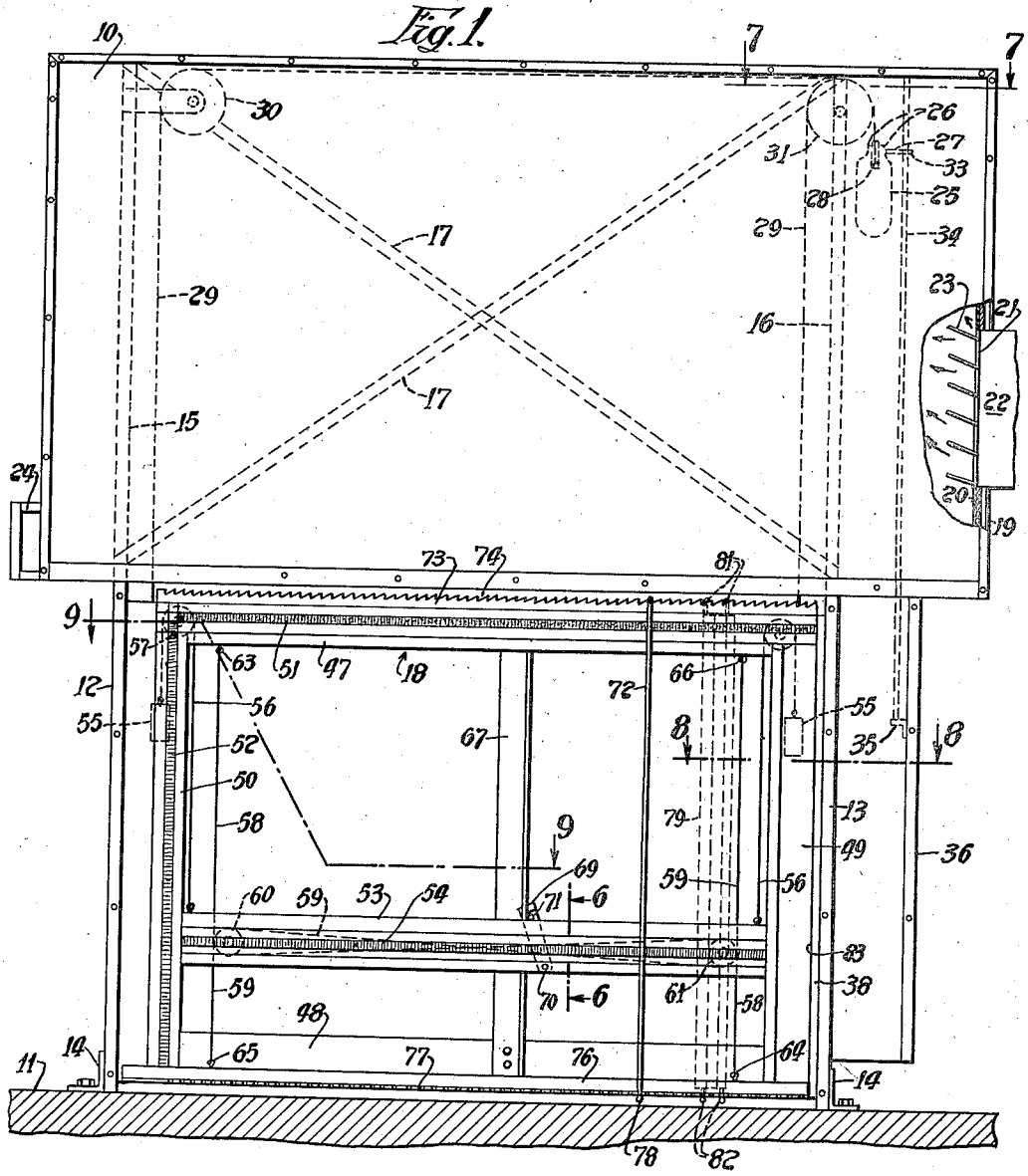
Dec. 3, 1940. H. ROSENTHAL 2,223,462

CURTAIN STRETCHER

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Fig. 1.



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CURTAIN STRETCHER

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Fig. 2.

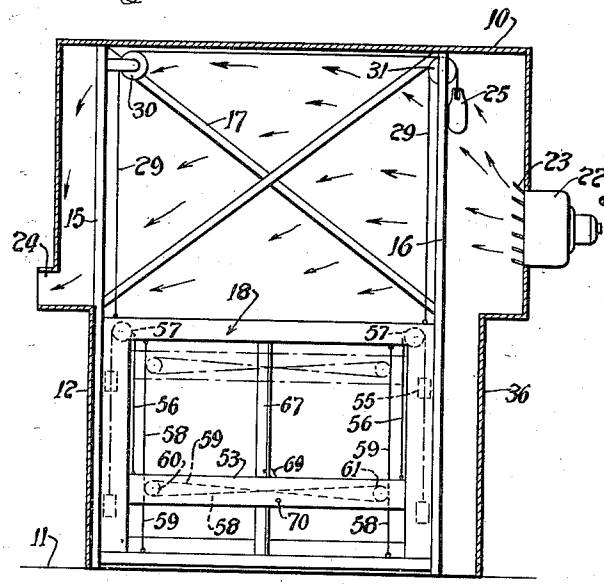


Fig. 3.

