

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ANDREW HAMILTON, OF BROAD BROOK, CONNECTICUT, AND JAMES DE GRAY, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

IMPROVED POWDER FOR POLISHING.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 50,578, dated October 24, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, ANDREW HAMILTON, of Broad Brook, in the county of Hartford and State of Connecticut, and JAMES DE GRAY, of the city of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Polishing and Tooth Powders; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

The dust or powder which is produced in the manufacture of articles from mother-of-pearl has heretofore been considered useless and has been thrown away by the manufacturers. We have discovered that this dust or powder, which we will term in this specification "pearl-powder," is a very superior polishing material for silver and other metals and materials, and that when mixed with whiting and other materials it makes an excellent tooth-powder; and our invention, which is based upon this discovery, consists in the preparation and use of the pearl-powder for the above purposes, either alone or mixed with whiting.

The pearl-powder should have all coarse, gritty particles extracted from it either by sifting, blowing, or other means. The said powder, as well as being obtained by the usual process of manufacturing mother-of-pearl articles, may be obtained by grinding up the small waste pieces of mother-of-pearl in a suitable mill and sifting the fine from the coarse particles.

For the purpose of polishing metals or other materials we use the pearl-powder alone or mix

with it a suitable proportion of whiting. We find that on the addition of about ten per cent., by weight, of whiting to the pearl-powder the polishing quality is much improved by the property which whiting has of absorbing grease.

This polishing-powder may be used in the same manner as other polishing-powders, either in a wet or dry state; or the polishing process may be commenced by using it in a wet state and finished by using it dry.

An excellent tooth-powder may be made as follows: Take of pearl-powder, twenty (20) pounds; whiting, twenty (20) pounds; pulverized sugar, one (1) pound; orris root, two (2) pounds; tannin, one (1) ounce; oil of cassia, one (1) ounce; oil of bergamot, one (1) ounce; oil of winter-green, two (2) ounces. Mix and triturate the whole well together. This powder is used for cleaning the teeth in the same manner as other tooth-powders.

What we claim as our invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The preparation and use of pearl-powder for polishing purposes, substantially as herein described.

2. A mixture composed of pearl-powder and whiting, either with or without other substances, substantially as herein described, for the purpose of polishing metals or other materials or cleaning the teeth.

ANDREW HAMILTON.
JAMES DE GRAY.

Witnesses:

HENRY T. BROWN,
J. W. COOMBS.