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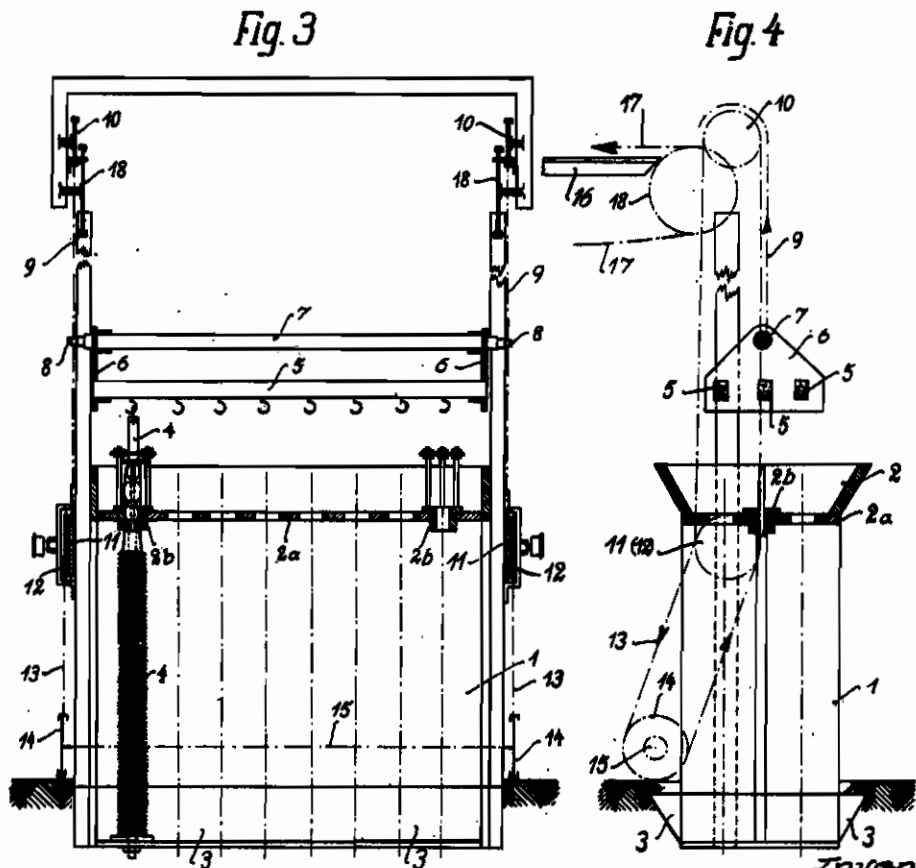
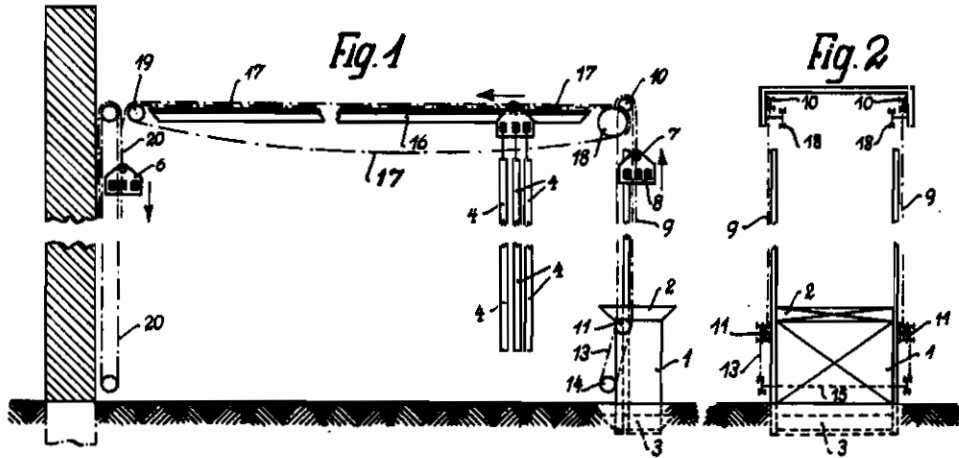
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METHOD OF DRYING ARTIFICIAL SAUSAGE SKINS