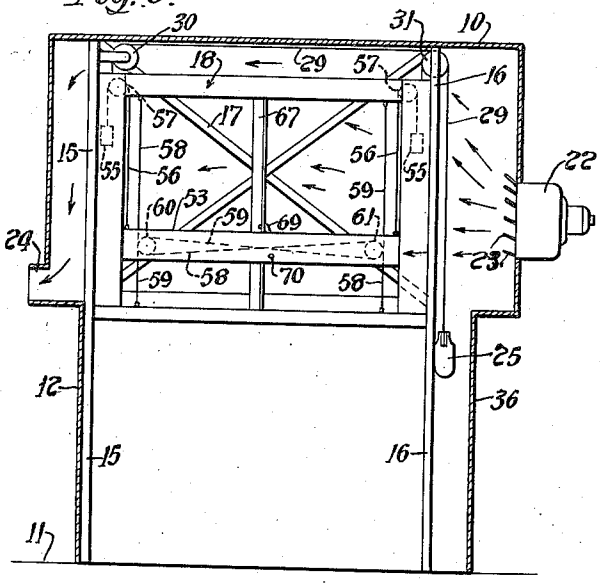
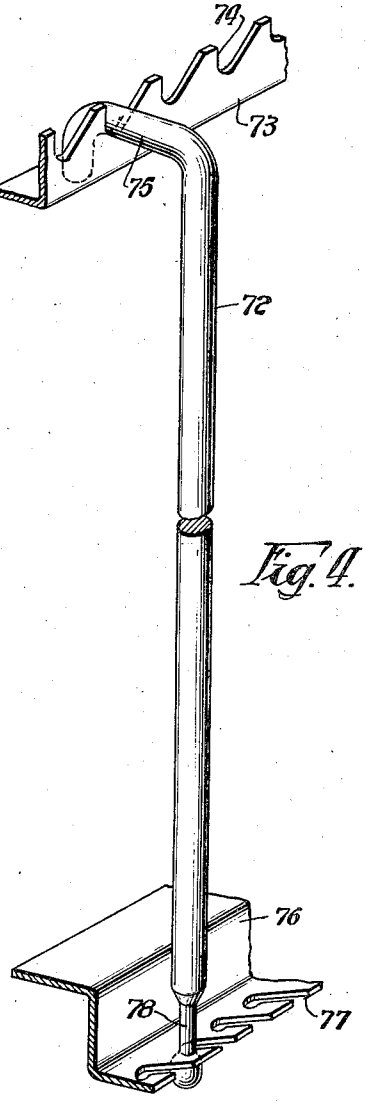


Fig. 4.



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CURTAIN STRETCHER

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Fig. 7.

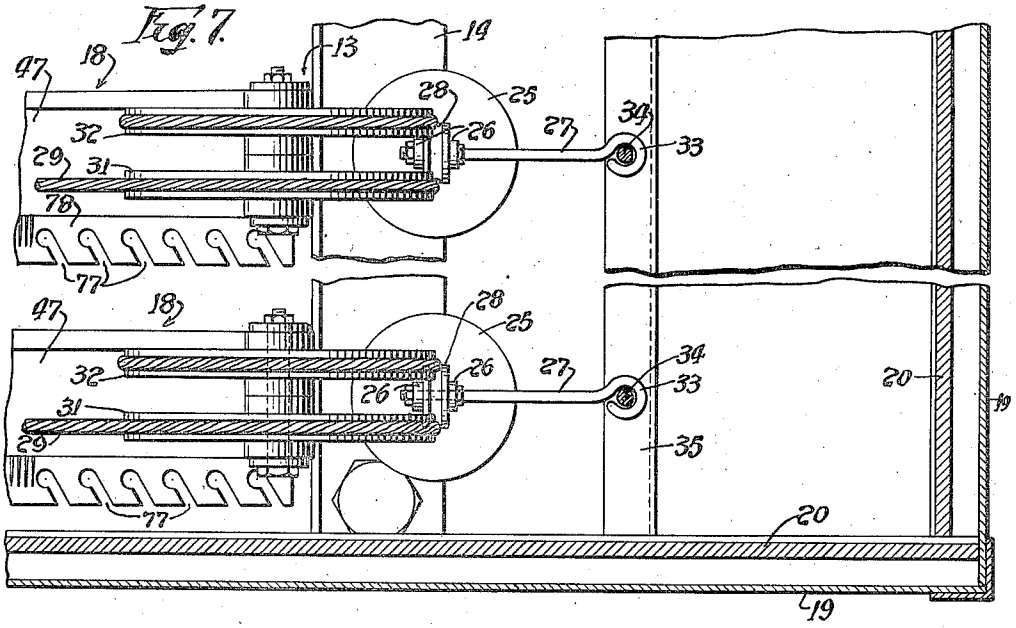


Fig. 5.

