

ADVANTAGES OF CONCAVE RAZORS

Some Information from an Authority in the Field

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In looking back over the industry of razor making I can go back to before 1870. In that time, of course, many changes have taken place. Steel has become better refined—the handles have been successively wood, bone and composition—and the grinding has seen many improvements.

In the early ages practically all the razors used in this country were made in England, and were ground flat. It was at this time, however, that the art of grinding razors full-concaved was developed in Germany. English manufacturers quickly saw the advantage of full-concaving, and they commenced sending large quantities of blanks (flat ground razors) to Germany to be concaved. In a comparatively short time the full-concaved razor found favor not only on the Continent and in the British Isles, but also in this country. As a matter of fact the new style practically drove out the flat ground razors.

Since the war, as everyone knows, wages have gone up in many cases 200 and 300 per cent, and this has had the effect of increasing the production cost of razors about threefold. Besides this, the skilled labor required has become very scarce. As a consequence, it is only the old and firmly established firms that can produce any at a price within the reach of the barber supply trade.

Having made practically a life study of this business, I have no hesitancy in stating that the full-concaved razors are by great odds far superior to the flat ground and for the following reasons:

In the first place, only razors made of the best quality of steel can be ground full-concaved. Secondly, if the temper should be too brittle, the edge will crumble, and if too soft it will buckle up. In a thick, flat-ground razor the cheapest quality of steel can be used, and it can be ground if the temper is too hard or if it is too soft, and it will not be seen until put to work. Thirdly, a full-concaved razor can be honed repeatedly without regrinding. A flat ground razor will need regrinding every time it has been honed and means an extra expense. Fourth, flaws and other defects become visible in the full-concaved razor which will not be seen in the flat ground razor until developed in use—and these naturally are cast aside so as not to sell a damaged article.

Experience is, after all, the best teacher, and no doubt the experienced barber knows without saying that the quality article is much to be preferred to that of inferior workmanship. It has been proved that quality is always cheapest in the long run, and that goes for the full-concaved razor as well as for other articles in present-day use.

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