Feb. 4, 1941. F. KELLERMANN 2,230,224

HOME LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT

Filed June 18, 1938 6 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

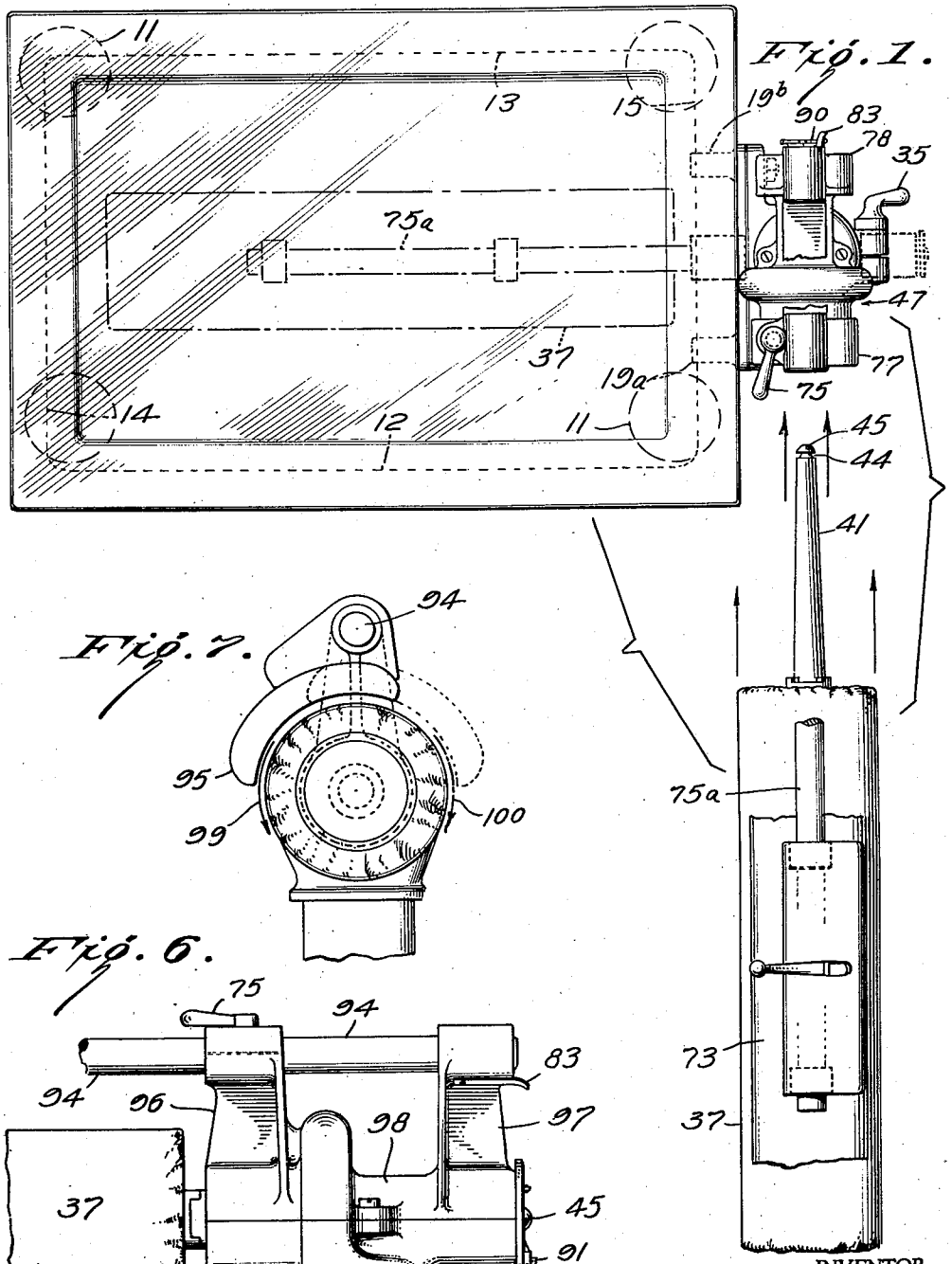


Fig. 7.

Fig. 6.

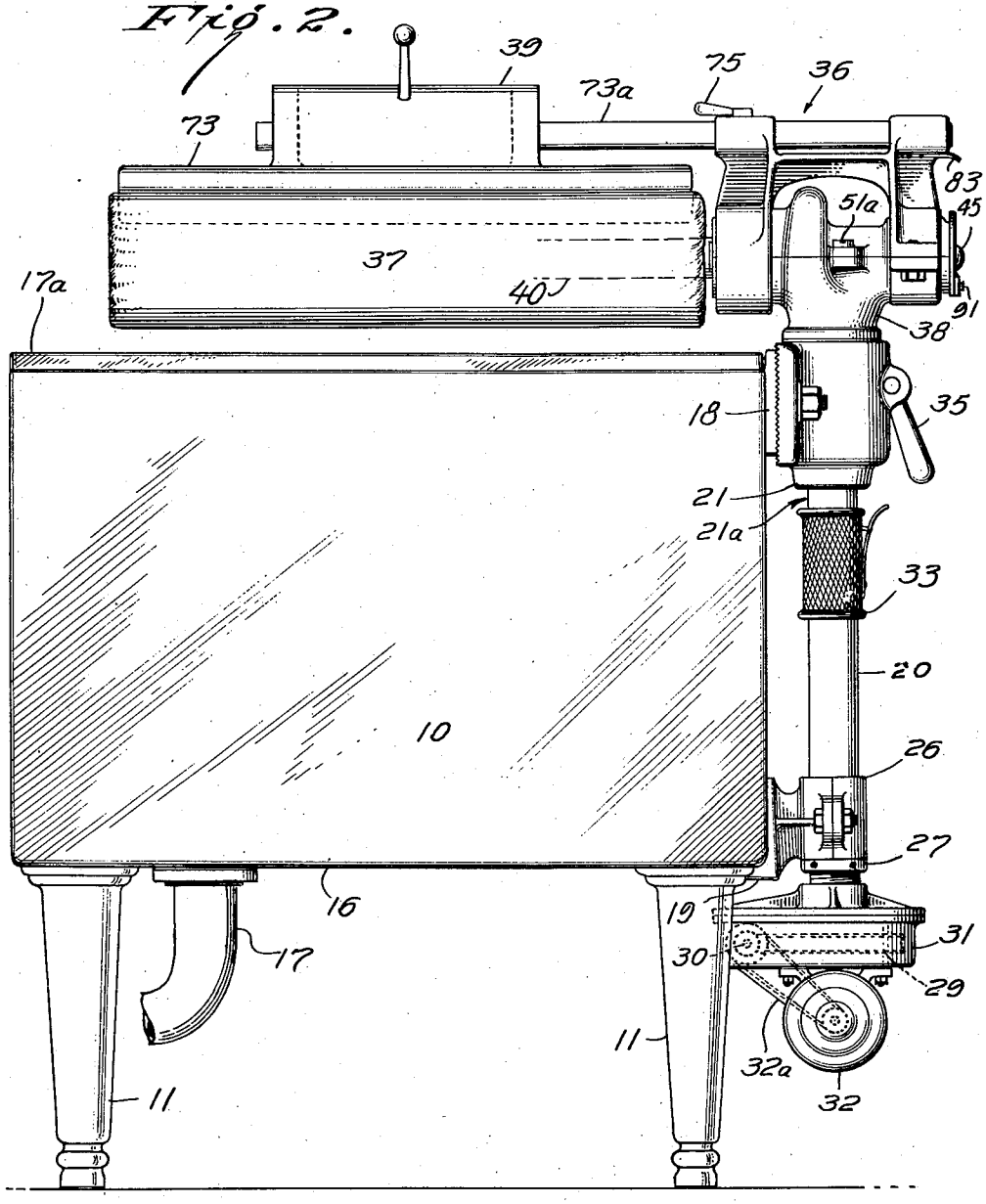
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Fig. 2.



