UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AIMÉ LAURE, OF MAZAMET, FRANCE.

PROCESS OF DEPILATING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 285,044, dated September 18, 1883.

Application filed May 16, 1883. (No specimens.) Patented in France January 4, 1883, No. 152,966; in England February 9, 1883, No. 734, and in Belgium February 10, 1883, No. 60,411.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AIMÉ LAURE, a citizen of the Republic of France, residing at Mazamet, (Tarn,) France, have invented a new or improved process for unhairing skins by means of a water-stove, (for which I have obtained Letters Patent in France, dated January 4, 1883, No. 152,966, fifteen years; Belgium, dated February 10, 1883, No. 60,411, fifteen years; England, dated February 9, 1883, No. 734, fourteen years;) and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters or figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to a new process for unhairing skins of all kinds and qualities—such as those of sheep, lambs, goats, rabbits, hares, calves, oxen, cows, &c.—by means of a water-stove, in which the skins are vertically suspended.

The means I employ are the following: I make a water-stove instead of a fermenting-stove, but with this difference, that instead of having a hermetically-closed chamber I simply establish a large or small basin or pan capable of being left uncovered. I arrange hooks exactly the same as in a fermenting-stove, and I hang the skins thereon by the feet, side by side, taking care to keep them perpendicular. The skins being hung up and descending nearly to the bottom of the basin or pan, I fill up the latter until all the skins are entirely submerged. I can put into the water-stove fresh or beaten skins, skins steeped or not steeped, skins beaten or not beaten, skins washed or not washed, skins scalded or not scalded, and skins scoured or not scoured. The prolonged stay of the skins in the water naturally causes the peeling, and when this peeling takes place the skin has not suffered at all in the water. On the contrary, it has gained in value and the wool is completely preserved. When the moment for peeling has arrived, it is only necessary to empty the basin or pan, the skins drain separately, and they can be peeled easily. By this water system I am also enabled, while preserving the leather and the wool, to accelerate more or less the operation of peeling. If it is preferred to let the skins follow their natural course, cold water may be used both in winter and summer. It will be understood that the skins take longer to peel in winter than in summer; but no harm is occasioned by that. If, on the contrary, it is desired to accelerate the operation of peeling, I use tepid or hot water, and I add to the bath any material capable of hastening this operation—such as soap, soda crystals, strained bran-water, &c.—provided, always, that the materials employed are not such as would injure either the leather or the wool.

I may observe that, if care has been taken to put the skins into the water-stove perfectly scoured and washed, (by means of what is known as the "Puech Process," for example,) wool can be obtained of a value hitherto unknown.

By my process of peeling, the leather obtained is not only worth more, but it can be manipulated immediately by the tawer, or it may be salted, and, more especially, it may be dried without losing any of its quality.

These water-stoves can be employed for peeling the skins of lambs and sheep, as well as those of goats, rabbits, hares, oxen, cows, calves, &c.

As will have been seen in the foregoing description, I replace violent and dangerous means by a most natural, practical, and economical method.

I do not claim laying hides or skins one upon another in a bath. This has been done before, and is objectionable, because the skins lying one on top of the other prevent free action of the bath on their surface. In fact, the uppermost skin will be finished on its upper surface before any appreciable effect has been made on any of the other surfaces, and will mislead the attendant into the belief that the lower skins are in the same condition as the upper. Again, the pressure of the pile of skins is liable to injure the lower skins. Finally, the skins, when placed one upon another in a bath, cannot be drained without being first

rehandled, while by my process, when the water is let out, they drain without being disturbed.

I claim—

The process of treating skins preparatory to peeling, which process consists in suspending the skins vertically in an open vessel containing water, the perpendicularly-placed skins being entirely submerged in the water, substantially as hereinbefore described.

AIMÉ LAURE.

Witnesses:

PIERRE PRICE,

HERM. A. GAU.