Oct. 6, 1931. M. O. GASTON ET AL 1,826,309

EAR PAD

Filed March 9, 1931 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

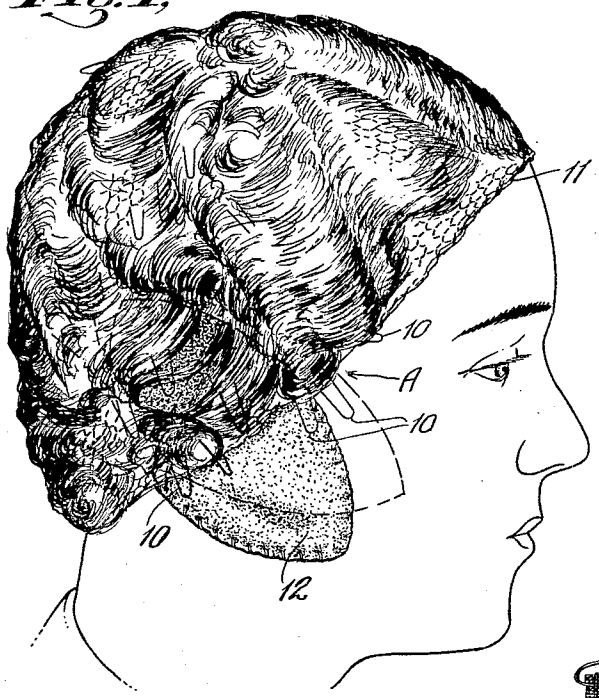


Fig. 2.

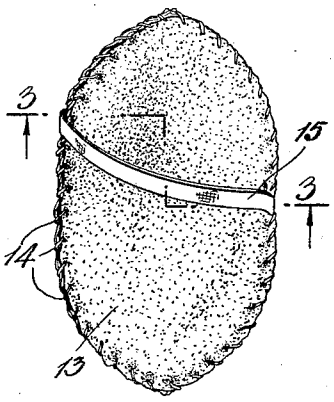


Fig. 3.

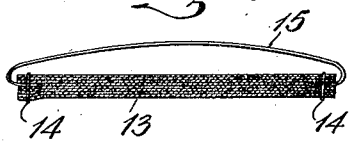


Fig. 4.

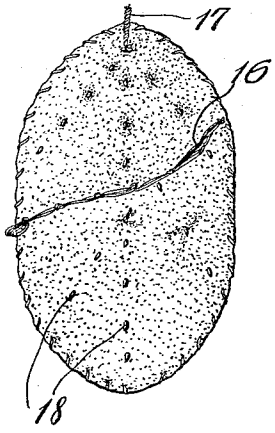


Fig. 5.

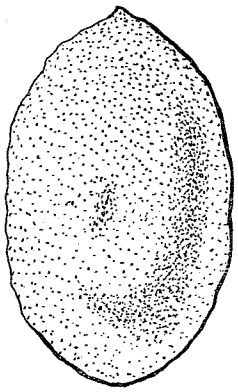
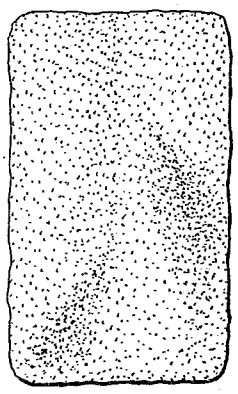


Fig. 6.



