

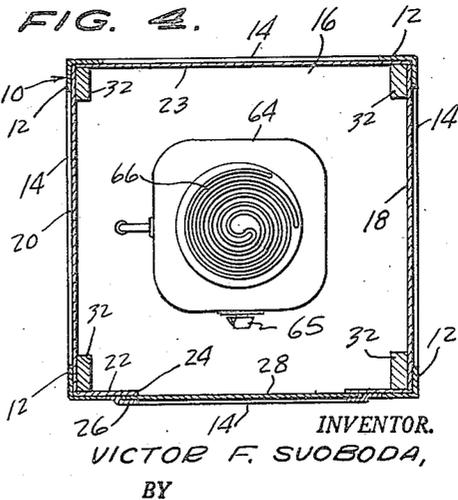
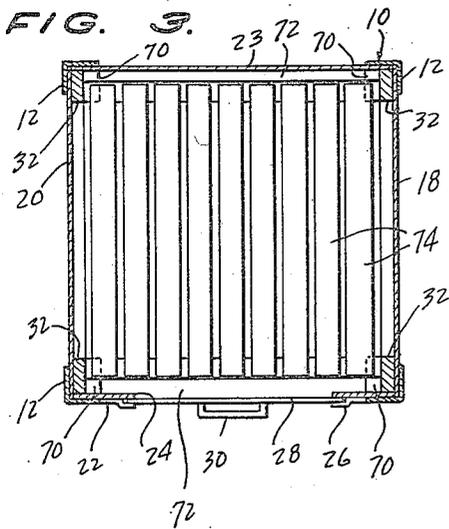
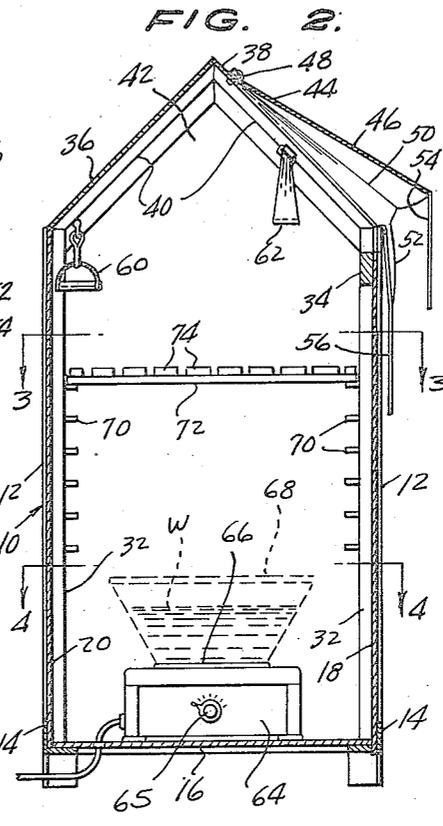
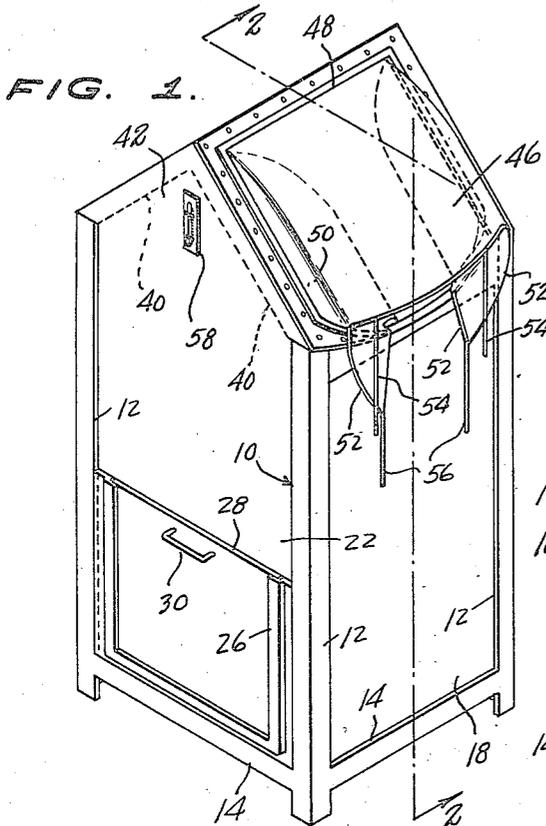
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VAPOR HEATING CABINET

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VAPOR HEATING CABINET

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2 Claims. (Cl. 128—368)

This invention relates to a heating cabinet, adapted to provide either dry or moist heat with a view to providing heat therapy for all the upper extremities, as well as the foot, knee, and various muscles of the body.

