CLAIMS

1. A cover for a medical scoping device shaft, the cover comprising an elongate tubular member and being arranged for application over a distal tip of the medical scoping device shaft with the cover extending along at least a part of the length of a distal end of the shaft, the tubular member comprising an inner surface at least a part of which grips the shaft and holds the cover in place and an outer surface comprising a plurality of spaced projecting elements wherein the spaced projecting elements are hinged and attached to an outer surface of the elongate tubular member, each projecting element having a tip and a base, the projecting elements being moveable about their hinged bases by an angle of between 0° (wherein the tips of the projecting elements point towards a proximal end of the medical scoping device) to an angle of 170-180° (wherein that the tips of the projecting elements point towards the distal end of the scoping medical device) or any angle between 0 and 170-180°.

2. A cover according to claim 1, wherein the projecting elements are moveable between a first resting position to a second position wherein the tip of the projecting element is substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the medical scoping device and to a third position that is at an angle approximately perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the medical scoping device shaft so that the said projecting elements are fanned out to contact with and provide support for and to dilate a lumen wall of a body passage into which the medical scoping device has been inserted, the projecting elements being moveable beyond the third position to a fourth position wherein they flick over at a critical point so that the tips of the projecting elements point towards the distal end of the scoping medical device so that the medical scoping device can be withdrawn through the orifice into which it was initially inserted.

3. A cover according to claim either 1 or 2, wherein attachment of the projecting elements ~~are attached or moulded~~ to the outer surface of the elongate tubular member is either by being formed integrally therewith or by being moulded thereto. ~~and the bases of the projecting elements are hinged onto the outer surface of the elongate tubular member; or~~

~~the projecting elements are attached or moulded at their base to circumferentially positioned cross members and the bases of the projecting elements are hinged.~~

4. A cover according to any preceding claim, wherein the cover is arranged for application over the medical scoping device shaft so as to surround it and to extend along at least a tip region of the shaft.