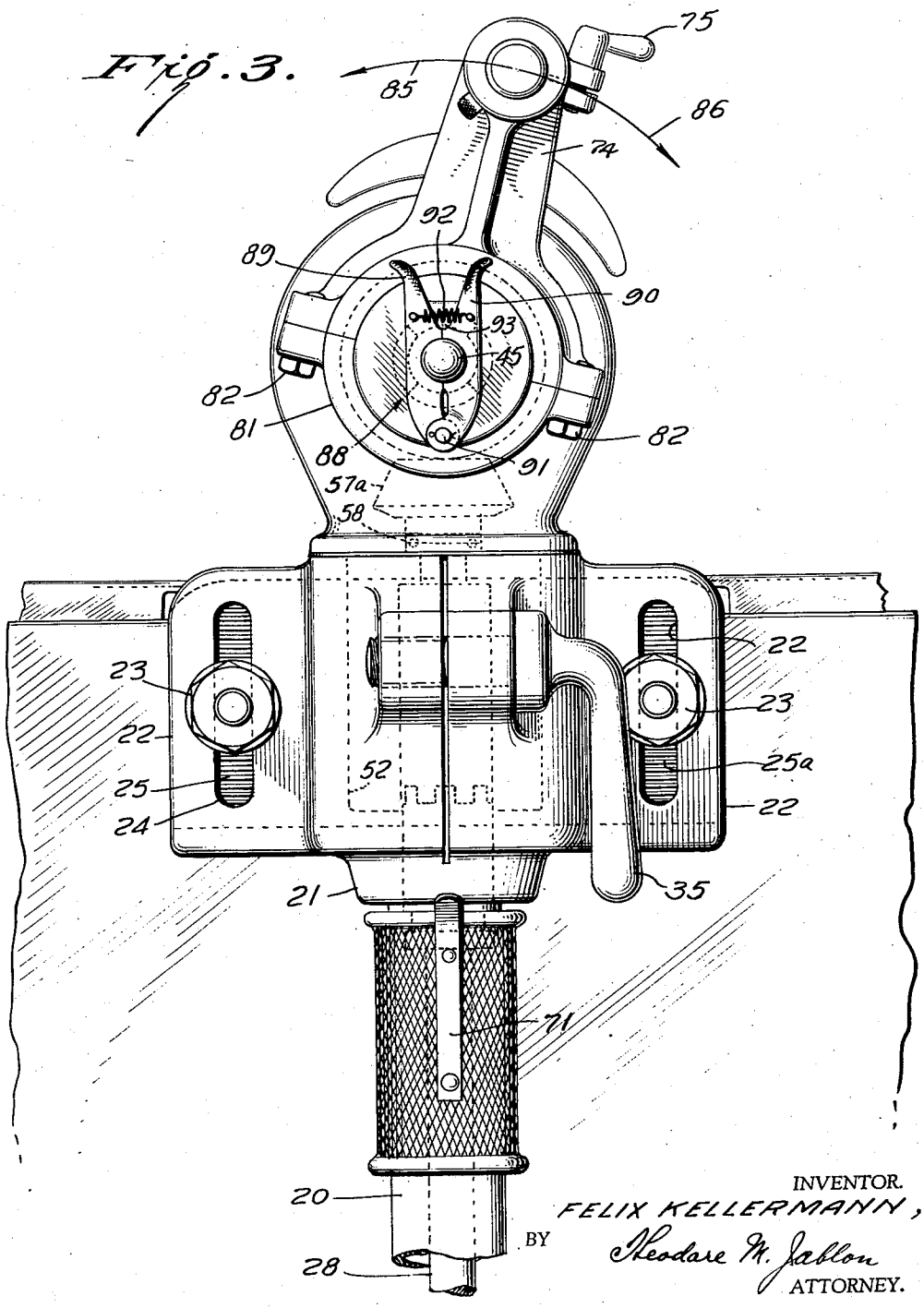
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HOME LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT

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Fig. 3.



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HOME LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT

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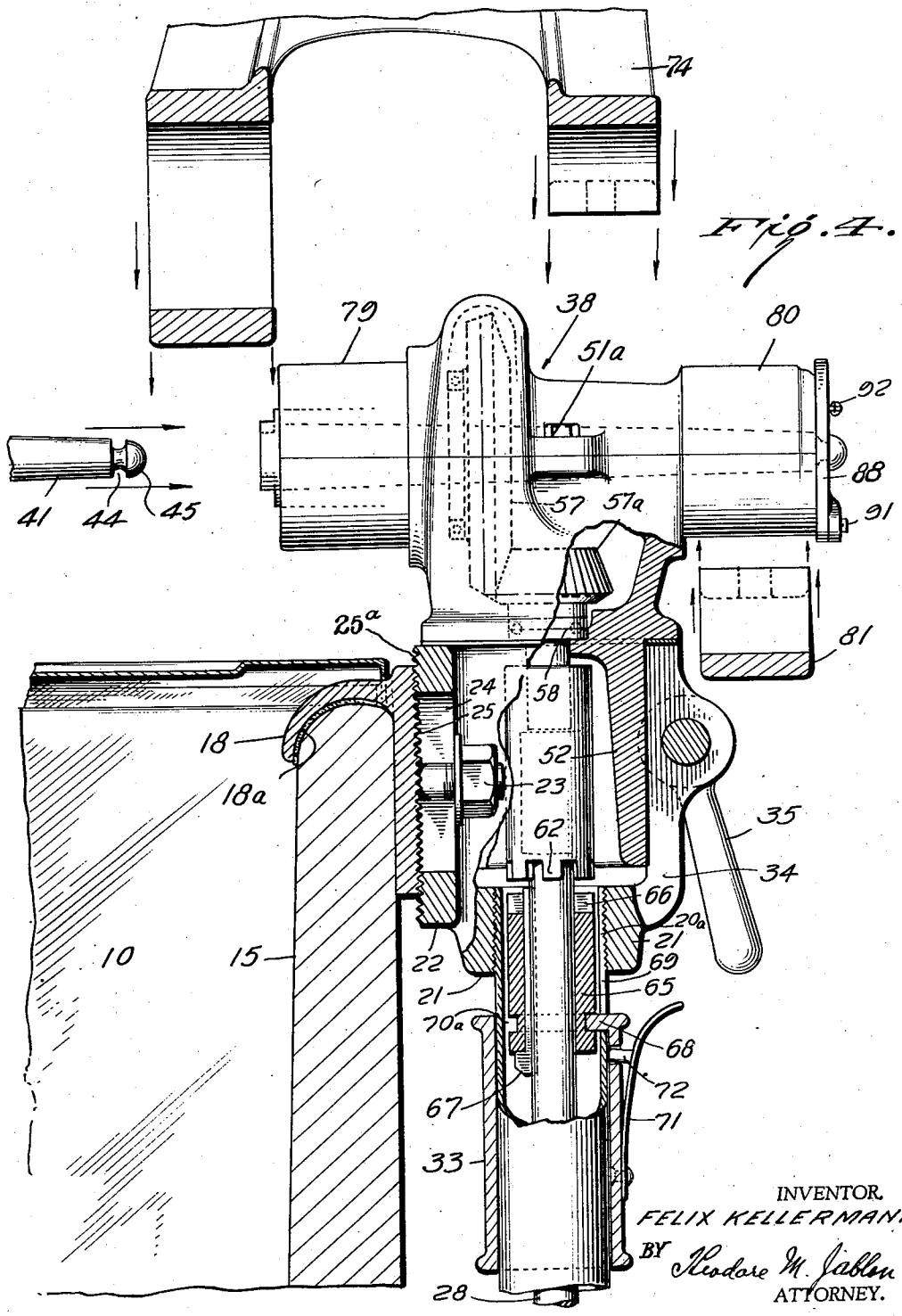


Fig. 4.

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HOME LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT

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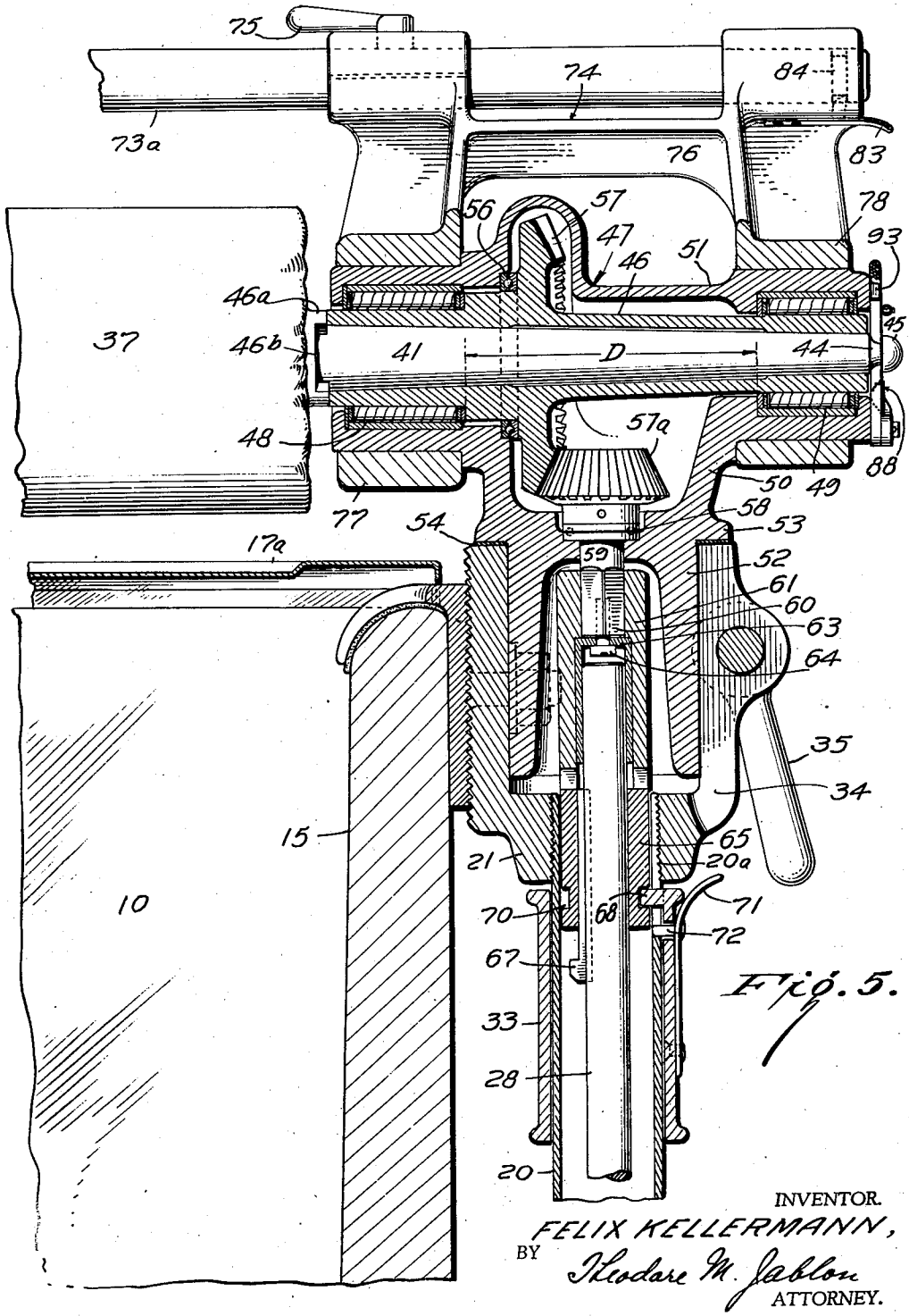


Fig. 5.

