March 8, 1927. 1,620,539

H. GERNSBACK

DEPILATOR

Filed April 1, 1926

Fig. 1.

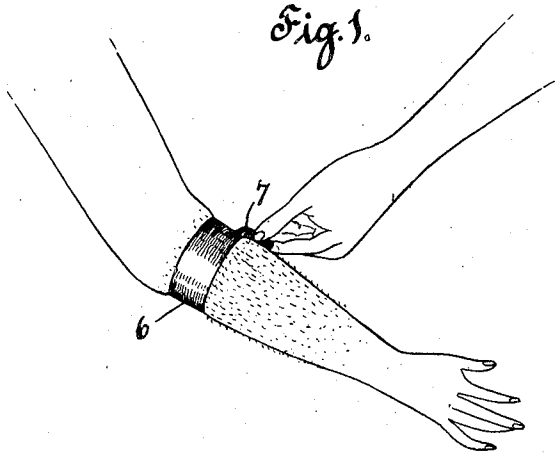



Fig. 2.

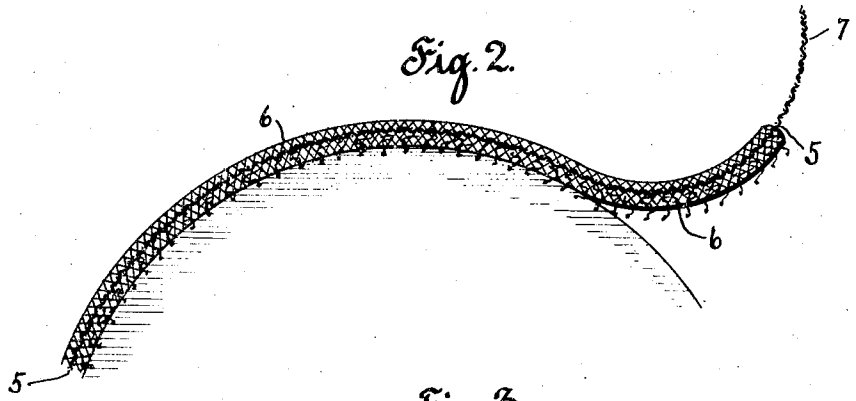
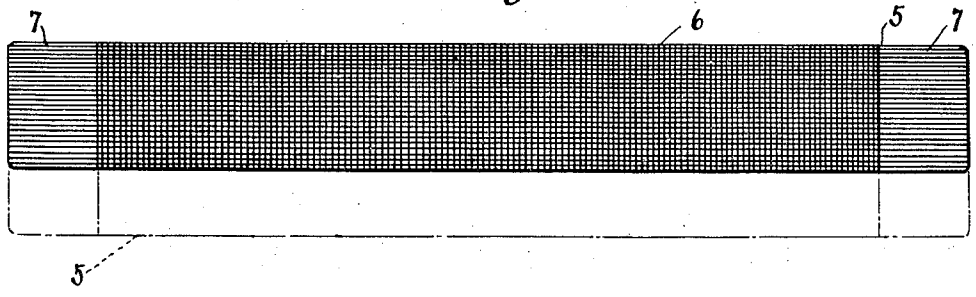



Fig. 3.




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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## DEPILATOR.

Application filed April 1, 1926. Serial No. 98,958.

The objects of this invention are to provide a simple, inexpensive and effective device for removing superfluous hair, which will be of a safe, sanitary nature, easy to apply and use and entirely practical and desirable for the purposes intended.

One of the most successful methods of removing superfluous hair heretofore employed has been to apply a layer of waxy material, softened by heat, to the skin and to then strip off this material after the same has hardened sufficiently for the hairs to become fixedly embedded therein. This method at best, however, is rather "messy" because of the need for handling and spreading the sticky soft material, uncertain because of the possibility of using too much or too little of the material or spreading it too thick or too thin and difficult of removal because the hardened layer pares in strips and must be removed fragment by fragment, a rather painful process.

The present invention utilizes the best features of the process mentioned but avoids the numerous objections thereto by a novel structure, combination and arrangement, involving in part the use of a strip or strips of backing material forming a flexible mounting of definite shape and size and the securing to said fabric of a patch of the hair entrapping material projecting sufficiently to enable the hair becoming embedded therein.

