No. 731,693. PATENTED JUNE 23, 1903.

T. LENNOX.

MASSAGE ROLLER.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 6, 1902.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 1.

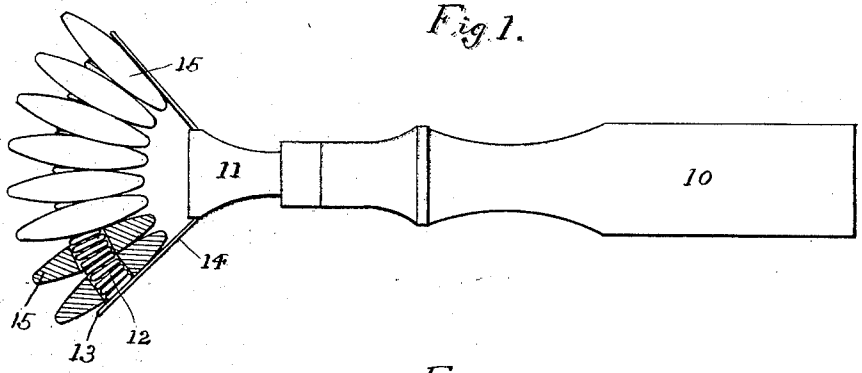
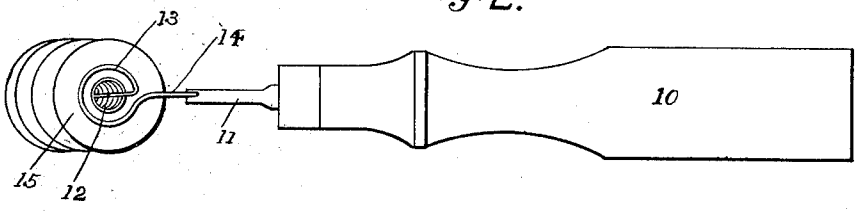


Fig. 2.



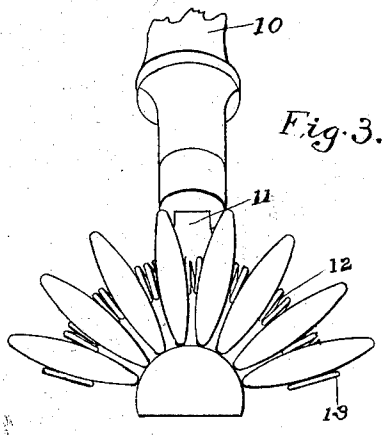


Fig. 3.

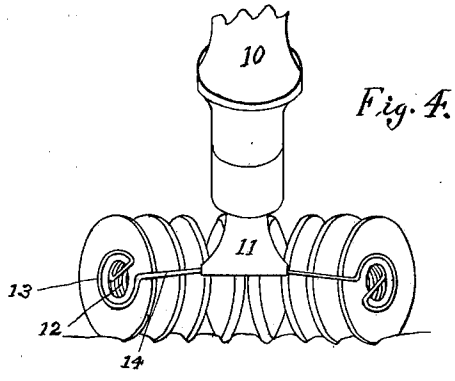


Fig. 4.

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THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

No. 731,693. Patented June 23, 1903.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

TALBOT LENNOX, OF AMES, IOWA.

MASSAGE-ROLLER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 731,693, dated June 23, 1903.

Application filed October 6, 1902. Serial No. 126,260. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, TALBOT LENNOX, a citizen of the United States, residing at Ames, in the county of Story and State of Iowa, have invented a certain new and useful Massage-Roller, of which the following is a specification.

The objects of my invention are to provide a massage-roller of simple, durable, and inexpensive construction.

A further object is to provide a roller of this class so arranged that when the roller is pushed in one direction over a yielding surface the said surface will be drawn into ridges between the roller-sections, and when the roller is pushed in an opposite direction the same surface will be stretched tightly between the roller-sections, to the end that by the alternate pinching or contracting and stretching of a yielding surface—such, for instance, as a person's skin—the old and dead tissues of the skin will be broken down and the small surface-veins dilated and exhilarated and fresh blood brought to the skin to build up the broken-down tissues and to increase the circulation of blood.

A further object is to provide a roller of this class composed of a number of independent roller-sections so arranged that the roller will adapt itself to uneven surfaces—such, for instance, as when the roller is applied to a person's finger the sections may be made to engage the top and sides thereof at the same time.

A further object is to provide a roller which may be made of wooden or other unyielding sections and yet the roller proper will be flexible and the independent roller-sections capable of movement in any direction relative to each other to a limited degree.

