Nov. 1, 1927. 1,647,222

L. M. GILLETTE

MATTRESS

Filed Oct. 20, 1926

Fig. 1.

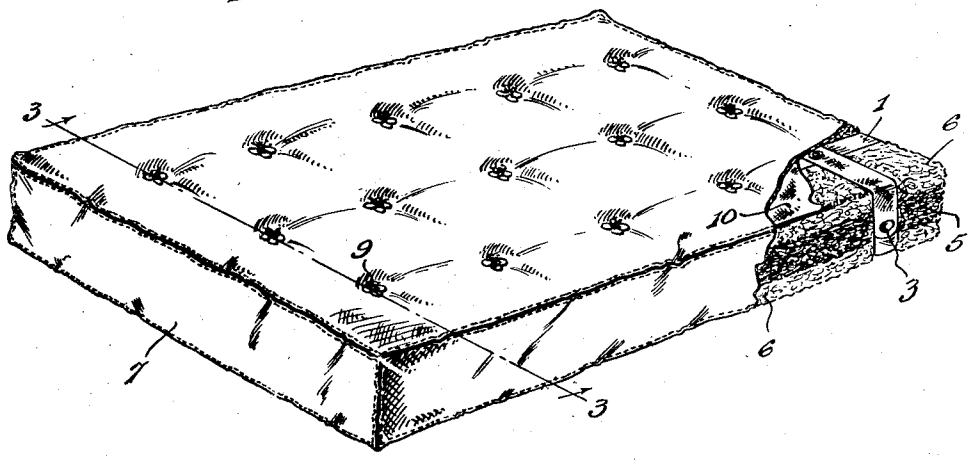
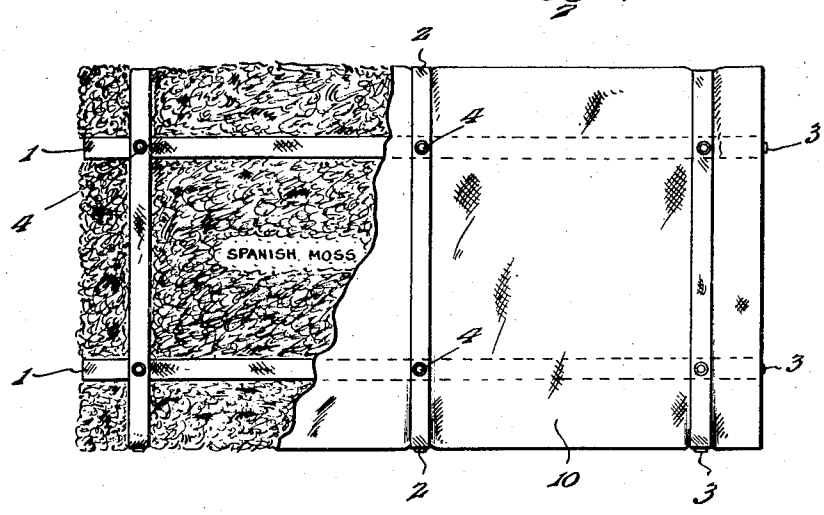


Fig. 2.



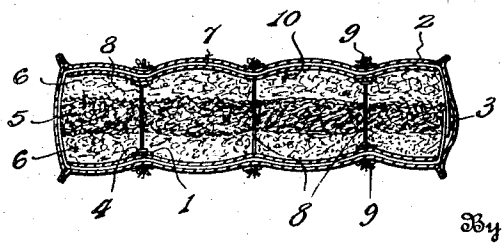


Fig. 3.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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MATTRESS.

Application filed October 20, 1926. Serial No. 142,933.

This invention relates to a mattress intended chiefly for the sick, infirm and those confined to bed with fever and other ailments which, from a humanitarian viewpoint, adds to the comfort of the bedridden patient by supplying a mattress which is cooling, soft and sanitary.

