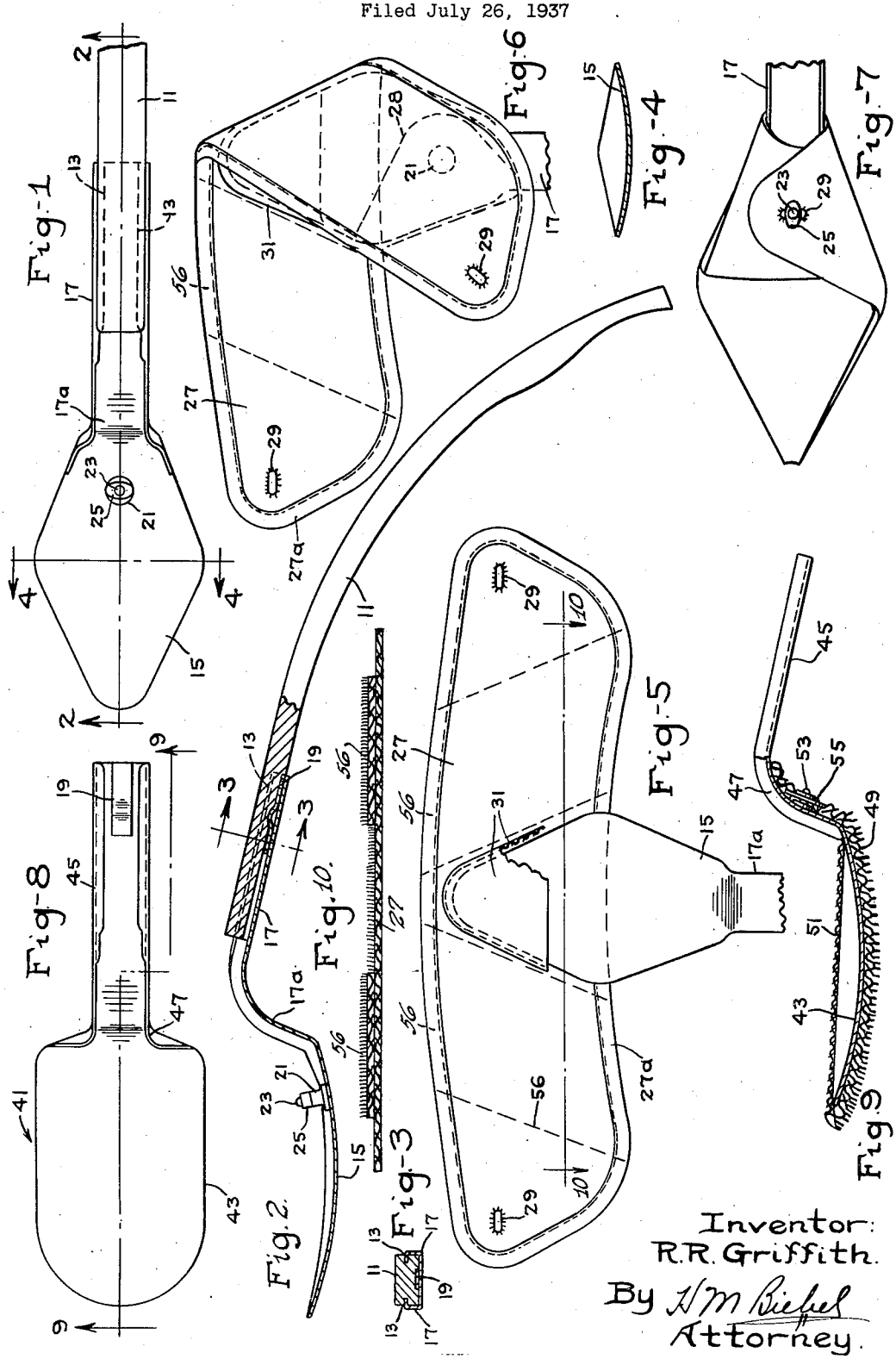
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BATH CLOTH AND HOLDER

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BATH CLOTH AND HOLDER

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8 Claims. (Cl. 15—231)

My invention relates to cleaning devices and particularly to brushing and rubbing devices for personal use.

