

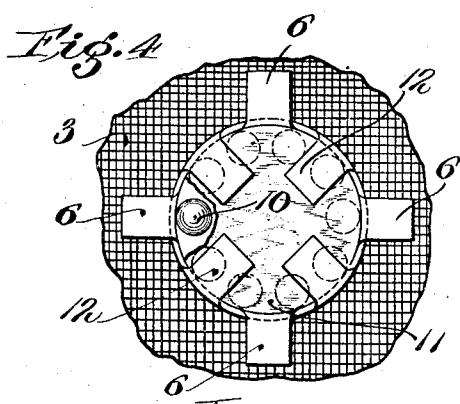
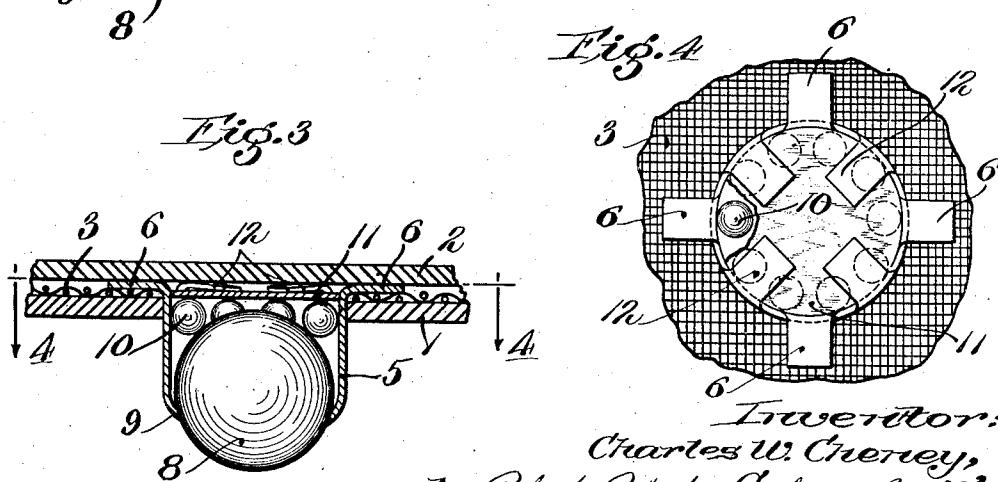
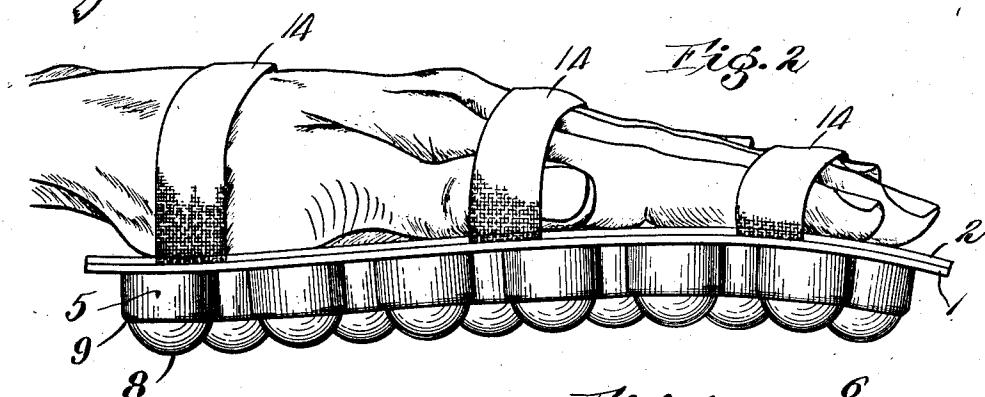
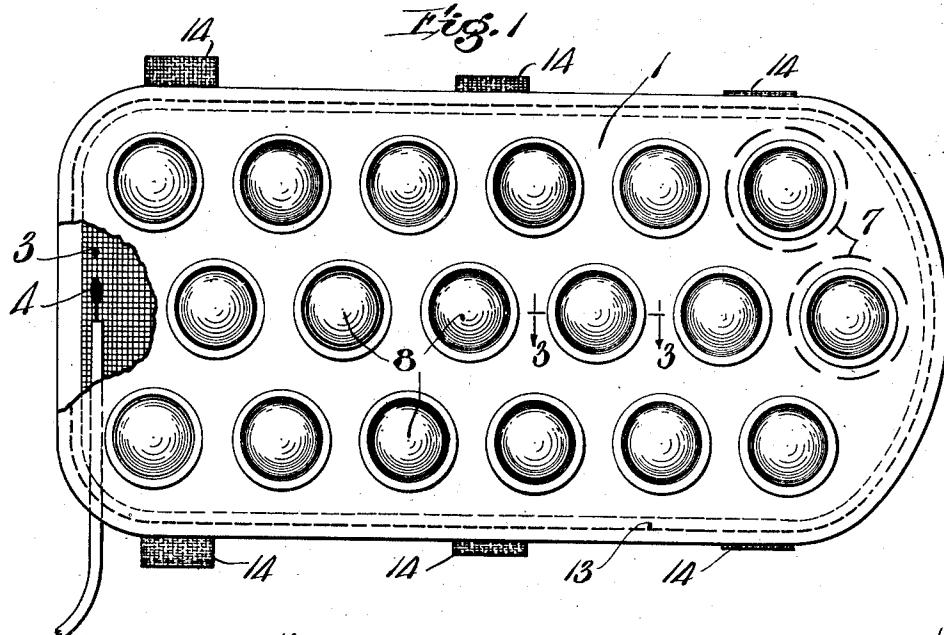
May 26, 1925.

