Sept. 15, 1959 H. R. HACKNEY 2,904,038

BODY RUBBING UNIT

Filed Feb. 6, 1956

FIG. 1

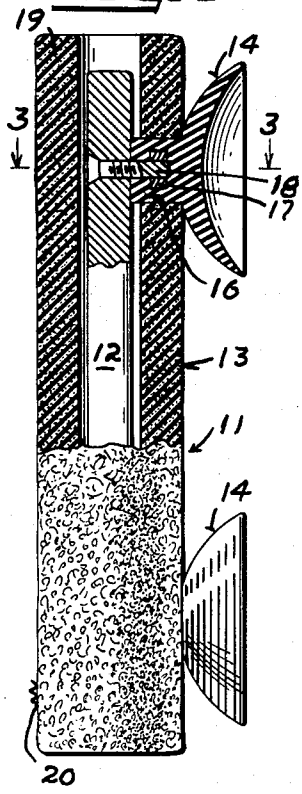


FIG. 2

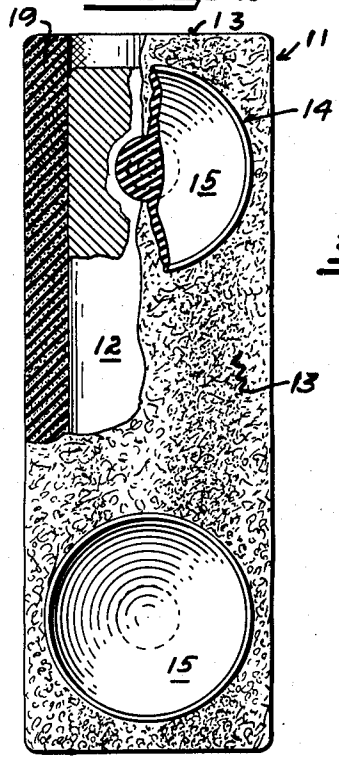


FIG. 4

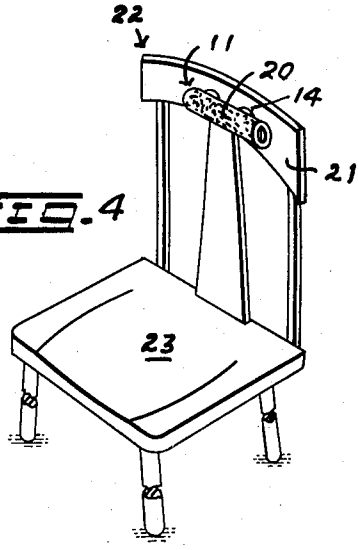


FIG. 5

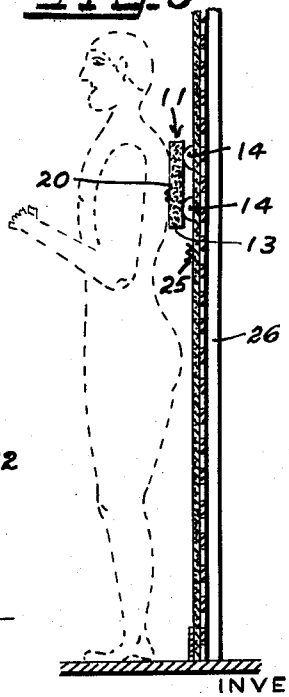


FIG. 3

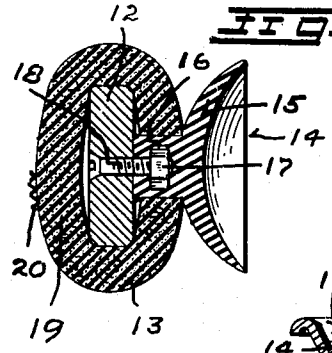
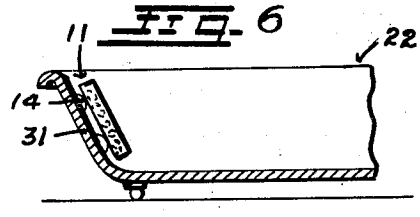


FIG. 6



INVENTOR

HOWARD R. HACKNEY

BY Henry N. Young

ATTORNEY

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BODY RUBBING UNIT

Howard R. Hackney, Richmond, Calif.

