

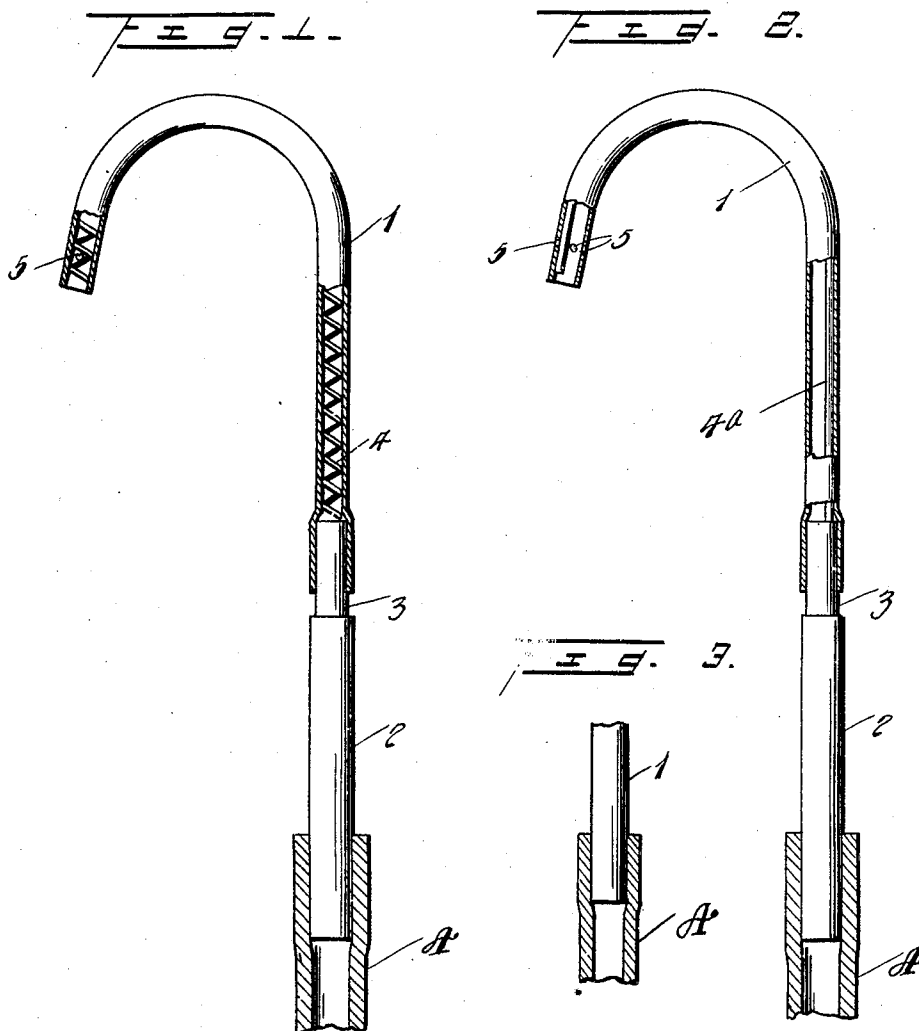
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SALIVA EJECTOR

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## SALIVA EJECTOR

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The invention relates to saliva ejectors and particularly to the applicator tubes for application to the mouth of the patient.

The common practice of dentists and surgeons operating on the mouth is to provide an ejector for the saliva that secretes into the mouth and would otherwise cause discomfort to the patient, the applicator tube being usually made of glass for sterilization. There is danger, however, of infection from the use of such applicator tubes and individual applicator tubes have heretofore been provided made of paper. The disadvantage of such tubes has been found to be that where the applicator tube remains in the mouth through a lengthy operation the paper is softened by the saliva and stops the flow of the saliva through the tube and if not noticed the patient is inconvenienced endangering the successful outcome of the operation.

This invention has for its object the provision of an improved applicator tube made of a non-fibrous material, preferably rubber, and having a reinforcement of a strand of flexible material preferably coiled to engage the inner walls of the tube and to distend the tube, the reinforcement member being of sufficient length to hold the tube in any shape that it may be formed to accommodate the applicator tube to the individual patient.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a connecting tube to be applied to the suction tube of the saliva ejector and having a reduced portion to engage in the applicator tube.

The invention will be described in detail hereinafter and will be found illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which

Figure 1 is a side view partly in section of the improved saliva ejector,

Figure 2 is a similar view showing a modified form of reinforcement, and

Figure 3 shows a modified means for connecting the applicator tube to the suction tube.

Referring to the drawings the suction tube of the saliva ejector apparatus is suggested at A. The applicator tube 1 is made preferably of rubber but any other suitable material such as celluloid may be substituted

therefor. As shown in Figure 1 the applicator tube 1 is connected with the suction tube A by means of a connecting tube 2 adapted to be inserted in the end of the suction tube A and having a reduced outer end 3 to engage in the adjacent end of the applicator tube 1. 4 indicates a reinforcing member for the tube 1, that in Figure 1 is shown to be in the form of a coil that snugly engages the inner wall of the applicator tube 1 to hold it distended or may be as shown in Figure 2 of a straight strand of material designated 4<sup>a</sup>. The reinforcing member 4 or 4<sup>a</sup> is made preferably of a flexible metal, such for instance as copper, steel or of any other suitable flexible material, the reinforcing member being as stated with regard to the form in Figure 1 to hold the tube 1 in a distended condition at all times and to also hold the tube in any shape in which it may be formed for convenient application to the mouth of the patient for ejecting saliva. The tube 1 is also provided with holes 5 adjacent to its outer end through which the saliva may also be drawn in addition to the opening at the end of the tube, it being understood that any number of openings may be provided for the purpose stated.

What is claimed is:—

1. A saliva ejector, comprising a tube of flexible material, and a reinforcement for said tube consisting of a coiled strand of flexible material, the coils of said strand engaging the inner wall of and distending said tube.

2. A saliva ejector, comprising a tube of rubber, and a reinforcement for said tube consisting of a coiled strand of flexible metal, the coils of said strand engaging the inner wall of and distending said tube.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature  
NAPOLEON B. RIDDLE.