

H. DE L. RAPSON.
SWAB.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 17, 1912.

1,047,703.

Patented Dec. 17, 1912.

FIG. 1.

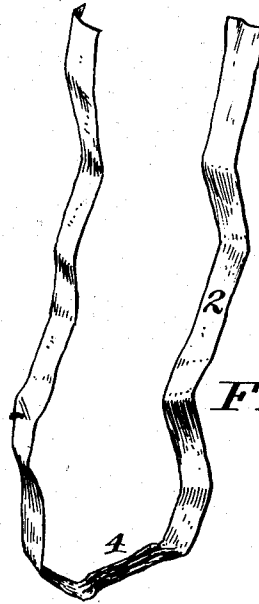
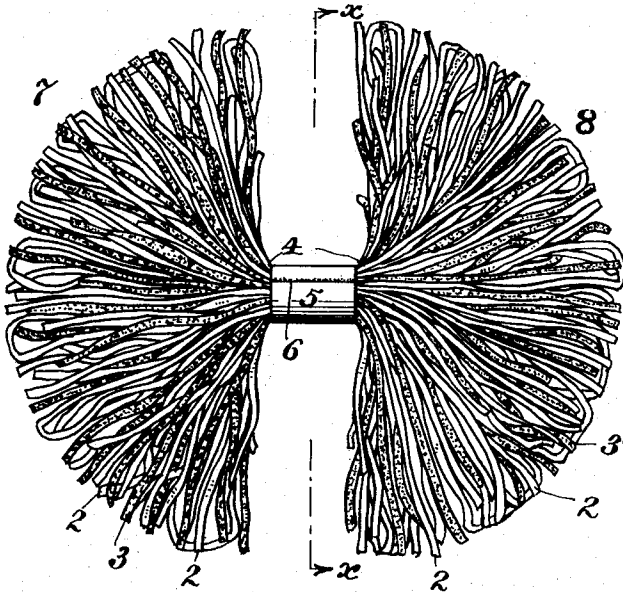


FIG. 4.

FIG. 2.

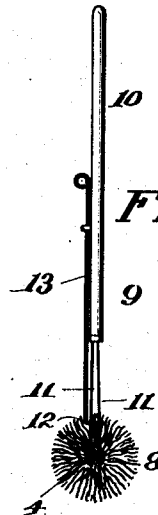
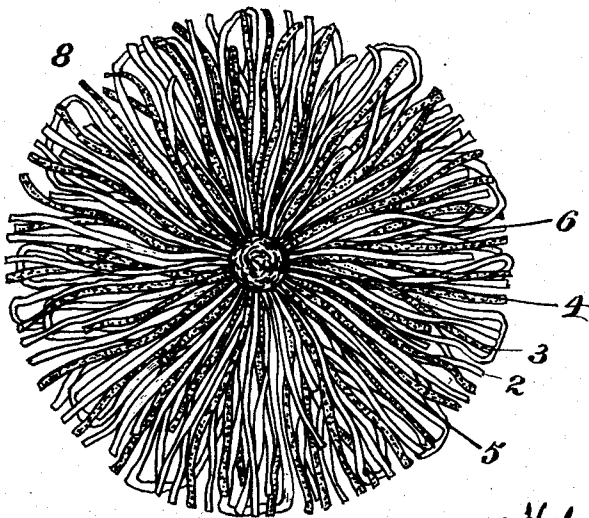


FIG. 3.

Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HOBART DE LANCEY RAPSON, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

SWAB.

1,047,703.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HOBART DE LANCEY RAPSON, citizen of the United States, and resident of Philadelphia, county of Philadelphia, and State of Pennsylvania, have invented an Improvement in Swabs, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to provide a construction of toilet swab suitable for household and other uses, such that the swab, after use, may be readily disengaged from the handle or holder and disintegrate in the water so as to be carried off with the under-drainage to the sewer without danger of clogging the pipes.

My object is further, to provide a form of swab which for sanitary reasons need be used but once and not require handling after use.

