

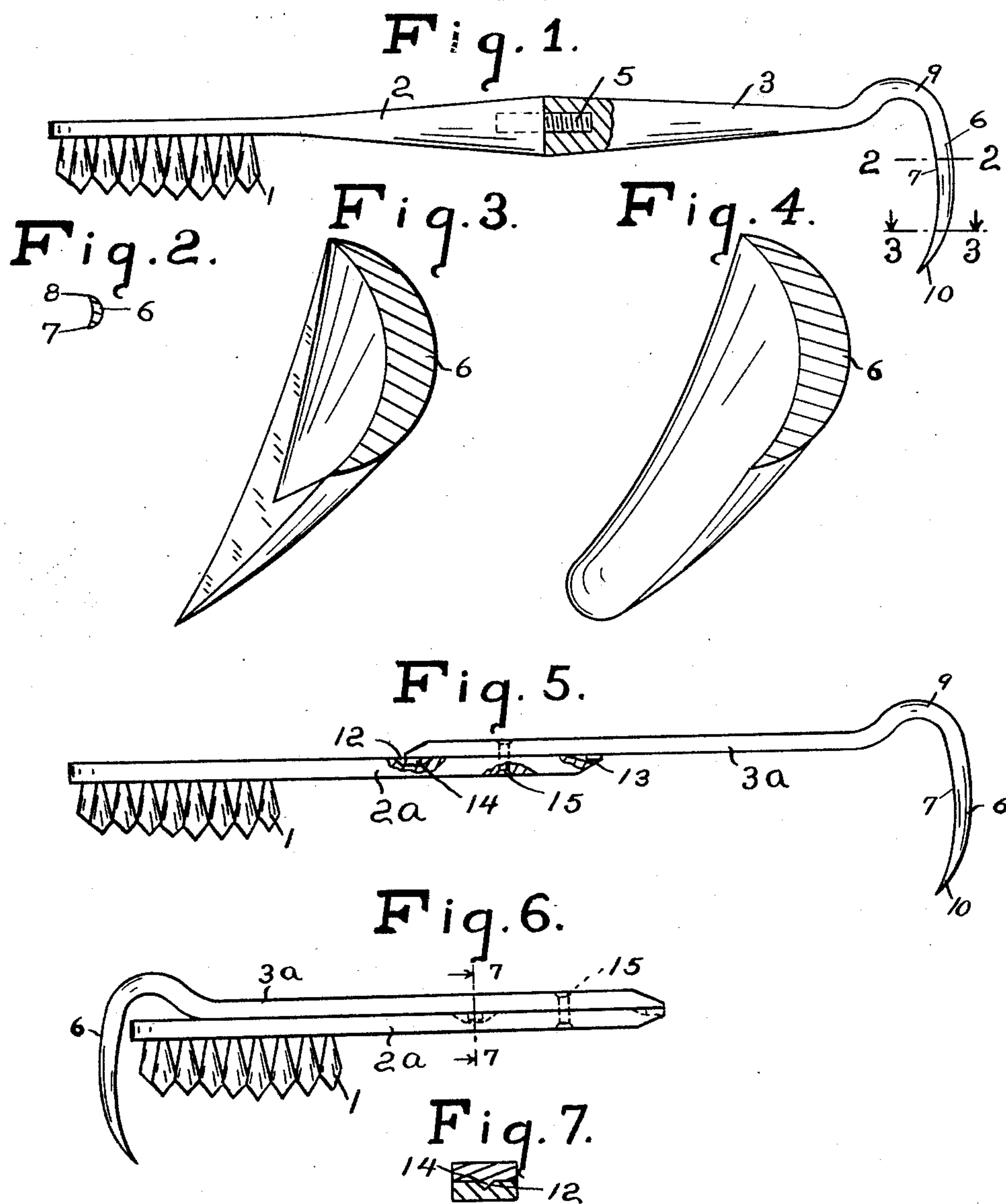
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CLEANING TOOL

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CLEANING TOOL.

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My invention relates to improvements in cleaning tools for the tongue and teeth.

I have discovered that owing to the character of the upper surface of the tongue considerable quantities of foreign matter or materials accumulate thereon, and that it is just as important from a sanitary standpoint to clean the tongue as it is to clean the teeth, and that where the teeth alone are cleaned they are quickly re-infected by the tongue unless the latter is also cleaned. Material accumulating on the upper surface of the tongue becomes a carrier for microbes and bacteria, and as the tongue becomes infected, conditions which promote disease progressively and rapidly develop, the tongue itself becoming incapable of eliminating the poisons or bacteriological growths which find lodgement thereon.

The object of my invention is to provide a tool whereby the tongue and teeth may be effectively freed from these accumulations and kept in a healthy condition.

In its preferred embodiment, my invention is associated with a tooth brush and used in connection with the brush for cleaning teeth and in association with the brush handle for cleaning the tongue.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a tooth brush provided with a tongue cleaning attachment constructed in accordance with my invention.

