No. 876,425. PATENTED JAN. 14, 1908.

H. BARCALOW.

FOLDING WASHBASIN.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 5, 1904. RENEWED MAY 31, 1907.

Fig. 1.

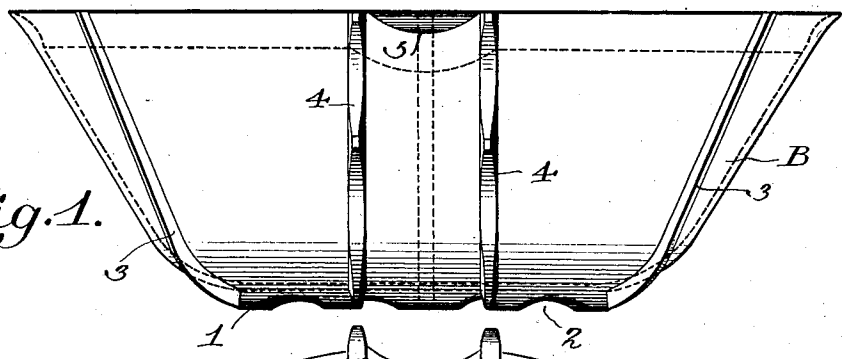


Fig. 2.

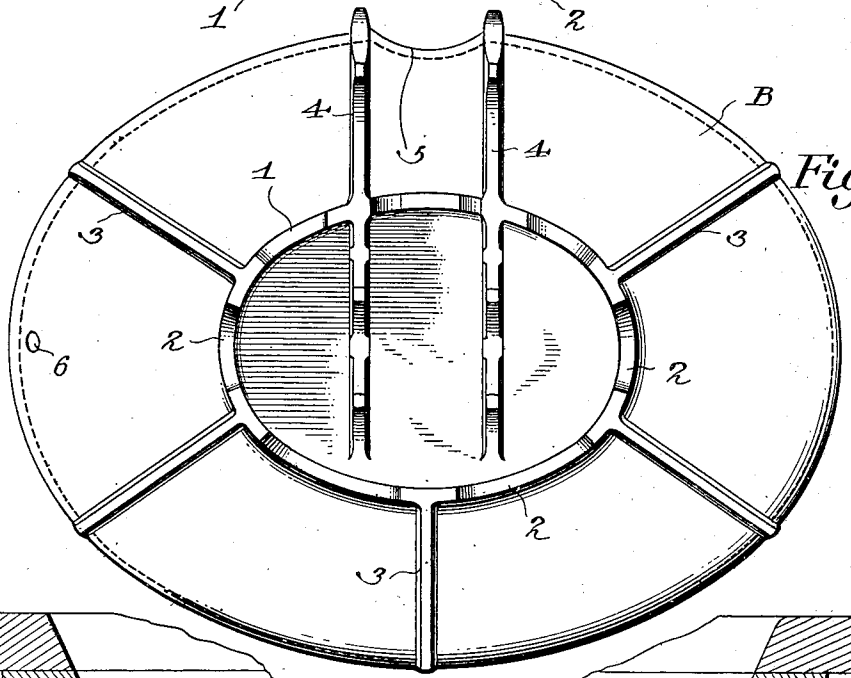
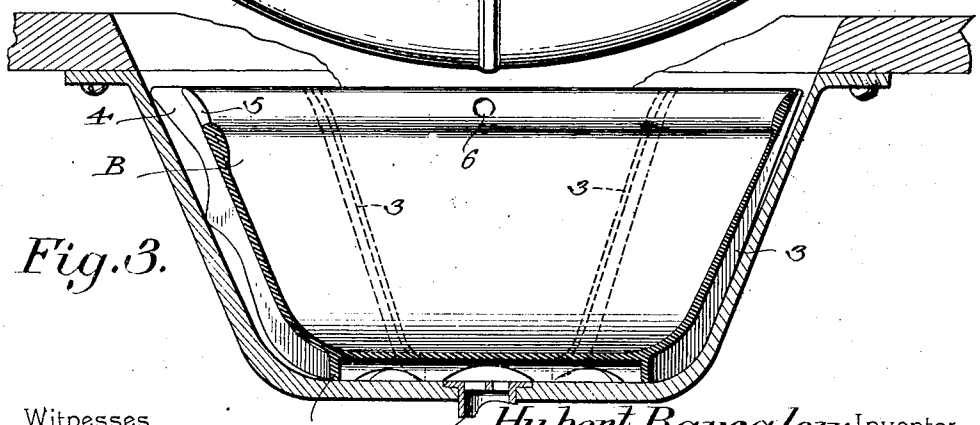


Fig. 3.



Witnesses,
E. C. Stewart
Porter Morton

Hubert Barcalow, Inventor.
by C. A. Snow & Co.
Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HUBERT BARCALOW, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

FOLDING WASHBASIN.