My invention consists of a toilet swab formed of long strips or strands of paper (preferably such as toilet paper), secured together by a detachable binder (preferably of similar paper) which, upon becoming wet, will readily unbind and free the strips or strands so that they and the binder means may pass into the sewer pipes without danger of clogging them when flushing the closet.

My invention also consists of a swab of the aforesaid construction combined with a detachable holder arranged for releasing the swab after use and without the necessity of directly handling it.

My invention also comprehends details of construction which, together with the features above specified, will be better understood by reference to the drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a toilet swab embodying my invention; Fig. 2 is a cross section of the same on line $x-x$ of Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is an elevation showing my improved swab combined with a detachable holder or handle therefor; and Fig. 4 is a perspective view of one of the paper strands such as may be used in the swab.

The swab, in its preferred form, comprises a large number of long paper strands 2 bunched in any suitable manner and bound together at their middle portions 4 by a binder wrapper 5 of similar paper and sealed, preferably by a weak paste 6. The

paper employed is preferably similar in general texture to that used in toilet papers, but may, if desired, be of another grade. Not only are the strands 2 preferably made of tissue paper, but the binder 5 may be also formed of paper of the same character, though I do not limit myself in this respect. The swab strands may be bound together in any suitable manner, so long as free ends or loose portions 7 and 8 are provided and the binding union will become free upon being subjected to the dissolving action of the water into which the swab is discharged after use. In the preferred form of my swab I employ paper strands or strips of substantially uniform length and compress them together at their middle portions 4 and wrap this portion with a wrapper 5 of tissue paper, holding the wrapper in place by a small quantity of paste 6. The portions 7 and 8 of the paper strands or strips are loose or yielding and form bushy parts to the swab for cleansing purposes, the swab being held at the bound portion by means of a suitable handle or holder.

To improve the sanitary conditions by the use of my improved swab, I may provide any number or portions of the strands with a disinfectant such as carbolic acid or other suitable material. Such strands or strips are indicated at 3 in Figs. 1 and 2. It is evident that, if preferred, the binding means for holding the strips or strands may be located anywhere along the length of the strands, instead of at the middle, but in all cases it is preferable that it should be of a character which will dissolve in water sufficiently to liberate the strands.

In Fig. 3, I have shown one form of detachable handle 9 for temporarily holding the swabs in use. This consists of a handle part 10 having the two spring jaws 11 at the bottom, said jaws adapted to clamp and hold the bound portion 4 of the swab, leaving the bushy ends 7 and 8 free for swabbing purposes. The jaws 11 may be forced together upon the swab by the sliding part 12, arranged about them and moved up or down by the extension 13 guided on the handle and arranged to be operated at a distance from the swab. When the part 12 is pushed down, the swab is fast in the jaws and may be moved by the handle, but when the part

12 is drawn up the jaws 11, under spring action, separate and permit the swab to drop into the bowl and water therein. Any other suitable form of detachable handle may be employed in lieu of that shown.

It will be understood that the strips may be of various widths, but I prefer that they shall be reasonably narrow so as to provide the bushy portions 7 and 8; and it will be within the scope of my invention that the said strips be secured together in any manner, so long as they are attached for a small portion only of their length to present free or yielding portions and in a detachable manner made effective by immersion in water.

While I have shown my invention in the form I prefer, I do not restrict myself to the details, as these may be modified without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Having now described my invention, what

I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:—

1. As an article of manufacture, a toilet swab consisting of a large number of paper strips detachably bound together for a portion of their length by a binder so united as to be removed by water so as to release the strips.

2. As an article of manufacture, a toilet swab consisting of paper presenting a large number of freely movable portions and said paper bound for a portion of its length by a binder of paper wrapped about it and so united with paste as to release itself by the dissolving action of water.

In testimony of which invention, I hereunto set my hand.

H. DE LANCEY RAPSON.

Witnesses:

R. M. KELLY,
E. W. SMITH.