Among the objects of my invention are the following; To provide a relatively simple and efficient sanitary bath cloth and holder for personal use; to provide a bath cloth and holder utilizing a flexible piece or strip of material such as cloth as the rubbing element; to provide a removable and replaceable rubbing strip of simple form which may be easily laundered; to provide a relatively simple handle and strip-supporting portion that may easily and quickly be assembled and disassembled to adapt the device for various kinds of uses; to provide a flexible strip of material having an operative rubbing surface of relatively greater roughness than the rest of the strip; to provide a quickly removable and replaceable strip of flexible material for a bath strip and to provide a bath strip having a relatively simple means to hold a mat of flexible rubbing material in proper operative position on a supporting member.

Other objects of my invention will appear from a description of several forms of devices embodying my invention illustrated in the drawing and will be set forth in the appended claims.

In the single sheet of drawings,

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a supporting structure embodying my invention, a part of the handle being broken away,

Fig. 2 is a view, partially in side elevation and partially in longitudinal section, taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1,

Fig. 3 is a view, in lateral section, taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2,

Fig. 4 is a view, in lateral section, taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1,

Fig. 5 is a view, as seen from the bottom of the supporting structure, showing the first step in the mounting of the flexible strip on the support,

Fig. 6 is a view similar to that of Fig. 5 showing later steps in the mounting of the flexible strip on the support,

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary top plan view showing the flexible strip fully assembled and held in its proper operative position,

Fig. 8 is a top plan view of a modified form of supporting portion, and,

Fig. 9 is a view in longitudinal section therethrough taken on the line 9—9 of Fig. 8.

Fig. 10 is a sectional view taken on line 10—10 of Fig. 5.

Referring first to Figs. 1 and 2, I have there illustrated a handle portion 11, which is relatively narrow and preferably made of arcuate shape in length substantially as shown in Fig. 2 of the drawing. It may be made of wood painted with a water resistant paint, metal, in tubular or other section or it may be made of a molded composition material. Each side of the front end of the handle may have a longitudinally extending slot 13 therein. The supporting structure includes further a spoon-like portion 15 which, in the embodiment shown in Figs. 1 to 7 inclusive, is made of relatively thin sheet material, of substantially lozenge-shape in contour and has an operative or bottom surface which is rounded in both lateral and longitudinal directions, as is shown particularly in Figs. 2 and 4 of the drawing. The width of the portion 15 is appreciably greater than that of the handle. The convex surface is the operative surface of the strip-receiving portion 15 and it is to be noted that it is positioned on that side of the handle portion which is concave.

The inner end portion 17 of the strip-receiving portion 15 is of substantially channel-shape in lateral section, with inturned edges as is shown more particularly in Fig. 3 of the drawing and is offset a relatively large distance from the portion 15 by an intermediate portion 17a. I may provide a resilient member 19 in the shape of a leaf spring with a raised or bent-out portion intermediate its ends, having one end thereof suitably secured to the portion 17, the handle portion being provided with a corresponding and cooperating recess whereby the cloth-receiving portion and the handle portion may be held, mainly by friction, in proper operative positions relatively to each other substantially as shown in Fig. 2 of the drawing. A construction of this kind permits of easily and quickly assembling and disassembling the two parts whenever desired.

The concave or inner surface of portion 15 is provided with a holding means 21, which may be of the kind used on automotive vehicles for holding curtains against the body of the vehicle. This holding means may comprise a central stud 23 secured against the inner face of member 15 at that end thereof near portion 17a, and a collar 25, substantially oval in lateral section, which may be turned on the central stud 23. While I have illustrated a specific form of holding means, I do not desire to be limited thereto, since any other simple holding means effective for the same purpose may be used, but whatever holding means is used must meet the requirement that it be

simple and easily operable and that it will prevent to a high degree lodgement of dirt thereon.

Referring now to Fig. 5 of the drawing I have there illustrated a flexible rubbing or brushing strip **27** in the shape of an elongated piece of flexible material, which may be either of rubber or of cloth in the nature of turkish towelling, or other material which can be easily and quickly laundered or otherwise kept in sanitary condition, and which preferably has part or all of its operative surface roughened. The general shape of strip **27** is substantially that shown in Fig. 5 of the drawing, slightly arcuate in outline, the ends having rounded corners and connected by an angularly extending edge. The lateral width of the strip is slightly greater than the length of one of the diagonal edges of member **15**. An elongated opening **29** is provided near each outer corner to cooperate with the holding means. If the strip is made of cloth it may be provided with a binding **27***a* sewed around its edges.