In accordance with this invention a material, found in abundance in the Atlantic lowlands of the United States and the Gulf States, and known as Spanish moss, is utilized as a filling for the mattress because of its thread-like flexuous nature and wiry characteristic which prevents packing and insures a free circulation of air, besides being light and cheap.

For a full understanding of the invention and the merits thereof reference is to be had to the following description and the drawings hereto attached in which corresponding and like parts are designated in the several views of the drawings and referred to in the following description by like reference characters.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a mattress embodying the invention, a portion of the cover being broken away to show the filling.

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the filling confined by binders in the form of a mat.

Figure 3 is a transverse sectional view of the mattress on the line 3—3 of Figure 1.

In general appearance, the mattress is not unlike the commercial article since it embodies a fibrous filling and a covering which is tufted to maintain the shape and hold the parts in relative position. The filling consists of Spanish moss which exists in quantity in the Atlantic lowlands of the United States and the Gulf States, and which, by reason of its characteristic properties is admirably adapted to the manufacture of mattresses because of its lightness, thread-like structure, and flexuous and wiry nature, the filaments being long and hair-like in structure. The filling is formed into a mat, as shown most clearly in Figure 2, and held in place by longitudinal binders 1 and transverse binders 2. These binders encompass the mat and usually consist of tapes or webs which are connected at their ends by separable fastenings 3 or in any preferred way. The binders are also connected at their points of crossing, as indicated at 4. The Spanish moss, after being gathered, is cleaned, sterilized and sorted, the lighter and finer grade forming the outer layers and the coarser grade the inner or center layer, as indicated most clearly in Figures 1 and 3. It should be noted that the coarser grade of moss from which the inner or center layer is formed closely resembles horsehair and, therefore, will constitute a very good filling for the mattress and will not be liable to be packed into a compact mass. Therefore, air will be allowed to circulate through the mattress. The numeral 5 designates the center layer and the numeral 6 the outer layers which insure a soft and comfortable mattress for the patient or other occupant of the mattress. The numeral 7 designates the covering which, when applied to the filling, is tufted in the usual manner to prevent the parts from changing position and to hold them in place to preserve, as far as practicable, the predetermined shape of the mattress.

Spanish moss exists in profusion in the Atlantic lowlands of the United States and in the Gulf States and so far as is known, has not been used as a filling in the construction of mattresses and by reason of its physical characteristics it is an admirable substitute for hair at a nominal cost. An infected or unclean mattress having a filling of Spanish moss may be burned or otherwise disposed of without entailing any very great expense and from a humanitarian viewpoint it is a boon to the suffering and afflicted because of the comfort experienced and the sanitary and cooling qualities possessed.

It is observed that opposite portions of the respective binders are connected by means of the threads 8 which join the tufts 9 upon opposite sides of the mattress. As a result, the covering 7 is materially strengthened and reinforced and the mattress enabled to withstand hard usage without injury to the covering.

The wiry and hair-like nature of the filaments, particularly the selected material of the outer layer, results in some of the filaments penetrating the covering. This is guarded against by the provision of a sheet 10 which is interposed between the covering and the mat. This sheet is specially prepared and selected to resist the penetration of the filaments and is interposed between the longitudinal and transverse binders, being secured thereto by the same fastenings

employed for connecting the binders at their points of crossing. This protective sheet also adds to the strength of the mattress covering and assists in preventing rips or tears in said covering and exposing the filling when handling the mattress.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim is:

1. A mattress having a filling of Spanish moss arranged in layers, the outer layers being select and fine, longitudinal and transverse binders confining the filling, a protective sheet disposed between the longitudinal and the transverse binders and retained in place by fastening means connecting the binders at their points of crossing, and a covering enclosing the filling and tufted thereto, the threads connecting the tufts passing through the protective sheet and the binders.

2. A mattress having a filling, longitudinal and transverse binders extending about the filling, a protective sheet disposed between the longitudinal and the transverse binders, fastening means connecting the binders at their points of crossing and passed through said sheet to retain the sheet in place, and a covering enclosing the filling.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

LUCY M. GILLETTE. [L. S.]