

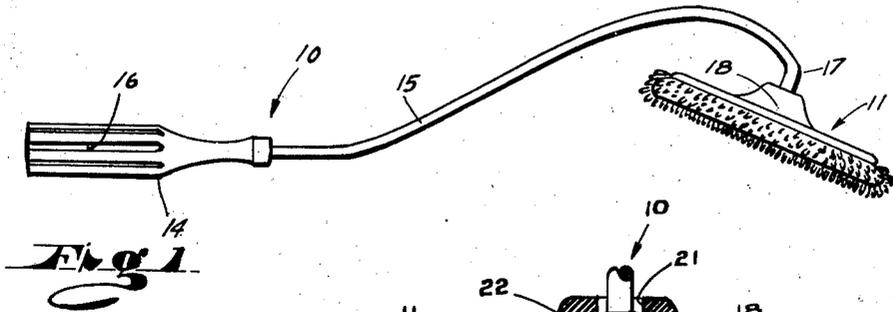
Jan. 14, 1947.

W. MILLER

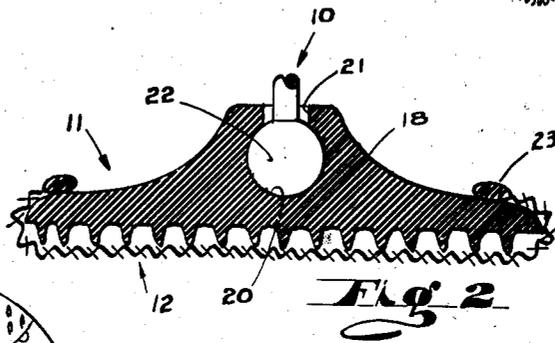
2,414,321

BATH AND MASSAGE BRUSH

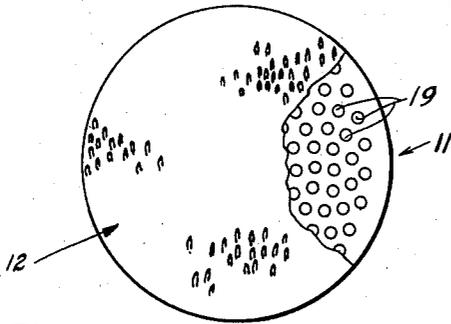
Filed April 10, 1943



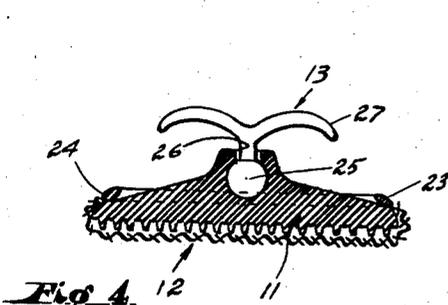
*Fig. 1*



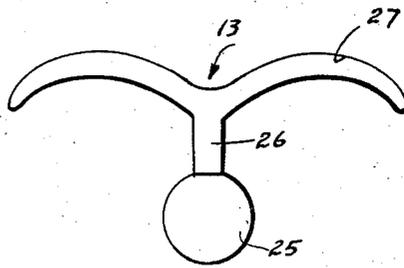
*Fig. 2*



*Fig. 3*



*Fig. 4*



*Fig. 5*

INVENTOR  
WILBUR MILLER  
By *W. H. Maxwell*  
HIS ATTORNEY

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,414,321

## BATH AND MASSAGE BRUSH

Wilbur Miller, Pasadena, Calif.

Application April 10, 1943, Serial No. 482,541

2 Claims. (Cl. 15—231)

1

This invention relates to brushes and relates more particularly to bath brushes. A general object of the invention is to provide a practical, effective, sanitary bath brush.

Another object of this invention is to provide a bath brush having a handle means and a head mounted on the handle means for universal movement, so that the position of the head automatically changes to conform to the body of the bather. The bath brushes in general use embody fixed heads and when such a conventional brush is employed to wash the bather's back the brush head does not conform to the body but only its edge portions come into use. In the brush of the present invention the head has a universal mounting and automatically moves into full, effective engagement with the body of the bather.

Another object of this invention is to provide a bath brush of the character mentioned in which the head comprises a pad of rubber or the like presenting a multiplicity of small projections or knobs of the same material that are effective in massaging the skin when left exposed, and which further embodies a fabric cover adapted to be applied over the knobs at the option of the bather to be used in washing the skin. The fabric cover may be formed of toweling or the like and functions in a manner similar to a wash cloth. When the fabric cap or cover is used the raised nodules or knobs of the head leave or provide a substantial reservoir under the fabric cover to retain soap, soapy water, etc. to facilitate the bathing.

Another object of this invention is to provide a bath brush of the character mentioned in which the fabric cover or cap is easily applied to and removed from the head of the brush and may be laundered at will to be kept in a sanitary condition.

Another object of the invention is to provide a bath brush of the character referred to in which the head is a simple one-piece element devoid of hair bristles and readily maintained in a sanitary condition.