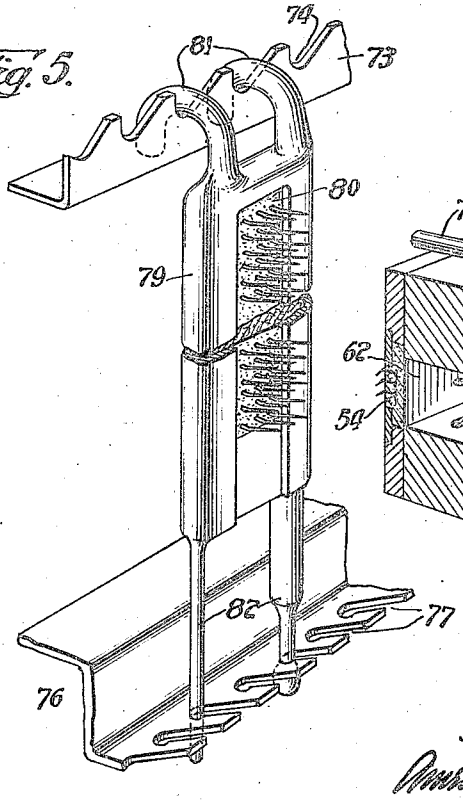
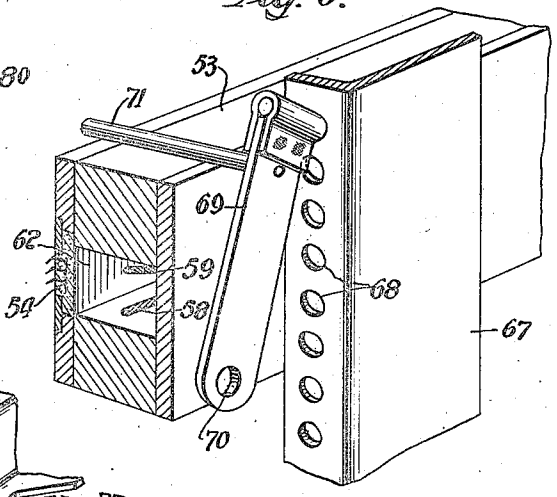


Fig. 6.



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CURTAIN STRETCHER

Filed Dec. 30, 1937 4 Sheets-Sheet 4

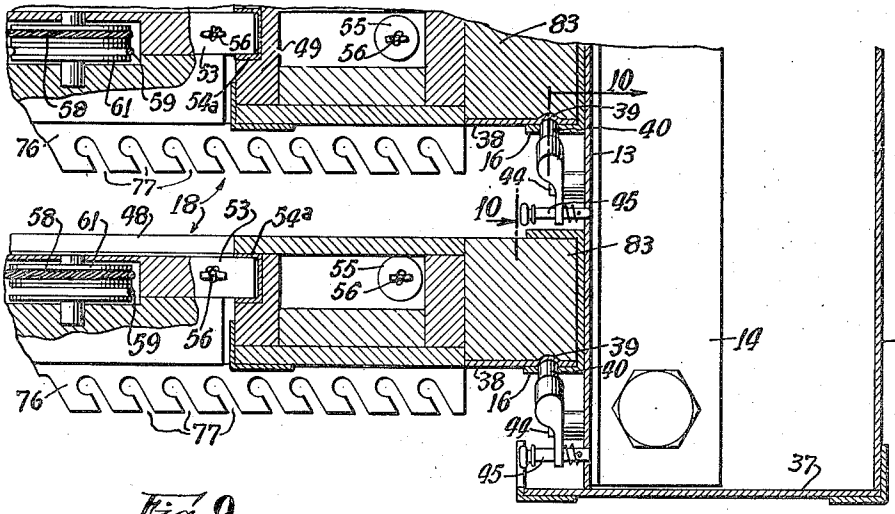
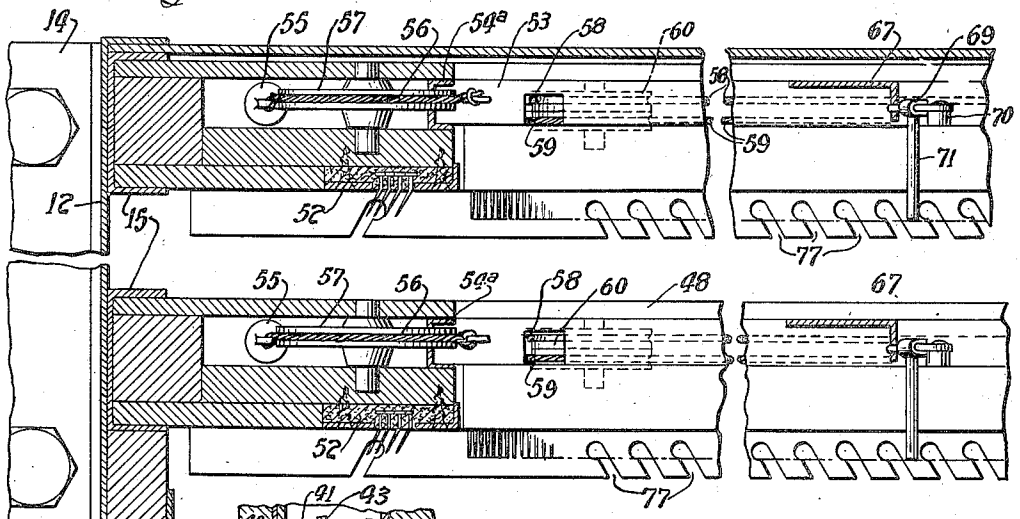


Fig. 8.

Fig. 9.



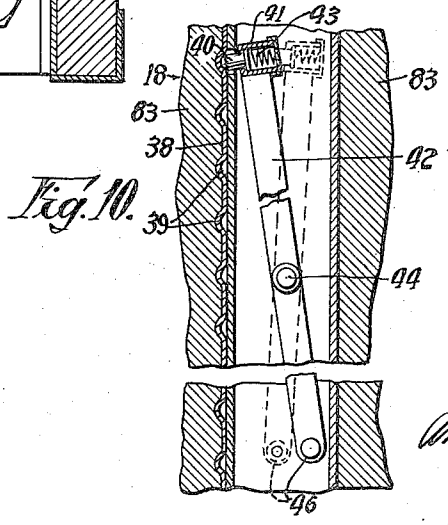


Fig. 10.

