I have found it to be practically impossible to perfectly clean the surfaces of dental plates, the use of an ordinary toothbrush acting simply to finely groove the exceeding thin film which accumulates thereon, and utterly failing to remove the whole thereof.

The object of this invention is the effecting of a device whereby such film can be entirely cleansed away and the surfaces of the dentitions and plate can be given a polishing which renders the same entirely unobjectionable to the most sensitive of users, and absolutely free of any medium for the reception and spread of bacteria.

In carrying my invention into effect, I prefer to have the device in the general shape of a well known form of tooth brush, but with several of the bristles replaced by a downwardly projecting lip carrying a yielding scouring jacket of fibrous material.

In the drawings forming part of this specification, Fig. 1 is a side view of a device embodying my improvements. Fig. 2 is a similar view but with the polishing jacket removed. Fig. 3 is an under view of the latter. Fig. 4 is a cross section on a larger scale on the line 4—4 in Fig. 1. Fig. 5 is a detail view of the spring clamp by which the polishing jacket is secured in place. Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the polishing jacket.

The handle 1 of the device is not unlike that of a well-known form of tooth-brush, having preferably a few bristles 2 spaced from its end 3. Between the bristles and this end, there is formed a lip 4, either integral with the handle or suitably attached thereto; the same being approximately rectangular in outline as viewed from the side, as illustrated in Fig. 2, but having its edges rounded.

Upon this lip is slipped a cap or jacket 5, composed of fabric, felt, chamois skin or other soft fibrous material; as shown in Fig. 6. Lamp-wicking I find to be a most excellent fabric for the purpose.

Parallel with and spaced from the lower margin of the cap or jacket 5 is a line of stitches 6 for creating a thicker scouring cushion 7 thereto.

Near the upper part of the lip 4 is a depression 9 in one or both sides, designed for the purpose of ensuring the retention of the jacket upon the lip by its co-operation with a spring clip 10 shown in Fig. 5. This clip is composed of spring wire and has inwardly reaching bends 11 positioned, when the clip is arranged parallel with the handle, as illustrated in Fig. 1, to press the jacket sides into the depression or depressions 9 and thereby to accomplish the desired purpose.

The ends of the clip are preferably inwardly curved to a slight extent in order to sink into the fabric and thereby to be in no danger of scratching any object with which the cleanser may be used.

I find it to be necessary to make the lip and its fibrous covering 5 quite deep to enable it to reach into the convolutions and recesses of the dentitions especially those of the plate of a set of upper teeth.

The bristles 2 are preferably provided in order to permit the cleanser to reach into and dislodge any accumulations between the teeth. The fibrous covering 5 is not only of great value in cleaning sets of false teeth, but it is equally useful for people having natural teeth, the same being used to give thereto a perfect cleaning and scouring impossible to bristles alone. Especially is this true for young children whose gums are so tender as to render the use of a bristle tooth brush highly injurious.

I am aware that it is old to provide a handle with fabric cleansing surfaces, but I believe it to be both novel and highly valuable to provide a handle with a fibrous cleansing element disposed in the way set forth, and made so convenient for removal and replenishment with a fresh one.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. A dental cleansing device comprising a handle, a thin lip projecting therefrom at right angles thereto and having a recess in each side, a cap composed of soft fibrous material enclosing said lip, and means for pressing adjacent portions of said cap into said recesses, said means consisting of a spring clip of hairpin form having projections cooperating with said recesses and having its ends turned in slightly.

2. A dental cleansing device comprising a handle, a thin approximately rectangular lip projecting therefrom at right angles thereto, and a fabric cap enclosing said lip,
and having a line of stitches spaced from its outermost edge to form a cushion theret.

3. A dental cleansing device comprising a handle, a lip projecting therefrom near one end at right angles thereto, a fibrous cap enclosing said lip, and bristles projecting from the handle adjacent the inner end of said lip and positioned in a row in alinement with said lip between the latter and the end of the handle.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing invention, I have hereunto set my hand this 3rd day of July, 1926.

ADONIRAM BIRD COUGH.