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HOME LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT

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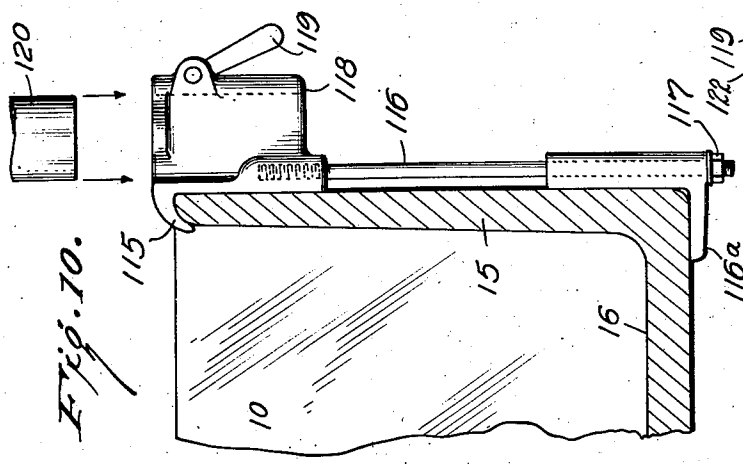


Fig. 10.

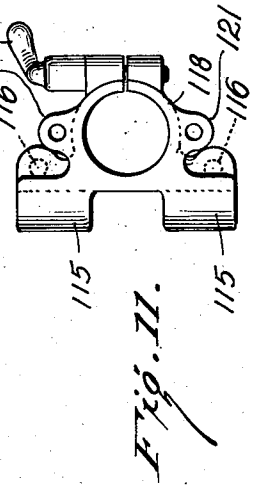


Fig. 11.

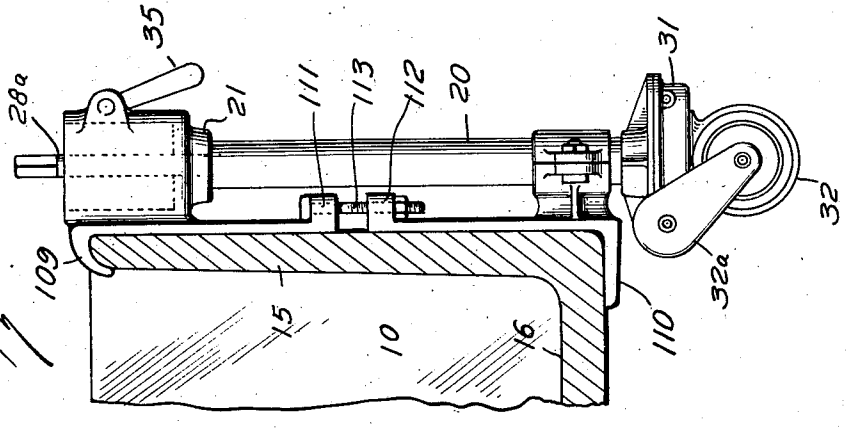


Fig. 9.

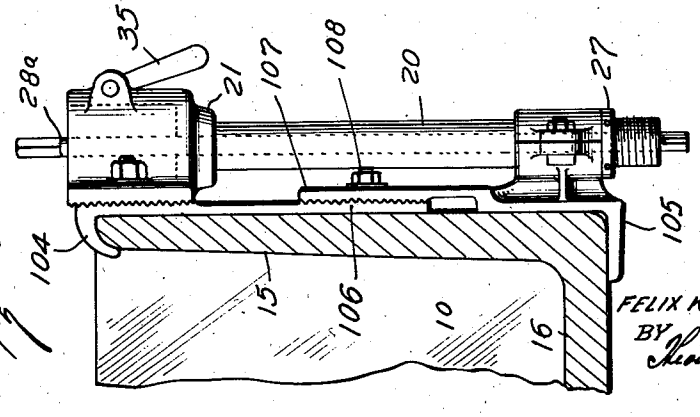


Fig. 8.

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Patented Feb. 4, 1941 2,230,224

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,230,224

HOME LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT

Felix Kellermann, Bronx, N. Y.

Application June 18, 1938, Serial No. 214,480

14 Claims. (Cl. 38—56)

This invention relates to home laundry equipment, and more particularly to stationary installations thereof.

The invention contemplates the attachment of mechanism to a set or stationary washtub in the home, and more particularly it contemplates the design of attachable laundering devices; it also contemplates devising adapter meaps and devices, whereby an existing set tub construction can be utilized as a base.

Objects are to mechanize and to facilitate laundering processes in the home by utilizing existing stationary washtubs for the installation of mechanism thereon, and using the tub as a component part in the functioning and practical operation of the mechanism; to design an improved ironer; to provide relatively low-priced home laundry equipment; to provide a practical washing and ironing unit; to provide laundry equipment that is compact in arrangement, unitary and sightly; and to provide practical and secure adapter means for conventional set tubs in homes.

Another object is to take advantage of the operating surface represented by the top cover face of existing set washtubs by cooperatively associating with the surface devices attachable to the tub.

Present-day home labor-saving devices provide ironing equipment that must be operated in conjunction with the conventional movable caster-supported washing machine unit although this is a relatively unstable base for the ironer with inadequate operating facility for the attendant, and upon which unit the ironer constitutes a top-heavy burden, cumbersome to manipulate and to detach if detachment be required. A more elaborate, although more expensive ironing equipment is known to be a movable caster-supported ironing unit in itself, with motorized drive.

Therefore, other objects are to provide ironing equipment for the home, which is mechanically stable; which is convenient to operate; and which can be attended to in general with a minimum of physical exertion.

Another object is to provide relatively low-priced practical ironing equipment.

Another object is to save space otherwise occupied by movable equipment in homes having set tubs.

Some of my objects are attained by providing an adapter construction having clamping jaws engaging over and under a marginal wall portion of a set tub. Other objects are attained by providing a vertical operating post which is attachable outwardly of and to a suitable wall portion of a set tub; and by providing vertical shafting functioning in a tubular member attachable outwardly of and to a wall portion of a set tub. Still other objects are attained by providing a suitable ironing device as of the roller type in conjunction with the side wall of a set tub.

Some features comprise improved drive mechanism for an ironer of the roller type; improved mounting of the ironing roller; and improved clutch means.

According to another feature, an ironer of the roller type is adapted for attachment and operation indiscriminately on either side of the tub, and more specifically it has a circumferentially adjustable ironer jacket, and motor reversal means.

