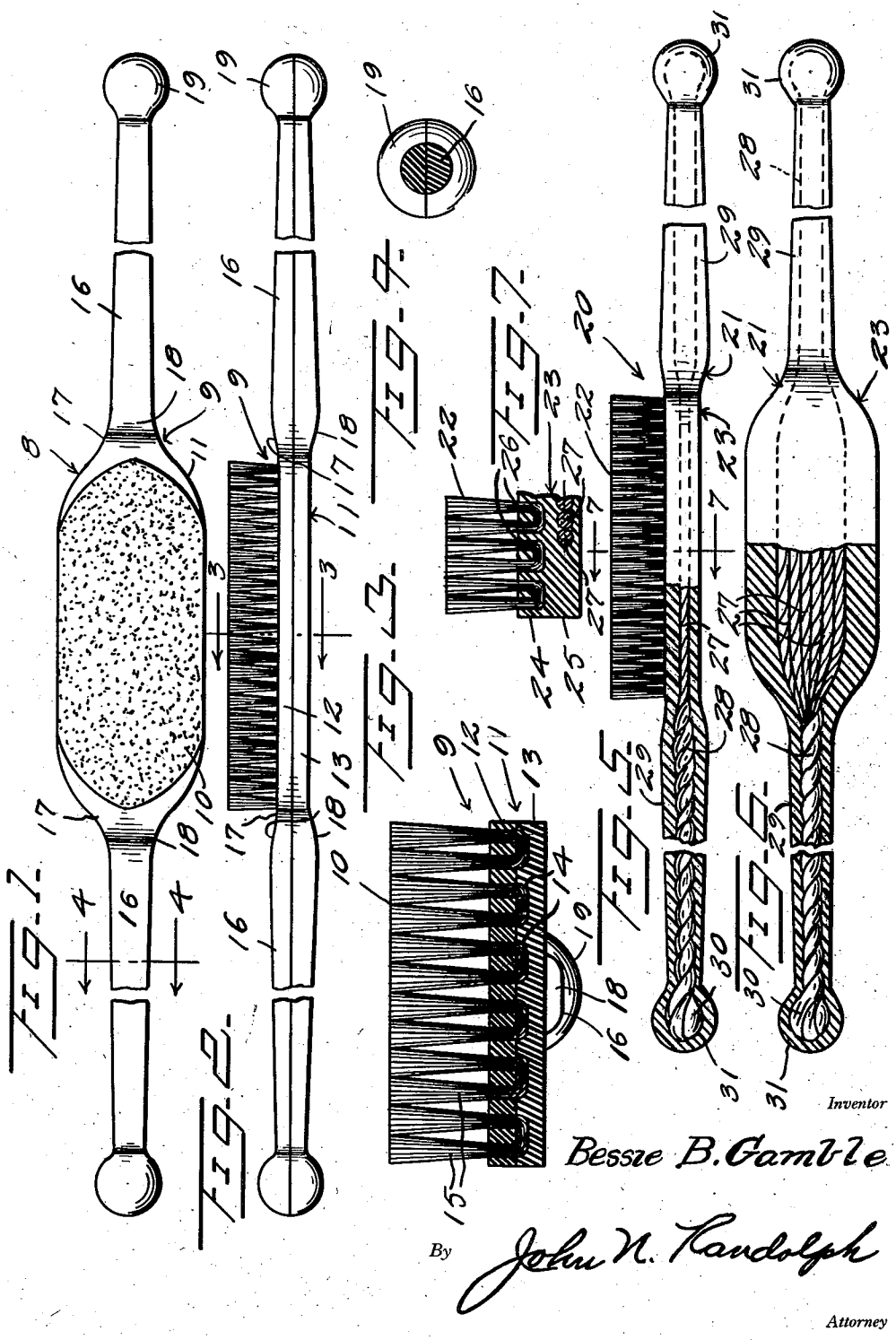
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BATH BRUSH

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BATH BRUSH

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2 Claims. (Cl. 15—160)

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This invention relates to a novel construction of bath brush especially adapted for use in washing the back and shoulders and which is of flexible construction so that the bristle portion thereof can be positioned to engage any part of the back or shoulders.