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METHOD OF DRYING ARTIFICIAL SAUSAGE SKINS

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

In the known plants for drying artificial sausage skins made from impregnated fabric tubes in which a plurality of tubes is withdrawn from vertical mandrels and for the purpose of suspending is carried upwardly through an annular gap by a common supporting device, the supporting devices at the upper end of the vertical stroke where simply suspended from horizontal supporting bars upon which they remained untouched until the drying process was terminated. The impregnating device located on the floor of the work room was moved upon rails extending in parallel to the upper suspension bars so that the group of tubes drawn upwardly each time together with its supporting device was simply suspended behind the already suspended groups, whereupon the impregnating device was further moved upon the rails to produce the next group. To allow the supporting device, consisting of a simple horizontal beam, to be brought over the suspension bars, the impregnating device together with the supporting device was to be rotated about a vertical axis of such a degree that the supporting beam passed between the suspension bars, in order to be then rotated into the transverse position and to be suspended.

This method was rather complicated and required impregnating devices moving on rails which again required a continuous change of the position of the men attending the method who progressively had to travel from the one end of the work room to the other.

Compared with this method a substantial improvement is obtained if in accordance with the present invention the impregnating device is stationary and the individual groups of the impregnated tubes are automatically suspended at the upper end of their vertical stroke from horizontally moving endless chains which after each individual winding up of a new group intermittently are moved, until the entire production of a period of the working time is suspended from the chains, dried in the time between two periods of working time and removed by groups again during the next period of working time at the other point of reversal of the chains by vertically movable endless conveyor chains.

A device for carrying out the method according to the present invention is shown in the accompanying drawing by way of example.

In this drawing:

Fig. 1 shows a longitudinal view of the general arrangement of a plant according to the invention,

Fig. 2 is a side view of the plant illustrated in Fig. 1, and

Figures 3 and 4 show the corresponding parts of Figures 1 and 2 respectively on a larger scale.

Upon the bottom of the work room the impregnating device 1 is arranged. The latter, for instance, consists of a frame having an upper supply trough 2 for the liquid impregnating mass and a lower trough 3 for receiving the mass eventually flowing off. In the bottom 2a of the trough 2 holes for inserting annular nozzles 2b are provided through which the tubes withdrawn from a vertical tube arranged below the trough 2 are pulled upwardly, whereby they are impregnated by the mass present in the trough 2.

The individual impregnated tubes 4 are by groups, in the construction shown for instance in three parallel groups, suspended, by means of hooks, from transverse beams 5 which are supported side by side by lateral discs 6. These discs in turn are suspended from a transverse beam 7 provided at both ends with pins 8 projecting outwardly which may be hung in laterally arranged vertically movable conveyor chains 9. These chains are led over upper and lower sprocket wheels 10 and 11 respectively which are rotated either by hand or by a motor. The sprocket wheels 12, the chains 13, the wheels 14 and the transverse shaft 15 transmit the uniform movement to the other side.

As soon as a complete group of tubes, corresponding to the number of the individual nozzles, is wound upwardly in the manner described, these tubes are deposited upon a horizontal conveying device 16 arranged below the ceiling of the room. At the upper point of reversal the projecting pins 8 of the beam 7 drop off the vertical chains upon the horizontal endless conveyor chains 17 which are led over sprocket wheels 18 and 19. As soon as a finished group of impregnated tubes has been wound upwardly it is moved upon the horizontal conveying device 18 for a sufficient distance to be withdrawn from the range of the impregnating device and so to provide space for a new group. The method is continued in this manner, until the entire daily production is suspended from the upper track. In this condition the tubes are dried over night. On the next day the process is continued by impregnating new tubes. At the other end of the conveyor track 18 the tubes dried over night are by groups successively lowered again from the upper track by means of a vertical endless chain 20. The dry tubes are removed to be further treated.

The details of the device for carrying out the new method may be more or less changed without altering the method itself and without departing from the present invention.

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