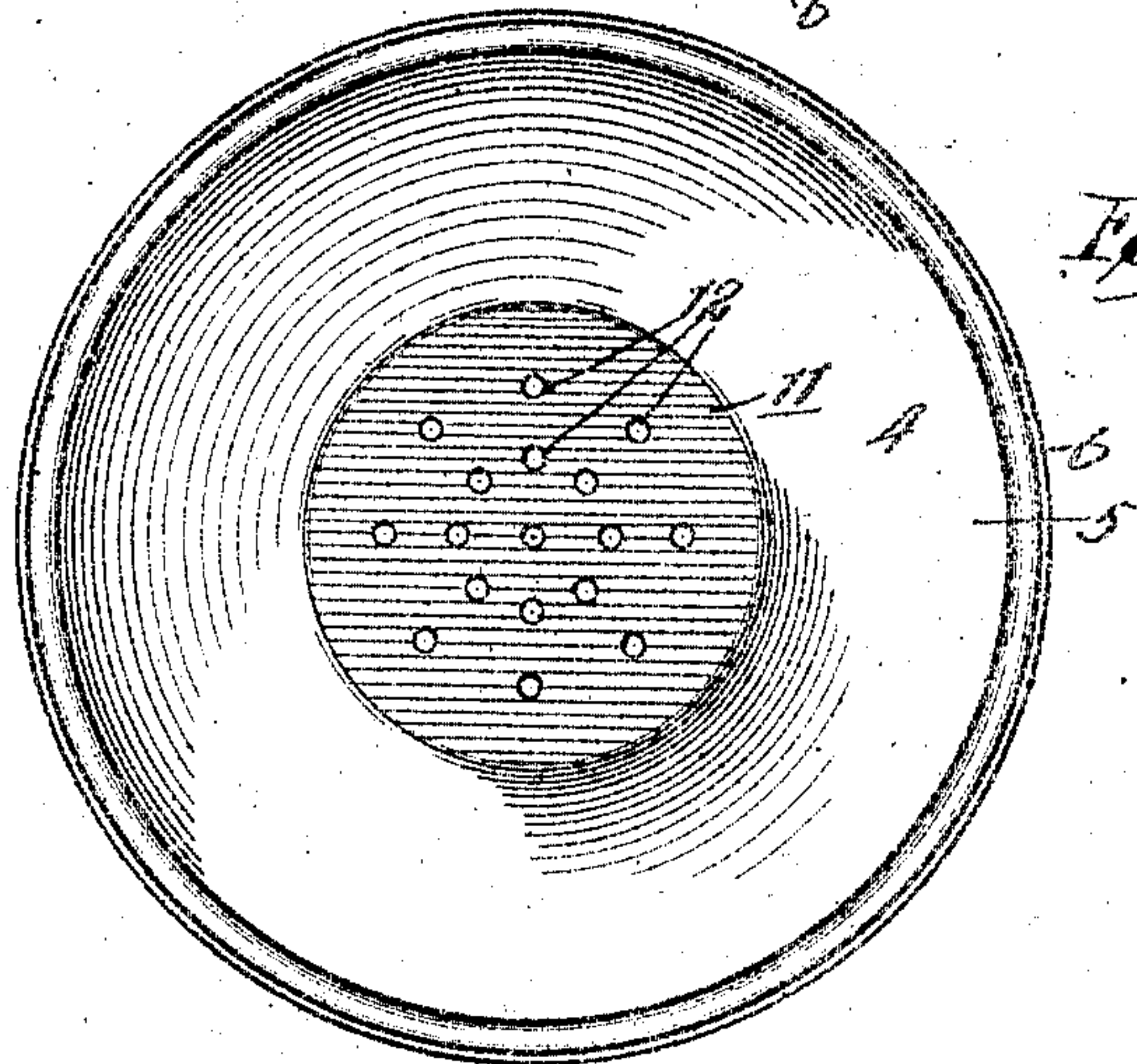


Fig. 2.