The strip **27** is provided with a pocket **31** at substantially the middle of its length and at its inner surface, this pocket being adapted to fit over the spoon-like portion **15**, particularly at the outer end thereof, while the main body of the mat **27** faces the concave or inner surface of member **15**.

Referring now to Fig. 6 of the drawing, I have there illustrated the next steps in the mounting of the flexible strip on the strip-receiving portion **15**, the drawing showing one of the end portions of the strip **27** as having been folded over against one of the outer diagonally-extending edges of portion **15**, thereby bringing that end of the strip into the position shown in Fig. 6 where it extends diagonally backwardly toward the member **17**. The next step is to fold the extreme end of the bent-over part of the strip around the opposite inner diagonally-extending edge of the member **15**, the angularly extending edge of this portion being shown by the broken line **28**, so that the holding means **21** will fit into the oval opening **29**.

The next step is to fold the other end portion of the strip diagonally backwardly over the other outer diagonally extending edge of member **15** and the first end portion of the strip and then to fold the extreme end portion thereof, as was done with the first end portion of the strip, so that it will be located against the inner side of member **15** and so that the holding means **21** will fit into the second opening **29**. The movable part **25** of the holding means may then be turned through substantially 90° to thereby hold the strip, folded as above described, in proper operative position on the strip-receiving member. The general shape and appearance of the flexible strip is shown particularly in Fig. 7 of the drawing in top plan view. It may be noted that this method of mounting the strip on the member **15** provides two thicknesses of material on the outer or rubbing surface of the bath cloth, whereby a relatively highly elastic rubbing surface is provided, even though backed by the relatively hard and unyielding material of the member **15**.

Referring now to Figs. 8 and 9, I have there illustrated a somewhat different form of strip-supporting portion **41** which, as will be seen more particularly from Fig. 8 of the drawing, has the general appearance of a spade with a rounded outer end, although it is substantially of the same general construction as is member **15**. It comprises a strip-receiving portion **43**, a handle-engaging portion **45** and an angularly extending connecting portion **47**. The handle-engaging portion **45** is similar to portion **17** so that, if desired, it may be used with the same handle **11**, thus permitting interchangeable use of either strip-receiving portion with one handle.

A strip or rubbing element **49** is of substantially rectangular contour to conform to the shape of portion **43**, and has a piece of cloth **51** on its rear surface to provide a pocket into which the strip-receiving portion **43** is adapted to fit. A grooved pin **53** may be secured to the portion **47** adjacent to the outer or operative surface of portion **43**, to be engaged by a snap fastener **55** secured to the narrow inner end of the strip **49**. This type of snap fastener is also well known in the art and has been used in automotive vehicles for securing curtains to the body of the vehicle. I do not desire to be limited to the specific forms of strip-securing or holding means shown and described since I may use any holding means effective for the desired purpose of securely holding the strip on the strip-receiving portion.

I have found that the curved form of handle and the off-set strip-receiving portion are important elements in the design and use of a bath cloth of this type in that they permit the user to reach parts of the body, such as the back, not otherwise easily accessible. This can be done readily because of the relatively large amount of curvature of the handle by the user holding the outer end portion of the handle just above the shoulder. The thinness of members **15** and **43** makes possible the use of the device between the toes. As noted above I may make the strip of rubber or a relatively thick or heavy open-mesh fabric or cloth, such as turkish towelling and, if desired, I may provide one or more, additional pieces **56** of material having greater roughness on the strip, which pieces are so located on the strip as to be on the outside or rubbing surface of the strip when it is assembled on the strip-receiving portion. It is obvious that it is easy to provide integral surfaces **56** of greater roughness in case a strip or piece of rubber is used instead of cloth. Since the strip shown in Figs. 1 to 7 of the drawing provides two rubbing surfaces on the strip, usable selectively, a mat of this kind will have a long life.

A strip of the kind shown in the drawing is easily and quickly assembled on the strip-receiving portion, and it is further obvious that it is easy to remove the strip-receiving portion from the handle portion if a user should desire to grasp and use the portion **17** as a handle to thereby obtain a shorter overall length of the device, as when bathing or rubbing or massaging the feet or arms or other more easily accessible parts of the body.