According to another feature the ironing roller is quick-separable from the ironer drive head.

According to another feature an ironing attachment comprises a motorized ironing unit and sustaining bracket means fixedly attachable to the tub by way of portions extending over and under an upstanding wall portion of the tub.

According to another feature ironing attachment comprises a motorized unit, namely, an ironing roller and supporting drive head therefor, an operating post for the drive head, and a motor supported from the operating post.

According to another feature an operating post, or vertical shafting having adjustable mountings or bracket means comprises clamping jaws adapted to grip over and under a suitable upstanding wall portion of the tub.

According to another feature, a post is attachable to the side of the tub by way of an upper and a lower bracket portion, which bracket portions extend from respective upper and lower portions of an adapter clamping construction designed to grip over and under an upstanding wall portion of the tub.

According to another feature an operating post is attachable to an upstanding wall portion of the tub, which post comprises a tubular member and motorized drive means supported from the lower end of the tubular member.

Still another feature has to do with a vice-like adapter bracket construction designed to grip over and around a top edge portion and under an upstanding wall portion of a set tub, and having a device receiving portion or socket portion associated with the upper jaw portion.

According to one of a number of possible embodiments, an ironing attachment comprises an

operating post having a stationary tubular member or shaft-housing from which an upper and a lower adjustable jaw portion extend into gripping engagement with an upstanding wall portion of the tub. A motor constitutes part of the attachment and is associated with and mounted at the foot end portion of the post. The head portion of the post carries an improved ironer drive head which is angularly positionable in a horizontal plane, and has an effectively long sustaining base or driving sleeve for a quick separable ironing roller shaft. A heating element or ironer jacket is circumferentially positionable or tiltable about the shaft axis with respect to a chosen direction of rotation of the ironing roller. A clutch is operable by way of a sleeve-like hand piece surrounding the post.

The invention possesses other objects and features of advantage, some of which with the foregoing will be set forth in the following description. In the following description and in the claims, parts will be identified by specific names for convenience, but they are intended to be as generic in their application to similar parts as the art will permit. In the accompanying drawings there has been illustrated the best embodiment of the invention known to me, but such embodiment is to be regarded as typical only of many possible embodiments, and the invention is not to be limited thereto.

The novel features considered characteristic of my invention are set forth with particularity in the appended claims. The invention itself, however, both as to its organization and its method of operation, together with additional objects and advantages thereof, will best be understood from the following description of a specific embodiment when read in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view upon a set tub with adapter mechanism according to this invention mounted thereon, an ironing device being shown swung out of the way of the tub cover, with ironing roller removed.

Fig. 2 is a front view of the assembly of Fig. 1, an ironing device being shown in operative position and in cooperative relation to the tub cover surface.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged end view of the ironing device mounted upon an adapter post, with superficially adjustable heating jacket.

Fig. 4 is a part sectional side view of mechanism shown in Fig. 3, with parts shown removed.

Fig. 5 is a longitudinal section of mechanism shown in Fig. 3.

Figs. 6 and 7 show a modification in the arrangement, mounting and reversibility of the heating jacket for the roller.

Figs. 8 to 11 show individual views of the adapter post and drive means therefor, and of an adapter clamp device or bracket construction.

In Fig. 2 adapter mechanism is assembled on a set tub 10 shown to be supported upon legs 11. A conventional tub has a front wall portion 12, a rear wall portion 13, vertical side wall portions 14 and 15 respectively, and a bottom portion 16 from which leads a drain plumbing connection 17. The tub is shown to have hinged thereto a conventional cover 17a. The adapter mechanism as herein shown by way of example is designed to be detachably securable optionally to either side wall portion of the tub, and in Fig. 2, it is shown to be attached to the right-hand side wall 15 of the tub. An upper clamping jaw member 18 grips over the top edge portion of the wall, and a lower clamping jaw member 19 grips under a corresponding bottom edge portion of the wall. For better seating, a strip of flexible material 18a, for instance leather or rubber, is shown to be interposed between the upper jaw portion 18 and the top edge portion of the tub. In Fig. 1 the lower clamping jaw member is shown to have a pair of prongs 19a and 19b appearing symmetrically spaced with respect to the upper jaw member 18. Both jaw or clamping portions 18 and 19 are securable in a firm vice-like grip over and under the respective wall portion of the tub, and in this embodiment and by way of example they are shown to be interconnected by way of a tubular member 20. The upper end of the tubular member 20 has fixed thereto or screwed thereon as at 20a a socket-like or cup-shaped head portion 21. Tubular member 20 and head portion 21 constitute what is herein termed the adapter post designated by the numeral 21a. The head 21 of the adapter post is shown to have symmetrical bracket portions 22 rigidly extending therefrom, whereby it is adjustably connected to the upper jaw portion 18 as by bolt and nut connection 23, the bolts extending through slotted openings 24 in the bracket portions 22. Riffled or frictional interengaging faces 25 and 25a are shown to be provided upon the bracket portions 22 and upon the upper jaw member 18 respectively.

The lower end portion of the tubular member 20 is held by a clamping portion 26 surrounding it, and shown to be unitary with the lower clamping jaw member 19. Consequently the adapter post 21a, together with the jaw portions 18 and 19 constitute a vice-like adapter clamping construction adapted to engage over and under a suitable wall portion of the tub, a tightening nut member 27 being shown to engage upon the lower end portion of the post for securing the body portions 18 and 19 in firm clamping connection relative to the tub.

Within the tubular member 20 or else within the adapter post 21a there extends a rotatable drive shaft 28 driven at its lower end by mechanism by way of example shown to comprise a worm gear 29 and a worm 30, surrounded by a housing 31 shown to be fixed to or unitary with the tubular member 20. A drive motor 32 is mounted upon the lower side of the housing 31 and has driving connection 32a with the worm 30.

Up and down slidable upon the tubular member 20, is a handpiece or sleeve 33 for manipulating a clutch hereinafter to be described. The socket-like head portion 21 of the post is shown to have a longitudinal partial split 34 to effect clamping connection with a device such as the ironing device herein shown, and driven by shaft 28. Consequently, the head portion 21 also has a clamping handle or lever 35 or the like.

An ironing device collectively designated by the numeral 36 is herein shown to be cooperatively associated with the cover top surface or table face offered by the top portion of the tub, that is to say, by the hinged cover 17a thereof. This cover serves as a convenient operating surface when the ironer is in use (see Fig. 2).

The ironing device as shown in the present embodiment can be said to comprise as main sections an ironing roller 37, an ironer drive head 38, and an ironer heating jacket 39 mounted upon the drive head 38.

