This invention relates to new and useful improvements in a combination brush and soap holder of the type forming the subject matter of my earlier U. S. Patents Nos. 2,333,486, 2,408,876 and 2,441,808 and U. S. Application Serial No. 41,501 filed July 30, 1948.

The articles forming the subject matter of those prior patents and applications are characterized by a brush mounted on a long strap-like handle intermediate the ends thereof to facilitate the use of the brush to wash the back and other relatively inaccessible parts of the body. The brush, in each of the prior patents or applications, features a back having a central opening closed by a pivotally or removably mounted door with bristles fixedly mounted on the back about the opening. Mounted on the back concentric with the central opening there is a soap container into which a cake of soap can be placed through the central opening when the door is pivoted to an open position and means is included on the door for pressing the inserted cake of soap away therefrom and to extend the soap container to an operative position with relation to the ends of the brush bristles.

The combination brush and soap holder of the present invention is generally similar to those of the prior patents and applications, differing therefrom in the manner of forming the soap container into which the piece of soap is to be placed.

Another object of the present invention proposes forming the pairs of brush bristles on diametrically opposite sides of the central opening with integral intermediate portions extended across the central opening in a novel manner to form the soap container.

The invention further proposes a novel means for securing the intermediate portions of the pairs of brush bristles in position on the back of the brush in a manner to maintain the position of the soap container fixed with relation to the brush bristles of the brush.

It is also proposed to form the pairs of brush bristles which form the soap container in different ways so that their intermediate portions will be either multi-stranded or single-stranded with brush bristles at the ends thereof.

Another object of the present invention proposes the provision of a novel wall bracket which is to be mounted on the wall of a bathroom or the like over a bathtub or other similar receptacle so that the brush may be rested thereon following use to have the accumulated water conveniently drain therefrom.

As a further object, the present invention proposes removably mounting the long strap-like handle upon the brush so that it can be removed and replaced by a shorter hand strap when desired.

It is a further object of the present invention to construct a combination brush and soap holder which is simple and durable and which can be manufactured and sold at a reasonable cost.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, and to the appended claims in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawings forming a material part of this disclosure:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the combination brush and soap holder constructed in accordance with the present invention and being used to scrub one's back.

Fig. 2 is a side elevational view of the combination brush and soap holder resting on its supporting wall bracket.

Fig. 3 is a plan view of Fig. 2, with the long strap-like handle removed.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged transverse sectional view of the combination brush and soap holder, per se.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged central transverse sectional view of the combination brush and soap holder, but with portions thereof broken away.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of a portion of the combination brush and soap holder in the process of being assembled.

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of the member for holding the cover in a closed position.

Fig. 8 is a side elevational view of the combination brush and soap holder with the small hand strap substituted for the longer strap-like handle.

Fig. 9 is a perspective view of the small hand strap, per se.

Fig. 10 is a perspective view of the wall bracket, per se.

Fig. 11 is a perspective view of a portion of one of the bristle members used to form the soap container of the present invention.

Fig. 12 is a view similar to Fig. 11, but illustrating a modification of the bristle member used to form the soap container.

The combination brush and soap holder, according to the form of the invention illustrated in Figs. 1 to 11, includes a brush 29 having a
container 21 for a cake of soap 22 and mounted on the intermediate portion of a long strap-like handle 23 to be used for scrubbing one's back, as illustrated in Fig. 1.

The brush 20 has a rigid back 24 preferably formed of a transparent resilient plastic material; such as "Lucite" (an acrylate or methyl methacrylate resin). The rigid back 24 has a flat central portion 24b and end portions 24c which are sloped downward and outward from the central portion. The flat central portion 24b is in the form of a frame having a central opening 25.

Fixedly mounted on the bottom face of the back 24 there is a plurality of brush bristles 26 arranged in separate tufts molded into the back 24 as is generally known in the art to which the present invention pertains. The bristles 26 can be formed of natural hair but are preferably formed of a synthetic material; such as "Nylon" (a polymeric amide with a protein-like chemical structure).

The strap-like handle 23 is formed of any desired flexible water-proof material and has an intermediate portion which is slightly enlarged and extended across the central portion 24b of the back 24. Outwardly of the enlarged intermediate portion, the handle 23 has fixedly mounted thereon snap fastener elements 27 engageable with complementary snap fastener elements 28 molded into the back 24 for releasably connecting the handle 23 to the brush 20. The ends of the handle 23 are formed with pairs of slits 29, see Figs. 1 and 2, into which one's fingers may be engaged, as clearly shown in Fig. 1, for manipulating the brush.

There is also provided a shorter hand strap 29, see Figs. 8 and 9, formed of the same material used to form the handle 23. The shorter hand strap 29 is provided at its ends with snap fastener elements 30, similar to the snap fastener elements 27, which are to be engaged with the snap fastener elements 28, when the handle 23 is disconnected from the brush 20, for connecting the shorter hand strap 29 to the brush. When the shorter hand strap 29 is connected to the brush 20 it may be directly gripped permitting the brush to be used for washing the accessible parts of the body. If desired, the back 24 of the brush 20 may be gripped with the hand strap 29 extended across the back of the hand.

