Jan. 14, 1930. J. S. PATTERSON 1,743,799

LAUNDRY APPARATUS

Filed Aug. 20, 1927

Fig. 1.

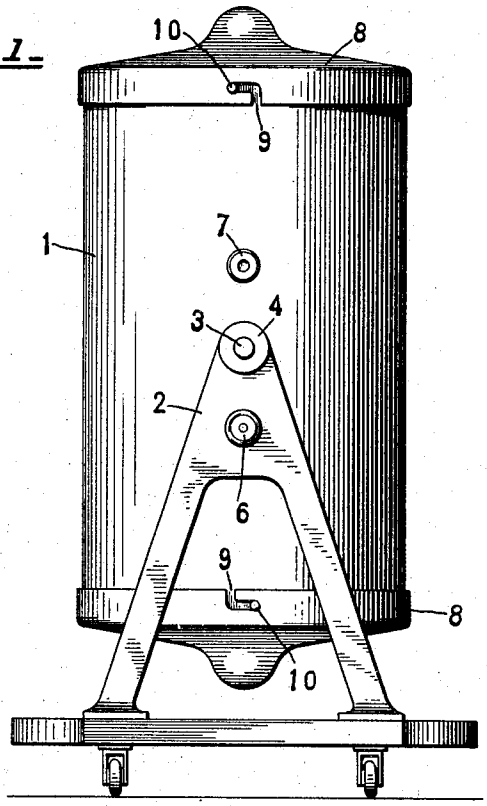
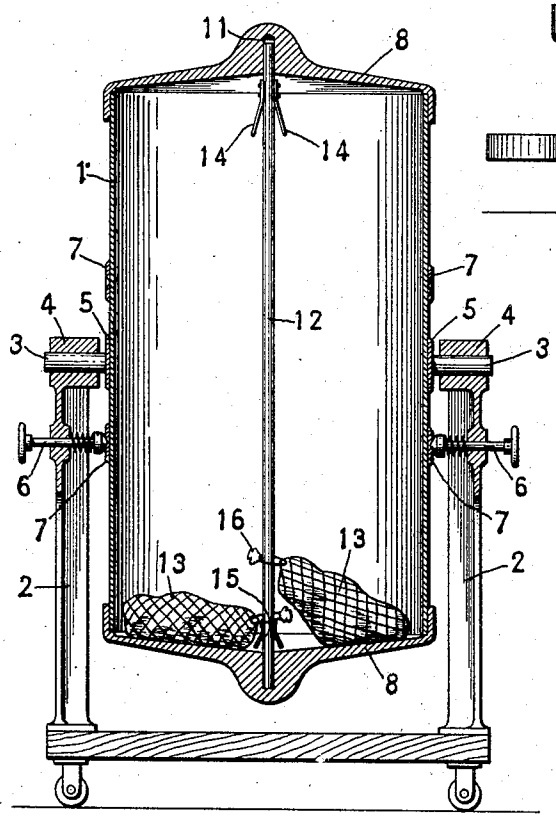



Fig. 2.




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Patented Jan. 14, 1930 1,743,799

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## LAUNDRY APPARATUS

Application filed August 20, 1927. Serial No. 214,245.

This invention relates to means whereby a plurality of items, placed in sequence, may be treated and/or retained in bulk and thereafter removed in the order in which they have been alined or loaded. More particularly, it relates to means for retaining a plurality of bags, previously identified or numbered, in their sequential order, treating the same in bulk, and thereafter removing the bags in the order in which they have been inserted in the treating vessel.

The object of this invention is to provide a vessel having means whereby a plurality of bags may be placed therein in sequence, retained in such sequence during treatment of the bags, and thereafter removed from the vessel in the order of their insertion.

The invention is particularly adapted for use in laundries where it is desirable, because of the routine or system of correlation of the similarly identified bundles during the progress of their treatment, to have the bags go through the various steps of laundering in a prearranged sequence so that at the end of the operation on each of the bundles similarly numbered, they may all be handled substantially simultaneously and in the same order.

In order to permit such procedure, I have provided, broadly, a rotatable container having a central rod over which are made to slide identifying pins to which are attached bags in sequential order. Upon completion of treatment the container is made to revolve through an angle of 180 degrees, whereupon the lowermost bag becomes the topmost and removal of the bags is effected in the order in which they have been inserted.

In the accompanying drawings I have illustrated a preferred embodiment of my invention.

Fig. 1 is a side elevation thereof, and

Fig. 2 is a vertical section therethrough.

The container 1 is rotatably mounted on supports 2 by means of studs 3, 3, passing through bearings 4, 4, in the top of the supports 2, 2, and bearings 5, 5, in the sides of the container. The axis of rotation is midway of the length of the container, and rotation thereof is prevented by the spring-actuated pins 6, 6, mounted in the supports 2, 2, below the center of rotation, which engage bearings 7, 7, attached to the container.

The container is provided with end closures or lids 8, 8, each having a bayonet slot 9 which engages a pin 10 on the side of the container. Each lid is provided with a bearing 11 for the ends of a rod 12 that is arranged centrally of the container 1.

In practice, the vessel is placed in the position shown in Fig. 2. The top lid is removed and the identifying pins 16, comprising a safety pin to which is attached a keyed check, with its bag 13 of apparel pendent therefrom, is inserted over the rod 12 and permitted to slide down to the bottom. The same is done with succeeding bags until the container is full whereupon, the lid is replaced. When it is desired to remove the bags from the container, the pins 6, 6, are retracted and the vessel rotated vertically so that the bottom becomes uppermost. The heretofore upper bearings 7, 7, will now be in alinement with the pins 6, 6. These pins are then released and permitted to enter the bearings 7 to prevent further rotation of the vessel. The topmost lid 8 being removed, the bags 12 may be removed in the order in which they have been inserted.

In order to insure that the operator shall not inadvertently attempt to empty the container without first up-ending it, I provide a guard, comprising diverging spring clips 14 at one end (what may be called the filling end of the container). The pins 16 slide readily past the clips 14 in a downward direction, but offer an obstacle to the upward movement of the pins (Fig. 2). The operator must therefore turn the container to the discharge position, that is, through 180 degrees from the Fig. 2 position, before the bags can be conveniently removed; and so it is insured that bags come out in the order in which they were put in.

In order to prevent filling the container from the discharge position, I provide on the rod a guard 15 similar to the guard 14 on the other end of the rod, but with the diverging ends of the guard toward the lid of the container. This permits removal of the bags

from the container but prevents the filling of the container from that end.

A preferred use of the apparatus described herein is in the transfer of washed clothing from the washing department of a commercial laundry to the various finishing departments such as the shirt department, the sock department, etc., a separate container being used for each department. Now, suppose John Brown's laundry has been washed first and is being separated. The net containing John Brown's shirts is placed first in the container for the shirt department, the net containing his socks is placed first in the container for the sock department, etc. The use of the containers compels each finishing department to finish John Brown's laundry first, and that of the other customers in their proper order. Thus all of John Brown's laundry arrives simultaneously at the packing department, thereby effecting a great saving in the time and space that would otherwise be required for sorting and packing.

I do not limit myself to the particular form of apparatus illustrated and described herein, since the invention is susceptible of other embodiments or modifications which come within the scope of the invention, as defined by my invention.

Having described my invention, what I claim is:

A support, a container rotatable thereon in a substantially vertical plane, removable covers at both ends of the container, and a centrally disposed rod supported between said covers and detachable from either of said covers.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JOHN S. PATTERSON.