Aug. 31, 1943. H. SETZLER 2,328,235

SITZ BATH

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Fig. 1.

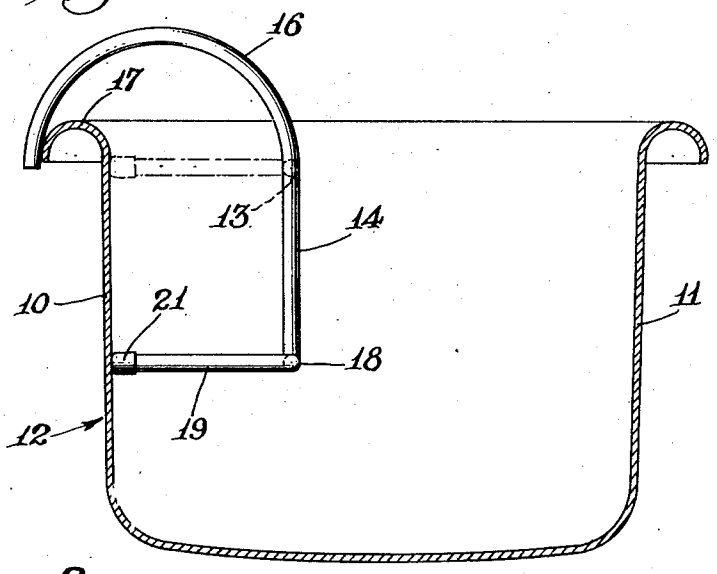


Fig. 2.

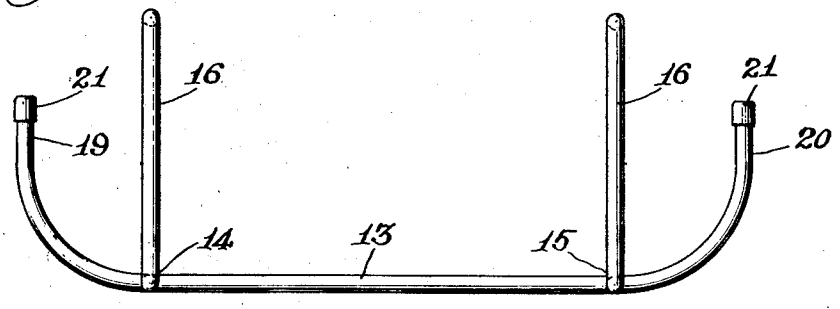
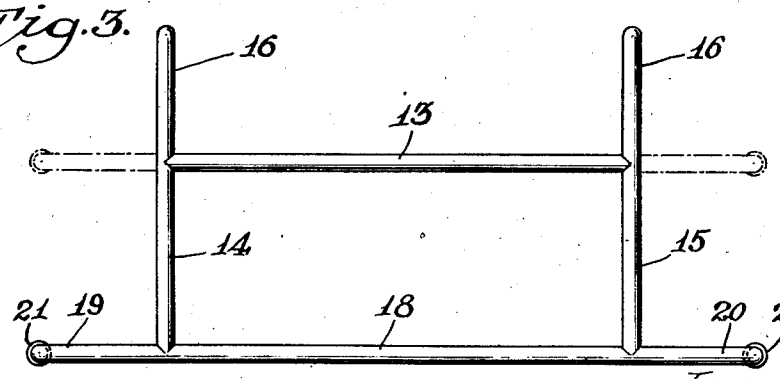


Fig. 3.



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Fig. 4.

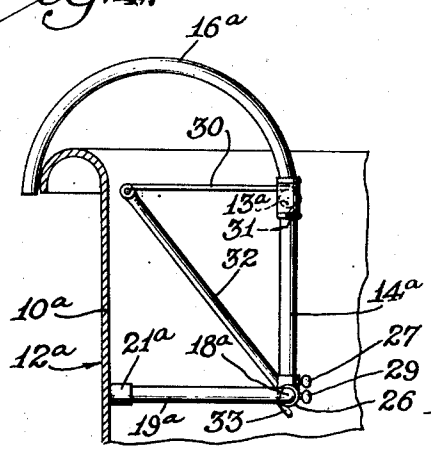


Fig. 7.

