Nov. 1, 1932. S. C. WOOD 1,885,572

MASSAGING GLOVE

Filed Sept. 5, 1931

Fig. 1

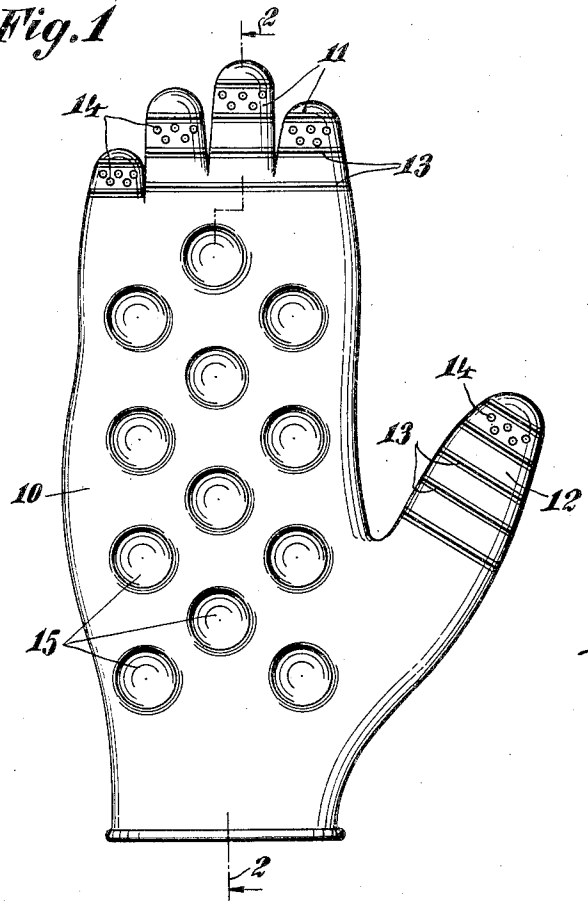



Fig. 2

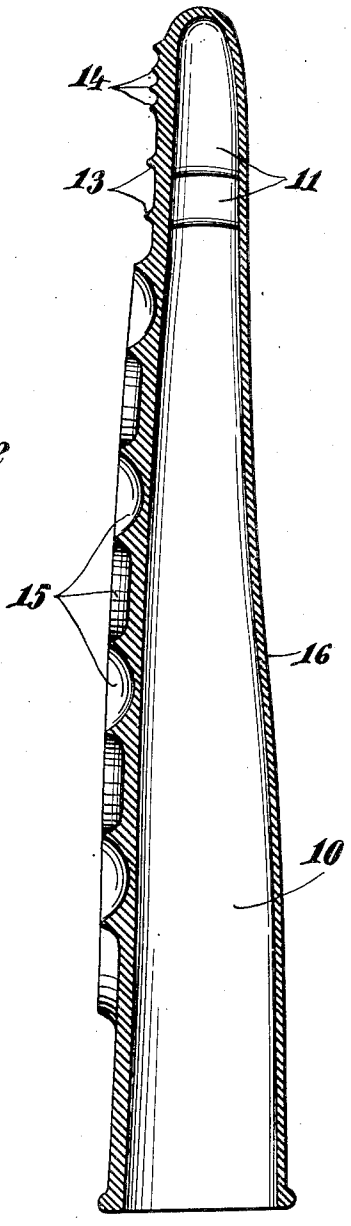
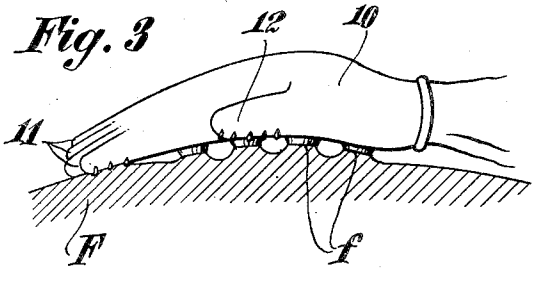



Fig. 3




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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## MASSAGING GLOVE

Application filed September 5, 1931. Serial No. 561,348.

This invention relates to massaging apparatus and has particular reference to appliances for manual control and operation.

More specifically, among the objects of the invention is to provide a device in the nature of a hand covering such as a mitt, mitten, or glove to be worn upon the hand of the masseur, the device having peculiar facilities for imparting to the subject or patient a variety of distinct and improved manipulations such as rubbing friction and traction due to the suction applied directly to the surface of the flesh.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent as the specification proceeds.

With the aforesaid objects in view, the invention consists in the novel combinations and arrangements of parts hereinafter described in their preferred embodiments, pointed out in the subjoined claims, and illustrated on the annexed drawing, wherein like parts are designated by the same reference characters throughout the several views.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a face view of a glove showing a preferred construction or embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged longitudinal section of the same on the line 2—2.

Fig. 3 is a diagram indicating in side elevation the different varieties of manipulations that may be performed with this device.

The advantages of the invention as here outlined are best realized when all of its features and instrumentalities are combined in one and the same structure, but, useful devices may be produced embodying less than the whole.

It will be obvious to those skilled in the art to which this invention appertains, that the same may be incorporated in several different constructions. The accompanying drawing, therefore, is submitted merely as showing the preferred exemplification of the invention.

It will be understood that the device may be made in various sizes or different specific designs and also for application to either hand of the manipulator. The illustration is that of a right hand appliance.

Referring now more particularly to the drawing I show a device as comprising a main hand covering 10 having finger or finger tip stalls or portions 11 and a thumb portion 12. This device is made of any suitable strong tough material such as solid rubber of a good quality, the device being made by molding or the like.

