

March 20, 1951

M. C. BYRNE
SHOWER CURTAIN SUPPORT

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2 Sheets-Sheet 1

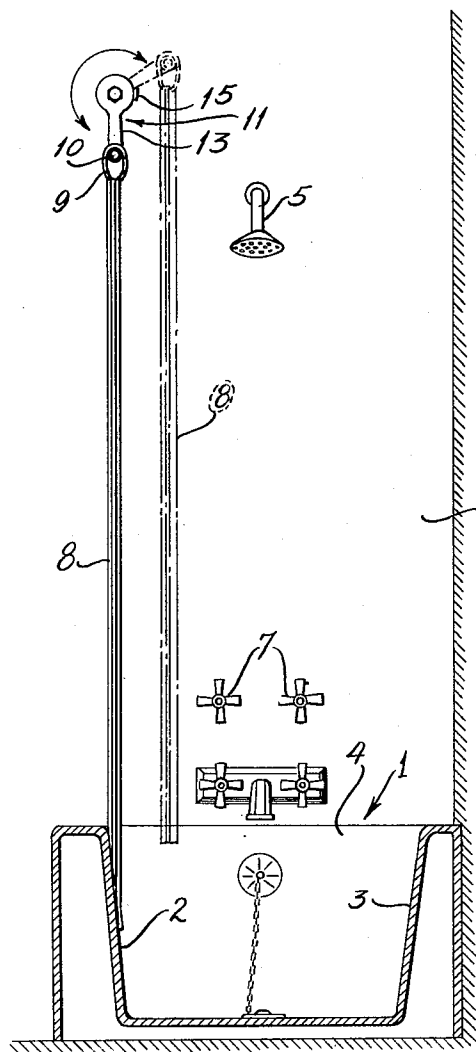


FIG. 1.

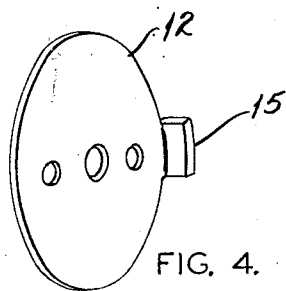


FIG. 4.

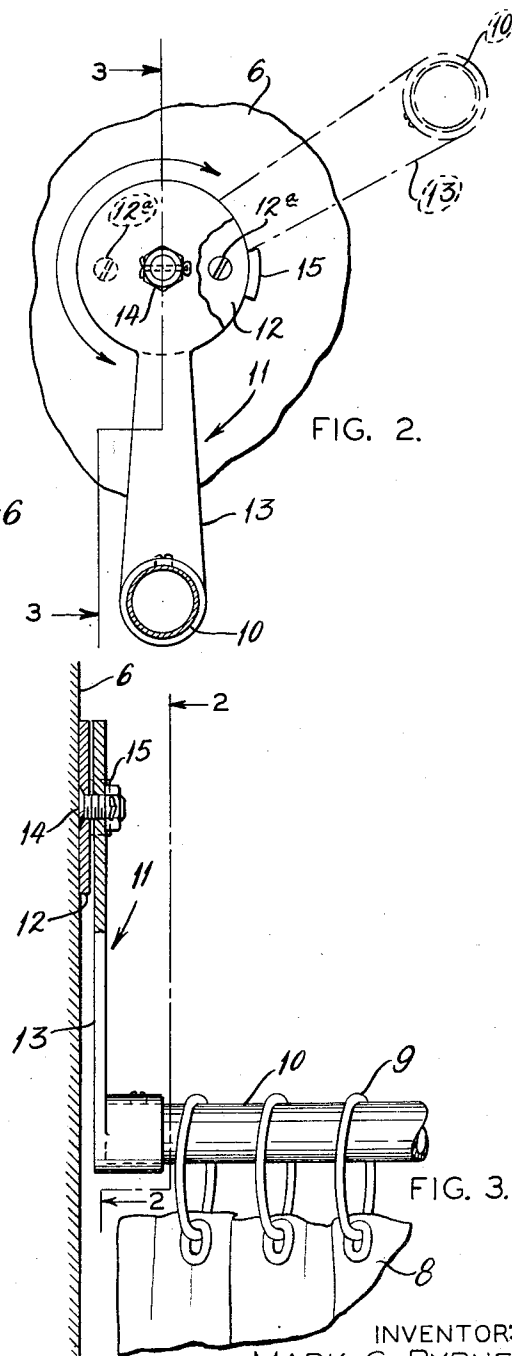


FIG. 2.

