P. BESHGETURIAN.

MASSAGE DEVICE.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 7, 1917.

1,281,487. Patented Oct. 15, 1918.

Fig. 1.

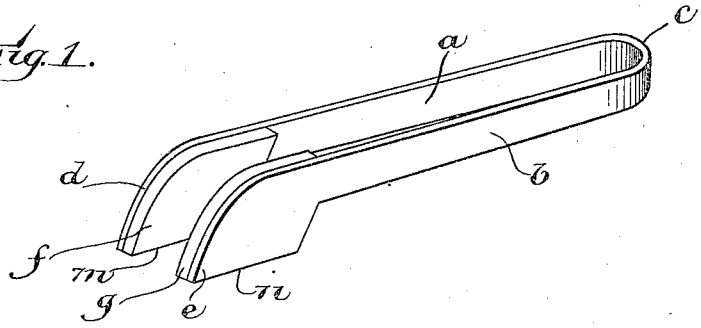


Fig. 2.

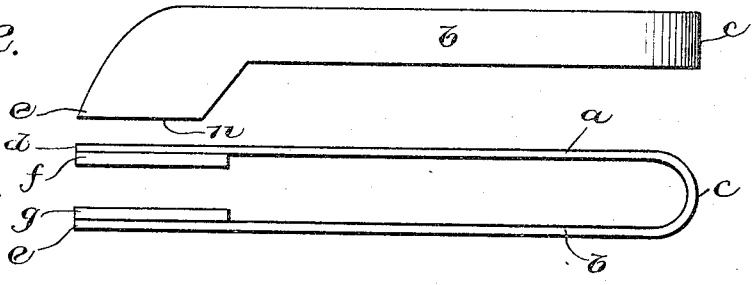


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

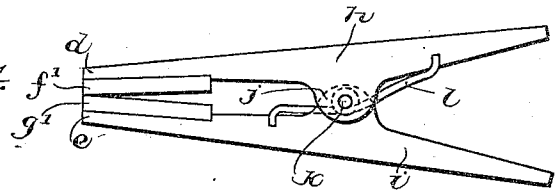
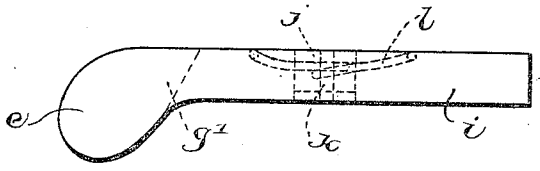


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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MASSAGE DEVICE.

1,281,487. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 15, 1918.

Application filed November 7, 1917. Serial No. 200,715.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PUZANT BESHGETURIAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cambridge, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented new and useful Improvements in Massage Devices, of which the following is a specification.

The object of the present invention is to furnish a device adapted to be used by a person for massaging his own skin, and is particularly intended to be used upon the face. It is designed to stimulate the circulation of the blood and thereby promote a healthy condition of the skin, with the color consequent upon that condition. The principle on which the device operates is that of pinching the skin upon restricted localized areas; and particularly pinching the superficial part of the skin and pulling the same outward until the grippers of the instrument slip off, releasing the skin which then falls back into place.

The essential features of the invention may be embodied in instruments of diverse forms, two of which are illustrated in the drawings.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one form of the device.

Fig. 2 is an elevation and

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the same device.

Fig. 4 is a plan view and

Fig. 5 a side elevation of another form of the device illustrating modifications both in structure and in form of the gripping members, but embodying the essential principles of the invention.

The same reference characters indicate the same parts in all the figures.

In Figs. 1, 2, and 3 the main portion of the instrument is formed of a strip of metal which is bent double and forms arms *a* and *b* with a connecting neck *c*. These parts of the device are springy, and are arranged so that normally they are substantially parallel to one another but separated by a moderate distance, substantially as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 3. The entire device may be taken in the hand of the user and grasped between the thumb and forefinger, these digits being placed on the outer sides of the arms near their free terminal portions. Then by squeezing the instrument the terminals of the arms may be brought together, where by releasing the arms the elasticity of the arms causes them to spring apart.