Another object of the invention is to provide a flexible bath brush having elongated handles projecting from the ends thereof and which may be engaged for moving the brush in a back and forth movement across any part of the back or shoulders.

A further object of the invention is to provide a brush having elongated flexible handles which are substantially circular and relatively small in cross section to enable them to be conveniently grasped and held at any angle and which will afford a relatively restricted surface for engagement with the back for preventing the handle portions from sticking or clinging to the body while the brush is in use or at least to minimize any tendency of said elongated handles to thus stick or cling to the body.

A further object of the invention is to provide a bath brush having a novelly constructed head in which the bristles are effectively anchored in a manner so that the brush head can flex to maintain the bristle surface of the brush in contact with any contour of the back or shoulders and wherein the bristles are so mounted with respect to the brush head that there will be no pull or strain exerted thereon when the brush head is bowed longitudinally to conform generally to the curvature of the portion of the body which the bristle surface of the brush is engaging.

Still a further object of the invention is to provide a brush including a brush head and elongated, rope-like handles formed of a flexible molded material and including portions possessing different degrees of flexibility.

Various other objects and advantages of the invention will hereinafter become more fully apparent from the following description of the drawing, illustrating preferred embodiments thereof, and wherein:

Figure 1 is a bottom plan view of one form of the bath brush;

Figure 2 is a side elevational view thereof;

Figure 3 is an enlarged cross sectional view through the brush taken substantially along a plane as indicated by the line 3—3 of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a cross sectional view through one of the handles taken substantially along a plane as indicated by the line 4—4 of Figure 1;

Figure 5 is a side elevational view, partly in longitudinal section of another form of the bath brush;

Figure 6 is a top plan view, partly in longitudinal section thereof, and

Figure 7 is a fragmentary cross sectional view

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thereof taken substantially along a plane as indicated by the line 7—7 of Figure 5.

Referring more specifically to the drawing and first with reference to the form of the invention as illustrated in Figures 1 to 4, the bath brush as disclosed therein and comprising one preferred form of the invention is designated generally 8 and includes a brush, designated generally 9 composed of a bristled portion 10 and a head, designated generally 11.

The brush head 11 includes an inner section 12 and an outer section 13, as best illustrated in Figure 3, each of which sections is relatively wide and thick and substantially flat and preferably formed of a relatively non-elastic rubber or rubber composition. The brush head section 12 is of a less flexible construction than the outer brush head section 13 due to the taper and said section 12 is provided with a plurality of longitudinally spaced rows of apertures 14 the apertures of each of which rows are disposed in transversely spaced relationship. The bristle portion 10 is composed of a plurality of groups of bristles 15 which are folded back upon themselves and the end portions of each group of bristles 15 are passed outwardly through two adjacent transversely spaced apertures 14 to form complementary outwardly projecting tufts of bristles. Accordingly, the two tufts of each group of bristles 15 are disposed in transversely spaced relationship with respect to the brush 9, for a purpose which will hereinafter become apparent. After the bristles have all thus been mounted relatively to the inner brush head section 12, the sections 12 and 13 are positioned in abutting engagement as illustrated in Figures 2 and 3 and are suitably sealed or bonded together in any desired manner as by vulcanizing.

The bath brush 9 also includes corresponding elongated rope-like handles 16 one of which is formed integral with and projects from each end of the elongated brush head 11 and the end portions of the brush head 11 accordingly taper in width as indicated at 17 to merge with the inner ends of the handles 16. Said handles 16 are preferably circular in cross section and of a diameter at their inner ends somewhat greater than the thickness of the brush head 11 and are accordingly beveled on opposite sides thereof, as indicated at 18, to merge with the upper and lower surfaces of the brush head 11. The elongated rope-like handles 16 preferably taper toward their outer ends and each terminates in an enlargement 19 at its outer end which is preferably substantially spherical. The handles 16 are likewise formed of nonelastic rubber or rubber composition preferably possessing a relatively high degree of flexibility substantially corresponding to that of the outer brush head section 13.

The bath brush 8 may be made in various sizes

for convenient use by men, women and children, preferably being thirty-three inches in length from end-to-end of the handles and the brush head 11 is preferably about nine inches long.