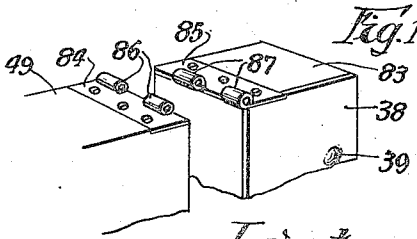


Fig. 11.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,223,462

CURTAIN STRETCHER

Harry Rosenthal, Chicago, Ill.

Application December 30, 1937, Serial No. 182,405

8 Claims. (Cl. 34—40)

The invention relates to curtain stretching and drying apparatus, more particularly to apparatus of this character for use in laundries or cleaning establishments where it is desired quickly and efficiently to stretch and dry curtains in large quantities, and the invention has for an object provision of simple, reliable, and highly efficient apparatus of this character.

Various types of curtain stretching and drying devices and apparatus have heretofore been provided, many of which are adapted for adjustment to receive curtains of various sizes and some of which are to a certain extent satisfactory. All such prior devices or apparatus, however, have been objectionable from the standpoint of cost of manufacture or from the standpoint of difficulty in quickly and efficiently operating the apparatus in stretching and drying curtains. Most of the difficulty encountered in the past is to a large extent due to incorrect correlation of the various parts of the apparatus. Something is yet to be desired, therefore, in apparatus of this character, and it is a further object of this invention to provide a curtain stretching and drying apparatus which is inexpensive to manufacture, which may be easily and quickly operated by unskilled persons, and which is adapted for receiving at one time a plurality of curtains.

It is the further object of this invention to provide a curtain stretching frame which is readily adjustable to receive curtains of various sizes which at all times maintains in correct alignment the edges of the curtain and in which the adjustable parts of the frame are effectively counterbalanced.

Another object of the invention is to provide an apparatus in which a varying number of curtain stretching frames may be employed for a simultaneous drying operation, the organization of the apparatus being such that additional frames may be installed when desired.

In carrying out the invention in one form, a supporting frame is provided which includes a plurality of channel-shaped members arranged in oppositely disposed spaced relation to form vertical tracks for a plurality of curtain stretching frames. An insulated drying chamber encloses the upper portion of the vertical tracks and is provided with inlet and outlet means for effecting a uniform circulation of drying air through the chamber, the lower wall of the chamber having an opening through which the curtain stretching frames may be moved into and out of the chamber, the opening being substantially closed when all of the frames are in their uppermost position within the chamber.

The curtain stretching frames are adapted for vertical movement in the tracks formed by the channel members, and in order to provide for easy assembly of the frames in the tracks each frame is preferably of a length less than the width of its track. Accordingly, one end of each frame may be inserted into the channel member forming one side of the track and the frame aligned with the track, whereupon the other end of the frame is secured by a quick-detachable fastening means to a spacing member disposed in the opposite channel member, the combined length of the frame and the spacing member being substantially equal to the width of the track. The curtain stretching frames are designed for easy adjustment to any desired size of curtain and include curtain securing means extending along one side and one end of the frame, for receiving one edge and one end of the curtain to be stretched. Each of the end members of the frame is grooved to receive one end of an adjustable curtain-receiving bar upon which the opposite edge of the curtain is adapted to be secured, and means are provided for constantly maintaining the adjustable bar in parallel relation to the sides of the frame, suitable latch means being provided for locking the bar in selected positions corresponding to the width of the curtains to be stretched.

In order properly to support the remaining end of the curtain to be stretched, another curtain-receiving member is provided, the end portions of which are arranged to engage suitably notched members or plates extending along the upper and lower sides of the frame, certain of the notches being obliquely arranged so that the force exerted on the curtain supporting member by the curtain positively retains the member in the notches. In order further to provide for easy adjustment of the frame to different size curtains, counterweights are provided for facilitating movement of the adjustable curtain-receiving bar and the frames themselves are counterweighted to facilitate movement of the frames along their vertical tracks.

For a more complete understanding of the invention reference should now be had to the drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is an elevational view of a curtain stretching and drying apparatus embodying the invention, a portion of the drying chamber being broken away more clearly to illustrate the constructional details;

Fig. 2 is a somewhat diagrammatic sectional view on a reduced scale of the apparatus shown in Fig. 1, with the curtain-receiving frames in their lowermost position.

Fig. 3 is a somewhat diagrammatic view similar to Fig. 2, showing the curtain-receiving frames in their uppermost position;

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary detail view showing in perspective one form of curtain-receiving member for supporting an end of the curtain to be stretched;

Fig. 5 is a similar detail view showing a somewhat different form of curtain-receiving member adapted to be used interchangeably with the member shown in Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary perspective view of the latch means for the adjustable curtain-receiving bar, the section through the bar being taken substantially along the line 6—6 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary enlarged sectional view taken along the line 7—7 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 8 is a similar detail sectional view taken along the line 8—8 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 9 is a similar fragmentary sectional view taken along the line 9—9 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 10 is a detail sectional view taken along the line 10—10 of Fig. 8; and

Fig. 11 is a fragmentary perspective view illustrating a constructional detail of one of the curtain-receiving frames.