The finger tip portions and also the thumb may preferably be provided with means such as transverse ribs or ridges 13 which, when the hand is applied to the patient and reciprocated in the direction of the elbow, either by a full arm movement or merely the drawing of the fingers incident to the cupping of the hand, cause the surface of the patient's body to be subjected to an invigorating frictional effect. This effect may be varied by vibrations of the fingers and of the finger tips in the direction transverse to that just described, having in view particularly the series of conical points 14 formed adjacent to the tip ends of the device. It will be noted that the tips 11 may be of a suitable length or materially shorter than the fingers of the operator's hand, as for the purpose of obtaining a much longer palm or unitary formation of the hand portion 10.

One of the coordinated features of the improvement may include a series or multiplicity of massaging elements or vacuum cups 15 formed along the palm portion of the device. The base or body of the device along which the cups are formed, preferably in an integral manner, is materially stronger and thicker than the back portion of the glove at 16, but the entire construction may be sufficiently flexible to insure that when the palm of the masseur's hand is brought into snug engagement with the surface of the patient's flesh and given more or less pressure, a considerable number at least of the cups will closely contact or make suction engagement with the flesh. Hence when the hand is cupped, causing the palm of the hand to recede from the patient's flesh, the palm portion of the massaging device will arch and produce through the tractive or pulling ac-

tion of the cups 15 a pronounced tension on the flesh F at right angles to the main body thereof as suggested at *f* in Fig. 3. While this traction is being performed on the flesh due to the cupping action of the hand, the natural movement of the finger tips may be in a transverse direction or toward the cups, thereby effecting a combined friction and traction upon the patient's body. It will be observed also that the formation of the cups, with their relatively sharp rims or edges 15', affords facility for another method of imparting frictional massage to the patient's flesh. That is to say, the entire hand and all portions of the attachment may be passed frictionally over or along the flesh of the patient either with or without combining therewith the cupping action above described.

As thus shown and described, the invention will be seen to consist further in a massaging glove provided with finger tip stalls which may be closed, if desired, and having their bases located approximately at the outer knuckles of the fingers, the palm wall portion of the glove being stronger or less flexible than the back wall thereof, though the latter is of lesser importance as to its construction, size, material, or thickness; that the bases merge with one or both of said walls, and the latter being suitably interconnected with each other as by a gradual merging; and the stalls having sufficient strength for proper massaging, or for a slight arching, if that be desired, and hence the front walls of the stalls may have approximately the same degree of flexibility as the palm wall, whereby the arch may extend continuously along the palm and the stalls. On the palm wall may be carried vacuum cups of any suitable character, and the rims whereof may afford a good massaging action and may be even less thick than the back wall of the glove; while the stalls carry irregularities which are more readily slidable over the flesh than the cups are. The continuous arching mentioned is easily effected due to the provision of the separate finger tip stalls.

I claim:

1. As a new article of manufacture, massaging device constituting a complete flexible glove including independent stalls for the outer ends of the fingers, said stalls being closed at their outer ends and having their bases located approximately at the outer knuckles of the fingers, said glove also including a main tubular portion having a palm wall and a back wall the outer ends of which merge with said bases, said walls being of different degrees of flexibility and merging one into the other at opposite sides of the gloove, thereby to coact with said stalls when the glove is on the hand to cause cupping of the hand to arch the palm wall lengthwise away from the flesh being massaged, the front wall portions of the stalls being of substantially the same degree of flexibility as the palm wall to give such arch a tendency to continue lengthwise of the stalls; in combination with massaging instrumentalities carried by the palm side of the gloove on said palm wall.

2. As a new article of manufacture, a massaging device constituting a complete glove including independent stalls for the outer ends of the fingers, said stalls being closed at their outer ends and having their bases located approximately at the outer knuckles of the fingers, said glove also including a main tubular portion having a palm wall and a back wall the outer ends of which merge with said bases, said walls being of different degrees of flexibility and merging one into the other at opposite sides of the glove, thereby to coact with said stalls when the gloove is on the hand to cause cupping of the hand to arch the palm wall lengthwise away from the flesh being massaged, the front wall portions of the stalls being of substantially the same degree of flexibility as the palm wall to give such arch a tendency to continue lengthwise of said stalls; in combination with massaging instrumentalities carried by the palm side of the glove on said palm wall, and on said stalls, the instrumentalities on the palm wall including vacuum cups and the instrumentalities on the stalls being spaced projections more readily slidable over the flesh than said cups.

3. As a new article of manufacture, a massaging device constituting a complete glove including independent stalls for the outer ends of the fingers, said stalls being closed at their outer ends and having their bases located approximately at the outer knuckles of the fingers, said glove also including a main tubular portion having a palm wall and a back wall the outer ends of which merge with said bases, said walls being of different degrees of flexibility and merging one into the other at opposite sides of the glove, thereby to coact with said stalls when the glove is on the hand to cause cupping of the hand to arch the palm wall lengthwise away from the flesh being massaged, the front wall portions of the stalls being of substantially the same degree of flexibility as the palm wall to give such arch a tendency to continue lengthwise of said stalls; in combination with massaging instrumentalities carried by the palm side of the gloove, said instrumentalities including irregularities on the stalls and vacuum cups on the palm wall, said cups having rim portions of less thickness than the back wall of the glove.

4. A massaging glove having a pliable palm portion and flexible finger tip receiving portions, the glove being substantially coextensive in size with the hand of the wearer, but the palm portion being considerably longer than the palm of the wearer and the finger tip portions being correspondingly

shorter, and massaging projections on the palm and finger tip portions, the projections on the palm portion being larger than those on the finger tip portions for greater frictional massaging action than the latter, and said projections on the palm portion coacting with those on the finger tip portions in arcing massaging action of the glove, and the back wall of the glove being thinner than the palm portion and adjacent portions of the finger tip portions.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

SIDNEY C. WOOD.