From the foregoing it will be readily apparent that the bath brush 8 can be used by grasping one of the enlargements or knobs 19 with each hand for positioning the bristle surface 10 of the brush 9 against any part of the back or shoulders and said brush 8 can be operated with a back and forth motion for washing any part of the back or shoulders. The flexibility of the brush head 11 will permit the bristle surface 10 to readily adapt itself to the contour or shape of any portion of the body engaged thereby and the handles 16 and enlargements 19 will afford surfaces which may be readily gripped for positioning the brush head at any desired angle with respect to any part of the back or shoulders. Furthermore, the circular cross sectional shape of the handles 16 will produce a very limited surface of said handles which will contact the body while the brush is in use to thereby minimize the tendency of the handles to stick or cling to the back when wet. The transverse disposition of the end portions or tufts of each of the groups of bristles 15 will permit the brush 9 to flex transversely without subjecting the bristles to strain or pull.

Figures 5, 6 and 7 illustrate a slightly different embodiment of the invention comprising a bath brush, designated generally 20 which is substantially identical in shape and size to the bath brush 8 and wherein the brush proper, designated generally 21 is composed of a bristle portion 22 and a brush head, designated generally 23 and which is likewise composed of an inner section 24 and an outer section 25. The sections 24 and 25 are formed of plastic rather than rubber or rubber composition and the section 24 is provided with openings 26, corresponding to the openings 14 and by means of which the groups of bristles forming the bristle portion 22 are mounted in the brush head 23 in the same manner as the bristles are mounted in the brush head 11. The brush head sections 24 and 25 are sealed or bonded together in any suitable manner. The brush head section 25 differs from the brush head section 13 in that it is reinforced by a plurality of strands 27 of cord or the like and which extend longitudinally therethrough, preferably spaced from the side edges thereof. The strands 27 are of a length to extend substantially beyond each end of the brush head 21 and the end portions thereof are twisted to form ropes 28 which are imbedded longitudinally in handles 29, corresponding in shape externally to the handles 16 and which project from the ends of the brush head 21 and are formed integral therewith. The ropes 28 have enlargements 30 at their terminals which are imbedded in the knobs or enlargements 31 on the outer ends of the handles 29. The plastic forming the handles 29 possesses a degree of flexibility substantially the equivalent of that of the outer brush head section 25 and considerably greater than the flexibility of the inner brush head section 24. As previously stated, the external size and shape of the brush head 21 and handles 29 are substantially the same as that of the brush head 11 and handles 16, respectively. The bath brush 20 is utilized in the same manner and for the same purpose as the bath brush 8 and a description of its operation and use will therefore not be repeated.

Various modifications and changes in the embodiments of the invention as disclosed are contemplated and may obviously be resorted to, without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention as hereinafter defined by the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. A bath brush comprising a brush head, elongated handles projecting from each end of the brush head, an enlargement on the outer end of each handle, said brush head and handles being formed of a relatively flexible material, and a plurality of tufts of bristles embedded in and anchored to the brush head and having end portions projecting outwardly from spaced portions of one side thereof, said brush head and handles being integrally formed, and reinforcing means extending longitudinally through the brush head and handles, said reinforcing means comprising a plurality of strands of rope material disposed in side by side relationship extending longitudinally through the brush head and having twisted end portions extending therebeyond and forming ropes disposed in the handles and in the enlargements for reinforcing and strengthening the brush head and handles.

2. A bath brush comprising a brush head, elongated handles projecting from each end of the brush head, an enlargement on the outer end of each handle, said brush head and handles being formed of a relatively flexible material, and a plurality of tufts of bristles embedded in and anchored to the brush head and having end portions projecting outwardly from spaced portions of one side thereof, said brush head and handles being integrally formed, and reinforcing means extending longitudinally through the brush head and handles, said reinforcing means comprising a plurality of strands of rope material disposed in side by side relationship extending longitudinally through the brush head and having twisted end portions extending therebeyond and forming ropes disposed in the handles and in the enlargements for reinforcing and strengthening the brush head and handles, said imbedded bristle portions being spaced from the portions of the reinforcing means which extend through the brush head, and said handles possessing a greater degree of flexibility than the brush head.

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