My invention consists in certain details in the construction, arrangement, and combination of the various parts of the device whereby the objects contemplated are attained, as hereinafter more fully set forth, pointed out in my claims, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 shows a plan view of the complete device with part of the rollers in sections. Fig. 2 shows a side elevation of same. Fig. 3 shows a front view of the roller bearing against the convex surface to illustrate the manner in which the roller adapts itself to uneven surfaces; and Fig. 4 shows a rear view of the roller applied to a comparatively flat yielding surface, illustrating the manner in which ridges are formed in said surface by a movement of the roller in one direction over the surface.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, I have used the reference-numeral 10 to indicate the handle of the device, and 11 a flat metal shank connected with the handle for supporting the roller-sections.

The reference-numeral 12 indicates a coil of spring-wire of a length corresponding to the length of the handle, the coils thereof being close together to form an axle for the roller. At each end of the coil 12 I have formed in the wire a large ring 13, and at the end of the ring the wire is extended straight at 14, and these straight portions 14 are connected with the shank 11. The said ends 14 are inclined toward each other, thus causing the coil 12 to assume a segmental shape bowed outwardly from the shank 11, as correspondingly illustrated in Fig. 1.

Mounted upon the coil 12 is a series of roller-sections (indicated by the numeral 15) and each having a central opening large enough to admit the coil 12 and to turn loosely upon said coil. Each of said roller-sections is disk-shaped and thickest at its center, the sides gradually tapering toward the circumference, which is slightly rounded, as clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 3.

In practical use it is obvious that the rings 13 at the ends of the coil 12 will serve to hold the roller-sections together, so that they can spread only against the resiliency of the spring-coil 12. Assuming, further, that it is desired to operate the roller over a comparatively flat surface and assuming that the operator presses downwardly upon the handle and moves the roller forwardly, then the forward under portions of all of the rollers will engage the flat surface, and as the distance between the forward under surfaces of two rollers is greater than the distance between the rear under surfaces of the same rollers it is obvious that the surface upon which the roller is being operated will be drawn or pinched into ridges between the rollers, because the rollers are farthest apart at their

front edges. Then, assuming that the roller is moved in an opposite direction, the result will be that the surface between each pair of rollers will be stretched, because when moving in said direction the parts of the rollers that first engage the surface are closer together than the parts of the rollers which last engage the surface. Hence a repeated movement of the roller backwardly and forwardly over a person's skin will result in the alternate pinching and stretching of the skin, thereby breaking down the old and decayed tissues and bringing the fresh blood to the surface, so that new tissues may be formed to take the place of those broken down and carried away by the blood. Furthermore, assuming that it is desired to massage an uneven and irregular surface—such, for instance, as the back of a person's hand—it is obvious that by pressing down upon the handle the coil-spring 12 will be shaped to conform effectively to the surface against which the rollers are engaged. Hence the various roller-sections will engage the sides as well as the top of the fingers or uneven surfaces of the hand.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States therefor, is—

1. An improved massage-roller, comprising a handle, a roller-axle made of a contractile coil-spring, means for connecting the ends of the axle with the handle, and a roller rotatably mounted upon the axle.

2. An improved massage-roller, comprising a handle, an axle made of a single contractile coil-spring, having its end portions connected with the handle and its central portion bowed outwardly from the handle, and a roller rotatably mounted upon the axle.

3. An improved massage-roller, comprising in combination a handle, a contractile coil-spring having extensions at its ends connected with the handle and having its central portion outwardly from the handle, and a roller composed of a number of independent disk-shaped sections, each rotatably mounted on the coil-spring.

4. An improved massage-roller, comprising in combination a handle, a contractile coil-spring having a ring formed at each end larger in diameter than the coils of the spring and having extensions at its ends inclined toward each other and connected with the handle, the central portion of the coil-spring being bowed outwardly from the handle, and a roller composed of a series of independent disk-shaped sections each rotatably mounted upon the coil-spring between the rings at the ends thereof.

5. An improved massage-roller, comprising in combination a handle, a yielding axle having its end portions connected with the handle and its central portion bowed outwardly from the handle and a roller composed of a number of disk-shaped sections rotatably mounted upon the axle.

6. An improved massage-roller, comprising in combination a handle, an axle, means for connecting the end portions of the axle with the handle, and a roller composed of a series of independent disk-shaped sections rotatably mounted on the axle, the central portion of said axle bowed outwardly from the handle capable of bending in any direction and normally under tension tending to draw its ends together, for the purposes stated.

TALBOT LENNOX.

Witnesses:
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