Dec. 22, 1925.

R. D. FIGFIELD

DISAPPEARING SHOWER BATH

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2
To all whom it may concern:

Be it known, that I, RALPH D. FIFIELD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Fort Pierce, in the county of St. Lucie and State of Florida, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in a Disappearing Shower Bath, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in shower baths, and is more particularly adapted to a bathing apparatus which is to be positioned within a cabinet, the latter being set in a recess provided therefor in the partition wall of a room.

One of the important objects of the present invention is to provide a disappearing shower bath of the above mentioned character which may be readily and easily folded or collapsed into the cabinet, and when the door for the latter is closed, the bathing apparatus will be entirely out of view, and the cabinet will have the appearance of a closet.

A further object is to provide a disappearing shower bath of the above mentioned character which will not occupy much space and is more particularly adapted for use in apartment houses, small hotels, or in residences where there is not sufficient space to accommodate a bathing apparatus of non-collapsible character. A still further object is to provide a disappearing shower bath of the above mentioned character which is simple in construction, inexpensive, strong and durable and further well adapted to the purpose for which it is designed.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent during the course of the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings.

In the accompanying drawings forming a part of this application and in which like numerals designate like parts throughout the same:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the cabinet showing the door in an open position, and illustrating the shower bath when set up in position for use.

Figure 2 is a side elevation, and a vertical sectional view of the bathing apparatus and the cabinet, the parts being shown in an operative position.

Figure 3 is a vertical sectional view through the cabinet showing the bathing apparatus in its collapsed or folded position within the cabinet.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary detail of the forward end of the pan showing the handle which provides a support thereof, and the lower portion of the curtain, and

Figure 5 is a top plan view of one side of the curtain supporting rim showing the mechanism provided for facilitating the opening and closing of the curtain at the side.

In the drawings wherein for the purpose of illustration is shown the preferred embodiment of my invention, the numeral 1 designates generally the cabinet forming a part of the present invention, the same being adapted to fit within a suitable recess provided therefor in a partition wall designated generally by the letter A. The front of the cabinet is open, and provided therefor is the vertically swinging door 2, which when closed will tend to give the appearance of the provision of a closet, or the like, in the wall. The inner walls of the cabinet are lined with galvanized or copper sheet metal, although any other suitable non-rusting metal may be substituted therefor, the lining being indicated at 3.

A platform 4, of a suitable thickness, has arranged on the upper face thereof the pan 5, and the upper edges of the sides of the pan are curved inwards as at 6 to provide a splash guard, the purpose of which will hereinafter be more fully described. This pan is pivotally supported at its rear end between the sides of the cabinet 1 adjacent the bottom thereof as at 7, the pivot being preferably arranged adjacent the open front side of the cabinet so as to permit the pan to swing upwardly and be disposed within the cabinet when in an inoperative position. The rear end of the pan is open and depending from the bottom thereof is the drip lip 8.

A trough 9 is arranged in the bottom of the cabinet directly below the pivot 7, and communicates with the open rear end of the pan and the lip 8 for receiving the water from the pan, and conveying the same to a waste outlet pipe 10 which extends downwardly through the floor and leads to the sewer (not shown).

For the purpose of supporting the forward end of the platform and pan 5, when the latter is swung outwardly for use, I provide the central supporting member 11, the same being formed the shape of a U-shaped ball, the free ends of the arms of which are pivotally secured in suitable brackets 12.
provided therefor on the bottom of the platform adjacent the forward edge thereof. This bail also provides a handle for facilitating the grasping of the pan and the platform for swinging the same either upwardly or downwardly. Additional supporting members 13 are arranged at the sides of the platform adjacent the forward edge thereof as clearly illustrated in Figure 1. These additional supports are also pivotally associated with the platform, and it is obvious that when the platform and pan carried thereby is swung upwardly into the cabinet, the supporting members will automatically swing downwardly and be disposed against the bottom face of the platform, as shown in Figure 3.

A substantially U-shaped rim 14 which is formed of strap iron or steel, and is coated with a non-rusting metal, has its arms pivotally secured adjacent their free ends to the respective sides of the inner walls of the cabinet 1 adjacent the forward portion of the top thereof as indicated at 15. A waterproof curtain 16 is adapted to be secured along one of its sides, and its front portion to the rim 14, and the pan 5, the lower portion of the curtain extending downwardly within the upper portion of the pan in the manner as clearly illustrated in Figure 4. One side of the curtain is free to slide on the adjacent side of the rim, and pan, as will be presently apparent.

Associated with the inner side of the arm 17 of the U-shaped rim 14, and the adjacent side of the pan 5 are the arms 18 and 19 respectively, the same being pivotally connected at their inner ends as at 20. The outer end of the arm 18 is pivotally connected to a ring 21, as at 22. This ring 21 is adapted for sidable movement along the rear portion of the arm 17, as is indicated in Figure 5. The outer end of the other arm 19 is pivotally secured to the arm 17 adjacent the forward end thereof as at 23. It is of course understood that a similar arrangement is provided for the adjacent side of the pan 5. The respective edges of the free side of the curtain are secured to these hingedly connected arms in any suitable manner so as to be actuated thereby, and it is obvious that when a free side of the curtain is moved forwardly, the arms 18 and 19 will swing inwardly in the position shown in dotted lines in Figure 5, thus opening one side of the device to permit a person to enter the bathing apparatus. When the free side of the curtain is released, a spring 24 which is secured to the inner side of the forward portion of the rim 17 will have its free end exerting outward pressure on the forward portion of the arm 19, so as to automatically return the arms to their normal positions and thus close the entrance to the bathing apparatus. The spring 24 assumes the position shown in dotted lines in Figure 5 when the arms 18 and 19 are swung inwardly, and thus the spring is placed under tension.

