To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, John Wirth, a citizen of Austria, and a resident of the city of New York, borough of Manhattan, in the county and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Hair Drier and Comber, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to a hair drier and comber, the primary object of the invention being to comb as well as dry the hair by means of a large number of air jets or currents directed around the hair and longitudinally through the hair in a direction away from the scalp.

A further object is to provide a device of this character which will receive the hair and which will, by means of teeth constituting the comb, direct the jets or currents of air longitudinally through the scalp to thoroughly dry the hair and at the same time prevent entanglement of the hair during the drying operation, so that when the operation is completed the hair will not only be thoroughly dry but will be thoroughly combed without discomfort to the patient and without pulling out a large quantity of hair as is ordinarily the case with combing and drying devices in general use.

A further object is to provide a device of this character in which pure air heated to any desired temperature may be properly directed as above stated for best results.

A further object is to utilize in a hair drying device or apparatus currents or jets of warm, pure air under the desired pressure and in a direction away from the scalp for quickly, uniformly and easily drying the hair.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists in certain novel features of construction and combinations and arrangements of parts which will be more fully hereinafter described and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings—

Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating one form of my improved hair drier and comber in operative position;

Figure 2 is a view in transverse section through my improved scalp mask; the view being taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 4;

Figure 3 is a view in transverse section on the line 3—3 of Figure 4;

Figure 4 is a view in longitudinal section through the scalp mask and a portion of the hood;

Figure 5 is a view in longitudinal section through the scalp mask and hood, showing the parts in operative position;

Figure 6 is a view in longitudinal section through the scalp mask, the view being taken at right angles to Figure 4;

Figure 7 is a view, similar to Figure 6, illustrating a modification, the view being taken on the line 7—7 of Figure 8;

Figure 8 is a view in rear elevation of the scalp mask shown in Figure 7;

Figure 9 is a view in longitudinal section illustrating an air heating, purifying and blowing apparatus.

Referring more particularly to Figures 1 to 6 of the drawings, 1 represents what I term a scalp mask. This device 1 may be made of any desired shape, of any desired material, and heat insulated or protected in any manner to suit the trade. I have illustrated the mask as of general circular form having an annular cushion 2 at its forward edge to render the device comfortable to the patient and to allow it to be snuggly fitted against the head or scalp for the combing and drying operation.

This scalp mask 1 is in the form of a ring having an annular chamber 3 therein into which air is directed under any suitable pressure and any desired temperature. As a convenient means for supplying this air I show an apparatus 5, which constitutes a combined heater, air purifier and blower, that forces a current of air through a pipe 6 and from the latter through branch pipes 7, said branch pipes 7 discharging into the opposite sides of the chamber 3 of mask 1.

While of course my invention is not limited to any particular form of heat purifying, blowing or blast device, I have illustrated in Figure 9 a convenient mechanism in which a heater 8 is provided around a central flue 10 which communicates with the pipe 6. In this flue 10 I provide a blower 11 which may be driven by an electric motor 12, and at the lower end of the casing 5 I provide an inlet compartment 13 which may contain any air purifying material through which the air is drawn to the blower and heated in its discharge through the flue.

As above stated, however, this air may be purified and heated in any approved manner.
and forced into the mask 1 and, if desired, atmospheric air may be employed where conditions are favorable.

The mask 1 as provided at opposite sides with combs 14, each comb having a series of teeth 15 projecting through the annular air chamber 3 and across the passage through the mask. These teeth 15 are made hollow and have air entrance slots 16 communicating with the chamber 3. Furthermore, these teeth within the mask proper are provided with discharge orifices 17 in the rear faces of the teeth so that the air currents or jets discharge rearwardly.

It will be noted that the teeth of the respective combs are arranged alternately so as to occupy a relatively large amount of space within the mask. These combs are so mounted that they can be drawn outwardly, 10 as indicated in dotted lines in Figure 2, to allow the hair 18 of the patient 19 to be readily inserted through the mask and supported in a tubular hood 20 secured around the rear end of the mask. This hood 20 may be of any suitable material but, preferably, of flexible material such as canvas and the like for lightness, and a suitable screen 21 is provided in the rear end of the hood 20 to prevent loose hair from blowing into the room.

It will also be noted, particularly by reference to Figure 3, that the rear wall of the annular chamber 3 of mask 1 is provided with a circular series of orifices 22 through which air from said chamber is directed rearwardly through the hood and around the outside of the volume of hair.

