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METHOD OF IMPROVING ARTIFICIAL SAUSAGE SKINS

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The present invention relates to a method of improving artificial sausage skins.

It is well known to produce artificial sausage skins by impregnating fabric tubes with meat materials or meat fibres. The fabric tubes treated in this manner are then dried and hardened or smoked respectively. Now, it has been found that better results may be obtained if in accordance with the present invention the fabric tubes are treated with ammonia after effecting impregnation and drying, i. e. before smoking. This, preferably, is effected by dipping the impregnated and dried artificial sausage skins in diluted ammonia.

The concentration of the ammonia solution into which the artificial sausage skins are dipped may vary. Generally about 50 cm^3 of ammonia in about 10 litres of water is sufficient. Before hardening or smoking, drying is again effected.

Instead of treating the artificial sausage skins with ammonia water in the manner stated above, they may also be treated with wet ammonia vapors. To carry out this method, the rooms in which the dried sausage skins are suspended are filled with vapor which previously has been passed over an ammonia solution and thereby has carried with the volatile ammonia.

In connection with the known method it sometimes happens that during hardening, for instance by smoking, or at a sudden change of weather, tar particles are deposited or precipitated upon the sausage skin which are not perceptible with the naked eye but which have such an insulating capacity that further smoking is no longer effective. By the previous treatment with ammonia before smoking, the formation of such an insulating layer is prevented.

Moreover, the tissue or fabric of silk, artificial silk or other spinning threads often is provided with fatty layers or layers of other substances which by carelessness during weaving upon the looms or in any other manner have come into contact with the tissue or fabric. Such parts of the tissue or fabric badly absorb the impregnating mass. If the skin before smoking is treated with ammonia the latter impregnates the porous impregnating mass and destructs the fatty layer upon the tissue or fabric. After smoking a much better connection of the tissue or fabric with the impregnating masses may be ascertained.

By using the new method, moreover, artificial sausage skins are obtained the color of which is of greater brightness on the one hand and which on the other hand are denser, of greater strength and hardness and, therefore, are capable of offering more resistance than artificial sausage skins produced in a similar manner without, however, being treated afterwards with ammonia. For instance it often happens that in spite of careful washing or rinsing of the raw material the impregnating mass still contains salt. After drying this salt causes a white coating of the fabric tubes impregnated with this mass. Artificial sausage skins of this kind cannot be hardened by smoking, because the salt layer forms a coating upon the impregnating mass applied which prevents the smoke coming into connection with the impregnating mass. A treatment of such sausage skins with ammonia, either in a bath or with wet vapors, dissolves the salt coating. This also would be effected by rinsing with water, whereby, however, the above mentioned advantage would not be present. It has been known to add ammonia to the ice treated impregnating mass in the production of artificial sausage skins from fabric tubes impregnated with meat masses or meat fibres. This, however, had the object of reducing the temperature of the mass.

The new method may, of course, also be employed if, in a manner known per se, ice and ammonia were added to the impregnating mass.

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