United States Patent [19]

Green

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[54] **MASSAGE DEVICE**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **128/66**

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A61h 9/00**

[58] **Field of Search** 128/66, 38–40, 128/24.1, 24.2

[56] **References Cited**

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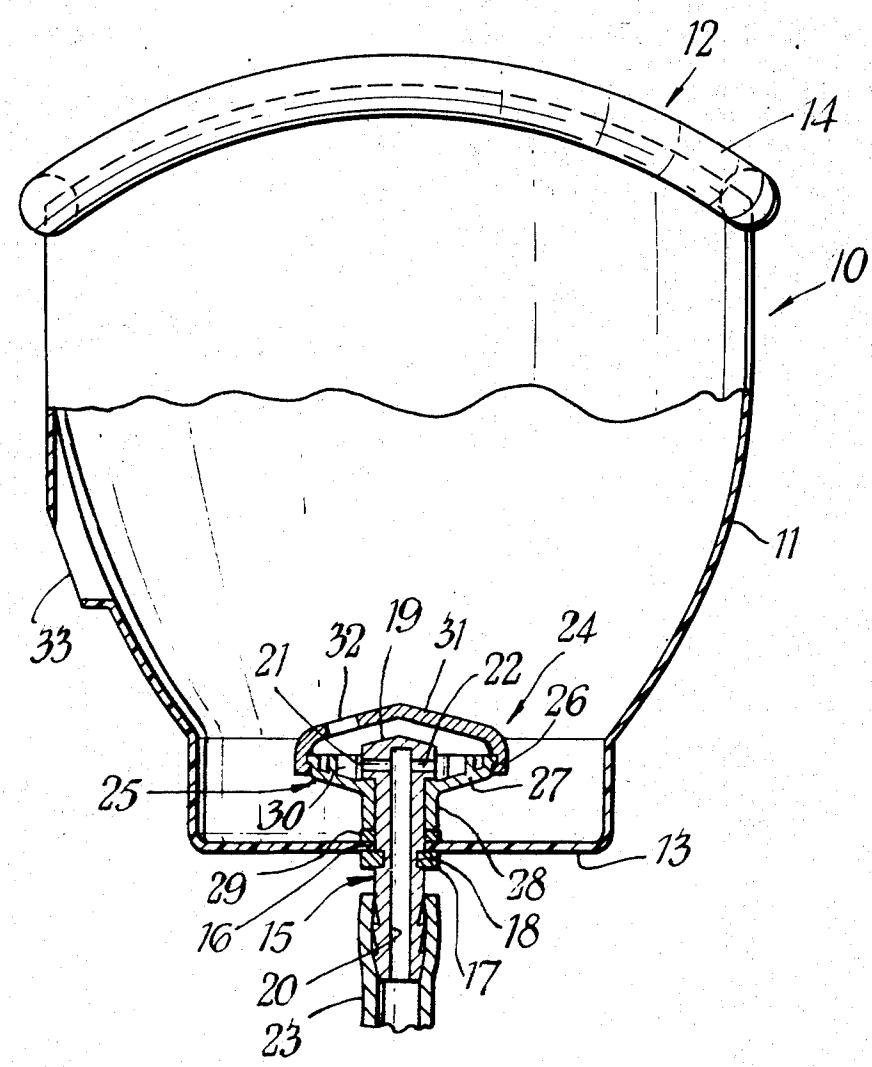
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Primary Examiner—Lawrence W. Trapp
Attorney—Norman F. Oblon et al.

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A massage device for the hydro-therapeutic massage of the human body, the device comprising a bowl having a side wall, an open end adapted to be placed against the body and a closed end with a substantially rigid tubular connector extending through the closed end and forming a conduit constituting an inlet for fluid. A rotatable spray head is mounted for rotation on the connector within the bowl and in communication with the conduit and an outlet for fluid is provided in the side wall of the bowl. In operation, fluid is passed under pressure through the connector to the spray head and the spray head is adapted to rotate under the fluid pressure and spray fluid towards the open end of the bowl so as to massage the surface of that part of the body located within the open end of the bowl.

