

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MELVENIA V. BABCOCK, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

HAIR-DRESSING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 385,988, dated July 10, 1888.

Application filed October 11, 1887. Serial No. 252,021. (No specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MELVENIA V. BABCOCK, of the city of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hair-Dressings, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to a liquid preparation for a hair-dressing particularly applicable to hair which is harsh and dry, and by the use of which the hair is strengthened, and thus less liable to break, and it is rendered soft and glossy and its growth stimulated and promoted. This hair-dressing is prepared from 15 castor-oil, (*Ricinus*,) leaves of sweet fern, (*Comptonia*,) leaves of bayberry, (*Myrica*,) and cayenne or red pepper, (*Capsicum*,) These materials are used in proportions and mixed as follows: The leaves of sweet fern and of 20 bayberry (one-half peck of each) are steeped separately in water enough to cover them. One quart of the decoction of sweet-fern leaves and one pint of the decoction of bayberry-leaves are mixed together, adding thereto one 25 grain of cayenne pepper and a pint of the castor-oil, the whole producing the hair-dressing of this invention. Preferably pure spirits or alcohol, and also some substance,

such as the oil of bitter almonds are added, the former to preserve and the latter to perfume 30 the mixture. Two quarts of alcohol and one ounce of oil of almonds are sufficient for the quantity of the hair dressing above stated.

The proportions of the several ingredients above particularly stated may be varied; but 35 as given the mixture has been found most efficient and useful.

This hair preparation is to be well shaken before using, and for the best results it is applied to the hair with a brush and every other 40 night or morning.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A preparation for a hair-dressing composed 45 of the decoctions of the leaves of sweet fern and bayberry, cayenne-pepper, and castor-oil, mixed together in the proportions substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my 50 hand in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

MELVENIA V. BABCOCK.

Witnesses:

ALBERT W. BROWN,
FRANCES M. BROWN.