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TREATING THE SURFACES OF HAT BODIES.

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This invention relates to a method of improving the surface of hat bodies made of hair or wool and of hats made from such bodies. The method consists in this, that the hat bodies or hats are treated with aldehydes, ketones, or the like or with compounds of the same or with materials which, on decomposing, yield such substances. In the case of velour bodies the success of such a method of treatment consists in this that the gloss is enhanced and the value of the body is thereby increased. In the case of smooth bodies or hats the success of the method consists in making them smooth and fine to the touch, whereby their value is increased.

Suitable substances for carrying out the method are the aldehydes, such as formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, benzaldehyde and the like, compounds of the same more especially with bisulphites and aldehyde mixtures, and ketones, such as acetone, benzophenone, acetophenone or the like, and compounds and mixtures of these substances, also materials which, on decomposing, yield such substances.

In carrying out the method the hat body or hat is placed in a solution of an aldehyde, for instance formaldehyde, slightly acidulated with sulphuric acid or hydrochloric acid, or in a similarly acidulated solution of a ketone, for instance acetone, aceto-acetic-ester, and is left for a time to be acted on by this solution.

The treatment may also be effected by applying the solution by means of a brush, preferably to the hat body or to the half finished or finished hat.

The body or hat is preferably given a subsequent treatment with an oxidizing agent, such as peroxide of hydrogen, perborate, permanganate or the like. The gloss can be still further enhanced by this subsequent treatment.

The hat body may be subjected to the method according to the present invention before or after brushing, before or after dyeing and before or after shaping.

The ordinary brushing operation on the brushing machine may be combined with the applying of the aldehyde or ketone.

In carrying out the method according to the invention the bodies or hats may be steamed with aldehyde or ketone vapours, for instance formaldehyde vapours, the surface being previously moistened or not.

Aldehydes and ketones have in common the feature nicely distinguishing them from any other organic compounds that they contain one or more carbonyl (C=O) groups.

What I claim is:

1. The method of improving the surface of hat bodies which comprises treating said surfaces with a neutral reagent containing a carbonyl group.

2. The method of improving the surface of hat bodies which comprises treating said surfaces with a neutral reagent containing a carbonyl group and subsequently treating said hat surfaces with an oxidizing agent.

3. The method of improving the surface of hat bodies which comprises treating said surfaces with formaldehyde.

4. The method of improving the surface of hat bodies which comprises treating such surfaces with formaldehyde and subsequently treating such hat surfaces with an oxidizing agent.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name.

VIKTOR BÖHM.