

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBERT E. HUGHES, OF DARIEN, CONNECTICUT.

SOAP TABLET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 766,254, dated August 2, 1904.

Application filed June 18, 1901. Serial No. 65,074. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT E. HUGHES, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Darien, Fairfield county, Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Tablets, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in tablets, with particular relation to individual soap tablets of the class adapted for use but once only. Many object, for sanitary reasons, to the use of the ordinary soap provided in public places—such as hotels, office buildings, and railway-cars—where many people may successively make use of the same piece of soap. Many endeavors have been made to produce a means to overcome this objection, but none of them have gone into extensive use. The use of soap powder for such purposes is wasteful and where used in delivering-tubes has been found to choke the apparatus governing the delivery, and so render it ineffective. In overcoming this latter objection small soap tablets have been prepared; but they have proved to be practically useless, as they have been difficult of disintegration, and consequently hard to use.

By my invention I have provided a soap tablet or ball having a protective shell sufficiently hard to withstand ordinary handling and transportation and a comparatively loose interior, the whole being capable of easy disintegration when brought into contact with water in the ordinary use of the toilet. Each tablet is preferably of the size desired for use once only. The tablets may be carried about in any convenient receptacle adapted to hold as many as desired or may be used in connection with a delivering apparatus delivering one or more at a time. I thus obviate waste, as there is no excess of soap used, and prevent the choking of the delivering apparatus, as the same may be adapted for safely delivering a predetermined number at a time.

I shall describe a tablet embodying my invention, stating a preferable means for making the same, the features of my invention

being more particularly pointed out in the claims.

In preparing my tablet I preferably use a preparation in powdered form either of pure dry soap of any desirable kind or of soap mingled with any desirable substance to be used as a filler. This powder is lightly pressed in molds of suitable form, preferably spherical, the compression being sufficient to hold the particles together for the subsequent operation, but not sufficient to hold them permanently together. The resulting tablet or form is treated with some suitable substance which may be applied in solution and which, in conjunction with the powder, will form a coat or shell sufficiently hard and firm to enable the tablets to bear handling and transportation. This coating may be applied in the form of a spray, or the tablet may be dropped into the solution, it being desirable to avoid handling the tablets during the coating process. The result of this process is a tablet sufficiently firm to bear handling, yet very easily disintegrated on the application of water. The tablets thus made are a sanitary and desirable form of soap for separate individual use in all public places, as heretofore stated.

It is obvious that the exact composition and form of the tablet and the material of and means for forming the shell may be varied without departing from the spirit of my invention.

Having described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. As an article of manufacture a soap tablet having a loose, minutely-divided interior and a shell capable of disintegration in the presence of water, substantially as described.

2. As an article of manufacture a soap tablet having a loose, minutely-divided interior and a hard, soluble shell capable of disintegration in the presence of water, substantially as described.

3. As an article of manufacture, a soap tablet having a loose, minutely-divided interior and a soluble shell capable of disintegration

in the presence of water, substantially as described.

4. As an article of manufacture a soap tablet having a loosely-divided interior and a
5 hardened shell-like exterior capable of disintegration in the presence of water, substantially as described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ALBERT E. HUGHES.

Witnesses:

ELMER E. COOLEY,
SEABURY C. MASTICK.