Referring now to the drawings, a preferred embodiment of the invention is shown as comprising a curtain stretching and drying apparatus having a drying chamber 10 mounted at a predetermined height above a rigid base member or floor 11 on a supporting frame which includes side members 12 and 13 secured to the base 11 by suitable angle irons 14. As shown, the side members 12 and 13 comprise panels or wall members (Figs. 8 and 9) which extend only to the bottom of the drying chamber 10, and a plurality of U-shaped channel members 15 and 16 which extend upwardly from the top of the panel members to a point adjacent the top of the drying chamber and which are braced by suitable members 17.

The channel members 15 and 16 are arranged in oppositely disposed relation with the flanges thereof facing inwardly so that each of the channels 15 cooperates with one of the channels 16 to provide a vertical track for slidably guiding one of the curtain stretching frames indicated generally by the reference numeral 18 for movement into and out of the drying chamber 10 through an opening in the lower wall thereof. The curtain stretching frames 18, the constructional details of which will be fully described hereinafter, may be moved between a lowermost position shown in Fig. 2, in which position curtains may readily be applied to the frames, and an uppermost position shown in Fig. 3 in which position the curtains are subjected to a drying action within the chamber 10.

As shown, the chamber 10 is provided with insulating walls which preferably include outer panels 19 (Figs. 1 and 7) formed of sheet metal or other suitable material, and inner panels 20 formed of suitable heat insulating material spaced from the panels 19 to provide dead air spaces therebetween. Although any suitable means may be employed for drying the curtains within the chamber 10, the drying action is preferably accomplished by means of a forced circulation of drying air over the curtains within the chamber. Thus the chamber 10, as shown, is provided with an inlet 21 in the lower portion of the right-hand wall, and an air-impelling means such as a fan 22 having air directing vanes 23 is arranged in the inlet for forcing air into the chamber and directing the air upwardly therein. If desired, the fan inlet may be connected to a suitable source of dry hot air or heating means, such for example as electric heating units, may be directly associated with the fan. In the opposite side wall of the chamber 10 an outlet 24 is provided located in the lower portion of the left-hand wall, and the drying air in passing through the chamber 10 is uniformly distributed over the surfaces of the curtains on the frames 18, as indicated by the arrows in Figs. 2 and 3.

As shown best in Figs. 7, 8, and 9, the curtain stretching frames 18 are located closely adjacent each other, and accordingly when all of the frames are in their respective uppermost positions the frames are effective substantially to close the opening in the lower wall of the chamber and thus prevent substantial heat loss through this opening. In order to provide for ease of movement of the frames 18 in the vertical tracks formed by the channels 15 and 16, counterweights are provided for the frames, a single counterweight being associated with each frame. Referring now to Figs. 1 and 7, each of the counterweights 25 is provided with a pair of spaced ears 26 for supporting a rod 27 having a pulley 28 journaled thereon between the ears 26. Passing through the pulley 28 so as to support the counterweight 25, is a flexible strand 29 such, for example, as a wire or cord, the opposite ends of the strand 29 being connected, as shown in Fig. 1, to the respective upper corners of the associated frame 18, and the intermediate portions of the strand 29 passing over suitable pulleys 30, 31, and 32 supported adjacent the top of the drying chamber 10. Thus the strand 29, the left-hand end of which is connected to the upper left-hand corner of the frame 18, first passes over the pulley 30, then over the pulley 32, through the pulley 28 on the counterweight 25 and over the pulley 31, the right-hand end of the strand being connected to the upper right-hand corner of the frame 18. By means of the arrangement just described, one of the usual counterweights necessary for counterbalancing a vertically movable frame, such for example as a window frame, is dispensed with, and in order to prevent twisting of the counterweights 25 the outer end of each of the rods 27 is formed to provide an eyelet 33 for encircling a vertically extending guide rod 34. One of these guide rods 34 is provided in connection with each counterweight, the upper end of the guide rods being secured to the top of the chamber 10 and the lower ends of the guide rods 34, as shown in Fig. 1, being supported on an angle iron 35 secured to a panel member 36 which, in conjunction with a pair of panel members 37 and the right-hand side member 13 of the supporting frame (Fig. 8), forms a chamber for receiving the counterweights 25 when the frames 18 are in their uppermost positions as shown best in Fig. 3.

Although the counterweights 25 are so correlated with the weight of the frames 18 as to provide a substantially balanced arrangement so that the frames 18 are normally retained by the counterbalancing action in any position to which the frames are moved, it may be desirable in some cases positively to lock the frames in selected positions. Accordingly, a member 83 which extends along and is secured to the right-hand edge of each frame, as will be more fully described

hereinafter, is provided, as shown best in Figs. 8 and 10, with a facing member 38 having a series of regularly spaced indentations 39, and a latch member 40 is provided which is arranged to extend through a suitable aperture in one flange of the associated channel member 16 so as selectively to engage the indentations 39 to lock the frame 18 in any desired position.

The latch member 40, as shown in Fig. 10, is slidably mounted in a guide 41 carried on the upper end of a pivoted lever 42 and is provided with a backing spring 43 for normally urging the latch member 40 to the position shown. The pivoted member 42 is mounted on a pivot pin 44 supported on the panel member 13 and is adapted to be moved from the heavy line position to the broken-line position shown in Fig. 10.

So long as the pivoted lever 42 occupies its normal heavy line position it will be apparent that the frame 18 will be automatically locked in any selected position upon movement thereto by engagement of the spring-pressed latch 40 with one of the indentations 39, the backing spring 43 permitting movement of the frame 18 from the selected position upon the exertion of a force sufficiently great to overcome the locking force. In case it is desired to render the locking means ineffective, it is necessary only to move the pivoted lever 42 to the broken-line position, and in order positively to retain the pivoted lever 42 in either of its positions as desired, the lower end of the lever is provided with a spring-pressed catch 45 the inner end of which engages suitably spaced apertures 46 (Fig. 10) in the panel 13.