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5 Claims. (Cl. 128—67)

The invention relates to a unit for scratching or scrubbing parts of a person's body by applying the body against the fixedly mounted unit.

Many people derive physical pleasure from the scratching of a portion of the body, and the difficulty in readily effecting a satisfactory self-administered scratching of that portion of the back adjacent the shoulder blades which is not positively reachable for the application of a person's fingers thereat for scratching or scrubbing purposes is well known. In accordance with the present invention, a unit is provided for its relatively fixed mounting in a convenient location for the rubbing application of a person's body, and particularly the back, against it for rubbing the engaged body part to a degree determined by the rate and vigor of application of the body against the unit, and it is a primary object of the present invention to provide a body-rubbing unit which is particularly effective as a scratcher when the body part is rubbed against it.

Another object is to provide a body-rubbing unit of the character described which is usable as a body-scrubbing element for body-cleansing, as well as scratching purposes.

A further object is to provide the unit with a means for mounting it in most convenient places for its uses.

An added object is to provide a unit of the character described which is usable for body-rubbing purposes when in either dry or damp or wet condition, as then generally comprising a toilet article.

The invention possesses other objects and features of advantage, some of which, with the foregoing, will be set forth or be apparent in the following description of a typical embodiment thereof, and in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a partly sectional edge view of a body-rubbing unit providing the features of interest.

Figure 2 is a partly sectional view taken at a support-engaging face of the unit.

Figure 3 is a section taken at the line 3—3 in Figure 1.

Figure 4 shows the unit as mounted for use on the back of a chair.

Figure 5 shows the unit as mounted for use on an upright wall face.

Figure 6 is a fragmentary view showing the unit as mounted at the sloping end of a bathtub.

As particularly illustrated, a body-rubbing unit **11** of my invention essentially comprises an elongated rectangular body or core **12** of preferably water-tight material which grippedly mounts a tubular body **13** of yielding and porous rubber or cellulosic foam or the like of a sponge structure providing a liquid-pervious friction face, and is arranged for a positioned installation thereof on a pair of suction cups **14** fixed to and extending from the body **12** at a common side thereof, whereby the unit may be readily mounted and held on smooth surfaces generally. As particularly shown, the cup portions **15** of the suction cups **14** extend axially from cylindrical stem portions **16** which have nuts **17** embedded therein

and have threaded engagement with screws **18** extended through the core **12** for clamping the cups **14** to the core. In the present structure, the body **13** is provided with holes which complementarily receive the stem portions **16** of the suction cups **14** whereby the adjacent body portion is more or less clamped between the core **12** and the back faces of the cup portions **15** by the action of the tightened screws **18**.

Noting that the portion **19** of the body **13** which is to be contacted by a person's body in the use of a present unit is substantially only that provided at the opposite side of the support body **12** from the suction cups **14**, it will be understood that the remainder of the present tubular body **13** is not generally essential and might be omitted; in the latter case, the portion **19** which provides a working face **20** might be unitarily glued or otherwise attached to the outer face and side edges of the block **12** as comprising a body-engaging pad. It is also to be noted that the material of the body **13**, or at least the body-engaging portion or pad **19** thereof, preferably has a relatively coarse and stiff sponge structure which is absorbent of liquid through its working face **20** which, when dry or wet, has its working face **20** providing a desired degree of friction when rubbed by a body part; a polyurethane composition has been found particularly useful for providing a pad **19** for present purposes.

It will now be noted particularly that a present unit **11** is arranged for its relatively fixed mounting on various objects and in various positions for its use by the application of a body part against it. Thus, Figure 4 shows a unit **11** as attached by means of its suction cups **14** to the back **21** of a chair **22** on the seat **23** of which a person may be supported in a position which provides for the scratching of the back by the working face **20** of the mounted unit by rubbing the back against said working face. It will be understood that when a present unit **11** is dry and is mounted on a chair back, or other conveniently located support, it may be directly engaged by a user's skin, or may be engaged through the clothing to provide a massaging and/or scratching action of the engaged clothing part against the skin as the applied body portion is moved along the working face **19** of the unit with appropriate pressure.

