

July 31, 1945.

C. R. MORRIS

2,380,665

SHOWER FIXTURE

Filed Dec. 3, 1942

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

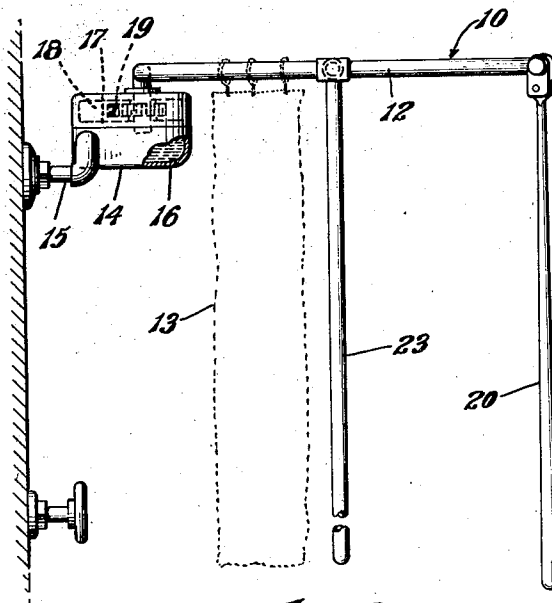


Fig. 2.

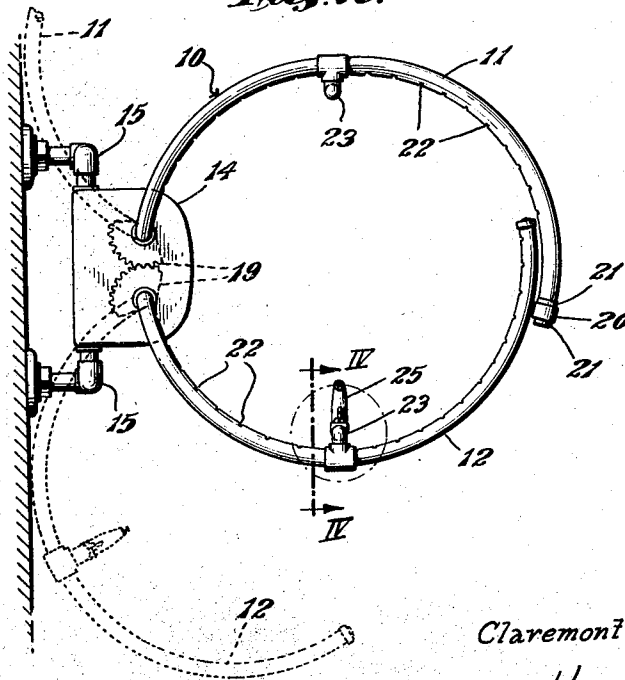


Fig. 3.

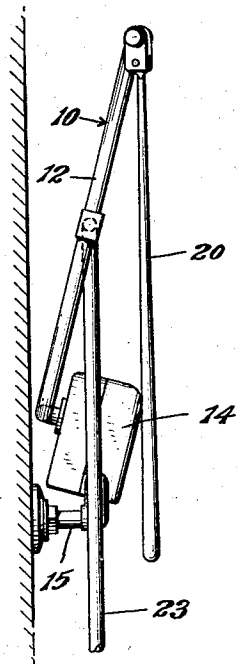
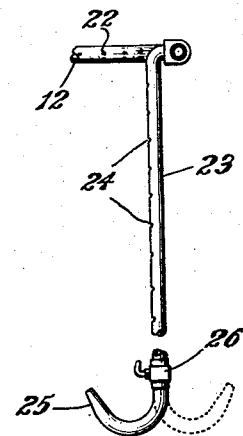


Fig. 4.



