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# United States Patent [19]

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Linder

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[54] **SELF-ILLUMINATING INTRODUCER**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

[21] Appl. No.: **593,135**

A self-illuminating introducer (10) that is inserted into an endotracheal catheter to aid in the intubation of the catheter into the laryngeal and tracheal passageway of a patient. The introducer (10) features a chemiluminescent vial (20) that is attached into and projects from the distal end of an elongated pliable tube (12) or is enclosed within the distal portion of an elongated pliable tube. The vial (20) is made of a pliable plastic having a glass liner (28). The vial contains a liquid reactant (34) and encloses a glass ampule (30) that contains an oxidizer. When the tube (12) is bent or pressed around the area encompassing the vial (20), the vial is also depressed which causes the ampule (30) to break allowing the oxidizer to mix with the reactant to produce a chemiluminescent light that is emitted from the front end of the tube (12). The introducer (10) can also be designed to include an inflatable sheath (50) that when inflated, allows a safer and more comfortable intubation.

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[51] Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup> ..... **A61M 16/00**

[52] U.S. Cl. .... **128/200.26; 128/207.14;**  
128/207.18; 128/11

[58] Field of Search ..... 128/200.26, 207.14,  
128/207.15, 207.18, 772, 11; 600/212, 223

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**21 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets**

