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(54) **Endoscope coping with autoclave sterilization**

(57) An insertion portion 2 of an endoscope 1 is configured by sequentially connecting a distal end section 20, a bending section 30, and a flexible tube section 60. The distal end section 20 is composed of a main body 23 and a front end cover 24. Both end portions of bending rubber 31 covering a bending tube 40 constituting the bending section 30 are wrapped with threads 32 and 33, respectively. These threads 32 and 33 crush the bending rubber 31 radially inward. Consequently, the inner perimetric surface of the bending rubber 31 is brought into the state of being intimate contact with the outer surfaces

of the distal end section 20, the bending tube 40, and a joint tube 52, so as to be fixed watertight. When these threads 32 and 33 are wound around the bending rubber 31, the winding is carried out with a predetermined amount of force in order that the thickness of the bending rubber 31 becomes within 40 percent to 95 percent of the thickness of the bending rubber in the natural state and, thereby, thread-wrapped portions 34 and 35 are formed.

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FIG.3