INVENTORS
MITTIE O. GASTON
and THOMAS R. JAMES
BY Meyers & Jones
ATTORNEYS

Oct. 6, 1931. M. O. GASTON ET AL 1,826,309

EAR PAD

Filed March 9, 1931 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 7

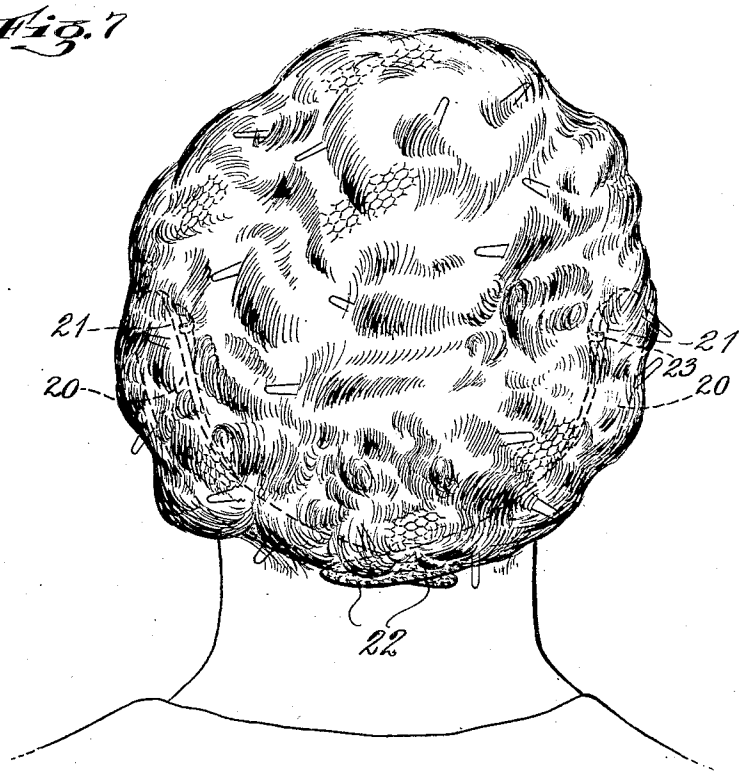


Fig. 9

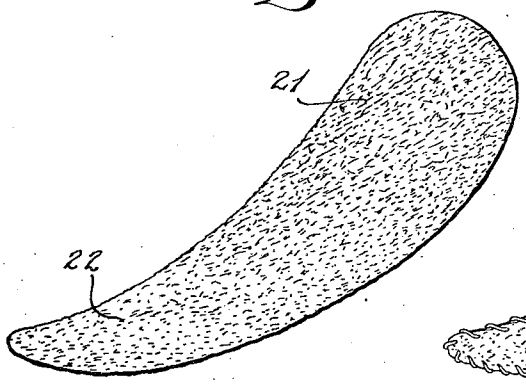
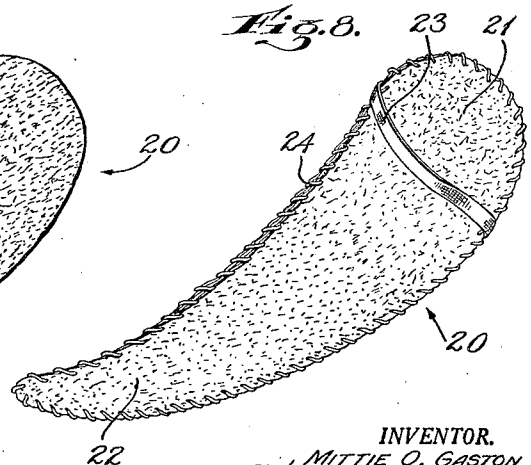


Fig. 8.



INVENTOR.
MITTIE O. GASTON
and THOMAS R. JAMES
BY Meyers & Jones
ATTORNEYS.

Patented Oct. 6, 1931 1,826,309

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

MITTIE O. GASTON AND THOMAS R. JAMES, OF DALLAS, TEXAS

EAR PAD

Application filed March 9, 1931. Serial No. 521,349.

This invention relates to toilet articles and particularly to a protector or shield to be used in hair dressing operations to protect the ears and adjacent portions of the head from injury and discomfort.

It is the general practice in beauty shops and parlors when finger waving or permanent waving ladies' hair, to set the hair on the head just after the hair has been washed and a waving fluid applied thereto. The hair is retained in the set position by means of hair pins applied at different points and by means of a net so that when the drier is brought in position to blow heated air directly on the head, the set position of the hair will not be disturbed. Even while the drier is in operation, excess moisture in the form of water and the fluid employed to impart the wave to the hair accumulates at the sides of the head over and around the ears and the nape of the neck and is very annoying and sometimes harmful. Furthermore, the hair pins over and adjacent the ears become hot from contact by the heated air being blown thereon from the drier so that in actual practice, the operations of finger waving or permanent waving the hair are very unpleasant. This is due to several reasons. First, there are several nerves such as the superficial temporal branches of the auricular branch of the vagus inside of the ear, and in back of the ear, and the lesser occipital nerve and the great auricular nerve centered in the region where the moisture accumulates and adjacent the point where the hair pins are applied at the sides of the head, and second the fact that the blast of heated air from the drier is directed into the ears for a considerable length of time. It is a natural consequence of the foregoing that persons having the hair set frequently suffer nervous headaches and other distressing and harmful results.

An important object of this invention is to obviate the foregoing objections by providing a shield to protect the ear and the surfaces of the head around the ear from excess accumulation of water and other fluids, from irritations, discomfort and burns incident to the application of the hair pins at the sides of the head adjacent the ears, and to prevent the air from the drier from blowing into the ears.

Another object of the invention is to provide a shield for the above purposes at a nominal cost so that each shield will be used only once and after it has served its purpose to each customer, will be discarded, thus obviating the necessity of sterilization, and preventing the spread of scalp and skin diseases.

Another object of the invention is to provide a shield of the above character and for the above purposes which will facilitate the drying of the hair and save considerable time in the final step of the hair waving or hair dressing operation.