Another object of this invention is to provide a bath brush of the character referred to in which the head may be easily and quickly removed from the handle means to be held directly in the bather's hand for bathing and massaging purposes.

A further object of this invention is to provide a bath brush of the character mentioned that embodies a simple handle means adapted to be applied to the head to universally support the same and adapted to be engaged between the

2

bather's fingers to facilitate the direct use of the brush head.

The various objects and features of my invention will be fully understood from the following detailed description of a typical, preferred form and application of the invention, throughout which description reference is made to the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of the brush of this invention. Fig. 2 is an enlarged detailed sectional view of the head and the universal mounting of the head. Fig. 3 is a face view of the head with a portion of the fabric cover broken away. Fig. 4 is a reduced view similar to Fig. 2 showing the finger grip on the head and Fig. 5 is an enlarged side elevation of the finger grip removed from the head.

The bath brush of the present invention includes, generally, a handle means 10, a head 11 removably and universally secured to the handle means 10, a removable cap or cover 12 for the head 11 and a removable hand grip 13 for the head.

The handle means 10 includes a handle or hand grip 14 and an elongate stem 15 extending from the handle grip. The grip 14 is shaped and proportioned to be conveniently grasped by the bather. The grip 14 may be an elongate part of round cross section whose forward portion is reduced in diameter. Longitudinal grooves 16 are provided in the hand grip 14 so that it will not slip in the hand of the bather. The hand grip 14 may be formed of plastic, hard rubber, or the like. The stem 15 is an elongate member fixed to the hand grip 14 to extend forwardly therefrom. The stem 15 may be relatively small in diameter and is preferably constructed of metal which is suitably plated. The head 11 is removably secured to the outer end of the stem 15 and the stem is shaped or curved so that the head may be conveniently engaged with and operated over the bather's back. The body or main portion of the stem 15 extends forwardly from the hand grip 14 which is at the inner end of the stem and then sweeps or curves laterally and forwardly. A substantially right-angled bend 17 occurs at the outer end of the curved body of the stem and extends laterally in a direction opposite to that in which the body of the stem extends relative to the handle. It is to be observed that the handle means 10 just described is very simple.

The head 11 of the brush is in the nature of a pad and in accordance with the invention is formed of flexible resilient material such as rub-

3

ber, rubber composition or synthetic rubber. In the embodiment of the invention illustrated the head 11 is disc-shaped, it being apparent that the head may be oval or of other shapes. The forward or active side of the head 11 is substantially flat while the rear side is conical having a surface which slopes or converges rearwardly to provide a central boss 18. The forward or active face of the head 11 is shaped to be effective in bathing and massaging. A multiplicity of spaced teeth or knobs 19 is provided on the face of the head 11. The series of nodules or knobs 19 may substantially cover the entire face of the head 11 and, as illustrated, the knobs may be uniformly spaced. It is preferred to make the teeth or knobs 19 of substantial length to be freely flexible and pliable. The projections or knobs 19 are preferably integral with the head 11 and in any case are flexible and resilient. The massaging knobs 19 have rounded ends and smooth surfaces and are formed to be readily cleaned. The hand grip 14 and the head 11 may be of any selected color or colors and the brush of the invention may be produced to match, contrast or blend with different color schemes.

In accordance with the invention a releasable universal connection is provided between the head 11 and the handle means 10. This connection includes a socket 20 in the boss 18 of the head 11. The socket 20 is spherical and has a mouth 21 that opens at the outer end of the boss 18. The universal mounting means further includes a knob or ball 22 on the outer end of the stem 15. The ball 22 is fixed to or integral with the extremity of the stem. The ball 22 is adapted to be passed through the mouth or neck 21 into the socket 20 and is proportioned to be rather closely received in the socket. As illustrated, the mouth or neck 21 may be relatively small in diameter so that the ball 22 must be forced through it to snap into the socket 20. This prevents accidental or unintentional disengagement of the head 11 from the handle means. The head 11 is free to turn and tilt on the ball 22, but the fit of the ball 22 in the socket 20 is such that the resiliency of the material around the socket 20 holds the head against free or unintentional movement and a slight force is required to turn or tilt the head. In other words, the head 11 may freely tilt or pivot with respect to the handle means 10 to conform to the bather's body, but will not be excessively loose or free. When the head 11 is wet with water and/or soap the ball 22 may be readily snapped into and out of the socket 20 when suitable force is applied, but will not disengage itself from the socket without the application of substantial force.

The cover 12 is adapted to be applied to the brush head 11 when desired. The cover 12 is formed of a suitable fabric such as toweling. As illustrated, the cover 12 may be formed from a disc-shaped piece of fabric provided at its edge with a tubular bead 23. The bead 23 contains either a drawstring or an annular elastic 24. If desired there may be a simple continuous or annular binding of elastic along the margin of the cap 12. The cap 12 is proportioned so that it is adapted to entirely cover the face of the head 11 and have its marginal portions engage over the edge of the head to extend some distance rearwardly across the back of the head. The drawstring or elastic 24 grips or engages the rear surface of the head 11 to retain the cap 12 on the head. It is believed that it will be apparent how the cover 12 may be easily and quickly

4

engaged on the head 11 and removed from the head when desired. It is to be observed that the nodules or knobs 19 hold the fabric of the cover 12 spaced away from the face of the head 11, thus providing a substantial reservoir for water, soap, etc. This construction also forms a sponge-like cushion which makes the brush ideal for the most sensitive skin.