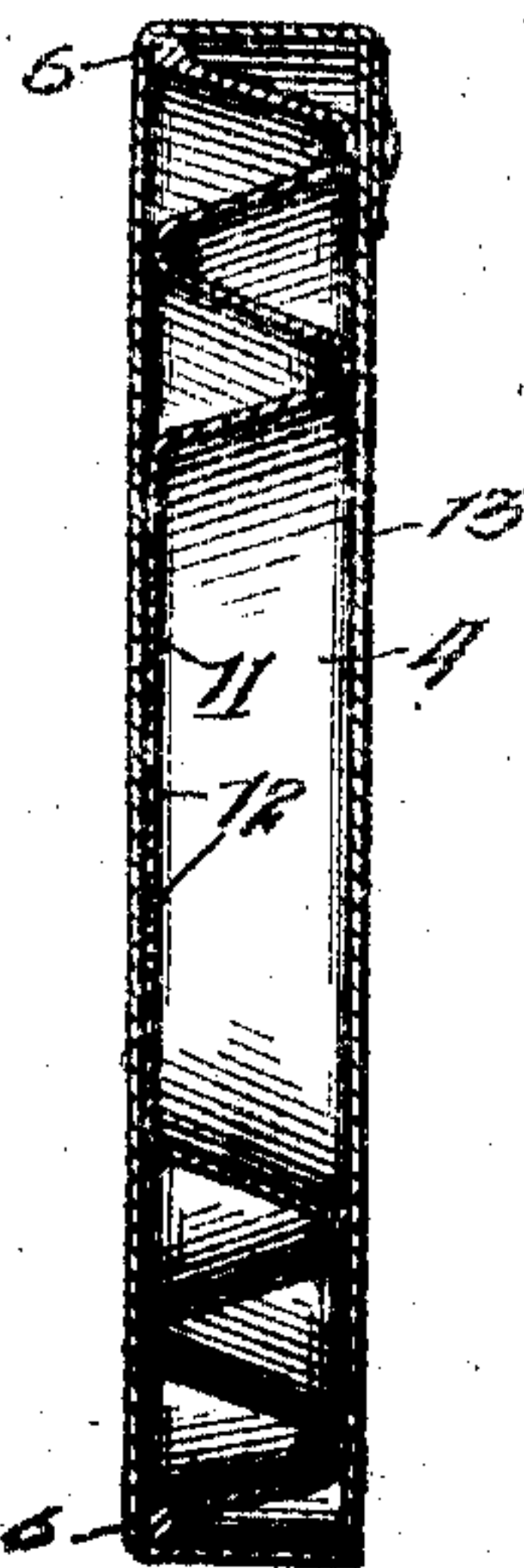


Fig. 3.

Witnesses:

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## SANITARY GUARD FOR TELEPHONES.

No. 928,373.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented July 20, 1909.

Application filed April 5, 1909. Serial No. 487,925.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, SIDNEY E. FLORSHEIM, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Sanitary Guards for Telephones, of which the following is a specification.

The indiscriminate use of public telephones is disagreeable and dangerous, by reason of the frequent lodgment of dirt and germs in the mouth piece, so that many persons hesitate to make use of public telephone service, especially where sanitary conditions are bad and where the habits of telephone users are such as to injure health.

The object of the present invention is to provide an individual guard for a telephone mouth piece, which is collapsible so as to be carried in the pocket and which can be easily applied to any telephone mouth piece of standard construction, and which, when applied, will serve to protect the user against contamination or infection. The guard, furthermore, is so constructed that it will not in any way interfere with the distinctness of speech transmitted through the telephone, but rather will serve to soften and improve the quality of the vocal tones transmitted.

The guard is so constructed that it may be disinfected from time to time, or perfumed, in order to counteract any disagreeable or dangerous odors or germs which may be present in the mouth piece of the telephone, thereby contributing to the comfort as well as the safety of the telephone user.

The invention consists in the features of construction and combination of parts hereinafter described and claimed.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a sectional elevation of a telephone mouth piece with a guard applied thereto; Fig. 2 a plan view of the guard; and Fig. 3 a sectional elevation, showing the same folded and housed within a box.

This improved telephone guard 4 is preferably made from rubber or other suitable elastic material, the body of the guard being somewhat enlarged at its open end 5, and is provided around its outer edge with a reinforced backing 6 which is adapted to engage the annular flaring edge 7 of the telephone mouth piece 8, as indicated in Fig. 1. The diameter of the inner portion 9 of the mouth piece is somewhat less than its outer portion, the side

pieces of the telephone guard lying adjacent to the curved side walls 10 of the telephone mouth piece. The bottom wall 11 of this sanitary guard has a number of openings or perforations 12 formed therein, and are of sufficient number and size as not to impede the sound transmitted therethrough.

For practical purposes, this improved sanitary guard may be of convenient size and shape to fit into a box or closure 13, which can be carried in the user's pocket or hand-bag.

In use, when the sanitary guard is removed from the box or closure, the collapsible elastic body of the guard may be extended so as to permit its inner perforated end 11 to lie in close proximity to the lower cross wall of the mouth piece, its outer enlarged reinforced edge 6 contacting and positively engaging the outer flaring rim or edge 7 of the telephone mouth piece 8.

This sanitary guard is preferably made from rubber or other similar elastic collapsible material, which can be readily washed or cleaned without injuring it, thus making the device sanitary in every respect.

Experience has shown the desirability of making this sanitary guard from red rubber or other suitable colored rubber or elastic material, which will readily show any dirt, dust or impurities on its surface, so that the guard may be cleansed when necessary.

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

1. A sanitary telephone guard formed from elastic collapsible material, the outer enlarged portion of the guard being reinforced for engagement with the edge of the telephone mouth piece, and the bottom wall of the guard normally lying in close proximity to the inner cross wall of the telephone mouth piece, substantially as described.

2. A sanitary telephone guard formed from elastic collapsible material, the outer enlarged portion of the guard being reinforced for engagement with the edge of the telephone mouth piece, the bottom wall of the guard normally lying in close proximity to the inner cross wall of the telephone mouth piece, and the side walls of the guard conforming to the general curvature and alignment of the telephone mouth piece, for facilitating the transmission of sound, substantially as described.

3. A sanitary telephone guard formed

from elastic collapsible material, capable of being continually cleansed without impairing its utility, the outer enlarged portion of the guard being reinforced for engagement with  
5 the edge of the telephone mouth piece, and the bottom wall of the guard lying in close proximity to the inner cross wall of the tele-

phone mouth piece, substantially as described.

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Witnesses:

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