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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

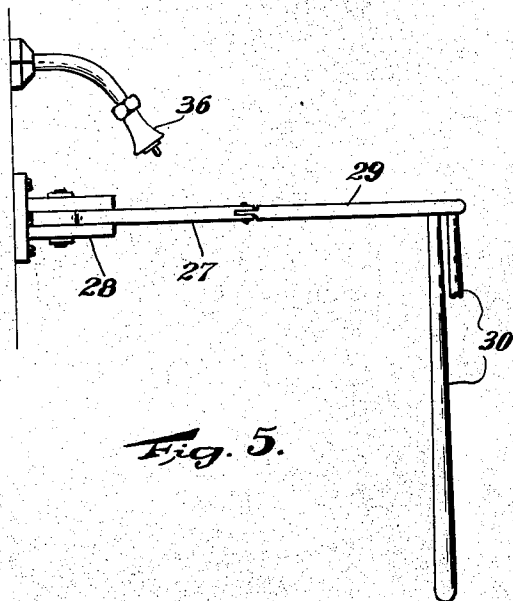


Fig. 5.

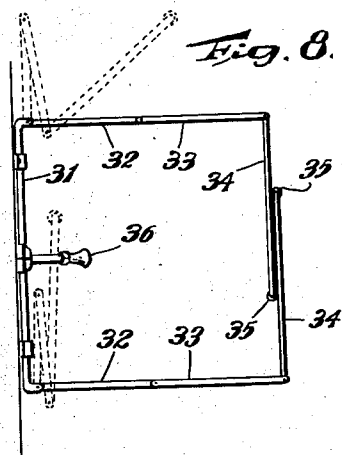


Fig. 8.

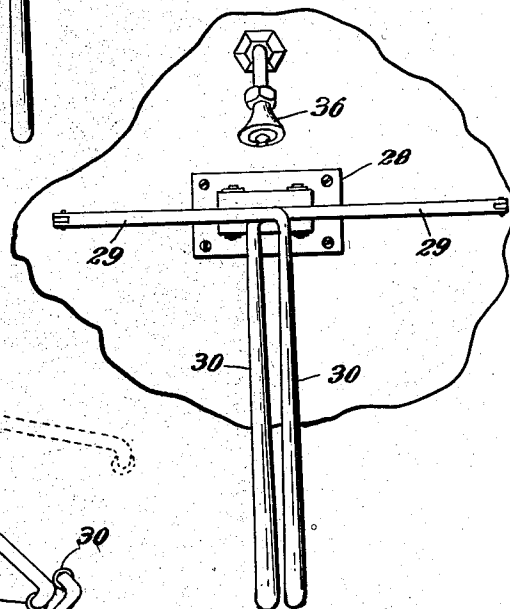


Fig. 7.

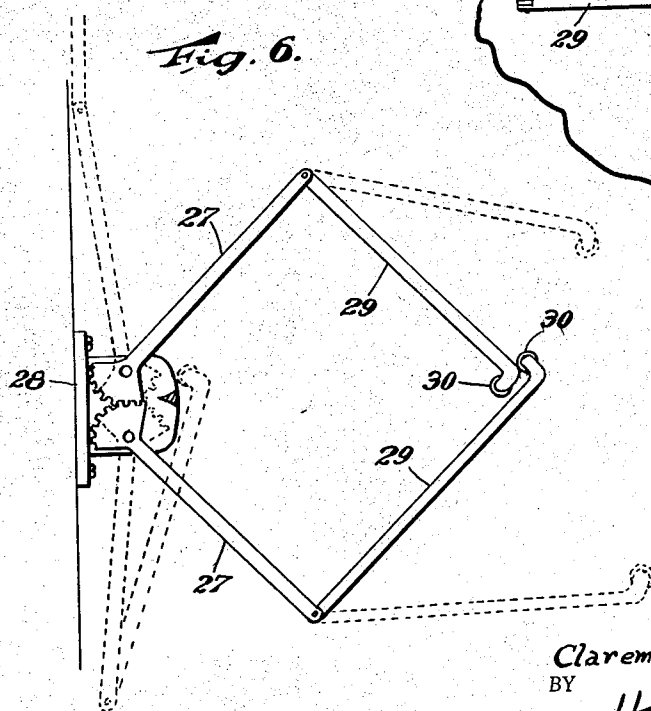


Fig. 6.

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SHOWER FIXTURE

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Application December 3, 1942, Serial No. 467,691

8 Claims. (Cl. 4—153)

This invention relates to shower fixtures and more particularly to fixtures such as are employed in conjunction with a bathtub as the water or shower receptacle.

