Nov. 22, 1927. 1,650,067

R. GRAVES

BATHTUB APPLIANCE

Filed April 4, 1927

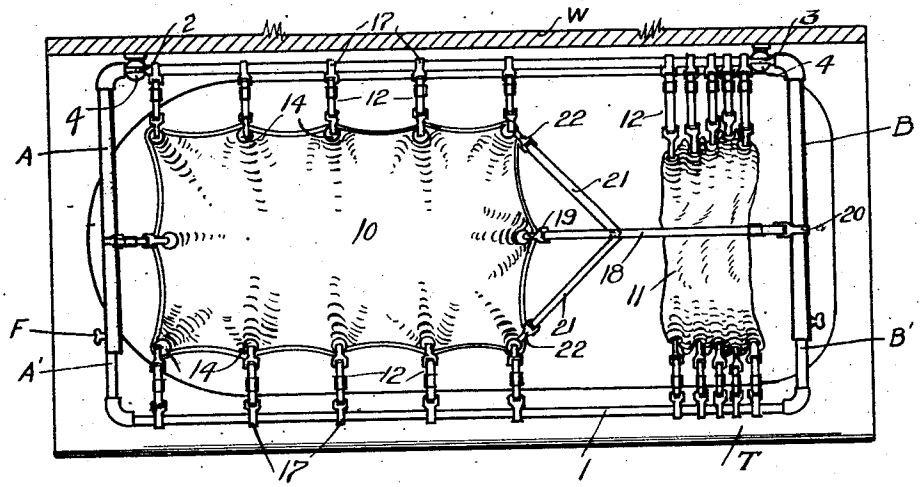


Fig. 1

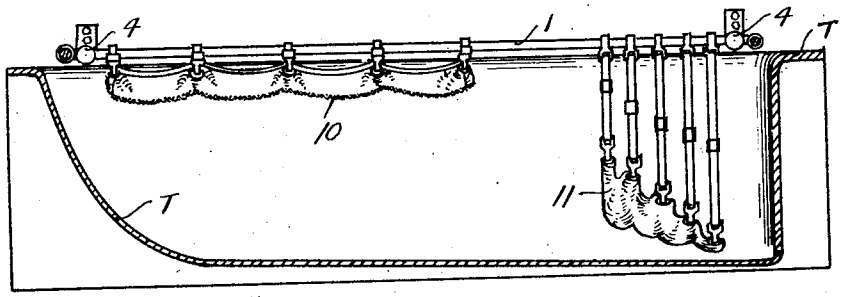


Fig. 2

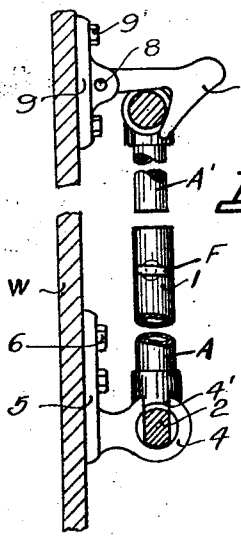


Fig. 3

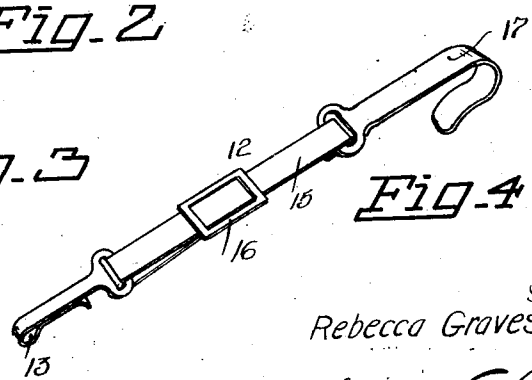


Fig. 4

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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BATHTUB APPLIANCE.

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My present invention relates to an improved bath tub appliance designed for use in connection with bath tubs, and especially those of the built-in type, as a bath room accessory, to be utilized in the process of bathing and dressing babies and children, or invalids. The primary object of the invention is the provision of an auxiliary device of this character which, when not required for use, may be swung clear of the bath tub and retained in position to give free use of the tub under usual conditions. As thus stored the device is readily accessible for use, and when required, may with equal facility be placed in position and prepared for use.

The invention contemplates a supporting or suspending frame hinged adjacent to the bath tub and equipped with a bath hammock and a dressing hammock suspended from the frame and connected thereto in such manner that a selected hammock may be extended for use and the other hammock contracted into compact form, but ready for extension when desired.

The invention consists in certain novel combinations and arrangements of parts as will hereinafter be more fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings I have illustrated one complete example of the physical embodiment of my invention wherein the parts are combined and arranged in accordance with the best mode I have thus far devised for the practical application of the principles of my invention.

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a bath tub showing the equipment of the present invention, the supporting frame being located in operative position with the flexible bath hammock extended for use and the flexible dressing hammock contracted and out of use.

Figure 2 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view of the bath tub and appliance shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is an enlarged detail view showing the hinged suspending frame in section and in stored position parallel with a side wall of the bath room.

Figure 4 is a detail perspective view of one of the adjustable suspending straps or hangers for the bathing hammock and dressing hammock.

In the preferred form of my invention as illustrated in the drawings I have shown its use in connection with a built-in type of bath tub T with the appliance hinged to the side wall W of the bath room, but it will be understood that various changes and adaptations may be made in the illustrated disclosure of the invention without departing from the spirit and principles thereof.