Considering now the constructional details of the curtain stretching frames 18, each of these frames, as shown, comprises upper and lower side members 47 and 48 respectively, and right and left-hand end members 49 and 50 respectively, arranged to form a rigid frame. The upper side member 47 and the left-hand end member 50 are respectively provided with suitable curtain-receiving means shown as comprising strips 51 and 52 respectively, of a material known in the art as card cloth. This card cloth as shown best in Fig. 9 consists of a plurality of very fine needles or pointed members mounted in a supporting base member of suitable resilient material. As will be understood by those skilled in the art, the needles or pointed members which form a card cloth are sufficiently fine to permit engagement of a curtain or other suitable fabric therewith without injury to the material of the curtain. Thus by means of the strips 51 and 52 one edge and one end of the curtain to be stretched may be secured to the upper side member 47 and the left-hand end member 50 of the frame 18.

In order properly to support the opposite edge of a curtain to be stretched, regardless of the width of the curtain each of the frames 18 is provided with a horizontally extending curtain-engaging bar 53 which is provided with a similar strip of card cloth 54 extending therealong, and which is adapted to be moved vertically within the confines of the frame 18. As shown best in Figs. 8 and 9, the right and left-hand end members 49 and 50 of the frame 18 are provided with suitable vertically extending grooves 54a for receiving the opposite ends of the horizontal bar 53 so as to guide the bar for vertical movement, and the end members 49 and 50 of the frame constitute hollow members so as to provide a space for receiving suitable counterweights 55 for counterbalancing the horizontal bar 53 and facilitating vertical movement thereof. As shown, each of the counterweights 55 is connected by a flexible strand 56 to one end of the horizontal bar 53, and the strands 56 pass over suitable pulleys 57 journaled in the hollow end members 49 and 50 adjacent the upper ends thereof.

In order to insure that curtains applied to the frames 18 will be properly stretched and dried, it is necessary at all times to maintain the vertical movable curtain-receiving bar 53 in substantially parallel relation with the upper side member 47, and accordingly the bar 53 is provided with means adapted automatically to maintain the bar in such parallel relation. This means, as shown best in Figs. 1, 6, and 8, consists of a pair of flexible strands 58 and 59 arranged with the opposite ends of each strand permanently secured to diagonally opposite corners of the frame 18, with the intermediate portions of the strands passing over and under suitable double-grooved pulleys 60 and 61 rotatably supported on the opposite ends of the bar 53. As shown, the bar 53 is hollowed out to receive the pulleys 60 and 61 and is likewise formed with an opening 62 (Fig. 6) which extends between the pulleys 60 and 61, so that the bar 53 is hollow throughout substantially its entire length. The flexible strand 58, which is secured to an eyelet 63 adjacent the upper left-hand corner of the frame 18, extends through an aperture, Fig. 9, in the upper edge of the bar 63 and passes under the pulley 60, along the opening 62, over the pulley 61, and the opposite end of the strand 58 is secured to an eyelet 64 adjacent the lower right-hand corner of the frame. Similarly, the strand 59 extends from an eyelet 65 adjacent the lower left-hand corner of the frame, over the pulley 60, along the opening 62, under the pulley 61, and its other end is secured to an eyelet 66 adjacent the upper right-hand corner of the frame 18.

It will be apparent that whenever an attempt is made to raise the left-hand end of the bar 53, the strand 59, which passes over the pulley 60 and under the pulley 61, will cause the right-hand end of the bar 53 to be correspondingly raised. Similarly, when the left-hand end of the bar 53 is lowered, the strand 58, which passes over the pulley 61, effects a similar lowering of the right-hand end of the bar 53. Thus the bar 53 is at all times maintained in parallel relation to the upper side member 47 regardless of the vertical position of the bar.

Although the counterweights 55 serve to maintain the bar 53 in a substantially balanced condition regardless of its vertical position, the pull exerted on the bar by a curtain attached thereto requires the provision of means for latching the bar in its desired vertical position. Accordingly, the frame 18 is provided with a cross member 67 which, as shown best in Fig. 6, is substantially L-shaped and one flange of this member 67 is provided with a plurality of apertures 68 adapted to receive the latch tip of a pivoted latch member 69 mounted on a pivot pin 70 carried by the cross bar 53. The latch member 69 may be withdrawn from the latching position shown in Fig. 6 when it is desired to move the bar 53, and in order to limit the backward movement of the latch member 69 a stop pin 71 is provided which extends across the top of the bar 53 and is arranged abuttingly to engage the upper edge of the bar.

As will be understood by those skilled in the art, proper stretching and drying of curtains and similar materials requires that all four edges of the curtain be rigidly supported, and accordingly

each of the frames 18 is provided, in addition to the curtain securing strips 51, 52, and 54 which serve to support three edges of the curtain, with a curtain-receiving member 72 (Fig. 4) which is adapted to support the end of the curtain opposite from the end secured to the strip of card cloth 52 on the left-hand end member 50. This curtain-receiving member 72 consists of a bar adapted to be passed through the loop or open seam that is ordinarily formed along one end of a curtain, and the opposite ends of this bar are formed as shown to engage suitably notched plates respectively secured to the upper and lower side members 47 and 48 of the frame 18. Thus, as shown, the upper side member 47 is provided with an angle iron 73 having a vertically extending portion provided with a series of notches 74, and the upper end of the bar 72 is provided with a hooked arm 75 arranged selectively to engage any desired one of the notches 74 depending upon the length of the curtain to be stretched. Similarly, the lower side member 48 is provided with a notched plate 76, the configuration of which is shown best in Fig. 4, and a horizontally extending portion of this plate is provided with a series of notches 77 for receiving the lower end portion 78 of the curtain-receiving member or bar 72. As shown best in Fig. 4, the notches 77 are arranged obliquely with respect to the edge of the plate 76, so that the force exerted on the bar 72 by a curtain being stretched tends to urge the end portion 78 of the bar 72 toward the bottom of the notches 77 so as to positively retain the bar 72 in the desired position.