In shower fixtures of the character indicated, it has been a common practice to employ rigid rings for support of a sliding curtain and a shower head from the wall or ceiling to supply the desired spray of water. Amongst the drawbacks involved with such prior art constructions may be mentioned the fact that the ring has been made no greater in diameter than the width of the bathtub so as to insure the curtain hanging into the tub. Even for a normal person, the enclosed region is somewhat cramped and for a person of greater corpulancy than normal, the space is definitely inadequate. A further drawback of showers of the prior art resides in the fact the curtain, even though slid on the rod to proximity of the supporting wall, is still in the way of use of the tub independent of the shower attachment, since the curtain hangs into the tub in a concentrated disposition taking a considerable amount of space from free use by the bather.

The present invention has for objects to overcome the drawbacks of prior art constructions and to render a shower assembly better adapted for use and less objectionable when not in use.

Another object of the invention is to provide a shower fixture which may be readily manipulated and wherein the curtain may be conveniently opened, closed and adjusted to desired size of encompassed space.

A further object of the invention is to provide a fixture by which the curtain may be moved to position next a wall and at such time offer minimum obstruction to the use of the tub.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide a fixture obtaining appropriate water spray converging inwardly from the side rather than directly from overhead and to adjust the distance from the person of the source of spray when adjusting the size of the enclosure.

Still other objects will appear as the description progresses, both by direct recitation thereof and by implication from the context.

Referring to the accompanying drawings in which like numerals of reference indicate similar parts throughout the several views;

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a shower fixture embodying my invention and showing the same in position for use;

Figure 2 is a plan of the shower fixture shown

in Figure 1 and indicating an open position of curtain support by dotted lines;

Figure 3 is a side elevation similar to Figure 1 but showing the curtain support for the shower fixture swung to position of non-use and for permitting free use of the tub for bathing or other purposes;

Figure 4 is an elevational-sectional view on line IV—IV of Figure 2;

Figures 5 and 6 are respectively a side elevation and a plan corresponding to Figs. 1 and 2, but showing a modified rectilinear construction;

Figure 7 is a front elevation of the modified construction of Figs. 5 and 6; and

Figure 8 is a plan of a further modified construction.

In the specific embodiment of the invention illustrated in said drawings, and giving attention initially to Figures 1 to 4 inclusive, the reference numeral 10 designates a curtain support in general, said curtain support in this exemplification comprising arcuate sections 11, 12 each having what may be termed a rear end and a forward end. The rear ends of the sections are pivoted on an axis perpendicular to the general plane of the support so the sections may be swung toward and away from each other enabling the support to be made smaller or larger in effective diameter and opened entirely for ingress and egress of a person. The forward ends of the support sections may be caused to overlap, thus decreasing the enclosed region. The sections each carry a curtain 13 hanging therefrom, and, supported by loops or the like from the sections, are of a width coextensive with the lengths of the respective sections and not slidable to any extent thereon. Thus to open the curtain, the support sections are swung apart, and to close the curtain said sections are swung together again. Inasmuch as the support sections are made to overlap when desired, overlapping of the curtain is correspondingly obtained. Furthermore the arcuate lengths of the sections are preferably such that the diameter of the ring formation of this particular support, when the front ends of the sections are juxtaposed, will be considerably greater than the usual width of tub and thereby will give increased space within which to accommodate a user surrounded by the curtains and within the tub.

Said support sections as shown in Figures 1 to 4 are preferably not only movable, and constitute curtain supports, but likewise are hollow and perforate and act as the showerhead. They are accordingly appropriately attached to the source

of hot and cold water supply. As shown, the rear ends of the sections enter a pivoted bracket member which is here shown hollow to constitute a mixing-head 14 to which hot and cold water is supplied from house pipes 15, 15. Said pivoted bracket or mixing head 14 provides a lower chamber 16 into which the house pipes 15, 15 lead from opposite sides and on which the said mixing-head or bracket is trunnioned so as to be vertically rotated on said pipes as a horizontal axis. Said pipes terminate with open ends in said chamber so the hot and cold water therefrom will be mixed on entry into the chamber. The rear ends of the sections are bent to a vertical position and enter said chamber at the top to receive the mixture therefrom. The top wall of said chamber is a partition 17 horizontally disposed in said bracket member, and above the partition is another chamber 18 which I will term a gear chamber in that it is shown containing a pair of gear segments 19, 19 constantly in mesh one with the other and secured to the vertical portions of said curtain support sections which extend downwardly through the gear chamber and which are trunnioned in the top wall thereof as well as in the partition 17. By virtue of the meshing of said gear segments, swinging of one curtain support section obtains corresponding swing of the other.