The invention includes a hand grip 13 to facilitate the use of the head 11 when the head is disengaged from the handle means 10 (see Figs. 4 and 5). The head 11 with or without the cover 12 is useful in washing and massaging the various parts of the body and it is not always desirable or necessary to employ the handle means 10 throughout the entire bathing operation. Figs. 4 and 5 of the drawings illustrate a hand grip 13 which facilitates the use of the head 11 when the same is disengaged from the handle means 10. The hand grip 13 includes a ball 25 similar to the above described ball 22 and adapted to be snapped into and out of the socket 20. A stem 26 extends from the ball 25 and a pair of ears or wings 27 projects from the outer end of the stem 26. The stem 26 may be relatively short so that the wings 27 lie in spaced adjacent relation to the rear face of the head 11. When the ball 25 has been snapped into the socket 20 the bather may pass his fingers between the rear of the head 11 and the wings 27 to support and hold the head 11 for massaging and bathing. It is to be observed that the head 11 is adapted to turn and tilt on the ball 25 to conform to the body when used in the manner just described.

The head 11 may be used to advantage when held directly in the hand and it is not always necessary or desirable to employ either the handle means 10 or the grip 13. In this connection it is to be understood that the brush head 11 is shaped and proportioned to be conveniently held in the hand of the bather.

It is believed that the utility and practicability of the bath brush of this invention will be readily understood from the foregoing detailed description. As above described the head 11 may be readily secured to the handle means 10 by forcing or snapping the ball 22 into the socket 20. The head 11 thus secured to the handle means 10 is dependably retained on the stem 15 but is free to turn and tilt at will to conform to the user's body. This is particularly important when washing or massaging the back and assures the full, even engagement of the head with the body. The head may be employed without the cover 12 in bathing and massaging. The cover 12 may be readily engaged on the head 11. The fabric cover 12 forms a sanitary, convenient means functioning in substantially the same way as a wash cloth. The elongate teeth or knobs 19 under the cover 12 provide a large reservoir for water, soap, soapy water, etc., and the porous cloth 12 may be soaped and rinsed at will. A plurality of covers 12 may be supplied with the brush and these may be laundered as required. Furthermore, the covers 12 may be replaced when worn. The hand grip 13 materially facilitates the use of the brush head when the head is removed from the handle means 10.

It is to be noted that the bath brush of the present invention embodies a minimum number of simple, inexpensive parts all of which may be thoroughly cleaned. The device may be made in a selected range of sizes for children and adults.

Having described only a typical preferred form and application of my invention I do not wish to

5

be limited or restricted to the specific details herein set forth, but wish to reserve to myself any variations or modifications that may appear to those skilled in the art or fall within the scope of the following claims.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. A bath brush including two units, one comprising an integral body of rubber including a flexible head with a generally flat front working face and a boss forming the back of the head, said boss having a spherically curved socket therein and a circular restricted neck opening providing access to the socket, the axis of the neck opening being substantially normal to the plane of the face of the head, the other unit including an elongate stem with inner and outer end portions, a handle on the inner end of the inner end portion of the stem, the said inner end portion of the stem extending forward and laterally from the handle and the outer end portion of the stem extending laterally from the inner portion of the stem in a general direction opposite to that in which the inner end portion of the stem extends laterally from the handle, and a spherically curved enlargement on the outer end of said outer end portion of the stem, the neck opening being smaller in diameter than the enlargement on the stem and being substantially larger in diameter than the stem, the enlargement being insertable into and removable from the socket upon expansion of the neck opening, the enlargement and socket cooperating so the first mentioned unit is detachably

6

coupled to the other unit at a point spaced a substantial distance forward of the handle and in substantial alignment therewith and for universal movement and for rotation when the enlargement is engaged in the socket.

2. A bath brush including two units, one formed of an integral body of rubber including a generally flat disc-shaped head with a front working face, said head having a thin flexible peripheral portion, and a central round boss forming the back of the head, said boss having a spherically curved socket therein and a circular restricted neck opening providing access to the socket, the socket and neck opening being generally faced opposite from the face of the head, the face of the head being generally flat and provided with spaced nodules, the other unit including an elongate stem, a handle on one end of the stem and a spherically curved enlargement on the other end of the stem, the neck opening being smaller in diameter than the enlargement on the stem and being substantially larger in diameter than the stem, the enlargement being insertable into and removable from the socket upon expansion of the neck opening, the first mentioned unit being detachably coupled to the other unit for universal movement and for rotation when the enlargement is engaged in the socket with the stem passing through the neck opening with substantial clearance.

WILBUR MILLER.