In order to gain access to the interior of the tub when the cover must be opened, or else when the top cover surface is to be used for other purposes, the ironing device is swung out of the way

as indicated in Fig. 1, after the clamping grip on the head portion 21 has been released, and according to the embodiment shown, the ironing device is so constructed that the relatively light ironing roller can be quickly separated from the relatively heavy ironer drive head 38, which latter is thus left in place.

The details of the ironing device 36 will now be described:

The ironing roller 37 has a central supporting shaft 40 or the like herein shown to have a slightly conical free end portion 41 provided at its extreme free end with an annular detention groove 44, thus forming at the extreme end a button-like portion 45.

Referring more specifically to Figs. 4 and 5, it is noted that the ironing roller by way of shaft portion 41 is quick-separably mounted in the drive head 38, that is to say, it is detachably secured in a rotatable driving sleeve member 46 constituting part of the ironer drive head 38. Teeth 46*a* of the ironing roller engage in corresponding recesses 46*b* of the sleeve member 46 so as to establish operative driving connection between the sleeve member 46 and the shaft portion 41.

The sleeve member 46 is mounted in a housing 47 by way of a pair of bearings 48 and 49, spaced from one another as indicated by the distance "D." The housing 47 is longitudinally split and hence comprises a lower body portion 50 and an upper or cover portion 51, both portions securable to one another as by screw bolts 51*a*. The body portion 50 has a downwardly extending hollow neck portion 52, the length of which is defined by a shoulder portion 53, and which neck portion fits into the socket-like head portion 21 of the adapter post herein variantly also called operating post, and is rotatably positionable therein and can be fixed in an adjusted position by way of the clamping handle 35. The shoulder portion 53 is shown to rest upon the corresponding annular top portion of the socket-like head 21 as by way of an interposed bearing ring or annulus 54 or the like.

The driving sleeve member 46 has a ball thrust bearing 56, to define the position longitudinally of the sleeve member relative to the housing and to take thrust from the driving elements hereinafter described.

The driving sleeve member 46, in order to be driven by the vertical shaft 28, is provided with a bevel gear 57 rigid therewith, which bevel gear is disposed intermediate the end portions of the driving sleeve member 46 and interposed between the bearings 48 and 49. A companion bevel gear 57*a* is rotatably mounted in the lower neck portion of the body portion 50 of the housing, as by way of suitable bearing means indicated by ball bearing 58. The bevel gear 57*a* has a downwardly extending stub shaft 59 terminating in a square portion 60 fitted into a clutch member 61 which constitutes the one section or upper half of the above mentioned clutch for the drive shaft 28. The clutch member 61 has clutch teeth 62 and is shown to be fixed to the stub shaft 59 by way of an interior shell portion 63 held by a screw 64 which is threaded axially into the square portion 60 of the stub shaft 59. It will be seen that the upper extreme end portion of the vertical shaft 28 rotatably fits into and finds its lateral guidance within the clutch member 61 and more specifically it finds its bearing in the shell portion 63. The complementary portion or lower half of the clutch is represented by a sleeve-like clutch member 65 having clutch teeth 66 adapted to engage the aforementioned clutch teeth 62, which clutch member 65 has a sliding fit upon a key member 67 provided upon shaft 28.

The clutch is shown in its open and closed positions in Figs. 4 and 5 respectively and it is manipulated by way of the aforementioned hand piece or sleeve 33 surrounding the tubular member 20 and slidable thereon. An inwardly protruding lug portion 68 of the sleeve 33 extends through a slotted opening 69 in the tubular member 20 and lodges in an annular groove 70 of the slidable clutch member 65. The hand piece 33 has a resilient detent finger 71 provided with a protrusion 72 which will hold the clutch engaged when the protrusion 72 snaps into the slotted opening 69 (see Fig. 5). In order to disengage the clutch, the detent finger 71 is flexed outwardly and the hand piece 33 is moved down until the lug portion 68 thereof reaches the end of the slotted opening 69, while the detent finger 71 then remains ineffective outside of the tubular member 20 (as shown in Fig. 4).

The ironer jacket 39 and its mounting are now described, as follows:

The ironer jacket proper is diagrammatically represented by the usually electrically heated jacket or body 73 held by a rod 73*a* which in turn is gripped by a bracket member 74 and held in releasable clamping engagement therewith as indicated by a clamping handle 75. The bracket member 74 comprises a yoke-like body portion 76 and the lower end portion of each leg of the yoke is formed with an eye or bearing portion 77 and 78 respectively, which bearing portions engage and fit around corresponding cylindrical bearing portions or faces 79 and 80 of the housing 47 of the ironer drive head 38. The manner of mounting the bracket member 74 upon the housing 47 appears from Fig. 4 showing that the eye portion 78 has a removable half or shell portion 81 securable by bolts 82. The rod 73*a* is removably held in a predetermined longitudinal position upon the bracket member 74 by means of a resilient detent finger 83 (see Figs. 5 and 2) engaging in an annular groove 84 of the rod 73*a*.

Referring to Fig. 3, it will be noted that the bracket member 74 is tiltably adjustable upon the housing 47 as indicated by arrows 85 and 86 (see Fig. 3), permitting the jacket body 73 to be positioned either to the right or to the left of the vertical center line of the ironing roller. This adjustability is provided for the purpose of rendering the ironing device adapted for use indiscriminately at either side of the tub, depending upon preference, or with respect to whatever incumbrance might be found at one or the other side of the tub. Accordingly, it is also considered that provisions be made for the optional reversal of driving direction, and this may be realized for instance by reversal of the direction in the rotation of the motor armature, or else by way of bodily reversal of the motor with respect to mechanism driven thereby.

There is also shown to be provided a securing device 88 for holding the shaft 40 quick-detachably in place with respect to the ironer drive head 38. This securing or detent device 88 comprises a pair of symmetrically disposed finger pieces 89 and 90 pivoted at 91 upon the outer end face of the housing 47 (see Figs. 3 and 5) and held resiliently together by a spring 92 interconnecting them. The finger pieces 89 and 90 are designed to engage in the annular detention

groove 44 of the roller shaft to secure the same in place. The scissor-like spreading of the finger pieces will release the shaft 40 and permit the same to be pushed out of its driving sleeve 46 by pressure upon the button-like end portion 45 thereof. The securing device 88 is positioned by a pin 93 upon the outer end face of the housing 47.

