

Specification of Henri Schoofs : artificial teeth, gums, and palates.

Contributors

Schoofs, Henri.

Publication/Creation

London : Great Seal Patent Office, 1855 (London : George E. Eyre and William Spottiswoode)

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A.D. 1855 N° 893.

S P E C I F I C A T I O N

OF

HENRI SCHOOFS.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH, GUMS, AND PALATES.

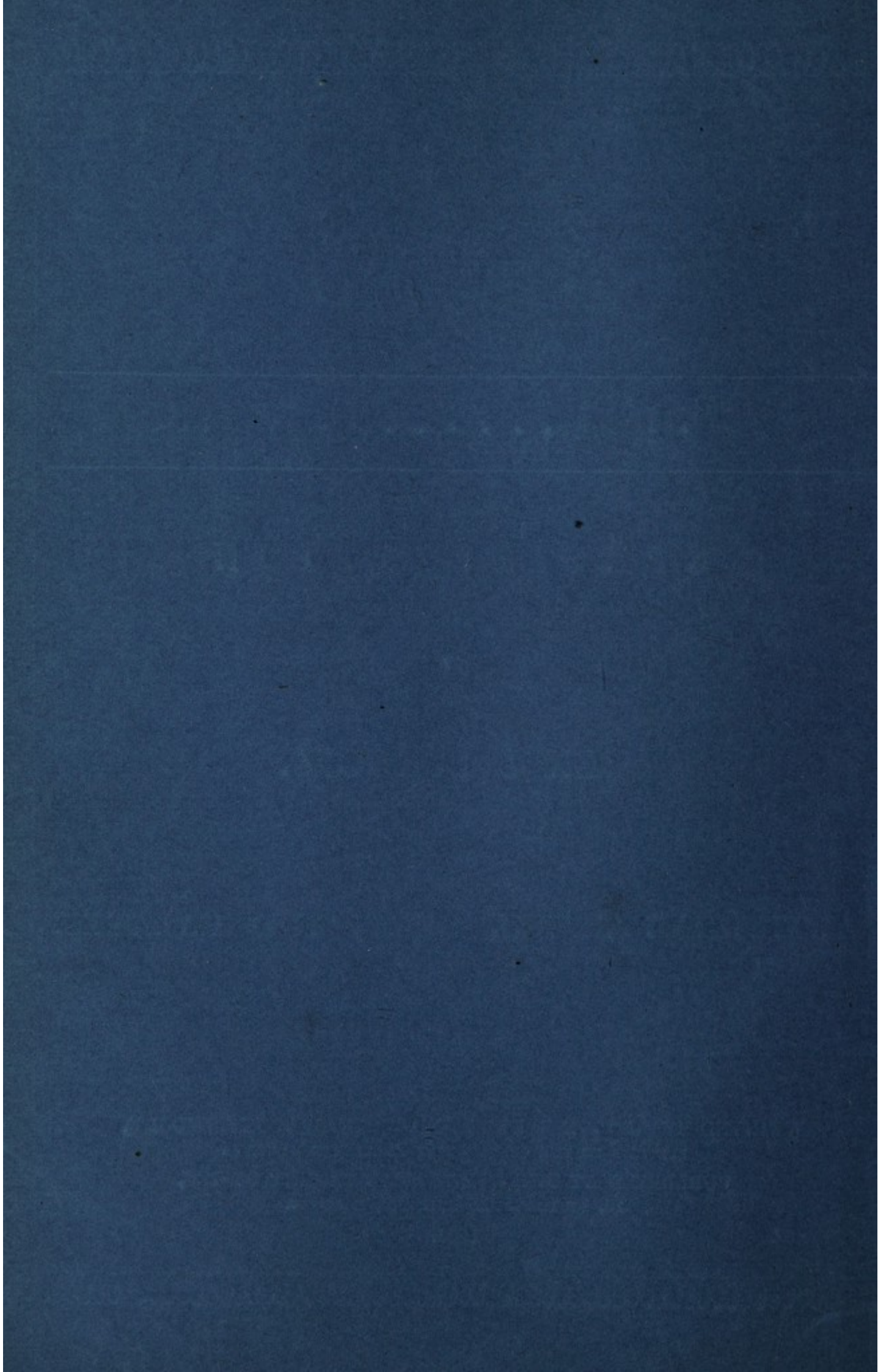
LONDON:

