No. 655,687. Patented Aug. 14, 1900.

R. B. COFFMAN.

WASHBOARD.

(Application filed Oct. 27, 1899.)

(No Model.)

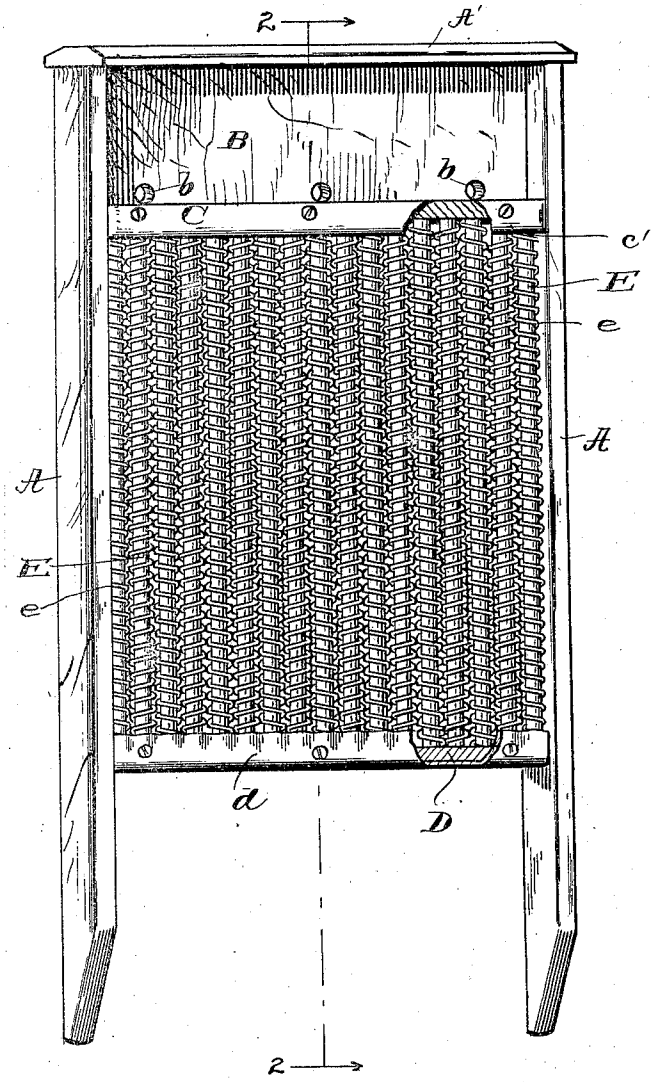

Fig. 1

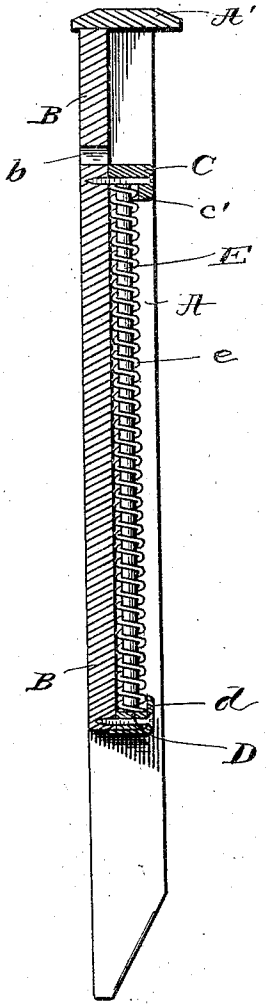

Fig. 2.

Witnesses,
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RALPH B. COFFMAN, OF CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO W. S. WEITZELL, OF SAME PLACE.

WASHBOARD.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 655,687, dated August 14, 1900.

Application filed October 27, 1899. Serial No. 734,945. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RALPH B. COFFMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chattanooga, in the county of Hamilton and State of Tennessee, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Washboards, of which the following is a specification.

The objects of this invention are to provide a strong and durable washboard and to increase the efficiency of the rubbing-surface.

I accomplish the objects of the invention by the mechanism illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation, slightly in perspective, of my invention with certain parts broken away to make the construction clearer; and Fig. 2, a section on the dotted line 2 2 of Fig. 1.

Like letters of reference indicate like parts throughout both views of the drawings.

A A are the sides of the board, which extend down below the rubbing-surface to form legs in the usual manner. A′ is the cross-piece at the top, and B the back of the board, which is in one piece, extending from the top A′ to the lower edge of the rubbing area. At a suitable distance below the top A′ to provide the usual soap-receptacle is the cross-bar C, which has an overhanging flange *c*′ along its outer lower edge, and at the lower edge of the back B is a strip D to form a shelf, which is covered on the front and bottom by the angle-plate *d*, the front member of which plate extends beyond the top of the shelf to form a seat.

E are a series of rods or tubes, preferably of metal, the lower ends of which rest on the shelf D in the seat or way formed by the upward extension of the angle-plate, and the upper ends of the rods are dropped behind the flange or curtain *c*′ under the bar C in the manner as clearly shown in the drawings. Mounted on each of the rods E is a spiral spring *e*, which extends from one end of the rod to the other. These springs are open—that is, the several turns of the wires are not in contact with each other, but are pulled apart to increase the roughness of the rubbing-surface. The spiral springs are loosely mounted on the rods, which permits them to give under pressure to prevent injury to the garments being rubbed over them, and then as the pressure is released the return movement of the springs contributes an additional rubbing movement to assist in releasing the dirt in the clothes.

It will be noted that the direction of the coil of the spring on each rod is in the opposite direction from that on the next preceding and following one. With the coils all in one direction the tendency of the clothes would be to slide toward one side of the board, but by alternating the coils the sliding tendency is equalized.

The bar C will preferably be attached with screws, whereby it can be easily removed to assemble the rods or to enable them to be rotated in order to bring unworn portions of the springs into use, and thereby equalize the wear and lengthen the life of the board, or to remove the rods and springs for the purpose of cleaning them and the board. Rotation of the rods and springs will be prevented by screwing the bar C down with sufficient force to clamp the ends of said rods or springs against the back B.

Above the bar C the holes *b* through the back will be made for the purpose of draining the water away from the soap.

A solid one-piece back provides a board which is quicker to make, and more solid and more substantial and lasting than if made out of several pieces.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and wish to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. In a washboard, a rubbing-surface comprising a series of rods each having a wire wound spirally around from end to end of the rod, the direction of the wind of the wire on each rod being opposite from that on the next preceding or following one, substantially as described and shown.

2. In a washboard, the combination with a frame and a one-piece back, of a plurality of spiral wire springs, rods passing through the springs and removable fastenings for the rods and springs, as and for the purposes specified.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal at Chattanooga, Tennessee, this 21st day of October, A. D. 1899.

RALPH B. COFFMAN. [L. S.]

Witnesses:
JOSEPH A. MINTURN,
CHAS. A. FAILLES.