4 Claims, 2 Drawing Figures



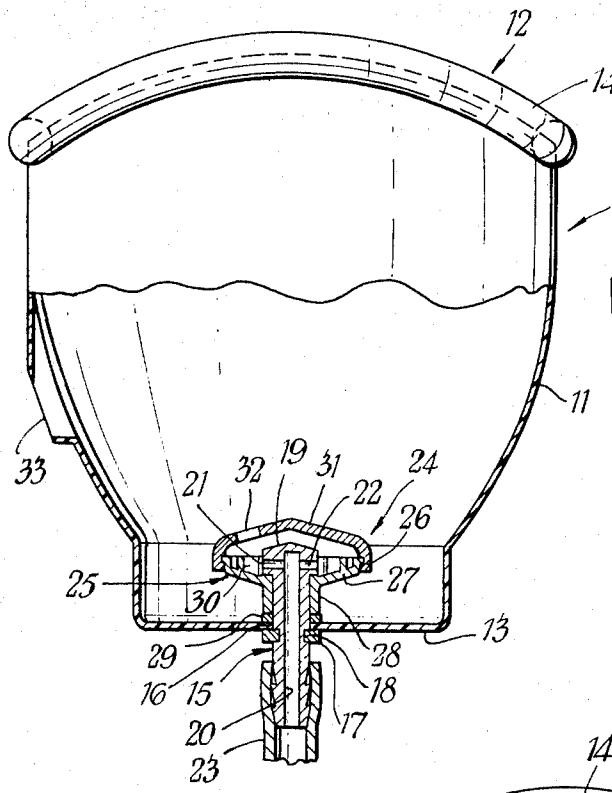

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FIG. 1

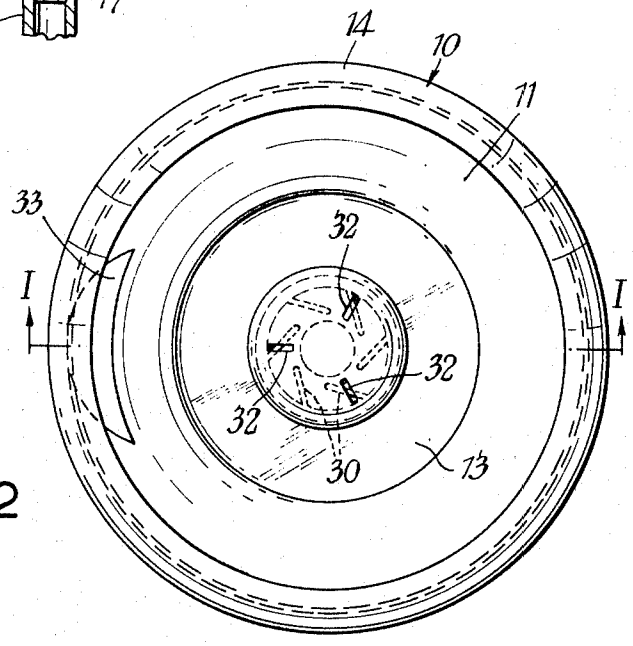

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FIG. 2

MASSAGE DEVICE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a massage device for treating the human body and particularly but not exclusively, for the hydro-therapeutic treatment of the breasts.

Hydro-therapeutic devices have been proposed for subjecting parts of the body and in particular the breast to a spray of water under pressure but these known devices do not provide a uniform and vigorous spray which gives the most beneficial results.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a message device which will provide a uniform and vigorous spray of water on the part of the body to be treated and which thereby produces a massaging effect on the tissues.

STATEMENT OF THE INVENTION

According to the present invention there is provided a massage device for massaging the human body comprising a bowl having a side wall, an open end and a closed end, a substantially rigid tubular connector extending through the closed end of the bowl and forming a conduit constituting an inlet for fluid, a rotatable spray head mounted for rotation on the connector within the bowl and in communication with the said conduit and an outlet for fluid in the side wall of the bowl, wherein the spray head is adapted to rotate when fluid is passed under pressure through the connector to the spray head and to spray fluid towards the open end of the bowl as the spray head rotates.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view of a message device in accordance with the present invention, and

FIG. 2 is an end elevation in the direction of the arrow A of FIG. 1.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

In the drawing, a massage device is indicated generally at **10** which comprises a substantially cup-shaped bowl **11** formed from a transparent synthetic plastics material. The bowl **11** has an open end **12**, which is circular in cross-section, and a closed end **13**. The periphery of the open end **12** undulates, as can be seen from FIG. **1**, having two peaks on opposite sides of the bowl and two troughs, also on opposite sides of the bowl. The undulatory shape of the open end of the bowl assists in forming a seal against the body of the user when the bowl is placed over the breast. The rim of the open end **12** is covered with a moulding **14**, which is preferably formed from a resilient material such as polythene and which assists in forming a water tight seal against the body.

A substantially rigid tubular connector **15** extends through an aperture **16** in the closed end **13** of the bowl **11** and is mounted therein with the aid of a circlip **17** which locates in a groove **18** in the outer surface of the connector adjacent the outer surface of the closed end of the bowl.