Figure 2 is a sectional view drawn on line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is an enlarged detail isometric view of the tip of the tongue cleaning member severed from the body portion on line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a detail similar to Figure 3 showing a rounded point.

Figure 5 is a side elevation showing a slight modification, whereby the tongue cleaning portion or attachment may be folded when not in use.

Figure 6 is a view of the same in folded position.

Figure 7 is a cross section on line 7—7 of Figure 6.

Like parts are identified by the same reference characters throughout the several views.

In Figures 1, 2, and 3 the brush 1 may be assumed to represent any ordinary tooth brush, of which the handle portion 2 will

conform to any standard design. In Figure 1 this connection comprises a screw threaded member 5 projecting from the end of the handle member 2 and having threaded engagement in a socket formed in the handle member 3.

The outer end of the handle member 3 is provided with a lateral extension 6 preferably curved in the form of a sickle and crescent shaped in cross section, as shown in Figure 2, thereby forming scraping edges 7 and 8 which are sufficiently sharp to readily remove foreign matter from the surface of the tongue without being of such sharpness as to cut or injure the tissues. The curved portion 6 is preferably connected with the handle member 3 by a goose-necked shank 9.

The free end of the curved scraping portion 6 is preferably tapered and flattened to form by its converging sides a generally wedge-shaped or pointed extremity adapted to enter spaces between the teeth on the inner side in substantially the same manner that a tooth pick is applied to such spaces from the outer side. When a tooth brush is properly used the bristles are quite effective to clean matter from between the teeth on the outer side, but it is difficult to apply the bristles effectively to the inner side and frequently the crevices are not properly cleaned.

To clean the tongue the curved portion 6 is applied to the upper surface of the tongue in a transverse position thereon and drawn toward the tip of the tongue in such a manner that one of the scraping edges 7 or 8 will remove foreign matter from said surface, not only cleaning the surface but opening the pores, stimulating circulation, and promoting the natural secretions which tend to sterilize or destroy disease germs or bacteriological growths. By forming the curved portion 6 as a crescent in cross section, I constitute a hollow space or recess like the bowl of a spoon longitudinally of the said portion 6 and between the scraping edges 7 and 8 thereof, which hollow space serves as a receptacle in which the impurities as removed from the tongue are collected and retained more effectively while the instrument is withdrawn from the mouth. This feature of the construction is advantageous, in that such impurities are held so that liability to drip from the spoon

is eliminated, and discomfort to the user is avoided.

It will, of course, be understood that if desired this tongue cleaning device may be used independently instead of being used as an attachment for a tooth brush, but when used as an attachment the use of the tooth brush suggests the use of the tongue cleaning tool and of the tooth cleaning tip of the scraping member, and the tool is less likely to be mislaid or lost.

Referring to Figures 5, 6, and 7, it will be observed that the tooth brush member 2^a has a substantially flat upper surface provided with V-shaped depressions 12 and 13 in its upper surface. The handle member 3^a, which carries the curved tongue scraping arm 6, has a flat under surface provided with a V-shaped rib 14 adapted to engage in either of the depressions 12 or 13. The member 3^a is pivotally connected to the member 2^a by a pivot pin 15 midway between the depressions 12 or 13, whereby the handle member 3^a may be anchored in either the extended position as shown in Figure 5 or in a folded position as shown in Figure 6. In the folded position the curved portion 6 extends over the end of the brush and protects the latter when the device is stored. This form of construction, of course, facilitates storing the combined brush and tongue cleaner in a receptacle adapted to be carried in a garment pocket or in a storage receptacle adapted to be carried in hand bags, valises, etc.

I claim:

1. A cleaning device for the tongue and teeth, comprising the combination with a handle portion of a laterally extending curved arm having a scraping edge adapted to remove foreign matter from the tongue

when drawn longitudinally of the tongue along its upper surface, the laterally extending curved arm narrowing transversely to its outer extremity whereby the scraping edges converge to a pointed extremity adapted to be engaged between proximal teeth.

2. A cleaning device of the character described comprising in combination a handle including folding sections, a tooth brush at the outer end of one of said sections and a curved laterally extending arm at the outer end of the other of said sections, said sections arranged to be folded for locating said arm in transverse position outside said brush for protecting said brush.

3. A cleaning device of the character described, comprising a handle provided with a laterally extending arm adapted to remove foreign matter from the tongue, the said arm being provided with scraping edges and a recess between such edges for retaining the matter so removed while the device is being withdrawn from the mouth.

4. A cleaning device of the character described, comprising a handle provided with a laterally extending curved arm provided with scraping edges adapted to remove foreign matter from the tongue, and a longitudinal recess between such edges for retaining the matter so removed while the device is being withdrawn from the mouth.

5. A cleaning device of the character described, comprising a handle provided with a laterally extending curved arm the sides of which converge to a point, such sides of the arm being formed as scraping edges adapted to remove foreign matter from the tongue, with a recess between such edges for retaining the matter so removed while the device is withdrawn from the mouth.

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