The container 21 for the cake of soap 22 is formed of elongated bristle members 34 having intermediate portions 34a and bristle portions 34b which are around the central opening 25 in the rigid back 24. Those intermediate portions 34a are extended across the bottom of the cake of soap 22 and interlaced, as shown in Figs. 4 to 6. The ends of the intermediate portions then extend upward along the sides of the cake of soap 22.

Along diametrically opposite sides of the opening 25, the rigid back 24 is formed with aligned pairs of holes 36, see Figs. 4 to 6, which continue at their top ends into concordente reduced holes 37 and one end of the reduced holes 37 are connected by a groove 38 formed in the top face of the rigid back 24 completely about the opening 25.

After the intermediate portions 34a of the bristle members 34 have been interlaced and passed upward along the sides of the cake of soap 22, the bristle portions 34b are passed through a loop of a length of synthetic resilient plastic yarn 39, as shown in Fig. 6. The length of yarn 39 is extended from one reduced hole 37 to the next along the groove 38 and at each hole 37 is doubled upon itself and passed downward through the holes 36 and 37 to have the respective bristle member 34 passed through the loop and properly adjusted with relation thereto to form the respective portion of the container 21 and the bristle portion 34b. The free end of the length of yarn 39 is then passed to draw the bristle member 34 upward and the enlarged hole 36 until the bristle member strikes the top of the hole 36. The next bristle member is drawn into position in the same way until the entire container 21 is completed. The ends of the length of yarn 39 will then be adjacent another and can be tied or secured together in any other known manner for securely anchoring the bristle members 34 in position with relation to the rigid back 24. If desired, the tops of the groove 36 might be sealed by pouring in molten resilient plastic material of the same type used for forming the back 24.

The central opening 25 permits the cake of soap 22 to be passed through the rigid back 24 and into the soap container 21, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5. The central opening 25 is closed by a cover 40 preferably formed of the same material as the rigid back 24. As clearly shown in Figs. 4 and 5, the bottom face of the cover 40 rests on the top face of the back 24 about the central opening 25. The cover 40 comprises a bottom portion 40b and a narrower top portion 40c and is preferred that the cover be formed of a thermoplastic resilient material so that the portions 40a and 40c can be secured together to form an integral unit thereof by the application of heat and pressure. The cover 40 is formed with spaced holes 41 along the length thereof for the circulation of water through the container 21.

Secured to the top face of or integrally formed with the rigid back 24 there are blocks 42, see especially Fig. 5, arranged in end alignment with the top portion 40c of the cover 40. One end of the top portion 40c is formed with spaced lug portions 43 which receive between them a complementary lug portion 44 formed on the adjacent block portion 42. A pin 46 is passed through the intermeshed lug portions 43 and 44 to pivotally secure the cover 40 in position.

At its other end, the top portion 40d of the cover 40 is provided with a means for holding the cover in a closed position. The holding means comprises a shank 46a rotatively extended through the top portion 40d and formed at its bottom end with a circular latch disc 47 disposed within a complementary recess formed in the bottom face of the top portion 40d, as shown in Fig. 5. The disc 47 is engageable with a complementary keeper groove 48. The latch 47 has a flat side 47a which is arranged to be aligned with the keeper groove 48, in the turned position of the latch disc 47, to free the cover to be pivotally to an open position. The shank 46a is formed with a flat side 46b aligned with the flat side 47a of the disc 47, as clearly shown in Fig. 7, to clearly indicate the position of the flat side 47a within the recess that houses the circular disc 47.

A resilient means is mounted on the cover 40 for holding the cake of soap 22 against the bottom of the container 21 and to hold the container properly extended with relation to the rigid back 24.

That resilient means is characterized by a cylinder 49 of a flexible synthetic resilient plas-
tic material which has one side fixedly secured to the bottom face of cover 40 by several screws 50. The side of the cylinder 49 opposite the side secured in position by the screws 59, bears against the top face of the cake of soap 22. The cylinder 49 is normally in the shape of a perfect circle and is compressed to the substantially circular shape and size shown in Fig. 3, when the cover 40 is closed and locked. As the cake of soap 22 becomes smaller in use, the cylinder 49 will resume its circular shape and continue to press the cake of soap 22 against the bottom of the container 21 and fully extend the container with relation to the brush back 24.

A wall bracket 51 is provided which is to be attached to a wall 52 over a bathtub or other receptacle, not shown, to support the brush 29 so that all water may drain therefrom. The wall bracket 51 is preferably formed of the same material used to form the rigid back 24 of the brush 29 and includes a back portion 53 formed with spaced bayonet slots 54. Screws 55, see Fig. 3, threaded into the wall 52 are arranged to have their heads passed through the bayonet slots 54 for supporting the wall bracket 51 upon the wall 52. The back portion 53 of the wall bracket 51 continues inwardly extending arm portions 55 formed in their top edges with aligned cutouts 51, see especially Fig. 10.