In some cases it may be desired to stretch and dry curtains of the type not provided with an open seam or loop for receiving a bar such as the bar 72, shown in Fig. 4, and accordingly a slightly different form of curtain-receiving bar is provided which may be used interchangeably with the bar 72. This second type of bar, which is shown best in Fig. 5, comprises a body portion 79 which carries a strip of card cloth 80 to which the curtain may be secured, the upper end of the member being provided with a pair of hooked arms 81 for engaging selected ones of the notches 74 in the notched plate 73, and the lower end of the member 79 being provided with extending leg portions 82 for engaging certain of the notches 77 in the lower notched plate 76.

To position a curtain for stretching and drying the same with the improved apparatus embodying this invention, the curtain-receiving bar 53 is adjusted vertically to a position corresponding to the width of the curtain. If the curtain is provided with a loop, bar 72 is passed through the curtain loop and is then placed in the proper notch in the plates 73 and 76. Thereafter the opposite end of the curtain is fastened to the card cloth strip 52. When the ends of the curtain are secured the sides are then fastened to the card cloth strips 51 and 54. If bar 79 is employed, the same procedure is followed, except that after it has been properly positioned in accordance with the length of the curtain, the end of the curtain is first secured to the card cloth strip 80. Thereafter, as just hereinabove described, the opposite end is secured to the card cloth strip 52 and the sides to the card cloth strips 51 and 54. As soon as the curtain is thus secured to the frame the entire frame is slid upwardly along the track formed by the channels 15 and 16 to the position shown in Fig. 3, and the curtain is thus subjected to the drying action of the forced circulation within the drying chamber 10.

In the construction of the improved apparatus hereinbefore described, any desired number of channels 15 and 16 may be provided, one pair of channels being necessary for each of the curtain stretching frames 18. In some cases it may be desirable to provide a larger number of channels than frames, so that additional frames may be afterwards added if desired. It may also be necessary at times to remove certain of the frames for repair or replacement, and accordingly the frames are so arranged as to provide for easy removal from the tracks formed by the channels 15 and 16. Thus, as shown in Fig. 8, a spacing member 83 is provided which forms a part of the frame 18 but which is separate from the right-hand end member 49 and extends along the edge of the member 49 in abutting relation therewith. The total length of the frame 18 when considered separately from the spacing member 83, is less than the distance between the channel members 15 and 16, and accordingly insertion of the frame member into its track may be accomplished simply by inserting the spacing member 83 into one of the channels, inserting the opposite end of the frame 18 into the other channel, and then bringing the adjacent end of the frame 18 into alignment with the spacing member 83, whereupon the spacing member 83 may be secured to the end frame member 49. Although any suitable means may be provided for thus securing the spacing member 83 to the end frame member 49, a preferred arrangement is shown in Fig. 11 as comprising a pair of cooperating connecting members 84 and 85, which are similar in construction to ordinary hinge members, and which are provided with alternately arranged ears 86 and 87, respectively, for receiving a connecting pin, not shown, when members 83 and 49 are brought into abutting engagement. This connecting pin, upon completion of the assembly, extends through the continuous aperture formed by the ears 86 and 87 and securely locks the members 83 and 49 together, it being understood of course that a similar pair of connecting members is provided on the lower ends of the members 49 and 83. When assembled, the total length of the frame 18 plus the width of the spacing member 83 is substantially equal to the width of the track formed by the channels 15 and 16, only sufficient clearance being provided to permit ready assembly of the connecting members 84 and 85, and it will be clear that the frame is thus permanently positioned in the channels and can be removed therefrom only by disconnection of the members 84 and 85.

It will thus be seen that the curtain stretching and drying apparatus embodying the present invention provides for easy manipulation of the curtains relative to the stretching frames 18, and is so arranged that the various parts will be at all times maintained in correct alignment, all of the parts being so counterbalanced and correlated as to permit easy adjustment thereof to accommodate curtains of various sizes. In some cases it may be desirable to provide indicia for indicating the distance of the curtain-receiving bar 53 from the upper side member 47, or for indicating the distance of the bars 72 or 79 from the left-hand end member 50. If so desired, this indicia may of course be applied along the cross member 67 and along the side members 47 and 48 adjacent the notched plates 73 and 76.

While particular embodiments of the invention are shown, it will be understood, of course, that the invention is not to be limited thereto since many modifications may be made, and it is therefore contemplated by the appended claims to cover any such modifications as fall within the true spirit and scope of the invention.