FIG. 3.

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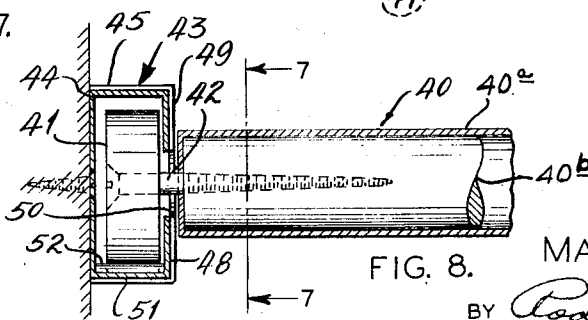
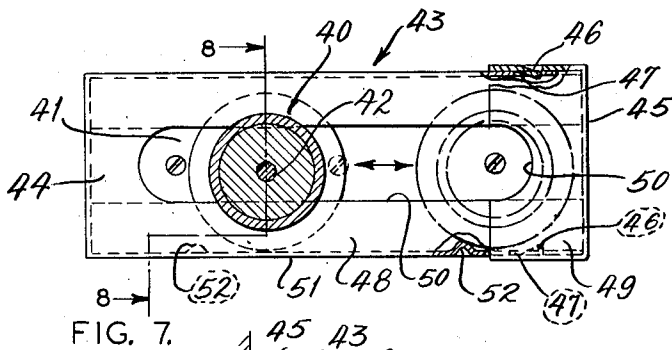
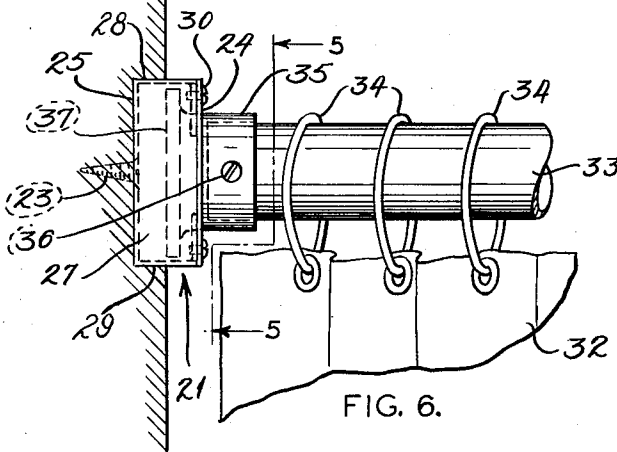
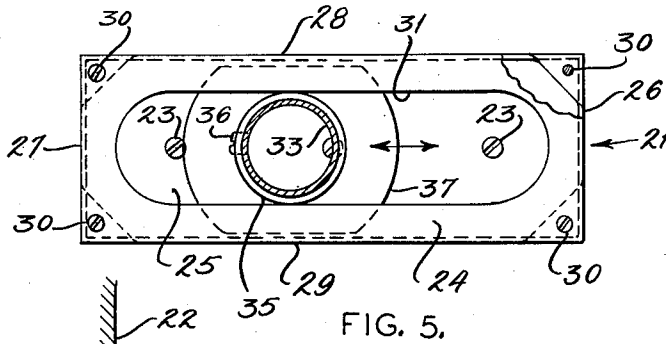
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SHOWER CURTAIN SUPPORT

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2 Claims. (Cl. 4-149)

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The invention relates to a support for a shower curtain for use with a tub or shower stall.