The ends of the rigid back 24 of the brush 29 project slightly beyond the endmost bristles 29 and are adapted to be rested in the cutouts 51 with the bristles 26 projected downward between the adjacent faces of the forwardly extending arm portions 55, as shown in Fig. 2. The ends of the strap-like handle 23 depending freely along the outer faces of the forwardly extending arm portions 56. In this position, all accumulated water in the bristles of the brush and in the soap container 21 will conveniently drain therefrom and into the bathtub or other receptacle over which the bracket 51 is mounted and the brush 29 and the soap container 21 will conveniently dry.

In Fig. 12 there is illustrated a portion of a modified bristle member 34 which can be substituted for the bristle member 34 used in the form of the invention shown in Figs. 1 to 11. That modified bristle member 34 is formed of a resilient thermoplastic material and has a solid intermediate portion 34 which continues at its ends into a plurality of separate strands forming bristle portions 34. The bristle member 34 could be formed of a plurality of separate strands with the application of heat and pressure to the center thereof to fuse the strands at the center to form the solid intermediate portion 34.

In other respects the modified form of the invention shown in Fig. 12 is the same as that illustrated in Figs. 1 to 11.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred embodiments of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise constructions herein disclosed and the right is reserved to all such changes and modifications within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent is:

A combined brush and soap holder comprising a rigid brush back formed with a central opening, bristles fixedly mounted on the bottom face of said brush back, said central opening, a soap container supported from said back concentric with said central opening, and including a resilient member bearing against the cake of soap in said container for holding the cake of soap against the bottom of said container and said container extended, said back being formed of a plurality of elongated bristle members having their intermediate portions extended along the bottom face of the cake of soap upward along the sides thereof and into aligned holes on diametrically opposite sides of said central opening, said intermediate portions having their free ends extended down and out of said holes forming bristle portions.

2. A combined brush and soap holder comprising a rigid brush back formed with a central opening, bristles fixedly mounted on the back concentric with said central opening, a soap container supported from said back to receive a cake of soap passed through said central opening, and a pivotally mounted cover for closing said opening and including a resilient member bearing against the cake of soap in said container for holding the cake of soap against the bottom of said container and said container extended, said back being formed of a plurality of elongated bristle members having their intermediate portions extended along the bottom face of the cake of soap upward along the sides thereof and into aligned holes on diametrically opposite sides of said central opening, said intermediate portions having their free ends extended down and out of said holes forming bristle portions.

3. A combined brush and soap holder comprising a rigid brush back formed with a central opening, bristles fixedly mounted on the bottom face of said brush back about said central opening, a soap container supported from said back concentric with said central opening, and including a resilient member bearing against the cake of soap in said container for holding the cake of soap against the bottom of said container and said container extended, said back being formed of a plurality of elongated bristle members having their intermediate portions extended along the bottom face of the cake of soap upward along the sides thereof and into aligned holes on diametrically opposite sides of said central opening, said intermediate portions having their free ends extended down and out of said holes forming bristle portions, and means for fixedly anchoring said brush member in said holes.

3. A combined brush and soap holder comprising a rigid brush back formed with a central opening, bristles fixedly mounted on the bottom face of said brush back about said central opening, a soap container supported from said back concentric with said central opening, and including a resilient member bearing against the cake of soap in said container for holding the cake of soap against the bottom of said container and said container extended, said back being formed of a plurality of elongated bristle members having their intermediate portions extended along the bottom face of the cake of soap upward along the sides thereof and into aligned holes on diametrically opposite sides of said central opening, said intermediate portions having their free ends extended down and out of said holes forming bristle portions, and means for fixedly anchoring said brush member in said holes.

4. A combined brush and soap holder comprising a rigid brush back formed with a central opening, bristles fixedly mounted on the back concentric with said central opening, a soap container supported from said back to receive a cake of soap passed through said central opening, and including a resilient member bearing against the cake of soap in said container for holding the cake of soap against the bottom of said container and said container extended, said back being formed of a plurality of elongated bristle members having their intermediate portions extended along the bottom face of the cake of soap upward along the sides thereof and into aligned holes on diametrically opposite sides of said central opening, said intermediate portions having their free ends extended down and out of said holes forming bristle portions, and means for fixedly anchoring said brush member in said holes.
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ing, and a pivotally mounted cover for closing said opening and including a resilient member bearing against the cake of soap in said container for holding the cake of soap against the bottom of said container and said container extended, said back being formed about said central opening with enlarged holes extended upward from the bottom face thereof, said soap container being formed of a plurality of elongated bristle members having their intermediate portions extended along the bottom face of the cake of soap upward along the sides thereof and into aligned holes on diametrically opposite sides of said central opening, said intermediate portions having their free ends extended down and out of said holes forming bristle portions, said elongated bristle members being formed of a plurality of strands of resinous plastic material, said strands having their center portions fused together forming solid intermediate portions.

5. A combined brush and soap holder as defined in claim 1 wherein the brush back has means on its outer surface for attachment of a flexible handle whereby the holder may be manipulated over the body of the wearer.

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