PRINTED BY GEORGE E. EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY :

PUBLISHED AT THE GREAT SEAL PATENT OFFICE,
25, SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS, HOLBORN.

Price 3d.

1855.





A.D. 1855 N° 893.

Artificial Teeth, Gums, and Palates.

LETTERS PATENT to Henri Schoofs, of Saint Gilles, near Brussels, in the Kingdom of Belgium, for the Invention of "IMPROVEMENTS IN MAKING, FIXING, OR ATTACHING ARTIFICIAL TEETH, GUMS, AND PALATES."

Sealed the 13th July 1855, and dated the 21st April 1855.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION filed by the said Henri Schoofs at the Office of the Commissioners of Patents, with his Petition and Declaration, on the 21st April 1855, pursuant to the 9th Section of the Patent Law Amendment Act, 1852.

5 **TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, I, HENRI SCHOOFS**, of Saint Gilles, near Brussels, in the Kingdom of Belgium, send greeting.

WHEREAS I am in possession of an Invention for "IMPROVEMENTS IN MAKING, FIXING, OR ATTACHING ARTIFICIAL TEETH, GUMS, AND PALATES," and have
10 petitioned Her Majesty to grant unto me, my executors, administrators, and assigns, Her Royal Letters Patent for the same, and have made solemn declaration that I verily believe myself to be the true and first Inventor thereof:

NOW KNOW YE, that I, the said Henri Schoofs, do hereby declare that the following Complete Specification, under my hand and seal, fully describes
15 and ascertains the nature of my said Invention, and the manner in which the same is to be performed, that is to say:—

The object of my improvements is principally the prevention of contact (so

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hurtful in result) between metal or other hard and unyielding bodies and the natural organs of the mouth. My improvements may be termed homogenic, by reason of the similarity of the texture or nature of the matters employed, and the mucous membranes of the mouth, and hygienous from the salutary effects consequent on their use. The difference which exists between every 5 case of dental deterioration (and such cases being innumerable) it is impossible, and in fact needless if possible, to file special Drawings of certain cases, and I believe the description which follows will be found sufficient for all practical dentists, enabling them to work out my Invention without difficulty or uncertainty. I proceed as follows:—I take the mould of the maxillary roof 10 or palate with soft wax, and let plaster flow thereon, which will give an exact reproduction of the organ of which impression shall have been taken, and serves as a model for casting a third reproduction in iron, copper, zinc, or other metal. This process is known to all dentists. On the plaster mould the artificial teeth are adjusted, which are intended to replace the natural ones 15 which shall have been destroyed wholly or in part. These artificial teeth may be either mineral or natural. They are maintained in their places below by the help of plugs or stoppers of wax, and above or exteriorly by liquid plaster, with which all the exposed edges are surrounded; the plaster in drying, holds firmly the teeth in their places, and allows the wax, now become useless, 20 to be taken away. The teeth being now in the position they are definitively to retain, their fastenings are completed either by using platina tenons, screw pivots, or gold plate, or gold wire. This incomplete preparation may be offered in the mouth to ascertain the exactitude, and to allow of defects (if any) being remedied, such as bringing forward, putting back, heightening, or 25 lowering one or more of the teeth, which is easily effected by the aid of pincers, the metallic ligaments being very ductile. All the foregoing manipulations or operations are well known to dentists, and from this point I commence the Specification of my improvements. The preparation just described being adjusted, I take the metal mould and heat it sufficiently. I apply on all the 30 corresponding parts near the impaired maxillary roof or palate a layer of gutta percha or caoutchouc, either mixed together or separate, or modified by the mixture of other gums (used plain or colored), according to the greater or less susceptibility of the impaired organs. This layer lies in a ductile or partially melted state by reason of the heat imparted thereto by the metallic mould. 35 On this layer and at their respective places the adjusted (as before described) teeth are placed, and all the fixings of wire or plates are covered by another layer. The second layer amalgamating with the first now forms with the teeth a single solid piece; the last layer as it advances on to the palate or