No. 876,425. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Jan. 14, 1908.

Application filed March 5, 1904. Serial No. 196,687. Renewed May 31, 1907. Serial No. 376,500.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HUBERT BARCALOW, a citizen of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Folding Washbasin, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to folding wash basins designed primarily to be carried by travelers and used in connection with wash basins in hotels or other public buildings to insure the user against possible infection by any disease germs that may be present and to insure a degree of cleanliness ordinarily not obtainable in basins in public or semi-public buildings.

The principal object of the invention is to provide a wash basin which may be readily folded into very small compass and which will adapt itself to the form of the ordinary stationary wash basin employed in hotels and the like so that the stationary wash basin will form a supporting structure for the folding wash basin which will serve as a lining for the stationary wash basin and prevent the contact of the water in the folding basin from coming into contact with the surface of the stationary basin and thereby becoming contaminated by disease germs, if any are present upon the surface of the stationary basin.

A further object of the invention is to provide a folding wash basin of the type specified which will rest in an ordinary stationary wash basin and be supported thereby, but which will not adhere to the surface of the stationary wash basin so as to render removal of the folding basin difficult and which, when in use, will contact with the surface of the stationary basin at intervals only, leaving channels between the points of contact for the downward passage of water between the folding basin and the stationary basin so that the water may escape through the ordinary waste pipe.

A still further object of the invention is to render the basin self-supporting in order that it may be employed independently of a stationary washstand or the like and also to have the basin sufficiently yieldable and elastic to readily accommodate the foot of a user of the device.

With the above and other objects in view, as will appear as the invention is more completely disclosed, the same consists in a novel form of folding wash basin hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and having the novel features thereof particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings: Figure 1 is a view in elevation of the folding wash basin. Fig. 2 is a reverse plan view. Fig. 3 is a sectional view through the stationary wash basin and the folding basin.

Referring to the drawings, in which corresponding parts are designated by similar characters of reference, B designates the entire wash basin which is preferably constructed of rubber, but may be made of other flexible and preferably elastic material. The basin B is preferably of the oblong form illustrated and is made seamless. The form of the basin when empty is that shown in Fig. 1, but when placed in a stationary wash basin and filled with water the elasticity of the material of which the basin is composed will permit it to conform in a general way to the dimensions of the basin in which it is placed, unless the supporting basin is considerably larger than the folding basin.

In order to make the basin B readily foldable, its walls and bottom are composed, for the most part, of comparatively thin material, but surrounding the bottom of the basin on the under side I place a supporting rim 1 provided at intervals with arches 2 to permit the passage of water to the escape pipe, and extending upward and outward from the rim 1 are strengthening ribs which prevent the collapse of the basin and which prevent the outer surface of the folding basin from lying in close contact with the surface of the stationary or supporting basin. The upwardly extending ribs are of two types, those designated 3 which extend from the rim 1 outward and upward only and those designated 4 which are arranged substantially parallel and extend in both directions from the rim 1, their extensions beneath the bottom of the folding basin being provided to prevent the bottom of the basin from being forced downward into contact with the top of the escape pipe and so cutting off the escape of water therethrough.

The ribs 4 are arranged at opposite sides of a depression 5 in the thickened upper margin of the basin B, and it is intended that the overflow of water from the basin shall be allowed to take place only at its depression, the ribs 4 then serving to guide the over-

flow downward to the waste pipe in the bottom of the stationary basin. As a certain amount of water will be splashed over the top of the folding basin at other points, however, the ribs 4 are so formed that they do not contact with the surface of the supporting basin at all points but leave passages between which the water can flow. Water splashed over the top of the folding basin at the ends or at the side opposite the depression 5 passes downward between the ribs 3 and passes through the arches 2 in the supporting rim 1.

In Fig. 3, the basin B is illustrated in position in a stationary wash basin S provided with the usual escape pipe E at the bottom. In this figure it will be readily seen that the folding wash basin serves as a complete protection against the contact of the user's hands with the surface of the stationary basin and that it also prevents the water used from coming into contact with the stationary basin until it overflows from the folding basin and passes downward to the escape pipe.

By providing the overflow depression 5 in the rim of the folding basin, the said folding basin is adapted for use with a continuously flowing stream of water, the overflow being almost wholly limited to the depression 5 and being guided downward to the bottom of the stationary basin in such way that its return to the folding basin after overflow is completely prevented.

From the foregoing description and drawings it will be readily seen that the basin forming the present invention can be quickly introduced into an ordinary stationary wash basin, used, and then quickly removed by simply resting the folding basin at the side opposite the overflow depression in the upper margin to allow the water to flow out into the stationary basin. After use the folding basin may be quickly folded into comparatively small compass so that it may be placed in the pocket or carried conveniently in a valise.