While I have specifically referred to rubber or turkish towelling as materials which may be used for the strip, I do not desire to be limited thereto as any flexible material having the desired roughness may be used. When the strip is of a woven fabric it is easily possible to provide portions thereof of greater roughness, whenever desired. Strips of different degree of roughness will permit of dry rubbing of the body to any desired degree. The relatively simple shape and construction of the strips means a low cost of manufacture and a single handle and strip-receiving portion in a family will permit of the use of individual strips, one for each member of the family. It is evident also, that the strips may be made in color to harmonize with the color scheme of a bath room or to meet individual color preference. Initials of

the owner or designs may be provided on the cloth strips whenever desired, a feature of interest and value when devices of this kind are provided by hotels for their patrons and guests. As the strips are of simple form and construction, they are easily laundered and maintained in sanitary condition.

The device embodying my invention is relatively simple, includes a minimum number of parts which are easily and quickly assembled and disassembled, and I have found that a device of this type is very useful in bathing, personal hygiene and in massaging the body, as in a dry rub.

Various modifications may be made in the device embodying my invention without departing from the spirit and scope thereof, and I desire therefore, that only such limitations shall be placed thereon as are set forth in the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. A bath cloth and holder comprising a curved handle, a spoon-like supporting portion of lozenge-shape in contour removably mounted on said handle, a holding means on said supporting portion and a strip of flexible material having a pocket at substantially the middle of its length and removably fitting on the spoon-like portion and having its two ends wrapped angularly around the spoon-like portion and held thereagainst by the holding means.

2. A bath cloth and holder comprising a curved handle, a spoon-like supporting portion removably associated with said handle, a holding means on the supporting portion near said handle and a strip of flexible material having a pocket intermediate its ends and fitting on the outer end of the supporting portion, the two end portions of said flexible strip encircling the spoon-like portion from the outer to the inner end thereof and engaging the holding means to hold the strip in tightly wound overlapping position on the supporting portion.

3. In a bath cloth and holder, the combination with a handle and a spoon-like supporting portion having a holding means thereon, of a strip of flexible material having a pocket on its inner side at substantially its middle and fitting on the outer end of said spoon-like supporting portion, the two end portions of said strip extending around said spoon-like portion toward the rear end thereof and interfitting with the holding means to hold the strip in closely assembled relationship on said spoon-like portion.

4. A bath cloth and holder comprising a handle portion and a spoon-like portion, the lateral width of the spoon-like portion being appreciably greater than that of the handle portion, a holding means on the spoon-like portion and a flexible fabric strip longer than said spoon-like portion removably mounted on said spoon-like portion and having a pocket intermediate its ends fitted on said spoon-like portion and having at least one end portion held wrapped around said spoon-like portion by said holding means.

5. A bath cloth and holder comprising a curved handle portion, a spoon-like portion normally carried by the handle portion and removable therefrom, a holding means on the spoon-like portion at its concave side near the handle and a flexible fabric strip having a pocket intermediate its ends fitted on the spoon-like portion to hold one part of the flexible strip thereon and having also at least one end portion engaged by said holding means, said holding means retaining the flexible strip in wrapped around position on the spoon-like portion.

6. In a bath cloth and holder, the combination with a handle and a spoon-like supporting portion of thin sheet material and a holding means on the concave side, of a fabric strip removably mounted on said spoon-like supporting portion, said strip having a pocket intermediate its ends fitted on the outer end of the supporting portion and having at least one end portion on one face of said supporting portion and extending toward the inner end thereof into engagement with the holding means.

7. A bath cloth and holder comprising a handle and a cloth receiving portion of thin sheet material, a cloth holding means on the cloth receiving portion and a flexible strip of material removably mounted on said cloth receiving portion, said strip having means intermediate its ends interfitted with said cloth receiving portion and having at least one end portion held wrapped around said cloth receiving portion by said cloth holding means.

8. A bath cloth and holder comprising a handle portion and a spoon-like portion, a single holding means on the spoon-like portion and a flexible strip of fabric removaby mounted on said spoon-like portion, said strip having means intermediate its ends positioning an intermediate portion of the strip on said spoon-like portion at the front end thereof both laterally and longitudinally thereof, the two end portions of the strip being held wrapped around the spoon-like portion in opposite directions by said single holding means.

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