(No Model.)

H. BERGER.

MANUFACTURE OF FEATHER PILLOWS, BOLSTERS, &c.

No. 253,833. Patented Feb. 21, 1882.

Fig. 1.

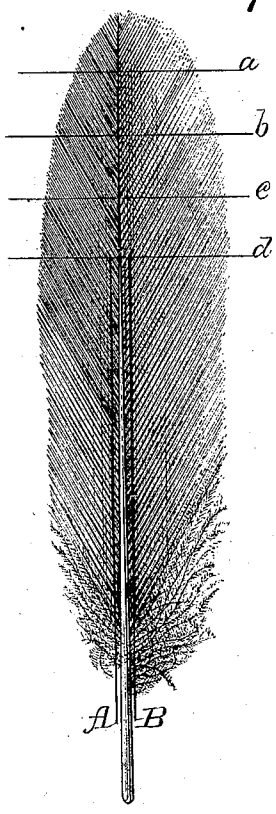
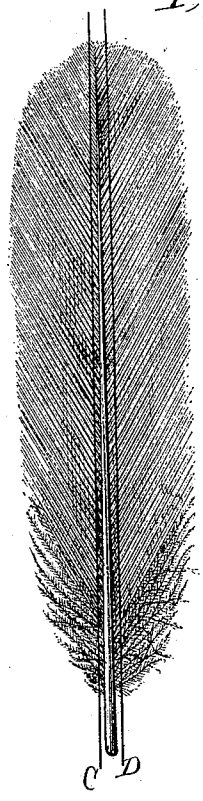


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HERMAN BERGER, OF MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN.

MANUFACTURE OF FEATHER PILLOWS, BOLSTERS, &c.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 253,833, dated February 21, 1882.

Application filed December 16, 1881. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HERMAN BERGER, of Milwaukee, in the county of Milwaukee and State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in the Manufacture of Feather Pillows, Bolsters, Mattresses, &c.; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to a new mode of making pillows, bolsters, and mattresses of feathers; and it consists essentially in preparing the feathers in a new and improved way, so as to produce a very fine article from materials that have hitherto been held and considered by manufacturers to be inferior and nearly worthless.

It is well known that chicken and turkey feathers as heretofore prepared, particularly the latter, have been hard, coarse, and inelastic, and have made only very inferior pillows or mattresses. This occurs on account of the feather having a long and rather stiff quill. I take these kinds of feathers, and by means of any suitable tool or machine for the purpose chop them into short lengths by cutting through the quill at right angles to its length. The lengths should be from one-quarter to one-eighth inch long, according to the size and stiffness of the feathers, the stiffer feathers being cut into the shorter lengths. If the feathers are very coarse and stiff, I remove the quills or stems. After thus preparing the feathers I place them in a case or wrapper in the ordinary well-known way.

In the drawings, Figure 1 represents the method of cutting up the slenderer feathers, while Fig. 2 shows the method of cutting up the coarser and stiffer feathers. In the first, the lines A B represent cuts made along the sides of the feather, close to the quill, up to a point near its extremity, where it grows slender; and *a b c d* denote the lines of cuts across the quill. In the latter figure the lines C D denote cuts extending along the whole length of the quill and close to it. After being thus cut up or hashed the coarsest and most refractory feathers—as chicken or turkey feathers—are rendered nearly as soft and elastic in action as down when massed together in a body in pillows, bolsters, &c.; and pillows can be made of turkey-feathers, which are sold at two to three cents per pound, as soft and every way as desirable as those heretofore made from materials costing more than ten times as much.

My invention is useful in the treatment of all kinds of stiff and refractory and otherwise objectionable feathers. It is equally possible to make pillows, bolsters, or mattresses and cushions from the feathers thus prepared and treated.

I claim—

In the manufacture of pillows, bolsters, cushions, and similar articles, the filling composed of chicken, turkey, or other inferior feathers chopped fine, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

HERMAN BERGER.

Witnesses:
FRANK R. SWEETNAM,
E. H. BOTTUM.