CLAIMS

1. A dental cleaning appliance comprising:

a handle;

a fluid delivery system for delivering a burst of working fluid to the teeth of a user, at least part of the fluid delivery system being moveable relative to the handle as the appliance is moved along the teeth of the user;

a sensor for providing an output which varies with movement of said at least part of the fluid delivery system relative to the handle; and

a control circuit for actuating the delivery of working fluid to the teeth of the user depending on the output from the sensor.

2. An appliance according to claim 1, comprising a component connected to the said at least part of the fluid delivery system for movement therewith, and wherein the sensor is arranged to provide an output which varies with movement of the component relative to the handle.

3. An appliance according to claim 2, wherein the component comprises a support for supporting said at least part of the fluid delivery system.

4. An appliance according to claim 2 or claim 3, comprising an arm connected to the support for movement therewith, and wherein the sensor is arranged to provide an output which varies with movement of the arm relative to the handle.

5. An appliance according to any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein the component comprises a magnet.

6. An appliance according to claim 5, wherein the sensor is arranged to generate an output which varies depending on the relative positions between the sensor and the magnet.

7. An appliance according to claim 5 or claim 6, wherein the sensor is a Hall effect sensor.

8. An appliance according to any preceding claim, wherein said at least part of the fluid delivery system comprises a nozzle from which the burst of working fluid is delivered to the teeth of a user.

9. An appliance according to claim 8, wherein the nozzle is biased for movement relative to the handle in a direction which urges the nozzle against a user's teeth during use of the appliance.

10. An appliance according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the nozzle is biased for movement relative to the handle along a curved path.

11. An appliance according to any one of claims 8 to 10, wherein said at least part of the fluid delivery system comprises a fluid conduit for conveying the burst of working fluid to the nozzle.

12. An appliance according to claim 11, wherein the fluid conduit is moveable with the nozzle.

13. An appliance according to claim 12, wherein the fluid conduit is connected to or engages the nozzle.

14. An appliance according to any one of claims 11 to 13, wherein the sensor is arranged to provide an output which varies with movement of the fluid conduit relative to the handle.

15. An appliance according to any one of claims 8 to 14, comprising a head and a stem extending between the head and the handle, and wherein the nozzle protrudes outwardly from the head.

16. An appliance according to claim 15, wherein the nozzle is moveable relative to the head.

17. An appliance according to claim 16, wherein the nozzle is biased for movement relative to the head in a direction extending away from the head.

18. An appliance according to claim 17, wherein the nozzle is moveable relative to the head between a distal position and a proximal position.

19. An appliance according to claim 18, wherein the control circuit is configured to actuate the delivery of working fluid to the teeth of the user in response to movement of the nozzle to or from the distal position.

20. An appliance according to any preceding claim, wherein the control circuit is configured to actuate the delivery of working fluid to the teeth of the user depending on the rate of change of the output from the sensor.

21. An appliance according to any preceding claim, wherein the sensor is located in the handle.