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roof of the jaw diminishes little by little till it is reduced to nothing, so that the tongue may not encounter any ridge or unevenness that may possibly be avoided. The "modus operandi" is the same for both jaws. When a complete set of teeth is made, and the upper is connected to the lower piece by the
5 springs generally used, which are very hurtful, as the mucous membranes are frequently caught in the spiral springs, and the mucous fills the interior thereof, I cover these springs with a light layer of gutta percha or caoutchouc, so as to close up all the interstices of the rings or spirals, and so exclude from their cavities all matter whatsoever without diminishing their elasticity. To obtain
10 greater durability, I cover those parts replacing the natural gums, palate, or roof of the mouth, that is to say, the internal part of the piece or pieces, with a pellicle of gold, by the assistance of the plastic galvanic pile. This pellicle will not in any degree interfere with or lessen the softness or elasticity of the vegetable matter; or the surface above indicated may be covered with very
15 thin gold leaf. This preparation, having for base a substance the texture or nature of which is similar to that of the organs it covers, so closely adheres, or rather, is in such immediate juxtaposition thereto, that liquids or food, or particles thereof, rarely find their way between its roof and those portions of the mouth on or over which it is applied. It also prevents the admission
20 of air to the nerves of carious teeth, retarding the progress of that disease, and guaranteeing persons troubled with decayed teeth from the pains hitherto attendant thereon; and the absence of all portions of food or other matters has the like tendency as regards the putrid and unhealthy exhalations arising from the latter named causes in the mouth when teeth, gums, or palates are placed
25 therein according to the systems hitherto in use; and having for base, metals and animal substances, which, being hard and inflexible, favour the progress of carious disease, injures the mucous, set on edge the teeth, and occasion hitherto sound teeth to become carious.

Artificial apparatus made according to my Invention allow the most delicate
30 membranes (muqueuses) to support without pain or abrasions the strongest efforts of mastication, and the phlegmasy under which the membranes were suffering previously to the application of such apparatus soon disappears. To place the "piece" or apparatus in the mouth, that part which is to adapt itself to the maxillary palate or roof is warmed, and being softened by the
35 heat it is adjusted in its proper place. The wearer should firmly close his or her teeth during a few, say, three or four, minutes, and the vegetable matter cooling, envelopes or fits so exactly the least natural ruggedness or irregularity, that the "piece" becomes, as it were, rivetted in its position; notwithstanding this, such is its elasticity that it may be removed with little effort.

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Having now described the nature of my Invention, and the means by which I carry it into effect, I wish it to be clearly understood that I lay no claim to the exclusive use of any of the articles or substances herein named, when taken as articles or substances separately, and not in combination in the manner or for the purposes herein-before described; but I do claim as of my Invention, 5 the exclusive use of the Improvements in Making, Fixing, or Attaching Artificial Teeth, Gums, and Palates," having for their base gutta percha or caoutchouc, employed separately or mixed together, or modified with other gums when so employed, in the manner and for the purposes herein-before described. 10

In witness whereof, I, the said Henri Schoofs, have hereunto affixed my hand and seal, this Eighteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty-five.

HENRI SCHOOFS. (L.S.)

Witness,

H. BIEBUYCK,

Rue du Commerce, Brussels.

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Printed by GEORGE EDWARD EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty. 1855.