It is known that various portions of the body should be evenly heated and relaxed before a physician, therapist or masseur can successfully massage and exercise the same. Heretofore, the application of heat therapy to individual portions of the body has been relatively difficult, and has involved relatively complicated devices which, despite their high cost, have still been incapable of operation with full satisfaction.

The main object of the present invention, accordingly, is to provide a device for external or internal application of heat treatments, usable to advantage in the treatment of colds, and related ailments, as well as rheumatism, neuritis, bursitis, and various other ailments tending to lodge in the arms, shoulders, or other parts of the body.

A further object is to provide a device of the character stated which will be particularly designed to facilitate extension into the cabinet of any portion of the body to which heat therapy is to be applied.

Yet another object is to so design the device that one may readily regulate the heat provided therein, with the construction being especially adapted to facilitate the provision either of moist or dry heat, according to the needs of the particular situation.

Still another object is to permit ready adjustment of a supporting ledge within the cabinet, toward or away from the heat, to positions in which said ledge will provide an effective support for the particular member of the body that is being heated.

Summarized briefly, the invention includes an upstanding cabinet having a tapered upper end. In the bottom of the cabinet a heat means is mounted, on which a container for water (which may contain herbs or various minerals if desired) is capable of being positioned should moist heat be desired. Above the heating means a grate-like ledge is mounted in horizontal position, and is adjustable vertically within the container. A sling, adapted to receive a member of the body extending into the container, is provided at the upper end of the container, and also provided at this location is a hand hold for supporting one's arm within the container. The tapered upper end of the container has a flexibly hooded opening, the hood being adapted to be tied about the portion of the body extending through said opening to minimize loss of heat.

Other objects will appear from the following description, the claims appended thereto, and from the annexed drawing, in which like reference characters designate like parts throughout the several views, and wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a heating cabinet according to the invention;

Figure 2 is a longitudinal section therethrough on line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a transverse section on line 3—3 of Figure 2; and

Figure 4 is a transverse section on line 4—4 of Figure 2.

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The heating cabinet 10 constituting the invention includes an upstanding frame comprising rectangularly spaced, vertical, corner posts 12 of angle iron material integral, at a location spaced closely from their lower extremities, with a horizontal, rectangular bottom frame comprising cross braces 14 connected between the several corner posts at the sides, front, and back of the container.

Supported at its periphery upon and fixedly connected to the braces 14 is a flat, rectangular, sheet metal bottom plate 16. Also connected at their peripheries to the corner posts and to the braces are flat, vertical front and back walls 18, 20 respectively, and side walls 22, 23, the side wall 22 having at its lower end a large, rectangular opening 24. Bounding the sides and bottom of opening 24 is a U-shaped guide 26 for a vertically slidable door 28 normally gravitating to its closed position and equipped adjacent its upper end with an outwardly projecting handle 30.

Internally bracing the container are vertical corner braces 32, and connected between the upper ends of the front corner braces 32 is an upper, horizontally extending cross brace 34 (see Figure 2). This would be covered with padding in a commercial form.

At its upper end, back wall 20 has an integral, inclined extension 36, extending into convergence with an oppositely inclined upper end extension 38 of front wall 18. Inclined side braces 40 are secured to the extensions 36, 38 within the cabinet and secured fixedly to the inclined braces (see Figure 1) are the edges of triangular extensions of the respective side walls. The container thus is of tapering formation at its upper end, and formed in the extension 38, at the front of the tapered extension of the cabinet, is a large rectangular opening 44, over which extends a hood 46 of flexible material anchored at its sides and top to extension 36 by a hold-down bar 48 of inverted U-shape. Hood 46 at its opposite sides has accordion-folded side walls 50, permitting expansion of the hood in a vertical direction for the purpose of facilitating extension of a member of the body through the opening into the cabinet. Depending from the front ends of the collapsible side walls 50 are flexible flaps 52, and above the flaps ties 54 depend from the front edge of the hood, adjacent ties 56 depending from the free ends of the flaps. The opening at the front of the hood would be reduced in width to facilitate its snug connection about the inserted portion of the body.

In one of the triangular extensions 42 there may be mounted a thermometer 58 to provide a continuing indication of the temperature within the cabinet.

At the back of the cabinet, where the back wall 20 merges into the extension 36, one or more handles 60 are pivotally connected to the wall of the cabinet. Extending across the opening 44 is a flexible sling 62 the purpose of which will be presently made apparent.