Shower curtains when in use usually hang vertically substantially the length of the tub from a bar above the tub and rigid with the walls of the room. The lower end of the curtain usually hangs inside of and contacts a side wall of the tub so that water from the shower falling upon the curtain drains into the tub. If the user stops the drain in the tub and permits water to accumulate therein, the lower edge of the curtain may hang in the water and become thoroughly soaked. When the shower is no longer being used, the upper part of the curtain dries readily, since it is exposed to free air circulation and water drains to the curtain lower end. The lower end because it contacts the tub, dries more slowly, or not at all, and frequently mildews and gives off unpleasant odors.

The main object of the present invention is to provide for movement of the curtain between a normal use position described above, and a drying position in which the curtain hangs substantially unfolded and extends substantially the length of the tub with the lower end of the curtain free of contact with the tub. To move the curtain to the latter position, its lower end may be moved upwardly, inwardly, outwardly, or in any desired combination of these movements. Another object is to convert existing rigidly mounted shower curtain supports to the teachings of the present invention.

These and other detail objects will be apparent to those skilled in the art from the following description and accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a transverse vertical section through a tub and shower curtain and shows one form of the invention, the curtain being shown in position for use in solid lines and in drying position in dot-dash lines.

Figure 2 is in part a detail side view and in part a vertical section, taken approximately on the line 2-2 of Figure 3, of the support shown in Figure 1 and drawn to enlarged scale.

Figure 3 is in part a front view and in part a vertical section taken approximately on the line 3-3 of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a detail perspective of the support base.

Figures 5 and 7 are transverse vertical sections taken approximately on line 5-5 of Figure 6 and on line 7-7 of Figure 8, respectively, and show other forms of the invention.

Figure 6 is a front view of the support shown

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in Figure 5 and a portion of the shower curtain supported thereby.

Figure 8 is a longitudinal vertical section taken approximately on the line 8-8 of Figure 7.

In Figure 1 is shown a bath tub 1 having side walls 2 and 3 and end walls 4 (only one being shown). A shower head 5 is supported by a wall 6 of the bath room. Valves 7 control the flow of water from shower head 5. The structure described in itself does not constitute the present invention.

In Figures 1 to 4, shower curtain 8 is supported by rings 9 from a rod 10 mounted at each of its ends on a bracket 11. Bracket 11 comprises a base 12, attached rigidly to wall 6 by screws 12a, and a swinging arm 13 pivoted thereto by a locking bolt 14 and mounting rod 10.

Arm 13 swings vertically in the direction of the arrow (Figures 1 and 2) about pivot bolt 14 and provides for movement of rod 10 and curtain 8 between a normal use position, (shown in solid lines in Figure 1) in which the lower end of the curtain hangs within the tub and contacts side wall 2 and a drying position, (shown in dot-dash lines in Figure 1) in which the curtain is moved inwardly and upwardly relative to the tub and its lower end is free of contact therewith. When curtain 8 is in use position, arm 13 is suspended vertically from base 12 and when curtain 8 is in drying position arm 13 is inclined upwardly and inwardly of the tub. Arm 13 is held in the latter position by its engagement with a projection 15 on base 12. The length of arm 13 and the angle of its movement relative to base 12 may be varied as desired as long as the lower end of curtain 8 in drying position does not contact side wall 2 of tub 1.

In Figures 5 and 6, a hollow box-like housing 21 is attached rigidly to a room wall 22 at each end of a tub (not shown) by screws 23. Housing 21 has side walls 24, 25, end walls 26, 27 and top and bottom walls 28, 29. Housing side wall 24 is detachably secured to the housing by screws 30 and is slotted longitudinally at 31.

A shower curtain 32 is attached to a rod 33 by rings 34. A member 35, attached to each end of rod 33 by a screw 36, is slidably received in slot 31 of wall 24 so that rod 33 and curtain 32 may be moved the length of slot 31. The end of member 35 has a flange 37 larger than the width of slot 31 to prevent accidental withdrawal of member 35 therefrom.

Housing 21 preferably is positioned above the tub so that when member 35 and rod 33 are at one end of slot 31 the lower end of curtain 32

contacts the inside portion of the side of the tub, and when member 35 and rod 33 are at the opposite end of slot 31 curtain 32 is positioned inwardly of the tub and its lower end does not contact the tub.