In operation the hair is placed through the mask 1 and into the mask 20, and the mask is located as close to the scalp as possible. To facilitate the entrance of the hair, the combs are first drawn outwardly, as indicated in dotted lines in Figure 2, and then are forced backwardly into position so that the teeth enter the hair when the air blast is turned on. The greater portion of the air is directed through the teeth 15 and away from the scalp of the patient in a large number of relatively fine jets so that this air tends to separate the hairs as well as dry all portions of the hair and at the same time straightens out the hair so that it actually combs as well as dries the hair and prevents entanglement of the hair.

Furthermore, the orifices 22 in the rear of the mask 1 direct a large number of jets or currents of air around the outside of the hair so that the outer portions of the hair as well as the inner portions thereof are subjected to drafts or jets of air directed away from the scalp so that the hair is quickly dried and entanglements prevented. Furthermore, this results in little, if any, discomfort to the patient as there is little, if any, pulling action on the hair and certainly not sufficient to pull out hairs or otherwise cause discomfort to the patient.

The invention, therefore, resides broadly in the arrangement of mask and combs which direct the air away from the scalp in jets or currents as strong as desired and as warm as desired so as to give the best and quickest results.

As a modified form, I would call attention to Figures 7 and 8. This form of device follows the preferred form in all essential features of construction except that instead of providing combs or teeth projecting through the mask I provide teeth 28 which are fixed to the inner face of the mask 24 and curve slightly rearwardly as they project toward the center of the mask. These teeth have rearwardly discharging nozzles 25 at their ends and are also perforated in their rear faces so as to properly direct the air jets or currents. By reason of this shape of tooth I am enabled to place the mask more closely to the scalp but, in other respects, the operation is the same, and the function is to direct jets or blasts of air longitudinally through the hair in a direction away from the scalp so as to quickly dry the same without entangling the hair or pulling out the hair which results in undue loss of hair.

In placing this device, shown in Figure 7, against the head, the hair is first projected into the device and the device moved against the head, and as the air is blown it will straighten out the hair and allow the device to be placed nearer the scalp, the back of the head resting well within the device and as close to the nozzles as possible.

An apparatus or device such as above described may of course be used in tonnsorial parlors, beauty parlors, etc., but it is well adapted for use in the home as the device can be made, installed and used at very little expense.

While in most cases it is desirable to have some form of air heating and purifying apparatus, this is capable of a wide range of modification and may be dispensed with altogether if desired, and I do not limit myself either to the employment of such a device or to the details of construction above described, but, as my invention is directed broadly to the construction and arrangement of mask and the manner of directing the air to give the results as set forth, various slight changes might therefore be made in the general form of the parts described without departing from my invention, and hence I do not limit myself to the precise details set forth but consider myself at liberty to make such slight changes and alterations as fairly fall within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A device of the character described, comprising a mask adapted to receive hair
to be dried, and teeth in the mask adapted to project into the hair and having rearwardly discharging orifices therein whereby the air is directed longitudinally of the hair and away from the scalp of the patient.

2. A device of the character described, comprising a mask adapted to be located close to the scalp of the patient and receive the hair therethrough, said mask comprising a hollow chamber and teeth projecting into the mask and communicating with the hollow chamber, and having rearwardly discharging orifices therein, and means for directing air into the chamber of the mask.

3. A device of the character described, comprising a mask having an annular air chamber therein, means for directing air under suitable pressure into the chamber, combs on opposite sides of the mask, teeth on said combs movable through the annular chamber of the mask, said teeth having openings therein communicating with the chamber and other openings in their rear faces discharging rearwardly of the mask.

4. A device of the character described, comprising a mask having an annular air chamber therein, means for directing air under suitable pressure into the chamber, combs on opposite sides of the mask, and teeth on said combs movable through the annular chamber of the mask, said teeth having openings therein communicating with the chamber, and other openings in their rear faces discharging the air rearwardly of the mask, and said annular chamber having air discharging orifices in its rear wall.

5. A device of the character described, comprising a scalp mask having an annular air chamber, means for directing air into the chamber, combs at opposite sides of the mask, and teeth on the combs movable through the annular chamber, said teeth being hollow and having openings therein communicating with the chamber when the teeth are in their innermost positions, said teeth being hollow and having orifices in their rear faces.

6. A device of the character described, comprising a scalp mask, a flexible hood fixed to the mask, a screened outlet on the hood, hollow teeth in the mask, and means for forcing air through the mask and through the teeth and rearwardly of the mask through the hood whereby a plurality of jets or currents of air are directed through the hair in the mask and hood and in a direction away from the scalp of the patient.

JOHN WIRTH.