The terminals of the arms form grippers *d* and *e*, respectively, the bounding edges of which are preferably made convergent so as to meet at a point, and the points of the two grippers are directly opposite to each other so that these points are actually the grippers which grasp the skin. Preferably the grippers and the adjacent part of the terminals of the arms are provided on their inner sides, that is, the sides which are adjacent to, or faced toward one another, with facings *f* and *g*, respectively, of a material which is soft, yielding, non-abrasive, and frictional, this material being cemented, riveted, or otherwise secured in a sufficiently firm manner to the grippers. Various materials may be used for this purpose according to the specific requirements of the persons using the instrument. Thus, for example, I may use vulcanized rubber of various degrees of hardness, or leather, felt, and textile fabrics of various kinds. The essentials of the facings are that they should apply sufficient friction to the skin grasped between them to enable the skin to be pulled away from the contours of the face, or other part of the person's body, without requiring to be pinched too hard by the grippers, as would be the case if the contacting surfaces of the grippers were of polished metal; and they must also be non-abrasive in order not to irritate the skin in slipping over it. Within the limits indicated I may use materials of any degree of hardness or softness or frictional properties. Where a certain amount of irritation of the skin is desired to accelerate the blood stimulation, I may use for the facings a coarse hard fabric, such as cotton duck. Within the definitions of this specification, I include such materials as that last indicated in the class of non-abrasive materials, and of course all fabrics and other materials which are softer and smoother than cotton duck are non-abrasive. Abrasive materials are those which would scratch the skin or otherwise injure it when applied after the manner of treatment according to which this instrument is used.

I do not confine the invention to the form of instrument in which the gripper jaws are normally held apart by the spring force, or to jaws which are pointed or tapered. I

have shown in Figs. 4 and 5 a modification wherein the jaws are of curved outline and are normally pressed together by a spring, being separated by pressure exerted through the user's hand. In these figures the jaws are indicated d' and e', respectively, and their outline is shown in Fig. 5. They are formed upon arms h and i having overlapping lugs j which are pivoted by means of a pin k. A spring l is arranged to exert pressure on the arms for the purpose stated. The jaws or grippers are provided with facings f' and g' as before described.

The manner of use of the instrument is to place the jaws against the skin and either press them toward one another or allow them to be pressed together, so that in approaching one another they gather a small portion of the skin between them and grip the skin thus gathered. The instrument is pulled away from the face quickly, which lifts the skin and somewhat stretches it until as the instrument is further withdrawn, it is pulled away from the skin, the part pinched between the jaws then slipping out and falling back into place. The area of the skin thus gripped is relatively very small and, in the case of the pointed jaws, is limited to the extent which can be gathered between the tapered points. The process above described is repeated, the skin being thus picked up at different spots rapidly as long as it is desired to continue the treatment.

The effect of thus pinching, pulling, and picking at the skin is to stimulate a circulation of blood in the skin and thereby promote a healthy condition. A secondary effect is to cause color to appear in the parts thus treated. In other words it produces the glow of health.

Another use of the instrument is for cleaning by expressing foreign matter from the pores of the skin. For this purpose the jaws are preferably formed with straight edges as shown at m and n in Figs. 1 and 2. These edges are approximately parallel to each other and are brought together and apart as the instrument is manipulated as previously described. By laying these edges flat against the surface of the skin and then pressing them together more or less forcibly, pressure is exerted upon the skin grasped between them which forces to the surface any matters which may have found lodgment in the pores, thereby securing a condition of greater cleanliness than is possible by means of scrubbing alone. The grippers having curved outlines may be used with like effect to a degree.

All parts of the body as well as the face may be treated by use of the instrument in the manner hereinbefore described.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A massage instrument of the character described comprising two resiliently connected arms of flat material, each arm having its sides widened at one end to form an offset flat terminal of substantial area, with said terminals disposed opposite to each other and in parallel relation, and non-abrasive coverings attached to the inner faces of said terminals and conforming to the contour of the terminals and the contiguous portions of the arms.

2. A massage instrument of the character described comprising two resiliently connected arms of flat material, each arm having its sides widened at one end to form an offset flat terminal of substantial area, with said terminals disposed opposite to each other and in parallel relation, each terminal having a curved end edge meeting a straight bottom edge to provide massaging points, and non-abrasive coverings attached to the inner faces of said terminals and conforming to the contour of the terminals and the contiguous portions of the arms.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

PUZANT BESHGETURIAN.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."