To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, Earl M. Witherell, a citizen of the United States, residing at Duluth, in the county of St. Louis and State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Garment-Drying Forms, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawing. This invention relates to fabric drying devices and has special reference to such for drying knitted garments such as hosiery or mittens which are dried and shaped on air heated forms in which the drying element passes directly through the fabric.

The principal object is to provide a form having novel features which hasten and improve the process of drying.

Another object is to provide means on such a form for convenient and accurate positioning of a garment thereupon.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will appear in the further description thereof.

Referring to the accompanying drawings forming part of this application and in which like reference characters indicate like parts:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the improved form for drying a sock.

Fig. 2 is a similar view of a form for drying a mitten.

Fig. 3 is an edge elevation of the lower end of the form.

Fig. 4 is a transverse sectional view on the line A—B Fig. 1, looking downward and showing a garment on the form.

Fig. 5 is a vertical sectional view through a fragmental portion of the wall of the form in which the deflecting apertures occur.

The form is preferably made of suitable metal such as copper or aluminum and is in proportion to its width, very thin, that is, the side walls 1 1 are spaced but a slight distance apart, except at the lower open end thereof, where they gradually diverge and the edge walls widen forming a long tapered supporting shank 2 which is designed to fit down over a cooperatively shaped air discharge nozzle not shown, but which is known in the art and fully set forth in my copending application Ser. No. 171,135 filed May 26th 1917.

A centrally positioned convex rib 3 extends outwardly from each side of the form and substantially the full length thereof and said ribs being pressed from the material of which the form is composed, result in an enlarged tube like passage or conduit 4 within the form which gives greater freedom of passage of the air therethrough. This conduit is unobstructed throughout its entire length and results in the air being more evenly distributed within the form.

These ribs also provide means for holding the fabric when stretched over the form, away from the flat sides thereof, thus permitting of the air circulating freely through the perforations 6 in the form and between the sides thereof and the fabric, which results in the air contacting, as nearly as possible, the entire garment being dried.

The perforations 6 through the principal body portion of the form are circular and cut or made entirely through thereof, but those occurring adjacent the shank 2 in the narrower portion of the form and indicated at 7, are cut but partly out, the upper approximate half of each cut out piece 8 being left intact with the side wall of the form and allowed to extend therewith. In this manner a small inclined deflector plate is formed at each perforation 7 which, as the air circulates upwardly within the form, tends to force more air through such perforations than through those not thus provided with deflectors.

It will be noted that the perforations having deflectors therein occur in that portion of the form upon which the ribbed or more massily woven part of the fabric being dried occurs, as for example, the upper portion of the leg of the hose or the wrist of the mitten and the purpose of which is to cause air to be more forcibly applied to such ribbed portion of the garment to cause it to dry as uniformly as possible. Practice has proven that with the arrangement here shown, such uniform drying is very satisfactorily accomplished and the drying
completed in considerably less than one half the time required when any other style of form known to me has been employed.

The ribs 3 further act as stiffening means for the form, permitting of its being made of lighter material than if not thus provided and the ribs being centrally located in the form afford convenient means for properly positioning a garment such as a sock thereupon. This is accomplished by governing the relative position of the ends of the toe and heel gore seams and for which purpose some drying forms have special depressions in the opposite sides thereof.

It is understood that as the sock is pulled on over the form, the hands will naturally feel out the relative position of the ribs and gore seams and the garment will be properly positioned without any special effort on the part of the operator and thus materially save time and annoyance during such operation.

In Fig. 2, I have shown the application of the invention to a form for mittens, the ribs being shown both on the palm and thumb portions which in all respects, affords similar results to those described in regard to the hosiery form.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A hollow drying form of the character described having perforations therethrough communicating with the interior of the form, a centrally disposed convex rib on each side of the form extending substantially the entire length thereof whereby the central internal capacity of the form is increased.

2. The combination with a hollow perforated drying form of the character described, of a centrally positioned convex rib extending substantially the entire length of the form and certain perforations on either side of the ribs having air deflectors therein for the purpose described.

3. The combination with a hollow drying form of the character described having means longitudinally the center thereof for holding the garment being dried away from the sides of the form, of deflectors in certain of the perforations adjacent the open base of the form for the purpose described.

4. A hollow drying form of the character described having a perforated portion adjacent the open base thereof for receiving the ribbed portion of the garment being dried and deflectors in the perforations in said portion adjacent the base for the purpose described.

5. In combination, a hollow drying form substantially as described and a centrally disposed convex rib on each side of the form extending the entire length thereof, whereby the central internal capacity of the form is increased.

6. The combination of a hollow metallic form for drying and shaping garments with a rib centrally of and extending beyond each side of the form substantially the entire length thereof.

7. The combination of a form for drying and shaping garments with a rib centrally of and extending beyond each side of the form substantially the entire length thereof, whereby a garment on the form is held from engagement with the sides thereof adjacent the rib.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

EARN M. WITHERELL.

Witnesses:
H. L. Lalibertes,
S. Geo. Stevens.