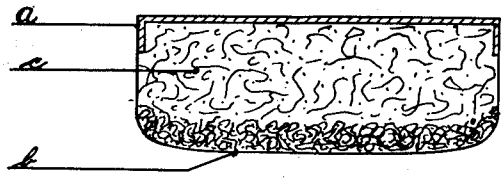
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SCOURING SOAP CAKE, TO BE USED IN GENERAL SCOURING AND CLEANING PURPOSES.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 17, 1919.

1,328,898. Patented Jan. 27, 1920.



William Corwin Ricketts.
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WILLIAM CORWIN RICKETTS, OF DAYTON, OHIO.

SCOURING SOAP CAKE, TO BE USED IN GENERAL SCOURING AND CLEANING PURPOSES.

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Application filed March 17, 1919. Serial No. 283,056.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM CORWIN RICKETTS, of the city of Dayton, county of Montgomery, State of Ohio, United States of America, have invented new and useful Improvements in Scouring Soap Cakes, to be Used in General Scouring and Cleaning Purposes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to the improvement of combining metal wool and soap in the form of a cake, for scouring, cleaning and polishing, by rubbing the cake on the surface to be cleaned and in the presence of water, and the objects of my invention are, first, to form metal wool into a solid substantial body with a free scouring face, second, to thoroughly bind the metal wool together and retain it in form, third, to provide a constant supply of soap to the scouring face of the metal wool, fourth, to retain the soap and prevent it from breaking up and wasting away.

I attain these objects in the scouring soap cakes illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

The figure is a section through a scouring soap cake having a solid body with a spongy porous working face.

One kind of metal wool which I use as a scouring agent of my invention, is a product commonly known as steel wool. I am aware that this material is now used to clean and polish the surface of wood and metal, and the objectionable features in using it are, that it breaks up into minute pieces and is quickly reduced to a useless mass by friction, that it is very severe in its work and will scratch, that it is sharp and prickly and very inconvenient to hold and handle. I am not aware however, of this steel wool being used as a cleaning and scouring agent, used in the presence of water, and in the form of a cake with soap as a body and binder to the metal fibers, and as a lubricant to prevent scratching, and as a solvent to loosen the grease and dirt, and as a protection to the steel wool against rusting in water.

In the practical application of my invention, I prefer to use a non-corrosive metal wool that will not rust in water. It is practical to make metal wool of zinc, brass and a few other metals, that will not rust in water like steel, and therefore such metal wool would form an ideal material for these scouring cakes. Steel wool will not rust when covered with soap, and in these scouring soap cakes protection from rust is accomplished in a practical way.

In the figure, I show one form of these scouring soap cakes. The body (*c*) being metal wool permeated with soap and pressed into cake form. The face of the cake (*b*) is used for scouring by rubbing on the surface to be cleaned, and in the presence of water to dissolve the soap in the face of the cake. The metal wool cleans mechanically, and the soap lubricates the surface and dissolves the dirt and grease. The cover (*a*) provides means for holding the cake and also prevents excessive moisture from softening the top of the cake.

The figure shows a section of this scouring soap cake which has a soft porous scouring face (*b*) and which will conform readily to any surface being cleaned, the body portion (*c*) being a compressed mass of metal wool and soap, and the face (*b*) being a loose expanded mass of metal wool and soap and which readily softens in the presence of water. This characteristic in a scouring face is necessary in a new scouring cake, when used on surfaces that are not flat, such as that of kitchen utensils.

The cover (*a*) shown in Figure (1), is made of a material that will not be destroyed by water or which will not scratch the article being cleaned. For this purpose therefore, I employ a cloth fabric, wool being particularly valuable as it will adhere to the metal wool cake and not become slippery from the soap, and does protect the hand from the prickly metal wool, and the top of the cake from free action of the water.

It is to be understood that these scouring cakes contain ninety per cent. soap of a consistency that will become firm and solid when cooled, and hard when dried out, and in the claims to follow will be referred to as hard soap. Soft soap and liquid soap are commercial forms in which soap is commonly used for various purposes, and if mixed with metal wool would not attain the objects of my invention. Metal wool is a loose expanded material, and must be compressed in order to form these soap cakes into a solid body. This is done while hard soap is yet warm and soft and mixed with the metal wool, and upon cooling remains a solid cake. To form a soft porous working face on the solid cake, it is only necessary

to steam the surface slightly, thus allowing the metal wool to again expand, but on the surface only. Thus hard soap and metal wool can be combined in a new form of cake for a new and useful result.

Having thus described my invention what I claim is—

1. A scouring soap cake, consisting of metal wool permeated with hard soap and formed into a cake, said cake having a solid body of said materials and a soft spongy scouring face which readily absorbs water and will conform to any surface applied thereto, as set forth.

2. A scouring soap cake consisting of a non-rusting metal wool permeated with hard soap and formed into a cake, said cake having a body portion and a scouring face of said materials, said body portion being a compressed dense mass excluding water, said scouring face a loose expanded mass absorbing water, said metal wool in the scouring face being integral with that of the body portion of said cake.

3. A scouring soap cake, consisting of metal wool permeated with hard soap and formed into a cake, said cake having a solid body with a soft spongy scouring face of said materials, said cake having a cover on the back, all substantially as shown and for the purpose described.

WILLIAM CORWIN RICKETTS.

Witnesses:
ALEX. R. MALONE,
JOHN MCKINNON.