With respect to rendering the jacket body 73 for the ironing roller more particularly adapted for use for both optional directions of rotation of the roller, a modification is shown in Figs. 6 and 7 according to which a rod 94 holding a jacket body 95 is releasably held upon or gripped by bracket portions or arms 96 and 97, extending rigidly from the top portion 98 of a housing 101 constituting the ironer drive head (see Fig. 6). The jacket body 95 is designed for reversible mounting upon the rod 94 (as indicated by the dotted line position in Fig. 7), and the respective directions of rotation of the ironing roller are indicated by corresponding arrows 99 and 100.

Fig. 8 shows an operating post mounted upon or held to the tub wall by an adapter bracket construction comprising an upper jaw portion 104 and a lower jaw portion 105 shown to be adjustably interconnected by way of overlapping portions 106 and 107 and bolt and nut connection 108.

Fig. 9 is in effect similar to Fig. 8 except for the showing of a modified adapter bracket construction having jaw portions 109 and 110 having flange portions 111 and 112 and bolt connection 113, and showing a motorized drive unitary with the post and similar to the one in Fig. 2.

Figs. 10 and 11 show an adapter bracket construction which comprises an upper jaw portion 115 and a lower jaw portion 116 adjustably interconnected by a pair of rods or bolts or studs 116 screwed into the upper jaw portion 115 and extending through bores in the lower jaw portion, and having nuts 117. The upper jaw portion is shown to have rigid therewith a clamping socket portion 118 operable by a clamping handle 119. This socket portion 118 may receive and hold a device or in itself motorized apparatus indicated by numeral 120, which can be advantageously used in connection with the tub or with the operating surface offered by the cover of the tub. Ears 121, 122 are shown to extend laterally from the socket portion 118, to permit of more diversified use of the adapter construction.

Operation.—The ironing device as a whole as described particularly with reference to Figs. 1 to 7 may be attached to an existing tub 10 by adjusting the upper and lower clamping jaw portions 18 and 19 respectively to the vertical side wall of the tub, in such a manner that the upper jaw portion 18 engages or grips over the top edge portion of the tub wall, and the lower jaw portion 19 engages under the bottom edge portion of the tub wall. The jaw portions can be made to grip the tub tightly, since the upper jaw portion 18 is adjustable with respect to the head portion 21 of the ironing device, and the lower jaw portion 19 adjustable with respect to the post or tube 20. Care should be taken that the tub cover 17*a* be closed when it is to serve as an operating table or surface for the ironer.

The ironer drive head 38 may then be inserted in the head portion 21 and fixed therein by depressing the clamping handle 35.

Then the ironing device proper designated by numeral 36 may be attached to the drive head 38 by applying the bracket member 74 in the manner indicated in Fig. 4, which bracket member in turn carries the ironer jacket 73 by way of the rod 73*a* which is fastened to the bracket by means of the clamping handle 75. Then may be applied the ironing roller 37 by inserting the shaft portion 41 thereof into the driving sleeve 46 of the drive head 38, so that the free end of the shaft portion 41 becomes engaged by the securing or detent device or latch members 88, which secure the axial position of the shaft portion 41 in the drive head, while the teeth 46*a* of the ironing roller engage in the corresponding recesses 46*b* of the driving sleeve member 46 so as to secure the shaft portion 41 against rotation relative to the driving sleeve member 46.

Depending upon whether the ironing device is to be attached to the right-hand or to the left-hand side of the tub, the ironing jacket 73 is adjusted by setting the bracket 74 at an angle as shown in Fig. 3, or at an angle opposite thereto. As a modification, the ironing jacket 95 in Fig. 7 can be changed from one to the other position by the symmetrical reversal of position thereof on its supporting rod 94, which latter remains stationary during such change or reversal. It is understood that the drive motor 32 is to drive in the one or the other direction, depending upon whether the device is mounted on the one or the other side of the tub.

With the device thus ready for operation, the motor 32 may be started, the sleeve-like clutch member 65 caused to be engaged with the clutch teeth 62 by upward slanting of the hand-piece 32 after releasing the same from the detent finger 71, to cause rotation of the ironing roller 37 and its coaction with the ironing jacket 73. The motor 32 then rotates the vertical shaft 28, which by way of the engaged clutch portions 65 and 61 rotates the bevel gears 57*a* and 57 and thereby imparts rotation to the driving sleeve member 46 in the journal bearings 48 and 49 in the housing 47, which in turn is identical with the rotation of the ironing roller 37.

I claim:

1. In laundry apparatus as an attachment to a receptacle in the way of a stationary tub with upstanding wall portions and having means for supporting said receptacle spaced from the floor, and having a top cover adapted to serve as a table, an ironing unit attachable to said tub and disposed to permit said top cover to be used as a table in conjunction with the operation of the ironing unit, said ironing unit comprising a rotatable ironing roller, a bracket construction for operatively supporting said ironing roller relative to and upon said receptacle, and comprising an upright portion extending substantially the height of said upstanding wall portions of the tub, and provided with an upper clamping jaw adapted to engage over the top edge portion of an upstanding wall of the tub, and provided with a lower clamping jaw adapted to engage under the bottom edge portion of said tub wall, which jaws are adapted and effective to support and fasten said bracket construction with respect to the tub, and also comprising adjusting means for tightening the grip of said jaws with respect to said tub wall; and a vertically extending rotary shaft-like element operatively supported by said bracket construction and adapted to transmit driving power to said ironing roller, and a motor for driving said shaft-like element, which is supported from the

bracket construction at the lower end portion thereof.

2. In laundry apparatus as an attachment to a receptacle in the way of a stationary tub with upstanding wall portions and having means for supporting said receptacle spaced from the floor, and having a top cover adapted to serve as a table, an ironing unit attachable to said tub and disposed to permit said top cover to be used as a table in conjunction with the operation of the ironing unit, said ironing unit comprising a rotatable ironing roller, a bracket construction for operatively supporting said ironing roller relative to and upon said tub, and comprising an upright portion extending substantially the height of said upstanding wall portions of the tub, and provided with an upper clamping jaw adapted to engage over the top edge portion of an upstanding wall of the tub, and provided with a lower clamping jaw adapted to engage under the bottom edge portion of said tub wall, which jaws are adapted and effective to support and fasten said bracket construction with respect to the tub, and also comprising adjusting means for tightening the grip of said jaws with respect to said tub wall; and motorized drive means comprising a motor, which drive means are operatively supported by and in effect unitary with said bracket construction and adapted to drive said ironing roller.