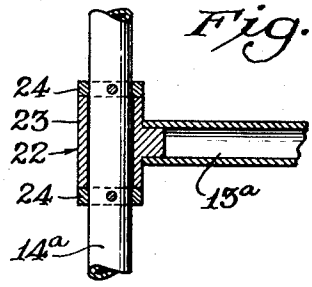


Fig. 5.

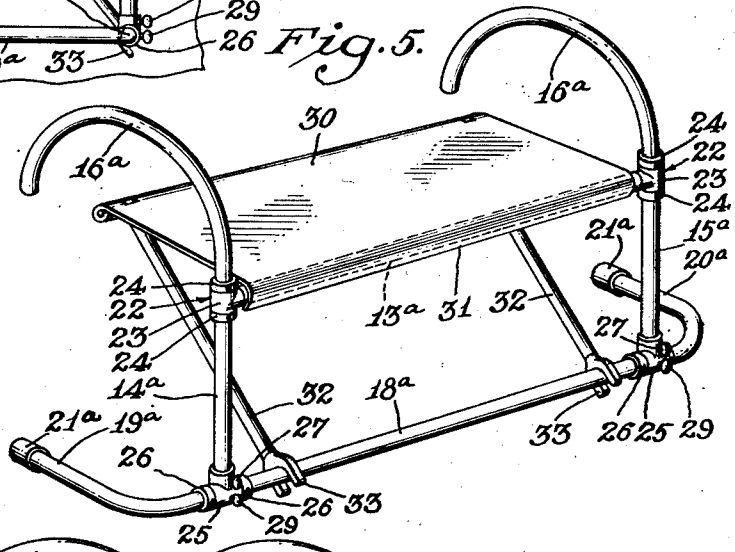


Fig. 8.

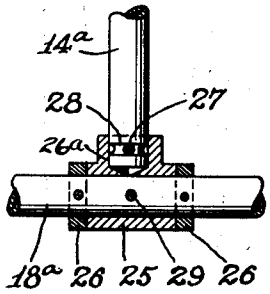
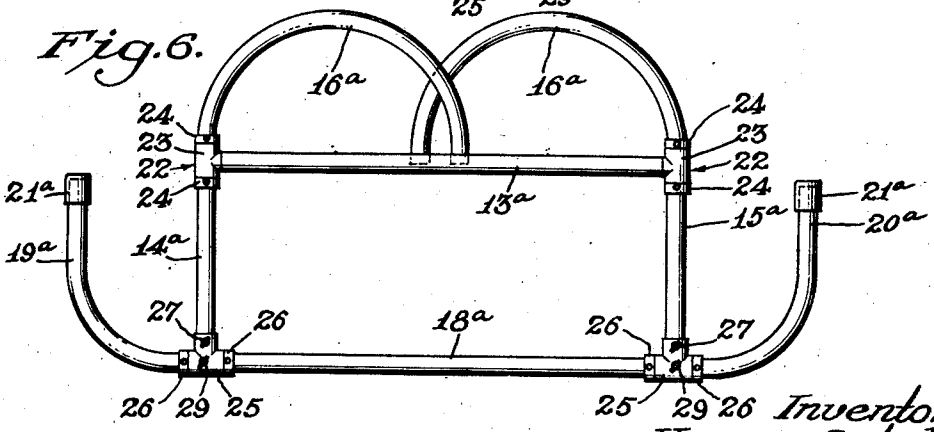


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,328,235

SITZ BATH

Henry Setzler, Chicago, Ill.

Application July 14, 1941, Serial No. 402,383

10 Claims. (Cl. 4—185)

The present invention relates to a new and improved bathing apparatus adapted for taking sitz or hip baths, and has particular reference to a novel sitz bath attachment for conventional bath tubs.