For the purpose of operatively connecting the pan and rim together so as to enable the same to operate simultaneously, there is provided a pair of elongated connecting links 25, the same being arranged on opposite sides of the pan and rim, as shown in the drawings. The upper ends of these elongated links are pivotally connected to the rear free ends of the arms of the U-shaped rim 14, as illustrated at 26, and the lower ends of these links are pivotally connected to the respective sides of the rear portion of the platform 4, adjacent the rear end thereof, and at a point forwardly of the pivot 7 as illustrated at 27.

It is obvious that when the pan 5 is swung upwardly, into the cabinet, the lower portion of the curtain 16 will be drawn together and disposed within the pan, and when entirely within the cabinet, the hook 28 which is pivotally secured on the rear wall of the cabinet will engage the forward end of the pan and platform, and hold the same in its outwardly swing position. The rim 14 is swung downwardly on its pivots 15 into the cabinet, in the manner shown more clearly in Figure 3, and when the parts are so arranged, the door 2 may then be swung to a closed position, thus entirely concealing the bathing apparatus.

In order to set up the shower bath for use, after the door has been opened, the hook 28 is released and by grasping the bail 11, and pulling the same outwardly, the pan 5 will swing outwardly and downwardly on its pivot 7, and during the downward swinging movement of the pan, the links 25 will automatically cause the rim 14 to swing outwardly and upwardly to the position shown in Figure 2, and thereby place the shower bath in an operable position, and ready for use.

A shower head 29, of any conventional construction is swivelly supported as at 30, a supply pipe 31 extends along the rear wall of the cabinet, and is connected with the nozzle, or shower head 21 for supplying water thereto. A supply pipe 31 provided with a lateral extension which leads through the side of the cabinet and communicates with a suitable source of water supply (not shown). A control valve 32, of any conventional construction, is associated with the supply pipe and is located at a point within easy reach of the person using the bathing apparatus.

An electric light 33 is also arranged in the cabinet in the top thereof for illuminating the apparatus whenever it is necessary.

A bathing apparatus of the above mentioned character is particularly adapted for
use in apartment houses, small hotels, or private residences, where there is inadequate space for accommodating a shower bath, and by placing the cabinet in which is arranged the shower bath in a recess in the partition wall, the same will not consume much space, and when the shower bath is not in use, the cabinet will present a neat appearance, and will simulate a closet.

The simplicity in which the present apparatus is constructed enables the same to be readily and easily installed, and will at all times be positive and efficient in its operation, and there will be no possibility of any water splashing onto the floor when the bathing apparatus is in use. This is due to the construction of the splash guard with respect to the lower edge of the curtain.

While I have shown the preferred embodiment of my invention it is to be understood that minor changes in the size, shape and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention, and the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim as new is:

1. In a disappearing shower bath, a cabinet adapted to be set into a wall, a door for said cabinet, a pan pivotally supported at its rear end in the bottom of the cabinet, a rim hingedly supported adjacent its rear end in the upper portion of the cabinet, a curtain supported at its upper edge on said rim, said pan and the rim and the curtain carried thereby adapted to be disposed entirely within the cabinet when in a collapsed position, and means for operatively connecting the pan with the rim whereby said rim will be automatically swung outwardly and upwardly simultaneously with the downward and outward swinging movement of the pan, said means comprising a pair of links pivotally connected at their lower ends to the opposite sides of the pan adjacent the pivoted rear end thereof, the upper ends of the links being connected to the rear end portion of the side of the rim at a point rearwardly of the pivotal support for said rim.

2. In a disappearing shower bath, a cabinet adapted to be set in a wall, a door for said cabinet, a pan pivotally supported at its rear end in the bottom of the cabinet, a curtain supporting bracket pivotally supported at its rear end in the upper portion of the cabinet, a curtain secured at its upper edge to said bracket, and extending downwardly into the pan, means for facilitating the opening of the curtain, and means for automatically returning the curtain to its closed position when the pressure thereon is released, said means comprising a pair of arms hingedly connected together at their inner opposed ends, the outer end of one arm being pivotally secured to said bracket, the outer end of the other arm being slideable on the bracket, a portion of the curtain being secured to said arms, and means for automatically returning the curtain to its closed position when pressure on the curtain is released.

3. In a disappearing shower bath, a cabinet adapted to be set in a wall, a door for said cabinet, a pan pivotally supported at its rear end in the bottom of the cabinet, a curtain supporting bracket pivotally supported at its rear end in the upper portion of the cabinet, a curtain secured at its upper edge to said bracket, and extending downwardly into the pan, means for facilitating the opening of the curtain, and means for automatically returning the curtain to its closed position when the pressure thereon is released, said means comprising a pair of arms hingedly connected together at their inner opposed ends, the outer end of one arm being pivotally secured to said bracket, the outer end of the other arm being slideable on the bracket, a portion of the curtain being secured to said arms, and a spring element secured on the bracket and engaging the arm which is hinged to the bracket.

4. A disappearing shower bath, a cabinet adapted to be set in a wall, a door for the cabinet, a pan pivotally supported at its rear end in the bottom of the cabinet, a rim hingedly supported adjacent its rear end in the upper portion of the cabinet, a curtain supported at its upper edge on the rim, said pan and the rim and the curtain carried thereby adapted to be disposed entirely within the cabinet when in a collapsed position, means for operatively connecting the pan with the rim whereby the same are adapted for simultaneous actuation, said means comprising a pair of links pivotally connected at their lower ends to the opposite side of the pan adjacent the pivoted rear end thereof, the upper ends of the links being connected to the rear end portion of the side of the rim at a point rearwardly of the pivotal support for the rim.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

RALPH D. FIFIELD.