Another object of the invention is to provide a shield of the above character and for the purposes stated which can be readily applied over the ear and maintained in position to protect the ear and adjacent surfaces during setting and drying of the hair.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent during the course of the following detail description of the accompanying drawings wherein are shown representative embodiments of the invention and in which:—

Fig. 1 is a side view of the head of a person showing the invention applied for use;

Fig. 2 is a back view of the shield embodying the invention;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 2 showing a modification of the invention;

Figs. 5 and 6 are plan views of other modifications of the invention;

Fig. 7 is a rear view of the head of a person

showing a modified form of the invention in use;

Fig. 8 is a plan view of the modification shown in Fig. 8 with features shown in Fig. 2 applied thereto;

Fig. 9 is a plan view of the modification shown in Fig. 7 minus the ear engaging loops.

Referring to the accompanying drawings particularly to Fig. 1 which illustrates a typical setting of hair in the final step of a hair waving or dressing operation and wherein the coiffure is of a style embodying waves at the top of the head with waves and curls at the side of the head over and adjacent the ears, the numeral 10 designates the hair pins applied to the hair to maintain the waves and curls in set position, and the numeral 11 indicates a net to prevent the hair from being disturbed by the blast of heated air from the drier when it is brought into position and operated in a well known manner. It will be readily apparent that excess moisture in the nature of water and waving fluid will tend to drain down to and accumulate in the curls and waves adjacent the ears necessitating operation of the drier for a considerable period of time to blow heated air directly against the sides of the head and incidentally into the ears with the result that the hair pins will become heated and the air will irritate the nerves located within and in the region of the ear. To obviate this and other objections, we provide a shield 12 which is applied under the hair and over the ears and which may be of any shape or configuration and dimensions to afford sufficient area to completely cover the ears, and parts of the face and head around the ears.

The material from which the shield is made should be very soft for the sake of comfort in contact with the skin, highly absorbent to take up the accumulated excess moisture in the hair beneath which it is disposed to prevent such moisture from running down on or coming in contact with the parts of the head which the shield covers, and preferably porous enough to permit a free circulation of air to facilitate drying without permitting a direct blast of air to enter the ears. In actual practice, we have found that a shield in the nature of a pad made of fluffy fibrous absorbent material or cotton batting or the like is very effective in accomplishing the desired results of obviating discomfort and expediting the drying of the hair, due to the fact that such material will readily take up a large quantity of moisture and, due to its porosity permitting a free circulation of air from the drier, tends to dry quickly, while preventing the blast of air from the drier from entering the ear. Such a pad also protects the skin from the heated hair pins and from any other irritating action such as scratches which might result from the application of the hair pins over and around the ears.

In Figs. 2 and 3 we have shown a substantially oval shaped pad 13 having its edges stitched at 14 to hold together the several plies of fibrous material or the cotton batting. A loop in the nature of a band or ribbon 15 extending diagonally across the shield in position to engage over the top of the ear when applied to hold the shield in protecting position relative to the parts to be covered may be provided. The same idea is embodied in the illustration shown in Fig. 4 wherein the loop is in the nature of a thread or strand 16. In either case and regardless of the character of the loop, it is so positioned that it can be slipped over the top of the ear to prevent displacement of the shield during final steps of the setting and drying operations. It will be understood that the shield completely covers the ear when the loop is placed behind the ear.

The stitching at the side edges is not absolutely necessary nor is the shape of the shield essential, and in Fig. 5 we have illustrated a pad similar to that shown in Figs. 2 and 3, except that it is not provided with the stitching nor the retaining loop to fit over the ear, and in Fig. 6 we have shown another pad similar to that of Fig. 5 except that it is of oblong shape and is not provided with the stitching or retaining loop.

We deem it within the scope of the invention to make the shields oval shape, oblong, circular, or of any other formation or design, and the shapes shown in the accompanying drawing are merely for the purpose of illustration. It is possible to vary the shields, for instance, the shields may have stitching at the edges but no loop, they may have a loop secured thereto but no stitching around the edges, or they may have both as shown in Figs. 2 and 4, or they may have neither as shown in Figs. 5 and 6.

Referring to Fig. 4, it will be noted that we have illustrated a stem 17 which can be in the nature of a thread or extension of the fabric to facilitate handling of the shields when removing them from the package and in applying them for use in the manner already specified. In the same figure we have also shown stitches 18 through the several layers of the pad and any number of these may be employed if desired in connection with or apart from a stitching at the side edges.

Referring again to Fig. 1 and in connection with the size and shape of the shields we wish to point out that adjacent the temples at the region indicated by A, there is shown a curl with hair pins applied thereto against the skin and unprotected by the shield. This is purposely done for the purpose of illustration, as it is possible to move the pad to the dotted line position marked X so as to bring the shield beneath this curl, or to employ an oblong shield such as illustrated in Fig. 6,

or a circular shield, or a shield of other formation having more surface area to cover more surface area at the side of the face.