Pivotal mounting of the bracket member or mixing-head 14 enables the curtain support sections to be swung upwardly simultaneously as a unit and to thereby position the unit toward the supporting wall. Since the curtain does not slide much of any on the supporting sections, its front part will be raised and out of the way back toward the wall when the sections are swung as a unit with the bracket backwardly upward. This enables the tub to be used with minimum interference from the curtain or the shower fixture.

A handle 20 is carried by one curtain supporting section for manipulation thereof both to open and close the curtain and to swing the unit constituted by said sections and mixing-head to and from position of non-use next the wall. Said handle is trunnioned on the section so as to remain in a depending position for all positions of the section, but is prevented, as by collar 21, from swinging in a direction sidewise and thus will be effective for opening and closing the sections as well as for raising and lowering the sections as a unit.

As has been indicated, the curtain supporting sections are hollow and perforate, as at 22, for directing spray jets inwardly downward converging toward a person standing within the curtain enclosure or region. It is to be understood that this construction avoids showering the user directly from overhead by a rosette spray commonly employed with bath-tub showers, such a rosette spray being illustrated in connection with Figures 5 to 8. However, for those who wish it, the rosette spray may be used in addition to the encompassing spray above described and shown in Figures 1 to 4.

For lateral spray to the body of the user, upright spray pipes 23 may be suspended at intervals from the ring to which appropriate pipe connection is made. These upright spray pipes are perforated, as at 24, toward the axis of the spray unit so as to direct the spray to the user. The upper ends of the pipes are swiveled to the section so as to be swung, as the unit is swung upward, in a manner enabling the upright spray pipes 23 to remain upright and move backward toward the wall when the unit is swung upward. If desired,

one of these upright spray pipes 23 may have a substantially J-shaped or other nozzle terminus 25 at its lower end for enabling the user to direct a stream of water to and between the legs and intimate parts of the body thereat. A valve 26 is provided to regulate or shut off the water supply to this nozzle when use thereof is not desired. The nozzle preferably has a swivel connection with the pipe so it may be turned laterally to desired position of non-use or inwardly toward the person in the shower when use of the nozzle is desired.

While the curvilinear construction of the fixture sections heretofore described, as well as the use of the same as means for distributing the spray have certain advantages, the invention is not limited to those details of construction. Accordingly rectilinear formations and fixture sections of solid or non-hollow construction may be employed.

In Figures 5 to 7 the curtain-supporting unit is composed of a plurality of sections of which a rear pair 27 are geared substantially as before to move together. In this instance, the gear enclosure is a fixed bracket 28 having forwardly projecting parallel plates, one above the other, between which the gear segments are mounted rotatably. The rear sections 27 are directly connected to the respective gear segments and project in the general plane thereof from between the said parallel plates of the bracket. These sections 27 are shown as substantially straight bars and when swung back will extend lengthwise of the wall to which the bracket is attached. The forward end of each said rear section 27 has a front curtain-supporting section 29 pivoted thereto on a vertical axis so the front section may be independently swung laterally. Said front sections are preferably constructed and adapted to overlap at their forward ends for the closed position of the curtain. Each front section has a depending handle 30 thereon, and the front sections may therefore be swung open or shut with appropriate manipulation of the handles, without disturbing the rear sections, but when desired to fully open the curtain and get it back to the wall, the rear sections may be forced back by appropriate pressure on the handles and the front sections then also folded in desired relation toward the wall either outwardly from the bracket or inwardly toward the bracket.