The sitz bath or hip bath is recognized as being very beneficial in treating certain physical ailments. It consists of sitting in hot water with the knees doubled-up toward or against the chest. Ordinarily, special bath receptacles of narrow width to support the back and legs comfortably in the bent-up position are employed. The ordinary or conventional bath tub is too wide to permit of correct and comfortable use for a sitz bath. If the legs of the patient are positioned to hang over one side of the tub, the back will be spaced too far from the other side wall.

One object of the present invention is to provide a novel attachment for a conventional bath tub so that the latter can be used for a sitz bath with comfort.

A further object is to provide a new and improved sitz bath attachment adapted to be removably supported on one side wall of a conventional bath tub so as to reduce the effective width thereof, and to provide a support for the legs of the patient while in doubled-up position with the back resting comfortably against the other side wall of the tub.

Another object is to provide a novel sitz bath attachment of the foregoing character which is simple and inexpensive in construction, and which may be quickly and conveniently placed on and removed from the conventional bath tub.

Still another object is to provide a new and improved sitz bath attachment which in one form is readily collapsible when not in use so as to provide compactness for storage and transportation.

Further objects and advantages will become apparent as the description proceeds.

In the accompanying drawings,

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of a sitz bath attachment embodying the features of my invention and shown mounted in position on a conventional bath tub.

Fig. 2 is a plan view.

Fig. 3 is a side elevational view.

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 1, but illustrating a modified form.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the modified form in erected condition.

Fig. 6 is a side view of the modified form in collapsed condition.

Figs. 7 and 8 are fragmentary sectional detail views of the modified form.

While the invention is susceptible of various modifications and alternative constructions, I have shown in the drawings and will herein describe in detail the preferred embodiment, but it is to be understood that I do not thereby intend to limit the invention to the specific form disclosed, but intend to cover all modifications and alternative constructions falling within the spirit and scope of the invention as expressed in the appended claims.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, the sitz bath attachment constituting the exemplary embodiment of my invention consists of a self-contained portable structure adapted to be removably mounted on one side wall 10 in opposed relation to another side wall 11 of a conventional bath tub 12 illustrated in transverse vertical section in Fig. 1.

The structure (Figs. 1 to 3) preferably is made of tubular parts suitably connected together in the form of a frame having a horizontal leg support or bar 13 and means for supporting the bar in spaced relation inwardly from the side wall 10 of the tub 12. In the preferred form, this supporting means comprises two spaced tubular hanger arms 14 and 15 which extend vertically, and the upper portions of which are curved uniformly through approximately 180° to form parallel hooks 16 engaging at their free ends over the rounded upper rim 17 of the wall 10. The lower ends of the arms 14 and 15 are connected by a tubular U-shaped cross bar 18 having projecting ends 19 and 20 bent at right angles for engagement with the inside of the wall 10. Preferably, rubber tips 21 are secured on the free ends 19 and 20 of the bar 18.

The leg bar 13 may also be provided in the form of a tube, and is connected at opposite ends to the arms 14 and 15 in upwardly spaced relation to the bar 18, and preferably at a point slightly below the rim 17. If desired, the ends of the bar 13 may be extended and bent at right angles, as indicated in dotted outline, to engage the inside of the wall 10. However, the extension of the ends of the bar 13 is not essential to support the bar in spaced relation to the wall of the bathtub since the weight of the structure is effective to maintain it in the position illustrated in Fig. 1.

The bars 13 and 18 and legs 14 and 15 may be connected in any suitable manner. In Figs. 1 to 3, they are welded together to form a rigid structure.

In use, the tub 12 is filled to the desired level with hot water. The attachment is removably

mounted in position as shown in Fig. 1, and is self-maintained in this position by its weight through engagement of the ends of the hooks 16 with the outer edge of the rim 17 and of the rubber tips 21 of the lower bar 18 with the inside of the wall 10. The curvature of the hooks 16 is considerably greater than that of the rim 17 so that the upper bar 13 is spaced a substantial distance inwardly from the wall 10 to reduce the effective width of the tub 12. The patient now seats himself in the hot water crosswise of the tub 12 with his back resting comfortably against the wall 11 and his legs bent up and positioned over the bar 13 at the knees.