From the foregoing it should be obvious that the shields illustrated in the drawings and described above can be furnished to beauty parlors and beauty shops at a very nominal cost and in sterile condition so that the operator need only pick out two of the shields for each customer, apply them by properly placing the shield over the ear, whether the shield is or is not provided with the retaining loop, and proceed with the drying operation. We have found in actual practice that the drying operation is greatly expedited and considerable time is saved to both the customer and the operator, due to the fact that the shield absorbs the moisture which would otherwise accumulate in the hair, and due to the porosity of the shield which permits of a free circulation of air for fairly rapid drying.

The saving of time is very important in several respects, first, more customers can be accommodated each day and hence, if desirable in a small shop booth space can be reduced; secondly, there is a considerable saving in electricity, as the drying machine will be operated for a shorter period of time for each customer; and third, the fact that the customer does not have to sit as long and does not have to endure the discomforts which have been pointed out makes them more willing and ready to return more often for treatments.

We have also found that such shields facilitate the waving of hair and obviate all of the discomforts and objections hereinbefore pointed out, and customers who have been adversely affected by the setting and drying operation without these shields suffer none of the ill effects such as the headaches and irritated skin so common to hair waving without these shields.

Referring to Figs. 7–9 of the drawings, we have disclosed another form of protector generally similar in composition, purpose and structure to that shown in Figs. 1–6 for application to protect regions or surfaces of the head behind the ears over the nerve centers controlling the brain. In this form of the invention the protector 20 is in the nature of a pad having a relatively large portion 21 similar to that shown in Figs. 2–5 but provided with an elongated curved tapering extension 22. The construction and form of this pad 20 is such that when the portion 21 is applied over the ear the extension 22 will be disposed around the back of the head in substantial conformity to the border of the hair at the back of the head to absorb moisture from the hair as well as to protect the skin and the nerve centers at this point from the heat of the hair pins, blast of hot air and the excess moisture which would otherwise come directly into contact with the skin.

Referring to Fig. 7, it will be noted that when one of these pads 20 is applied over each ear that the extensions 22 meet and overlap at or about the center of the head, and while we have not shown a pad of this nature made of a single piece of material having two ear protecting portions with a connecting portion equivalent to the overlapping extensions 22 made in one piece, it should be perfectly obvious that such is possible, and adjustment to different sized heads may be had by overlapping the material at any point between the portions 21.

In Fig. 8 we have shown the pad 20 as having stitching 24 around its edges similar to the stitching described in Fig. 2 and for the same purpose, and a loop 23 secured across the portion 21 at an angle adapted to position it for engagement over the tip of the ear as shown in Fig. 7 in dotted lines.

We claim:

1. An ear protector of the class described, comprising a pad of absorbent porous material of a size and shape sufficient to cover an ear of a person, and an extension on said pad to cover the surface at the back of the head behind and beyond the ear.

2. An ear protector of the class described, comprising a pad of absorbent fibrous material of a size and shape sufficient to cover an ear of a person, with flexible means on one face of the pad for engagement over the ear.

3. An ear protector of the class described, comprising a pad of absorbent fibrous material of a size and shape sufficient to cover an ear of a person, with flexible means on one face of the pad for engagement over the ear, and an extension on said pad conforming substantially to the configuration of the head behind and beyond the ears and adapted to cover the same when the pad is applied over the ear.

4. An ear protector of the class described comprising a pad composed of superimposed layers of absorbent porous material of a size and shape sufficient to cover an ear of a person and a flexible strip across said pad in position to engage over the ear to hold the pad in position covering the ear.

5. An ear protector of the class described comprising a pad of cotton batting or other fibrous porous material of a size and shape sufficient to cover an ear of a person.

6. An ear protector of the class described comprising a pad of cotton batting of a size and shape sufficient to cover an ear of a person and flexible means on one face of the pad for engagement over the ear.

7. An ear protector of the class described comprising a pad of porous absorbent material having a portion of sufficient size and shape to cover the ear and a portion of sufficient size and shape to cover the surface of

the head bordering the hair at the back of the head.

8. An ear protector of the class described comprising a pad of porous absorbent material having a portion of sufficient size and shape to cover the ear and a portion of sufficient size and shape to cover the surface of the head bordering the hair at the back of the head, and a flexible strip across said first portion in position to engage over the ear.

Signed at Dallas, Texas, in the county of Dallas and State of Texas, this 27th day of Feb., A. D. 1931.

MITTIE O. GASTON.
THOMAS R. JAMES.