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ALFRED EHRENREICH, OF LONDON, ENGLAND

LEATHER AND PROCESS FOR OBTAINING SAME

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This invention relates to an improved leather and process for obtaining same and has for its object the provision of means whereby a new kind of leather capable of being used in different manners and for different purposes, for instance in wearing apparel, in the manufacture of hand bags, for drum skins and the like can be obtained.

This new kind of leather results from the appropriate treatment, essentially of the great intestine and wall of the stomach of selachian chondropterygii, better known under the name of cartilaginous fishes, and in particular of the plagiostomi which constitute a sub-division of this class, in which one may quote the shark, the raw material furnished by which, it has been found, gives products of the best quality.

The invention consists in the treatment of the great intestine and the wall of the stomach of plagiostomi, chondropterygii and such like, which is composed of keratinous fibrous tissue, by any tanning or other similar process, to convert it into leather.

By way of explanation as to how the invention can be put into effect the following is given as an example.

After the raw material has been removed from, for instance, sharks, the great intestines are opened along the seam or line of union, and, together with the walls of the stomach, are washed for a period of about ten minutes in cold running water.

The crude skin so obtained, will be found to be intersected with numerous veins which must be made to disappear, as otherwise these veins, once fixed by the subsequent treatment could prejudicially affect the appearance of the product, is treated for this purpose by compression or extraction.

The skin, with the veins obliterated, is subjected to a liming process lasting for a period or from two to four days, adding for preference from 0.1 to 0.2% of a carbolate or one of its derivatives.

The skin is then passed into a tanning liquid and afterwards into a bath containing 1% hydrochloric acid and not less than 4% sodium chloride. The tanning is then completed by the chrome process by means of a bath containing 10% chrome alum, previously basically weakened to about 6/12, or by a vegetable tanning, for preference by means of quebracho or sumach. In certain cases it is possible to commence, with advantage, by a chrome tanning and to finish by a vegetable tanning, (semi-chrome tanning).

The leather so obtained are characterized by a certain number of advantages, among others that of taking dyes very well; for instance, they permit of obtaining artistic effects by the aerograph process in particular batik effects, which turn out excellently in view of the fact that the surface of the leathers has a splendid dull polish.

Moreover, this leather, which has no grain properly speaking and which therefore cannot be compared with split leather, may be given a very nice velour appearance by slightly grinding its surface.

Furthermore, instead of the vegetable and chrome or semi-chrome tanning, it is possible to tan with advantage by formaldehyde or formaldehyde and alum.

For the production of drum skins, the process is, by preference as follows: The great intestines, preferably of sharks, having been suitably cleaned and prepared, are fulled for a period of about 24 hours with fish oil (preferably shark oil) and sea salt and the skins so obtained are hung in the open air, the final product, once dried, fulfilling all the conditions generally demanded as regards drum skins.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is:

1. A method of preparing leather from the great intestines and walls of the stomach of selachian chondropterygii including the steps of washing the same, obliterating the veins thereof, liming, and tanning.

2. A method of preparing leather from the great intestines and walls of the stomach of selachian chondropterygii including the steps of washing the same with cold water, obliterating the veins thereof, liming, adding a carbolate, tanning, and acidifying.

3. A method of preparing leather from the

great intestines and walls of the stomach of selachian chondropterygii including the steps of washing the same with cold water, obliterating the veins thereof, liming, adding a small amount of a carbolate, tanning, acidifying, and completing the tanning.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

ALFRED EHRENREICH.