If it is desired to allow the basin to dry thoroughly before folding to pack in a valise or place in a pocket, the basin may be conveniently suspended to facilitate the drainage of the final drops of water by any ordinary suspension device engaging the opening which is provided in the wall of the basin near the upper margin, as shown in Fig. 3.

While it is intended that a basin will ordinarily be used in connection with a stationary wash basin, as illustrated in Fig. 3, it may be used without such a supporting basin, especially if only partially filled with water. When a small quantity only of water is introduced into the folding basin, there is some outward distention of the walls of the basin, but it is not sufficient to cause the water to escape.

By reason of the fact that water seeks its own level, the pressure thereof will be equal in all directions thereby preventing collapse of the basin which is retained in an upright position by the stiffening ribs 3. Moreover, in placing a foot in the basin, the latter is sufficiently elastic to permit of its sides being drawn together and its opposite ends being extended by the pressure of the heel and toes of the foot without danger of collapse of the basin.

The advantages of having the folding basin susceptible of use without a supporting basin under some circumstances will be obvious, as it is not always convenient to support the basin upon a washstand and a movable washbowl or basin to support the folding basin is not always obtainable.

Having thus described the construction and use of my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters-Patent is:—

1. A portable lining for stationary wash basins consisting of an imperforate bowl-shaped body formed of flexible water-proof material, the upstanding sides of the bowl having external upright stiffening ribs to engage the inner wall of a stationary wash basin and space the upright walls of the bowl therefrom, the bottom of the bowl having external ribs disposed at opposite sides of the center thereof to engage the bottom of the stationary wash basin and support the bottom of the bowl against collapsing and closing the outlet of the basin, the upper peripheral edge of the bowl being unobstructed between the tops of the upstanding flanges to permit of an overflow from the bowl downwardly at the outer side thereof, the bottom ribs being arched to permit of the overflow passing therethrough and into the outlet of the basin.

2. A portable lining for stationary wash basins consisting of an imperforate bowl-shaped body formed of flexible water-proof material and capable of being collapsed and folded when not in use, the upstanding sides of the bowl being provided with upright external stiffening ribs to engage a wash basin and space the bowl therefrom, the bottom of the bowl having an external annular depending rib and intermediate transverse ribs at opposite sides of the middle of the bottom of the bowl and within the annular rib, the upper peripheral edge of the bowl between the upper ends of the upright ribs being unobstructed to permit of overflow from the bowl downwardly at the outer side thereof and the bottom flanges having arches through which the overflow may pass to the outlet of the wash basin.

3. A portable lining for stationary wash basins consisting of an imperforate bowl-shaped body formed of flexible water-proof material and capable of being collapsed and folded when not in use, the bottom of the bowl being provided with external depending

flanges at opposite sides of the center thereof to support the bottom of the bowl and prevent the same from collapsing and closing the outlet of a wasn basin, the upstanding sides of the bowl having external upright stiffening ribs to engage the walls of a wash basin and space the bowl therefrom, the upper peripheral edge of the bowl having a depression located between a pair of the upright ribs and forming an overflow outlet for the bowl, and the bottom flanges having arches through which the overflow may pass to the outlet of the wash basin.

4. A portable lining for stationary wash basins consisting of an imperforate bowl-shaped body formed of flexible water-proof material, the bottom of the bowl having a pendent integral peripheral rib to support the bottom of the bowl and prevent collapsing thereof and closing of the outlet of a wash basin, the upright walls of the bowl being provided with integral external upstanding stiffening ribs to space the bowl from the wash basin with their lower ends engaging the peripheral bottom rib, the upper peripheral edge of the bowl being externally unobstructed between the upright ribs and provided with a depression forming an overflow outlet, one of the upstanding ribs being located at each end of the depression and extended across the bottom of the bowl at opposite sides of the center thereof, the peripheral rib being provided with arches located between the upstanding ribs, the rib extensions within the annular rib also having arches through which the overflow may pass to the outlet of the basin.

5. As a new article of manufacture, a molded bowl-shaped wash basin which is seamless, flexible, water-proof, and capable of being folded into compact form and having solid integral upright stiffening ribs molded upon its exterior to support the bowl when containing a liquid.

6. A device of the class described comprising a bowl-shaped body formed of flexible water-proof material capable of being folded and provided upon its exterior with upright stiffening ribs to support the device when containing a liquid and constituting spacers for contact with the walls of a wash basin to prevent the walls of the device from adhering thereto, the device being provided with an overflow outlet adjacent its upper edge.

7. A device of the class described comprising a bowl-shaped body formed of flexible water-proof material capable of being folded and provided with external upstanding stiffening ribs to support the bowl when containing water and constituting spacers for contact with the walls of a wash basin, there being a depression in the upper edge of the bowl to constitute an overflow.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

HUBERT BARCALOW.

Witnesses:

I. B. GILBERT,

FRANK CRAVEN.