This invention relates to a simple, practical, and economical means to dry hair, especially to be used in the hairdressing of women.

It is known that especially during the waving operation, hair drying is done by a metallic drier which is put over the head, and air heated by electric resistance is blown over the head.

This metallic drier not only prevents immobility of the head, but it generates heated air that is hardly bearable by the head. This happens especially in summer, and the noise due to the moving air inside it and the heat make the above-mentioned operation very annoying and sometimes not well tolerated by ladies.

By the operation of the device of this invention all the aforementioned inconveniences are completely eliminated, as the drying operation is accomplished with qualified elements containing salts, which are harmless and strongly hygroscopic and regenerable, made in such a way as to come into direct contact with the hair to be dried. The salts are preferably granules of colored silica-gel, and after their use they are taken away from the absorbed humidity in order to re-generate them.

The devices to perform the above-mentioned operation consist of supports incorporating elements of colored silica-gel and made in such a way as to place the locks of hair in direct contact with the elements of the above-mentioned silica-gel, keeping them in that position till the drying operation has been completed.

The invention will be better understood by reference to the following description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a closed device made as a disadvantage pliers;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of FIG. 1, but in open position;

FIG. 3 is a plan view of FIGS. 1 and 2 while in use;

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of a tubed device;

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of the device of FIG. 4, which is in use;

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of a closed device made in the form of cylindrical pliers;

FIG. 7 is a transverse sectional view of the pliers of FIG. 6;

FIG. 8 is a partial transverse sectional view of FIG. 6 but with the pliers in open position.

Referring now to the drawings, and more particularly to FIGS. 1–3, the hair drying device is constituted by two support elements 1 and 2, preferably of semi-elliptical form. Support elements 1 and 2 have continuations 3 and 4. Continuations 3 and 4 are pivotally connected together by pin 5 and are inclined away therefrom. A spring 6 maintains the support elements 1 and 2 in engagement.

The support elements 1 and 2 are joined to pierce cup-shaped members 7 to which are joined tablets 8 and 9.

The tablets 8 and 9 consist of treated silica-gel that is blue colored and contains cobalt salt in order to make them non-poisonous.

The device is employed in the following way:

Pressing on the two continuations 3 and 4 against the action of spring 6 causes cup-shaped members containing tablets 8 and 9 to move away from each other.

Between tablets 8 and 9 is placed a lock of damp hair 10 and upon release of continuations 3 and 4 the lock of hair 10 is maintained between the tablets 8 and 9.

The silica-gel absorbs the dampness, thereby drying the hair and when the drying action is finished, the color of the silica-gel will change to pink instead of pale blue.

After the hair-drying devices have dried the locks of hair, they can be subjected to the application of heat in order to remove the moisture therefrom so that they can be used in a subsequent hair drying operation.

From what has been outlined above and from the examination of the device, it is easy to comprehend that with a series of devices one could perform rapid drying of one's hair without using metallic driers, or other equivalent machinery, thereby avoiding all the inconvenience that one can find in ordinary drying.

Referring now to FIGS. 4 and 5, the hair-drying device is formed by a supporting tubular body 11; on its outward surface 12 a layer of silica-gel is deposited, in a permanent way. This tubular body has extremities 13 and 14. Extremities 13 are bent one over the other to maintain an elastic element 15 therein, while those of 14 depend outwardly parallel to the axis of tubular body 11.

For the operation of FIG. 4, it is necessary to wind on the pipe 11 a lock of hair 16 as shown in FIG. 5, and then retaining the lock of hair 16 on tubular body 11 in contact with the silica-gel by fixing the loose end of elastic band 15 on one of extremities 14.

The device dries the lock of hair 16 in the same manner mentioned in connection with FIGURES 1–3; but in the case of FIGS. 1–3, a lock of hair is situated in a flat manner; whereas the device of FIGS. 4–5 is for rolling a lock of hair around tubular body 11. The device of FIGS. 4 and 5 is usually for longer hair, having therefore a greater thickness of hair to dry. The device performs its function in radial way, from the inside towards the outside in order to obtain a quicker and more complete effect. FIGS. 6–8 illustrate another embodiment of the present invention. In FIGS. 6–8 there is shown arculate shaped support elements 17 and 18 having continuations 19 and 20. A hinge member 21 pivotally connects support elements 17 and 18 together and springs 22 are disposed at the outer peripheries of support elements 17 and 18 to maintain the edges opposite hinge 21 in engagement. A series of rectangular shaped tablets 23 containing silica-gel are arranged on the interior of support elements 17 and 18 and held therein by interposed extremities 25 of support elements 17 and 18. Each tablet 23 is spaced from its adjacent tablet as indicated at 24.

The operation of the above-mentioned device is similar to that one represented in FIGS. 1–3. By pressing on continuations 19 and 20 the two arculate shaped support elements 17 and 18 open; the device then is placed on the device of FIGS. 4 and 5 on which a lock of hair was fixed with elastic band 15. Upon releasing the continuations 19 and 20, the two support elements 17 and 18 encompass the outside surface of the lock of hair to be dried, and, acting from the outside towards the inside, they provide a regulating function as described with reference to the device of FIGS. 4 and 5 which acts in the contrary way, i.e., from the inside towards the outside of the lock of hair.

Of course, the invention is not limited to the device described, but covers all devices which could reach the same result with similar means.

What I claim is:

1. A hair drying device comprising at least two support elements, means pivotally connecting said support elements together, biasing means disposed between said support elements to maintain said support elements biased toward each other, and each support element having
mounted thereon water absorbent members which are maintained in engagement with each other by said biasing means to hold a lock of hair therebetween in direct contact with said water absorbent members to dry said lock of hair.

2. A hair drying device according to claim 1 in which said support elements have continuations extending therefrom at the pivotal connection of said support elements to easily open said support elements carrying said absorbent members for insertion of said lock of hair.

3. A hair drying device according to claim 1 in which said absorbent members consist of cakes of silica-gel having a metallic salt therein to render them non-poisonous.

4. A hair drying device according to claim 1 in which said support elements have cup-shaped members mounted thereon in which said absorbent members are carried.

5. A hair drying device according to claim 1 in which said support elements are arcuate shaped and have inwardly bent extremities, and said absorbent members having a rectangular configuration are maintained within said arcuate shaped support elements by said inwardly bent extremities.

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