Centrally mounted upon bottom wall 16 is an electrical heating device 64, having a rheostatic control knob 64 accessible to a user by elevation of the sliding side door 28. The heating device 64 on its top surface has a resistance element 66, and supportable upon said resistance element, if moist heat is desired, is a basin 68 containing water W. Should dry heat be desired, the basin would be removed. In its place one might in this event position a cover, not shown, of inverted frusto-conical shape, having a plurality of circumferentially spaced openings to permit the passage of heat therethrough. Said cover would provide protection in the event one were to accidentally move the inserted member of the body toward the heating device 64.

Secured fixedly to the several vertical braces 32 so as to be located at the corners of the cabinet are wall support brackets 70 of rectangular, plate-like formation. A rectangular support ledge is adapted to be positioned

upon any selected brackets 70, at various levels within the cabinet. This includes a pair of side support bars 72 between which closely spaced cross bars 74 are connected.

In use of the device, one may be seated upon a stool in front of the cabinet, and could, for example, insert a leg through the hooded opening. The hood would be tied about the inserted limb, and the foot can be supported directly upon the ledge, it being understood that folded towels or the like may be positioned under the foot to hold the same out of direct contact with the ledge. One leg at a time would be inserted.

If, on the other hand, one were inserting the arm, the arm would be extended through the hooded opening, with the hood being tied thereabout. The handle 70 can be grasped, with the elbow supported upon the ledge. Again, a folded towel or the like may be positioned between the elbow and the ledge to provide maximum comfort. If the head is inserted it can be supported upon the sling 62 within the cabinet.

The cabinet might be varied so far as the particular structural details thereof are concerned, within the scope of the appended claims. In a commercial form, it would have a rectangular cross section, with a front-to-back dimension slightly greater than its side-to-side dimension. In every instance, however, the basic structural and functional characteristics illustrated and described herein would be retained. With the cabinet so designed, it serves to provide heat therapy for all the upper extremities, as well as the foot and knee, and performs this function with maximum efficiency, as well as with full comfort so far as the users are concerned. Isolated therapy is thus provided, in the sense that a particular member can be heat-treated without requiring the heating of other, adjacent portions of the body that may not require therapy. In this way, the heated portions of the body are fully relaxed, thus properly preparing the same for manipulation or other beneficial actions practiced by a physician, therapist, or masseur.

It is to be understood that the material of the cabinet can be varied, but in a commercial embodiment it would be preferred, undoubtedly, to provide insulated walls, which walls might, for example, be of a heat-resisting or refractory tile.

It is believed apparent that the invention is not necessarily confined to the specific use or uses thereof described above, since it may be utilized for any purpose to which it may be suited. Nor is the invention to be necessarily limited to the specific construction illustrated and described, since such construction is only intended to be illustrative of the principles of operation and the means presently devised to carry out said principles, it being considered that the invention comprehends any minor change in construction that may be permitted within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A heating cabinet for providing heat therapy for se-

lected members of the body, comprising an upstanding container having a rectangular opening; heating means in the lower end of the container; and a flexible hood covering said opening and including means connectable about a member inserted in the opening, said hood being secured to the side and back edges of said opening only, so as to be open along the front edge of the opening, the hood including collapsible side walls permitting expansion of the hood at the open-front thereof, the side walls including flaps projecting beyond the opening at opposite sides of the open-front of the hood, said flaps including ties for connecting the flaps about the inserted member, the hood including additional ties adjacent the flaps, cooperating with the first named ties in connecting the hood about the inserted member.

2. A heating cabinet for providing heat therapy for selected members of the body, comprising an upstanding container elongated in a vertical direction and formed to a rectangular cross section for the major part of its length, said container at its upper end having upwardly convergent, flat top wall portions inclined at a substantial degree from the vertical to provide a peaked top wall on the container, one of said wall portions over the greatest part of its area having a rectangular opening, said opening having a front edge terminating at the lower end of said one portion and having a back edge extending adjacent the line of convergence of the respective top wall portions; a collapsible hood overlying said opening and having a back edge secured to the back edge of the opening and side edges secured to the side edges of the opening, said hood being free of connection to the front edge of the opening, the hood having collapsible side walls, for collapsing of the hood substantially into the plane of said one wall portion, said hood being swingable to a raised position along an axis extending along the back edge of the opening, thus to provide access to the interior of the cabinet through the opening above the front edge of the opening, said hood including at its opposite sides flaps formed as extensions of the side walls of the hood and terminating in ties, the hood including additional ties depending from the front edge thereof adjacent the flaps for connection to the ties of the flaps, to close the hood about an inserted limb of a user.

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