1,539,299

C. W. CHENEY

ELECTROTHERAPEUTIC MASSAGE APPLIANCE

Filed March 15, 1923



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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ELECTROTHERAPEUTIC MASSAGE APPLIANCE.

Application filed March 15, 1923. Serial No. 625,305.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES W. CHENEY, a citizen of the United States of America, and resident of Boston, in the county of 5 Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented new and useful Improvements in Electrotherapeutic Massage Appliances, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an electro-therapeutic massage appliance.

One embodiment of the appliance is shown in the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 represents a face view of the massage appliance;

Fig. 2 represents an edge view showing the same applied to the hand of the user;

Fig. 3 represents an enlarged sectional view as on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 4 represents a plan view on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

In the particular embodiment here illustrated, I have shown the appliance as including a base provided with a plurality of salient or projecting massaging members 25 having a universal movement of rotation, in combination with means for supplying an electric current to the massaging members, so that simultaneously with the mechanical kneading or massaging of the flesh 30 of the patient an electrical treatment may be applied to the parts subjected to the massaging.

While these massage members are here illustrated in the form of steel balls supported for free movement of rotation in every direction, it is to be understood that in so far as the combined massage and electrical treatment is concerned other forms of rollers or massaging members might be 40 employed and that the same might be partly instead of wholly made of electrically conductive material, the essential condition for the combined treatment being that the flesh engaging and kneading parts be adapted to 45 carry an electric current to the parts of the subject engaged thereby and that the same be provided with a suitable conductor for connection to a source of electrical energy.

In its mechanical aspects the invention 50 also possesses important features of novelty and usefulness, such as the provision of massaging members supported for universal movement of rotation, for massage treatment alone, with or without provision for 55 electrical treatment.

The structure shown includes a flexible

base composed of two layers 1 and 2, preferably both of non-conducting or insulating material such as rubber containing therebetween the flexible metallic screen 3 to 60 which electric current may be conducted as by the lead wire 4. The member 1 has a number of perforations through which project the metallic tubes or cylinders 5, having outwardly deflected ears 6 extending 65 between the members 1 and 2 and secured in place as by means of rows of stitching 7. These members it will be noted are shown in contact with the conducting screen 3 to receive current therefrom.

Mounted within the tubes 5 are the massaging members 8, which consist of steel balls projecting beyond the ends of the supporting tubes, but retained therein by the inturned lips 9 at the ends of the tubes, and at the back bearing against the annular row of anti-friction balls 10. The balls 10 ride on a track formed by the disc 11 retained in place by the inwardly bent ears 12 integral with the tube 5.

The member 2 preferably overlies this combined structure being secured thereto by suitable connections such as stitchings 7 and additional peripheral rows of stitching 13. Any suitable means may be provided for adapting the appliance to the hand of the user, such as the straps 14 to receive the hand as a sort of mitten capable of being readily bent and flexed for kneading or massaging operations or to conform to the 90 particular configuration of the portion of the body on which the device is being used. The member 2 being of insulating material, the conductor 3 is suitably insulated to prevent the current from flowing through the body of the masseur and to compel it to flow through the contact portions of the device to the patient, the patient being suitably grounded to insure proper completion 95 of the electric circuit.

In this manner the device on the hand of the masseur may be satisfactorily passed over the body and used for any desired working or manipulation of the flesh, and the proper current for the electro-therapeutic portion of the treatment will simultaneously flow through the exact portion of the body which is the subject of the treatment at that particular moment.

While I have shown the device as comprising a plurality of rows of massaging members, it is of course apparent that but

a single unit, or any other arrangement or grouping of units, might be employed and that the particular configuration of the appliance might also be varied.

5 It will be further apparent that while I have illustrated a flexible screen 3 as forming the electrical-conducting means between the members 1 and 2, in place of a wire mesh individual wires or conductors might 10 be employed as the electrical connections between the lead wire 4 and the massaging members.

It will also be understood that although a flexible base for carrying the massaging 15 members will usually be preferable, a rigid or inflexible base may be used to advantage for some purposes. The appliance may be varied widely in form to adapt it to various special uses and I do not intend to 20 be limited to the structure shown excepting as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A device for use in giving electro-therapeutic massage treatments comprising 25 a base made up of at least two layers of insulating material, a plurality of massaging members of electrically conductive material projecting from one side of the base, and conducting means held between said 30 layers and electrically connected to said massaging members.

2. A device of the class described having a flexible base comprising two layers of insulating fabric, a layer of electrically conductive 35 fabric interposed between the insulating layers, a plurality of metallic sockets

projecting through openings in one of the insulating layers and making electrical contact with the conducting fabric, and a massaging member mounted in each of said 40 sockets.

3. A device of the class described having a base comprising two layers of flexible insulating material, a layer of wire mesh fabric interposed between the layers of insulating material, a plurality of tubular 45 sockets projecting through openings in one layer of insulating fabric, each of said sockets having a plurality of ears lying in contact with the wire mesh fabric, means for 50 securing the ears to the base, and a massage member disposed in each socket.

4. A device of the class described having a flexible base comprising two layers of flexible insulating material, a layer of flexible 55 conducting material interposed between the layers of insulating material, a plurality of tubular sockets projecting through one of the layers of insulating material and abutting the conducting material, each 60 socket having a plurality of ears projecting through the conducting material and disposed between the latter and the outer layer of insulating material, means securing the several layers of flexible material together, 65 a massage member mounted in each socket, and a strap secured at its opposite ends to the base providing a loop for the entrance of the user's hand between it and the base.

Signed by me at Boston, Massachusetts, 70 this thirteenth day of March, 1923.

CHARLES W. CHENEY.