I claim:

1. A curtain stretching and drying apparatus comprising a supporting frame including channel members disposed in spaced relation to form a plurality of tracks of predetermined width, each track comprising a pair of channel members with the flanges thereof extending toward each other, a drying chamber enclosing the upper portions of said tracks and having an opening in the bottom wall thereof, a plurality of curtain stretching frames adapted to be moved into and out of said chamber through said opening, the length of each frame being less than the width of its associated track whereby one end of each frame may be inserted into one of said channel members and the frame aligned with its track, spacing members adapted to be inserted in the opposite channel of each track for abuttingly engaging the opposite ends of said frames, the total length of each frame and its spacing member being substantially equal to the width of the tracks, detachable means for securing said spacing members to said frames to provide for sliding movement of said frames along said tracks, and individual counterbalancing means associated with each frame to provide for facile movement of said frames into and out of said chamber along said tracks.

2. In a curtain stretching and drying apparatus, the combination of a pair of rigidly mounted channel members disposed in spaced relation to form a track of predetermined width, with the flanges of said channel members extending inwardly toward each other, a curtain stretching frame the length of which is less than the width of said track whereby one end of said frame may be inserted into one of said channel members and the frame aligned with said track, a spacing member adapted to be inserted into the other one of said channels abuttingly to engage the opposite end of said frame, and means for detachably securing said spacing member to said frame, whereby said frame is positioned in said track for sliding movement therealong.

3. A curtain stretching and drying apparatus comprising a supporting frame including oppositely disposed channel members arranged to form vertically extending tracks, a drying chamber enclosing the upper portions of said tracks and having an opening in the bottom wall thereof, a plurality of curtain stretching frames mounted in said vertical tracks for sliding movement through said opening into and out of said drying chamber, pulleys mounted adjacent the upper corners of said drying chamber and counterweights for said frames, each of said counterweights having a pulley journalled therein for engaging a flexible member passing over said pulleys in said chamber, there being a single counterweight and a single flexible member associated with each frame, the opposite ends of each flexible member being secured to opposite sides of the associated frame and each flexible member passing through the pulley of the associated counterweight to support said counterweight.

4. A curtain stretching and drying apparatus comprising a supporting frame including oppositely disposed channel members arranged to form vertically extending tracks, a drying chamber enclosing the upper portions of said tracks and having an opening in the bottom wall thereof, means for introducing a current of air into one side of said chamber adjacent the bottom and for exhausting said air at the opposite side of said chamber adjacent the bottom, a plurality of curtain stretching frames mounted in said vertical tracks for sliding movement through said opening into and out of said drying chamber, pulleys mounted adjacent the upper corners of said drying chamber and counterweights for said frames, each of said counterweights having a pulley journalled therein for engaging a flexible member passing over said pulleys in said chamber, there being a single counterweight and a single flexible member associated with each frame, the opposite ends of each flexible member being secured to opposite sides of the associated frame and each flexible member passing through the pulley of the associated counterweight to support said counterweight.

5. A curtain stretching and drying apparatus comprising a supporting frame including oppositely disposed channel members arranged to form vertically extending tracks, a drying chamber enclosing the upper portions of said tracks and having an opening in the bottom wall thereof, said chamber being of a sufficient height above the bottom of said tracks to permit the complete withdrawal of said curtain stretching frames below said chamber whereby curtains may be readily applied to and removed from said frames, a plurality of curtain stretching frames mounted in said vertical tracks for sliding movement through said opening into and out of said drying chamber, pulleys mounted adjacent the upper corners of said drying chamber and counterweights for said frames, each of said counterweights having a pulley journalled therein for engaging a flexible member passing over said pulleys in said chamber, there being a single counterweight and a single flexible member associated with each frame, the opposite ends of each flexible member being secured to opposite sides of the associated frame and each flexible member passing through the pulley of the associated counterweight to support said counterweight.

6. A curtain stretching and drying apparatus comprising a supporting frame including a plurality of oppositely disposed channel members arranged to form vertically extending tracks, a drying chamber enclosing the upper portions of said tracks and having an opening in the bottom wall thereof, a plurality of curtain stretching frames mounted for independent sliding movement along said vertical tracks through said opening, means for counterbalancing said frames to provide for facile movement thereof into and out of said chamber, means for securing curtains of various sizes to said stretching frames while said frames are in their lowermost position, said stretching frames when in their uppermost positions within said chamber substantially closing said opening, and means including inlet and outlet means adjacent the bottom of said chamber for introducing hot air into said chamber and exhausting cool air therefrom whereby a current of air passes across the curtains on said stretching frames.

7. In a curtain stretching and drying apparatus having a plurality of stretching frames slidable into and out of a drying chamber along vertical tracks, the combination of counterbalancing means for providing facile movement of

said frames, said counterbalancing means including a single counterweight for each frame, a pulley journalled in each counterweight, a single flexible strand for each weight, the opposite ends of said strand being respectively connected to the opposite upper corners of the associated frame and an intermediate portion of said strand passing through said pulley on said counterweight, pulleys fixedly mounted for rotation supporting other portions of said strand, and guiding means for said counterweight arranged to prevent twisting of said weight during vertical movement thereof.

8. In a curtain stretching and drying apparatus having a plurality of stretching frames slidable into and out of a drying chamber along vertical tracks, the combination of counterbalancing means for providing facile movement of said frames, said counterbalancing means including a single counterweight for each frame, a pulley journalled in each counterweight, a single flexible strand for each weight, the opposite ends of said strand being respectively connected to the opposite upper corners of the associated frame and an intermediate portion of said strand passing through said pulley on said counterweight, pulleys fixedly mounted for rotation supporting other portions of said strand, an arm extending outwardly from each counterweight and guides positioned for engagement by said arms for preventing twisting of the counterweights during vertical movement thereof.

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