It will be evident that I have provided an inexpensive and convenient attachment permitting the use of a conventional bath tub for sitz baths. The attachment is readily mounted in position and removed, and when not in use may be placed out of the way.

The modified form of attachment of Figs. 4 to 8 is similar, but is collapsible instead of rigid. Corresponding parts of this form are identified by the same reference numerals plus the letter *a* as in the first form. The primary difference is in the provision of swivel connections, instead of rigid or welded connections, between the parts of the structure. Thus, T-fittings 22 are fixed on the ends of the bar 13ª and each is formed with a vertical sleeve 23 rotatably receiving one of the arms 14ª and 15ª. Suitable collars 24 are secured to each arm at opposite ends of the associated sleeve 23 to prevent relative endwise movement. Similarly, T-fittings 25 are rotatably secured between collars 26 on the cross bar 18ª and have upwardly opening sockets 26ª to receive the lower ends of the arms. Set screws 27 are threaded into the sockets 26ª for engagement in spline grooves 28 in the arms 14ª and 15ª to prevent separation while permitting rotation. The bar 18ª may have a relatively tight rotary fit in the members 25, and if desired additional set screws 29 may be provided for locking the bar against rotation when in use.

If desired, a seat element 30 may be removably supported as an accessory on the cross bar 13ª. The seat element 30 is in the form of a flat metal plate having a flange 31 along one edge adapted to engage over the bar 13ª. Two spaced supporting links 32 are pivotally connected at their upper ends to the underside of the seat element 30 along the outer edge, and at their lower ends are provided with forks 33 engaging over the lower bar 18ª.

In use, the modified structure is erected (see Fig. 5) and mounted in position as shown in Fig. 4. The set screws 29 are tightened to prevent rotary displacement of the arms 19ª and 20ª. It will be understood that the arms 14ª and 15ª are constrained against rotation by engagement of the hooks 16ª with the rim 17ª. When not in use, the structure is removed from the tub 12ª and the set screws 29 are loosened. Then, the hooks 16ª are swiveled inwardly, and the arms 19ª and 20ª are swung upwardly (see Fig. 6) to collapse the structure into a compact form convenient for storage and transportation.

I claim as my invention:

1. A sitz bath attachment for a conventional bath tub having, in combination, two spaced vertical hanger arms having parallel upper curved portions forming hooks adapted to engage over the outer edge of the top rim of one side wall of the tub and with the vertical portions of said arms extending downwardly in substantially spaced relation inwardly from said side wall, a horizontal lower cross bar connecting the lower ends of said arms and having laterally extending members adapted for engagement with the inside of said wall and to support said cross bar in predetermined spaced relation to said wall, and a horizontal upper cross bar connected at opposite ends to said arms, and adapted to extend in spaced relation to said wall to support the legs of the patient.

2. A sitz bath attachment for a conventional bath tub having, in combination, two spaced vertical hanger arms having parallel upper curved portions forming hooks adapted to engage over the outer edge of the top rim of one side wall of the tub and with the vertical portions of said arms extending downwardly in substantially spaced relation inwardly from said side wall, a horizontal lower cross bar connecting the lower ends of said arms and having laterally bent ends adapted for engagement with the inside of said wall, resilient tips on said bent ends of said cross bar, and a horizontal upper cross bar connected at opposite ends to said arms, and adapted to support the legs of the patient.

3. A sitz bath attachment for a conventional bath tub having, in combination, two spaced vertical hanger arms having parallel upper curved portions forming hooks adapted to engage over the outer edge of the top rim of one side wall of the tub and with the vertical portions of said arms extending downwardly in substantially spaced relation inwardly from said side wall, a horizontal lower cross bar connecting the lower ends of said arms and having laterally bent ends adapted for engagement with the inside of said wall, and a horizontal upper cross bar connected at opposite ends to said arms, and adapted to support the legs of the patient, said arms and base being welded together to form a rigid structure.

