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METHOD OF AND AN APPARATUS FOR DRYING AND HARDENING  
IMPREGNATED ARTIFICIAL SAUSAGE SKINS  
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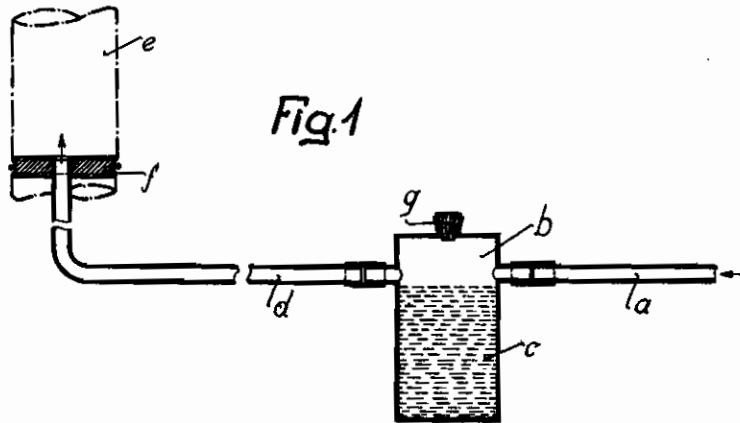


Fig. 1

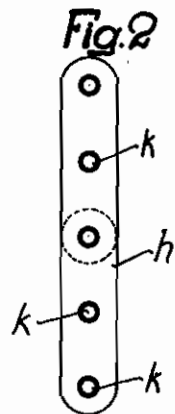


Fig. 2

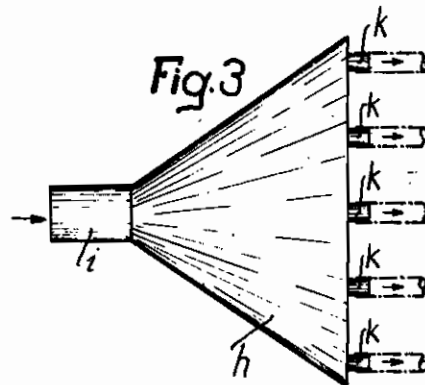


Fig. 3

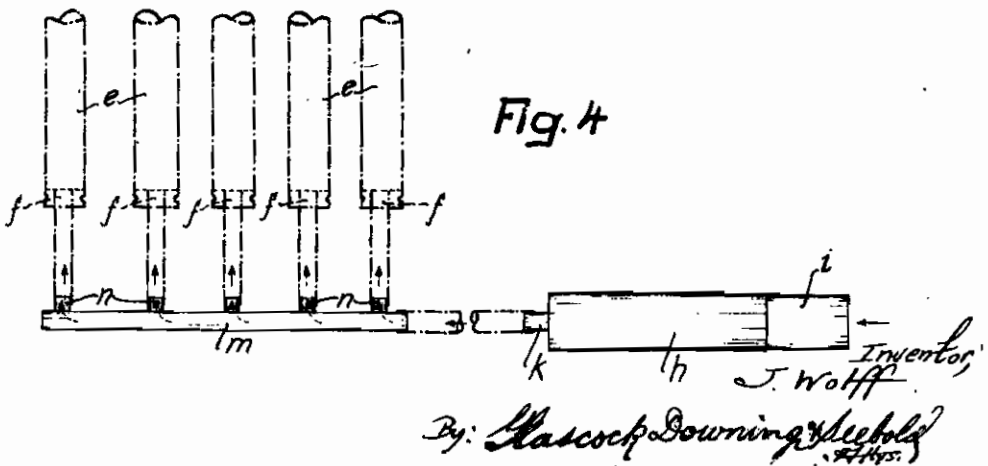


Fig. 4

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# ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN

## METHOD OF AND AN APPARATUS FOR DRYING AND HARDENING IMPREGNATED ARTIFICIAL SAUSAGE SKINS

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The present invention relates to a method of and an apparatus for drying and hardening impregnated artificial sausage skins. More particularly the invention is concerned with a method of and an apparatus for simultaneously drying and hardening or previously hardening respectively by blowing in of air impregnated artificial sausage skins open at both ends and preferably provided with a fabric insertion or core.

According to the invention previously heated air is blown into one end of the impregnated tubular artificial sausage skins and may escape again at the other end. Said air previously being loaded with vapors of acetic acid, formaldehyde or other substances which are adapted to harden or to initiate hardening of the impregnating mass with which the tubular sausage skins are coated.

It is known per se to dry artificial sausage skins with air and also to use formaldehyde, for instance in the form of vapor, for hardening and initiating hardening respectively of the impregnating mass. The simultaneous drying and initiating hardening by means of hot air loaded with vapors of formaldehyde or similar hardening substance, however, has proved to be new and of particular advantage, because with this combined use the two effects occurring assist each other mutually. The movement of the air continuously carries fresh hardening vapors to the impregnated upper surfaces and removes them again after they have acted. The heating shortens the period of hardening or of initiating hardening respectively and the dilution of the vapors with hot air accelerates the reaction and prevents a loading with too large an amount of hardening means which would require to be removed again later on.

The novel combined method is carried out for instance in such a manner that the heated air is passed through a closed tank containing the liquid or other substance in consideration so as to absorb the vapors developed in the tank and to carry them into the artificial sausage skins to be dried or hardened respectively.

To be able to simultaneously dry and initiate hardening of a larger number of artificial sausage skins in this manner a distributing member may be provided in the pipe carrying hot air in rear of the tank in which the vapors are developed. From this distributing member a larger number of connecting hoses lead to the individual artificial sausage skins. Preferably the artificial sausage skins are freely suspended in their total

length in the room of manufacture and provided at the lower end with a closure disc connected in the interior and provided with a passage to which a short pipe is connected to introduce the previously treated hot air.

In the accompanying drawing one construction of a device for carrying out the new method is diagrammatically shown by way of example.

In this drawing:

Fig. 1 shows the general arrangement, Figs. 2 and 3 illustrate a distributing member in front and side elevation respectively, and Fig. 4 shows a distributing arrangement.

The heated drying air is supplied by a pipe *a* and enters the tank *b* in which the vapors are developed and which is filled with a liquid *c* the level of which reaches as far as beneath the inlet opening. In the same level the discharge opening is provided to the branch pipe of which the air pipe *d* is connected which leads to the artificial tubular sausage skin *e* to be dried and hardened. To this purpose the lower end of the artificial sausage skin *e* is provided with an annular disc *f* through the centre opening of which air may flow in. At the upper end of the artificial sausage skin a disc of same construction is provided by way of the opening of which the air may escape again. The tank *c* may be re-filled by way of an opening *g* provided in the upper wall and adapted to be closed by a plug.

The distributing member consists of a chamber *h* enlarging in the manner of a funnel at the smaller end *i* of which the previously treated air is introduced, whereas at the enlarged end a number of short pipes *k* is provided which by means of hoses are connected to the individual artificial sausage skins. The chamber *h* may either be flat and provided with a small number of short connecting pipes or may be formed in the manner of a truncated cone to receive a corresponding larger number of short connecting pipes. In each hose or short connecting pipe a closure member may be provided so that, when these hoses are connected to fresh artificial sausage skins no air not yet utilized may escape.

For distributing the air upon a number of artificial sausage skins suspended side by side, distributing pipes *m* provided with corresponding branches *n* may be used, as shown in Fig. 4.

Depending on the suspension of the artificial sausage skins in rows or groups the device may eventually be constructed in another manner.

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