In carrying out my invention I utilize a suspending frame 1 preferably rectangular in form and made up of suitable material such as metal pipes or tubes which are conveniently joined together to form a rigid structure. The ends of the frame are made up of telescoping pipes A and A′ and B and B′ in order that it may be adapted to different widths of bath tubs and suitable fastening means F are used to hold the telescopic ends in adjusted position.

Near the ends of one of the long bars or side bars of the frame, said bar is fashioned with flattened portions 2 and 3, preferably rectangular in cross section as shown in Figure 3. These flattened portions also have rounded ends in order that they may perform the function of journals in connection with a pair of spaced brackets 4 each having a throat or restricted portion 4′. The brackets have attaching plates 5 and are secured by bolts or screws 6 to the wall 7 just above the top of the bath tub. When the frame is held in vertical position as indicated in Figure 3 it will be apparent that it may be withdrawn from these brackets if desired, and may with equal facility be replaced in correct position by passing the flattened portions 2 3 through the throats 4′ of the brackets. With these brackets as a support the frame may be swung down to horizontal position over the bath tub for use, or when not required, it may be swung up to vertical position, as in Figure 3, out of the way of bathers or users of the bath tub. On the wall W above the brackets 2, 3, are provided hooks 7 designed to engage over the top side bar of the rectangular frame and retain the frame in position parallel with the wall. These hooks are pivoted at 8 on the attaching plates 9 and the latter are secured to the wall W by means of bolts or screws 9′. When the frame is to be swung down for use, the hooks 7 are first turned up to disengage them from the frame and then the latter is swung outwardly and downwardly to extend across and rest on the top of the bath tub.

The suspending frame carries a pair of hammocks 10 and 11, the former as a bath

hammock and the latter as a dressing hammock and adapted for selective use. These hammocks are made up of suitable flexible material that is waterproof and which may be cleansed and maintained in sanitary condition, and they are of general rectangular shape. The hammocks are detachable from the frame and are suspended therein by means of suspending straps indicated as a whole by the numeral 12. Each suspending strap has a spring, snap-hook 13 at its outer end that is adapted to engage in an eye 14 at the edge of the hammock, said eye being of metal or made up of the fabric of the hammock and stitched with a button-hole stitch. The eyes or eyelets are arranged around the edge of the hammock 10 in suitable numbers to insure the proper support and suspension of the hammock in extended position, and the straps 15 are provided with adjusting buckles 16 to adapt the suspending-straps to the required length for connecting the edges of the hammock with the bars of the suspending frame. At the inner ends of the suspending straps they are equipped with large hooks 17 adapted to fit around the bars of the suspending frame to support the hammocks, and capable of sliding movement longitudinally of the frame bars. The bathing hammock as seen in Figures 1 and 2 is a little more than half the length of the bath tub and the suspending frame and a stretcher-strap 18 is extended longitudinally of the tub and hooked at 19 to the hammock and at 20 to one of the end bars of the frame. A pair of diverging brace straps 21 are connected to the stretcher strap and hooks 22 on those braces are used to engage complementary eyelets 14 of the hammock 10. By the use of the several straps the hammock 10 is spread and stretched within the suspending frame, and the slidable hooks 17 on the side bars of the frame permit the hammock to be extended as in Figure 1 to position for use, or contracted and out of the way, when the hammock 11 is to be used.

After the bathing process, the hammock 10 is disconnected from the frame bar at the right end of the frame by removing the hook 20, then the hammock may be contracted by sliding the two series of hooks 17 to the left. The dressing hammock 11 is suspended preferably, only from its opposite sides, the eyelets 14 being arranged in two series along the lateral edges of the hammock. After the bathing hammock has been used and then contracted, the dressing hammock is extended by sliding the hooks 17 along the side bars of the frame and the baby may be placed in this hammock to complete its ablutions and be dressed.

As thus described it will be apparent that the accessory or appliance of my invention is a great convenience for mothers or nurses when attending children and babies and provides a comfortable and safe and sanitary bath room appliance. The device is simple in construction and operation, is comparatively inexpensve in cost of production, convenient in preparation for use, and is readily moved to position out of the way for customary use of the bath tub.

Having thus fully described my invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. The combination in a bath tub appliance of a hinged frame adapted for use over a bath tub, a bathing hammock and a dressing hammock suspended in said frame, and said hammocks being extensible and contractible for selective use.

2. The combination in a bath tub appliance of a hinged frame having side bars and adapted for use over a bath tub, a pair of hammocks each having suspending means for connection with said side bars, and said hammocks being extensible and contractible for selected use.

3. The combination in a bath tub appliance with supporting bearing plates, of a suspending frame detachably supported in said plates and provided with suspending devices, a pair of flexible hammocks supported by said suspending devices, and slidable hooks on said suspending devices for engagement with said frame.

4. The combination with supporting bearing plates having open throats, of a suspending frame having flattened portions complementary to said throats, a pair of flexible hammocks supported in said frame and slidable connections for said hammocks on said frame, and a pair of suitably supported retaining hooks for said frame.

5. The combination with supporting bearing plates having open throats, of a suspending frame having flattened portions complementary to said throats, a pair of telescopic end bars for said frame and fastening means therefor.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

REBECCA GRAVES.