Various other novel features and the details of the invention will appear more fully as the specification proceeds.

The drawing accompanying and forming part of this specification illustrates one simple practical embodiment of the invention, but it should be understood that the structure may vary within the broad scope of the appended claims without departure from the spirit and true scope of the invention.

Figure 1 is a diagrammatic representation showing a simple embodiment of the depilator as applied to the forearm.

Figure 2 is a cross sectional view of the depilator enlarged on a somewhat exaggerated scale to illustrate the hair entrapping and removal operation.

Figure 3 is a plan view of the depilator before use.

The size, shape and extent of the depilator is determined by a mounting or backing strip 5 of cotton, muslin, gauze or other suitable fabric, preferably of a fairly open mesh. As indicated in Figure 3, this strip may be of various widths and it may be of various lengths and shaped on straight lines, curves or angles, with a view to best conforming to that part of the body to which the device is to be applied. Usually, a relatively narrow strip such as indicated answers best the ordinary requirements. This strip may be a single layer, as shown, or be made up in multiple layers, depending on different requirements.

The material which is used to grip or entrap the hairs is indicated in the form of fairly thick layers 6 interlocked with the fabric and projecting from both faces of the same. This double faced structure is advantageous because of the fact that both sides of the depilator may be used, but if desired, only one projecting layer may be employed and further if found desirable, in some cases a cover strip may be applied over the back of the device to present a clear outside or back surface.

The embedding material may be applied to the supporting strip in various ways, such as by dipping the strip in hot wax, the important feature being to insure that it penetrates the fabric sufficiently to become firmly interlocked with and form a part of the same.

To facilitate the handling of the device, the ends of the strip may be left exposed, as indicated at 7, to provide flexible tabs or finger-holds.

The composition of the extracting material may vary. A preparation of bees wax and sealing wax has been used successively, the proportion of the latter exceeding the former enough to afford a mixture which will become sufficiently hard to grip and retain the protruding hair.

Normally the depilator is soft enough to be handled as a strip of cardboard and may be encased in a waxed paper envelope to keep the same clean and sanitary. To prepare it for use, it is simply necessary to soften the wax either by heating or the use of a solvent such as alcohol or the like. One method is to quickly dip the strip in boiling or very hot water until the wax softens, this being indicated by the increasing flexibility of the strip. The device is then applied by placing it directly over the part from which superfluous hair is to be extracted, the tabs at the ends of the strip serving as convenient hand-holds in this

operation and enabling the device to be drawn taut over the skin as indicated in Figure 1. In this way the same even pressure may be applied throughout the layer of extracting material, insuring continuous uniform action of the same. When the material hardens sufficiently to entrap the protruding hairs, the strip is detached in a single continuous operation.

The invention, it will be seen, provides what in effect is a special depilatory bandage which may be handled and used much after the manner of an ordinary bandage, including methods of packing to keep the same in neat, sanitary, usable condition. Instead of being packed flat, these bandages may be kept rolled up and only unrolled when they are softened preparatory to using.

When a solvent is used for softening the material, the usual method is to dip the strip in alcohol or other suitable solvent for a few seconds or until the material is sufficiently softened. The strip is then applied to the skin in the form of a bandage and left there long enough for the alcohol to become absorbed or evaporated and the wax to become hardened again, this time with the hairs entrapped therein. In this method, the bandage may remain in place for an hour or so, which is an advantage in that it has the effect of softening the skin about the roots of the hairs, facilitating the removal of the hairs to that extent.

What is claimed is:

A depilator for removing the hair from either large or small areas of the skin, comprising a bandage in the form of a flat strip of fabric of appreciable length and layers of softenable self-hardening hair extracting material covering both faces of said fabric and penetrating the same so that said layers are interlocked and secured together through the fabric, whereby neither can pull loose from the fabric in the act of removing the hairs, said layers being of sufficient depth to receive and entrap hairs projecting from the skin over which the bandage is applied, the ends of the fabric strip being exposed to serve as finger-holds and the balance of the strip between said finger-holds being covered by the material as described.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 22nd day of March, 1926.

HUGO GERNSBACK.