A particularly useful mounting for a unit **11** is on a smooth upright surface **25** provided by a suitable support structure **26** (Figure 5), with the unit disposed at any desired angle to the horizontal and at such a height, for instance, that a body portion of a standing person may be applied against its working face **20** in a rubbing action which provides a desired effect. The surface **25** may be provided by, for instance, a room wall or a door or window casing, etc., and the mounted unit may then be utilized in a dry condition, either directly or through the clothing as a body-scratching means. On the other hand, the upright support **26** might comprise a wall of a stall shower or the like, in which case a person may use the dry unit either for scratching purposes and/or for applying a powder to the body. Furthermore, the unit body **13** may contain a charge of a suitable cleansing liquid for effecting a wet scrubbing or cleaning of the body part being applied against the working face **20** of the unit. It is also to be understood that an initially wet pad of a mounted unit **11** may be pressed more or less dry by the user's hands for its subsequent re-wet use as a rinsing means or its damp use as a wiping and/or scratching means with respect to the user's body.

A further place where the present unit **11** may be used to advantage is indicated in Figure 6 which shows a present unit **11** mounted on the sloping end wall **31** of a bathtub **22**; in this application, the unit may be alternatively used for body-scratching or body-scrubbing or body-massaging purposes by a person in the tub. Fur-

thermore, still further body-engaging uses of a fixedly mounted present unit **11** may be made in accordance with the position of its mounting. Also, while the disclosed suction-cup mounting means is preferable for the illustrated installations by reason of the adjustability of positioning provided by it, it will be understood that another mounting means might be provided for a present body-engaging pad as coming within the scope of my invention.

From the foregoing description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, the advantages of the present body-engaging unit will be readily understood by those skilled in the art to which the invention appertains. While I have shown and described an arrangement which I now consider to be a preferred embodiment of my invention, I desire to have it understood that the showings are primarily illustrative, and that such changes and developments may be made, when desired, as fall within the scope of the following claims:

I claim:

1. In a body-rubbing unit of the character described, a supporting element of rigid structure providing a flat side face, a relatively thick pad of resiliently yielding material unitarily carried by said element and providing a cylindrically convex friction working face opposite said flat element face, and means for adjustably mounting the element on a relatively fixed support to provide for the rubbing application of a person's body part against the working face of the mounted pad.

2. A body-rubbing unit for the uses described comprising a water-proof supporting element of rigid structure and uniform rectangular cross-section, a liquid-absorbent pad of sponge structure fixed on said element and providing a cylindrically convex friction working face opposite a side face of the supporting element, and means for adjustably mounting the element on a relatively fixed support to provide for the rubbing application of a person's body portion against the working face of the mounted pad.

3. A back-scratching unit comprising a rigid elongated supporting element of uniform cross-section providing a flat rectangular side face, a uniform tubular pad of resiliently yielding material grippingly mounted on said element in circumferentially stretched enclosing relation thereto, and providing a cylindrically convex friction working face portion opposite said side face of the element, and means at the opposite side of the element from said working face of the pad for adjustably mounting the unit on a relatively fixed support to provide for the moving application of a person's back against the working face of the pad for scratching the applied back portion against it.

4. A body-rubbing unit of the character described comprising a laterally closed tubular homogeneous element of stretchable sponge rubber or the like and of uniform cross-section therealong, an elongated backing member of uniform cross-section and rigid structure providing a flat rectangular side face and grippedly enclosed by said element to provide a cylindrically convex working face opposite said face of the backing member, and a vacuum cup means fixed directly to said backing member and operative to support the member on a relatively fixed support surface to dispose said pad to face outwardly of the mounting surface to provide for the rubbing application of a body portion of a person across the working face of the mounted pad.

5. A structure in accordance with claim 4 in which a screw bolt means secures the vacuum cup means directly and releasably to the backing member.

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