4. A sitz bath attachment for a conventional bath tub having, in combination, two spaced vertical hanger arms having parallel upper curved portions forming hooks adapted to engage over the outer edge of the top rim of one side wall of the tub and with the vertical portions of said arms extending downwardly in substantially spaced relation inwardly from said side wall, swivel connections rotatably confined on the lower ends of said arms, a horizontal lower cross bar rotatably adjustable in said connections for connecting the lower ends of said arms and having laterally bent ends adapted for engagement with the inside of said wall, swivel connections rotatably confined on said arms adjacent said hooks, and a horizontal upper cross bar attached at opposite ends to said last mentioned connections

5. A sitz bath attachment for a conventional bath tub having, in combination, two spaced vertical hanger arms having parallel upper curved portions forming hooks adapted to engage over the outer edge of the top rim of one side wall of the tub and with the vertical portions of said arms extending downwardly in substantially spaced relation inwardly from said side wall, a horizontal lower cross bar connecting the lower ends of said arms and having laterally extending members adapted for engagement with the inside of said wall, and a horizontal upper cross bar connected at opposite ends to said arms, and adapted to support the legs of the patient, said arms and said bars being pivotally connected to permit swiveling of said hooks and said bent ends

either into a collapsed position in one plane or into an erected position.

6. A sitz bath attachment for a conventional bath tub having, in combination, a horizontal support for the legs of the patient, and bracket means for removably mounting said support on one side wall of said tub and in inwardly parallel spaced relation to the upper edge thereof so as to decrease the effective width of said tub for use as a sitz bath, said bracket means including arms arranged to engage over the top rim of said side wall and means engaging the inside of said wall to maintain said support in said spaced relation.

7. A sitz bath attachment for a conventional bath tub having, in combination, two spaced vertical hanger arms having parallel upper curved portions forming hooks adapted to engage over the outer edge of the top rim of one side wall of the tub and with the vertical portions of said arms extending downwardly in substantially spaced relation inwardly from said side wall, a horizontal lower cross bar connecting the lower ends of said arms and having laterally extending members adapted for engagement with the inside of said wall, and a horizontal upper cross bar connected at opposite ends to said arms, and an accessory seat removably mounted on said upper bar and braced from said lower bar.

8. A sitz bath attachment for a conventional bath tub having, in combination, two spaced vertical hanger arms having parallel upper curved portions forming hooks adapted to engage at their outer ends over the outer edge of the top rim of one side wall of the tub and having a large radius to locate said hanger arms in spaced relation inwardly from said wall, a horizontal lower cross bar connecting the lower ends of said arms and having its ends bent outwardly for engagement with the inside of the wall, and a horizontal upper cross bar connected at opposite ends to said arms and being located substantially in the horizontal plane of said top rim of the tub, said upper cross bar being spaced inwardly from said wall to reduce the effective width of the tub and being adapted to support the legs of the patient.

9. A sitz bath attachment for a conventional bath tub having, in combination, two spaced vertical hanger arms having parallel upper curved portions forming hooks adapted to engage at their outer ends over the outer edge of the top rim of one side wall of the tub and having a large radius to locate said hanger arms in parallel spaced relation to and inwardly from said wall, a horizontal lower cross bar connecting the lower ends of said arms and adapted for engagement with the inside of said wall, and a horizontal upper cross bar connected at opposite ends to said arms and being located substantially in the horizontal plane of said top rim of the tub, said upper cross bar being spaced inwardly from said wall to reduce the effective width of the tub and being adapted to support the legs of the patient.

10. A sitz bath attachment having, in combination, two spaced vertical hanger arms having parallel upper curved portions forming hooks adapted to engage at their outer ends over the outer edge of the top rim of one side wall of the tub and having a large radius to locate said hanger arms in spaced relation below said rim and inwardly from said wall, a horizontal lower cross member connecting the lower end portions of said hanger arms, a horizontal upper cross member connecting the upper portions of said arms and being located substantially in the horizontal plane of said top rim of the tub, and means projecting from the lower portion of said attachment outwardly into abutting engagement with the inside of said side wall of the tub, said last mentioned means and said hooks serving through engagement with the tub to support the attachment in position with the upper cross member spaced inwardly from said wall so as to reduce the effective width of the tub and to provide a support for the legs of the patient.

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