In the construction illustrated in Figure 8, a rear bracket 31 is provided fixed on the wall and having a span substantially that of the desired lateral dimension for the curtain enclosure. At each end of this bracket 31 is pivoted a rear section 32 of a length approximately half the desired forward dimension for the curtain enclosure, and at the front end of each rear section is pivoted a complementary side section 33 such that the combined length of the rear section and complementary section equals the desired forward dimension for the curtain enclosure. At the forward end of each complementary side section 33 is pivoted a front section 34, the two front sections having ample length to overlap when the sections are arranged in a square formation. The overlap will enable the enclosure to be enlarged by swinging the side sections outwardly away from each other a moderate distance. The free ends of the front sections have depending handles 35 for manipulating the sections in the various desired movements thereof. To get the curtain (not shown), which is supported on the several sections, back to the wall out of the way,

said sections may be variously folded back, as for instance as shown in dotted lines.

In the constructions illustrated in Figures 5 to 8 inclusive, the water may of course be supplied after the manner illustrated in Figures 1 to 4, but by way of exemplifying simplified modifications, the sections are indicated in Figures 5 to 8 as solid bars and the spray is furnished by a usual type of rosette spray head 36. Furthermore, in all modifications it is to be understood a curtain, as shown in Figure 1 but not attempted to be illustrated in other views, is hung from the sections and preferably prevented from material sliding displacement by appropriate fastening thereof to the section or sections on which hung.

While a few arbitrarily selected embodiments of the invention have been illustrated and specifically described, it will be understood that this has been done by way of exemplification of the invention and that the invention is capable of other physical embodiments coming within the terms of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A shower fixture comprising a mixing-head, shower-head curtain supporting sections pivoted to said mixing-head and having water passage connection therewith, means supplying water to said mixing-head, said sections having perforations therein for spray exit of water therefrom, and means for moving said sections toward and away from each other.

2. A shower fixture comprising a bracket member, a shower-head curtain supporting means carried by a forward part of said bracket member, said bracket member being horizontally trunnioned at a rearward part thereof to swing vertically and thereby permit the bracket member and said supporting means to be swung as a unit from a horizontal to a substantially upright position, and a handle for swinging said unit.

3. A shower fixture comprising a shower head having water passage therein, and a pipe depending from said shower head and having an upwardly directed spray means therefrom for obtaining a spray of water supplied from and emanating at a distance below said shower head upwardly toward the user.

4. A shower fixture comprising a bracket, rod-like solid shower curtain support rear sections pivoted to said bracket, gear segments on the rear ends of said sections, said gear segments being in mesh, and other curtain supporting sections pivotally carried by said rear sections and forming therewith a curtain support for a shower enclosure.

5. A shower fixture comprising a bracket, side

rear sections of a curtain supporting means pivoted to said bracket, complementary front side sections pivoted to the rear sections, and front sections pivoted to the said complementary sections, said front sections having greater length than other sections.

6. A shower fixture comprising a shower curtain support composed of a single bracket means supportable from and in front of a vertical wall, two movable sections each trunnioned at its inner end to said bracket means and at a distance in front of said wall, said bracket means being common to both said sections, and each said section being free of the other at the outer end and said outer end being in most remote position from the wall when said sections are closed, whereby said outer ends are adapted to swing away from the wall and toward each other to a closed position and away from each other and toward the wall to open position of said sections and with the sections engaging against the said wall upon affording unobstructed entrance between the outer ends and when said ends are swung away from each other maximum distance permitted by said wall, and a curtain hung on and movable with said sections, said curtain adapted to be parted by swinging said sections toward open position.

7. A shower fixture comprising a shower curtain support composed of movable sections adapted to be mounted at an overhead elevation, means pivotally supporting said sections to swing toward and away from each other, and an elongated handle rigid throughout its length, said handle depending from and pivoted to one said section but nonrotatable with respect to that section in opening and closing direction of movement of said section.

8. A shower fixture comprising a shower curtain support composed of movable sections, means pivotally supporting and cooperatively connecting said sections to swing the outer end portions thereof toward and away from each other, an elongated handle rigid throughout its length, said handle depending from one said section and being nonrotatable with respect to that section in opening and closing direction of movement of said sections, said sections being cooperatively coupled at their pivoted ends for inverse movements whereby operating the one section having the handle by said handle also operates the other said section whereby the said sections are moved to open position simultaneously and to closed position simultaneously.

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