Member 35 is assembled to housing 21 by removing the member from rod 33 and inserting the small end of the member through slot 31 in housing side wall 24 while the side wall is separated from the remainder of the housing. Side wall 24 and member 35 then may be assembled to housing 21 and rod 33, respectively.

Shower curtain rods and supporting brackets used heretofore and mounted rigidly on the walls at the ends of the tub may be used with housing 21 by cutting away the upper and lower portions of the bracket flange similarly to member 35. Housing 21 may be set in a recess in the room wall as shown so that the same length rod may be used, or housing 21 may be mounted on the surface of the wall and the rod may be shortened.

In Figures 7 and 8, curtain supporting rod 40 comprising a metal tube 40a and a wooden core 40b has a roller 41 rotatably mounted at each of its ends by a screw 42. Roller 41 is received in a box-like housing 43 having a body 44 and a cap 45 fitting over one end of body 44. Inwardly extending tits 46 on the cap are received in recesses 47 in the body and secure the cap thereto. A side wall 48 of body 44 and the associated side wall 49 of cap 45 are slotted at 50 to receive screw 42. Roller 41 preferably is larger in diameter than the width of slot 50 to maintain assembly of rod 40 and housing 43. Also slot 50 preferably is narrower than the diameter of rod 40 to limit lateral movement of roller 41 within housing 43 toward the supporting wall.

Housing 43 preferably is positioned above the tub (not shown) so that when roller 41 and rod 40 are at one end of housing 43, the lower end of the curtain (not shown) contacts the side of the tub. When roller 41 and rod 40 are at the opposite end of housing 43, the curtain is moved inwardly of the tub and its lower end does not contact the tub. As roller 41 moves from one end of housing 43 to the other, the roller rolls on the inner surface of bottom wall 51. Upward projections 52 near the ends of the inner face of bottom wall 51 engage roller 41 in the positions described and prevent accidental movement of the curtain from one position to another.

Rod 40 and roller 41 are assembled to housing 43 by inserting the roller in the open end of body 44 when cap 45 is removed. Cap 45 then is assembled to body 44 to prevent accidental withdrawal of roller 41 from the body.

If desired roller 41 may be assembled rigidly to rod 40 and slot 50 may be wide enough to receive rod 40 but narrower than the diameter of roller 41. With this arrangement rod 40 rotates with roller 41 and within the curtain supporting rings.

Housing 21 of Figures 5 and 6 and housing 43 of Figures 7 and 8 are interchangeable and may be used with either structure shown in these

figures. It may be desirable to incline housings 21 and 43 on the associated walls so that the rod and curtain move rearwardly and upwardly.

With the arrangements described, the lower part of the curtain will dry readily when it is moved to drying position and will not mildew and give off unpleasant odors.

The details of construction may be varied substantially without departing from the spirit of the invention, and the exclusive use of those modifications coming within the scope of the claims is contemplated.

What I claim is:

1. In combination, a bath tub having a side wall, bracket bases substantially directly above the ends of said side wall, a swinging member pivoted to each of said bases, a support extending between the swinging ends of said members, a shower curtain suspended therefrom, said swinging member being movable between a position in which said swinging member is suspended substantially vertically from said base member, and the lower end of the curtain contacts the inner face of said wall, and a position in which said swinging member is inclined from the bracket upwardly and inwardly of the tub and the lower end of the curtain is raised relative to and moved inwardly from said wall, and a projecting element on one of said members engaging the other member and maintaining said swinging member in the latter position.

2. In combination, a bath tub with an elongated side wall, a vertically disposed shower curtain, a substantially horizontal rod supporting said curtain above said tub with the curtain disposed substantially the entire length of the tub, a bracket supporting each end of said rod and providing for movement of said rod and said curtain between a normal use position, in which the rod is substantially directly above said wall and the lower end of said curtain hangs within and contacts a portion of said wall, and a drying position in which said rod is moved inwardly of the tub from its normal position and is substantially parallel to its use position, and the lower end of said curtain is spaced inwardly from said tub.

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