The connector **15** has a boss **19** at its inner end, an axial conduit **20** extending into the boss **19** and two transverse bores **21** and **22** in the boss **19** extending outwardly from the conduit **20**. The outer end of the connector **15** is formed with external serrations which

assist in retaining one end of a flexible hose **23** in position on the connector **15**.

A rotatable spray head **24** is mounted on the connector **15** between the boss **19** and the inner face of the closed end **13** of the bowl so as to be freely rotatable relative to the connector.

The spray head **24** comprises a base **25** and a cover plate **26**. The base **25** comprises a cup-shaped portion **27** and an integral sleeve portion **28** which is mounted for rotation on the connector **15**. A washer **29** is clamped between the end of the sleeve portion **28** and the inner face of the end **13** of the bowl to form a seal around the aperture **16** and against the outer surface of the connector **15**.

The cup-shaped portion **27** of the base of the spray head is provided with six tangentially disposed vanes **30** which are so arranged that fluid passed under pressure from the connector **15** into the spray head strikes the vanes **30** and rotates the sprayhead in a clockwise direction as seen in FIG. **2**.

The cover plate **26** of the spray head, which is attached either removably as by screw threads or non-removably by spot-welding, to the base **25**, has a conical face **31** directed towards the open end **12** of the bowl **11** and three equiangularly spaced orifices **32** formed in the conical face.

The wall of the bowl **11** is provided with an outlet slot **33** on one side of the bowl.

In order to use the massage device **10**, one end of the flexible hose **23** is connected to the outer end of the connector **15** and the other end of the hose (not shown) is connected to a source of fluid under pressure, such as a domestic tap. The fluid used may be water or any other preferred fluid such as a medicated aqueous solution and the fluid may be provided at any required temperature. The bowl **11** is then placed over the part of the body to be treated, which may for example be the breast and is held firmly against the body so as to form a water-tight seal between the moulding **14** which surrounds the open end **12** of the bowl **11** and the body. The tap or other means controlling the fluid under pressure is then turned on and fluid under pressure passes through the conduit **20** of the connector **15** via the bores **21** and **22** into the spray head **24** where it strikes the vanes **30** and rotates the spray head. The fluid is then thrown under pressure through the orifices **32** of the rotating spray head towards the open end of the bowl and against the breast which is contained within the bowl.

The arrangement of the vanes **30** in the spray head **24** is such that the pressure of the fluid rotates the spray head at a speed which will be determined by the pressure of the fluid but which will normally be sufficient to ensure that a vigorous and uniform spray of water strikes every part of the surface of the breast, thus ensuring a massaging effect on the skin tissues.

The bowl **11** is applied to the body with the outlet slot **33** at the lowermost position and fluid which collects in the bowl is drained from the outlet into a receptacle placed beneath the bowl for this purpose.

It will be understood that the massage device of the present invention, although particularly suitable for use in treating the breast can be used to treat any part of the human body. If necessary the shape of the periphery of the open end of the bowl may be modified to accommodate the shape of the part of the body to be mas-

saged and the present invention is not limited to the particular shaping of the periphery of the bowl **11.**

Further minor modifications can be made to the above described embodiment without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention which is best described in the following claims.

What I claim is:

1. A massage device for massaging the female breast with water comprising:

a substantially cup-shaped bowl having a sidewall, an open end and a closed end;

a substantially rigid tubular connector extending through the closed end of said bowl being adapted for connection to a main water supply and forming a conduit constituting an inlet for water into said bowl;

means in said tubular connector in the part thereof extending inside said bowl for directing water from said main water supply substantially radially of said tubular connector;

a rotatable spray head mounted for rotation on said tubular connector within said bowl being formed of a cup-shaped base open in the direction of said open end of said bowl and having a plurality of vanes tangentially arranged therewithin disposed concentrically about said radially directing means of said tubular connector and a cover plate for said

cup-shaped base having a plurality of restricted orifices equiangularly spaced in a circle whose center lies on the longitudinal axis of said tubular connector, said cover plate of said spray head having a substantially smooth and flat end face directed generally toward the open end of said bowl and being disposed entirely immediately adjacent said closed end of said bowl; and

means forming an outlet for water in the sidewall of said bowl,

whereby water entering said spray head under pressure from said conduit strikes said vanes to rotate said spray head and thereafter passes through said restricted orifices of the cover plate of said spray head at a substantial velocity toward the open end of said bowl.

2. A massage device as claimed in claim **1,** wherein the periphery of the open end of the bowl undulates so as to have two peaks at opposite sides of the bowl and two troughs at opposite sides of the bowl.

3. A massage device as claimed in claim **2,** wherein the periphery of the open end of the bowl is sheathed in a resilient beading.

4. A message device as claimed in claim **3,** wherein the bowl is formed from a transparent plastics material.

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