3. In laundry apparatus having a receptacle with upstanding wall portions and having means for supporting said receptacle spaced from the floor, the combination with a driven device associable with the top portion of the receptacle, of a construction for operatively supporting said driven device relative to and upon said receptacle, and comprising a hollow post extending substantially the height of the upstanding walls of the receptacle, an upper clamping jaw extending from the upper end portion of said hollow post and adapted to engage over the top edge portion of an upstanding wall of the receptacle, a lower clamping jaw extending from the lower end portion of said post and adapted to engage under the bottom edge portion of said upstanding wall of the receptacle, which jaws are adapted and effective to support and fasten said construction with respect to the receptacle, and also comprising adjusting means for tightening the grip of said jaws with respect to said receptacle; and motorized drive means associated with said post and also operatively supported relative to the receptacle by way of said jaw portions, said drive means comprising a driven element extending through said post for transmitting driving power to said driven device.

4. In laundry apparatus according to claim 3, in which the driven element is a rotary shaft functioning within the post.

5. In laundry apparatus having a receptacle with upstanding wall portions and having means for supporting said receptacle spaced from the floor, an attachment for said receptacle comprising a driven device associable with the top portion of the receptacle, of an upper and a lower clamping portion, said respective clamping portions to engage over the top edge portion of and under an upstanding wall portion of the receptacle and in gripping engagement therewith, a hollow post held rigidly in position with respect to the receptacle by way of said clamping portions, a rotary shaft functioning within said post for transmitting power to said driven device, a gear coaxial with said shaft and disposed at the upper end portion thereof for driving said driven device, and clutch means effective between said gear and said shaft, which means comprise a clutch sleeve longitudinally slidable upon said shaft for operative engagement and disengagement respectively with said gear, and having driving connection with the upper end portion of said shaft, and clutch actuating and manipulating means associated with, and extending through the wall of, said hollow post and into operating engagement with said clutch sleeve.

6. Apparatus according to claim 5, in which the clutch actuating and manipulating means comprise a vertically slidable hand-piece surrounding said post intermediate the end portions thereof.

7. In laundry apparatus having a receptacle with upstanding side wall portions and having means for supporting said receptacle spaced from the floor, an attachable ironing device cooperatively associable optionally with either one of the side wall portions of the receptacle and comprising clamping means to grip over and under an upstanding wall portion of the receptacle and rigidly associable with either the left or the right-hand side wall portion thereof, a rotatable ironing roller adapted to overlie and associable with the top portion of the receptacle, an ironer drive head operatively supporting the roller and in turn operatively supported relative to the receptacle by said clamping means, motorized drive means for said ironer head to drive said ironing roller, an ironer jacket operatively supported by said drive head, means for operatively positioning the jacket circumferentially with respect to the roller corresponding to the optional right-hand or left-hand positioning of the attachable ironing device relative to the receptacle, and means for optionally reversing the direction of ironer rotation.

8. Apparatus according to claim 7, in which the means for operatively positioning the jacket comprise a bracket construction for the ironer jacket, which is adjustably fixable upon said drive head in a manner to permit adjustment circumferentially of the jacket relative to the roller and about the longitudinal central axis thereof.

9. Apparatus according to claim 7, in which the means for operatively positioning the jacket permit of optionally disposing the jacket in symmetrically reversible opposed positions with respect to the roller.

10. In an ironing device in combination a horizontally extending rotatable ironing roller having a shaft portion rotatable therewith, a drive head operatively supporting said shaft portion and having a housing, a rotatable driving sleeve member, journal means in the housing in operative contact with said sleeve member for rotatably supporting the same, said sleeve member adapted to have inserted therein said roller shaft portion for separable driving relationship therewith, said shaft portion adapted to be supported by said rotary sleeve member and adapted to rotate therewith when said sleeve member is rotated in its journal means, rotation preventing means effective between said shaft portion and said sleeve member, which means become effective incident to the insertion of the shaft into the sleeve member; and motorized drive means for rotating said sleeve member.

11. An ironing device according to claim 10, with the addition of quick releasable securing

means effective between the free outer end portion of said housing and the corresponding free outer end of said shaft portion inserted therein, for securing the axial position of said shaft portion in and relative to said sleeve member, which securing means comprise a latch member mounted on said housing and movable into and out of engagement with said shaft portion, said shaft portion having a circumferential groove in which said latch member is adapted to be lodged to engage said shaft portion during the rotation thereof.

12. In an ironing device in combination a horizontally extending rotatable ironing roller having a shaft portion rotatable therewith, a drive head operatively supporting said shaft portion and having a housing, a driving sleeve member rotatably mounted in said housing and adapted to have inserted therein said roller shaft portion and to have quick separable driving relationship therewith; rotation preventing interengaging portions provided upon said shaft portion and upon the inner end portion of said sleeve member, the interengagement of which portions becomes effective incident to the insertion of the shaft into the sleeve member; a quick operable detent device cooperatively associated with the free end of said shaft portion and automatically engageable therewith incident to the insertion of the shaft portion, which detent device is mounted upon said housing and permits operative rotation of the shaft with the sleeve member while preventing axial displacement of the shaft relative to the sleeve member; and motorized drive means for rotating the sleeve member.

13. In an ironing device in combination a horizontally extending rotatable ironing roller having a shaft portion rotatable therewith, a drive head operatively supporting said shaft portion and having a housing, a rotatable driving sleeve member, a pair of journal bearings for supporting the respective ends of said sleeve member for rotation in said housing, said sleeve member adapted to have inserted therein said roller shaft portion for separable driving relationship therewith, said shaft portion adapted to be supported by said rotary sleeve member and adapted to rotate therewith when said sleeve member is rotated in its journal bearings; and drive means having operative driving engagement with said sleeve member at a point intermediate said journal bearings, and comprising a torque receiving portion rotating and having driving relationship with said sleeve member.

14. In laundry apparatus having a receptacle with upstanding wall portions and having means for supporting said receptacle spaced from the floor, the combination with a driven device associable with the top portion of the receptacle of means for supporting said driven device upon and with respect to said receptacle, a hollow post rigidly disposed adjacent to the outside of an upstanding wall portion of said receptacle and in cooperative association with said driven device, a rotary shaft functioning within said post for transmitting power to said driven device, means for supporting said post and said driven device upon and with respect to said receptacle, a gear coaxial with said shaft and disposed at the upper end portion thereof for driving said driven device, and clutch means effective between said gear and said shaft, which means comprise a clutch sleeve longitudinally slidable upon said shaft for operative engagement and disengagement respectively with said gear, and having driving connection with the upper end portion of said shaft, and clutch actuating and manipulating means associated with, and extending through the wall of, said hollow post and into operating engagement with said clutch sleeve.

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