

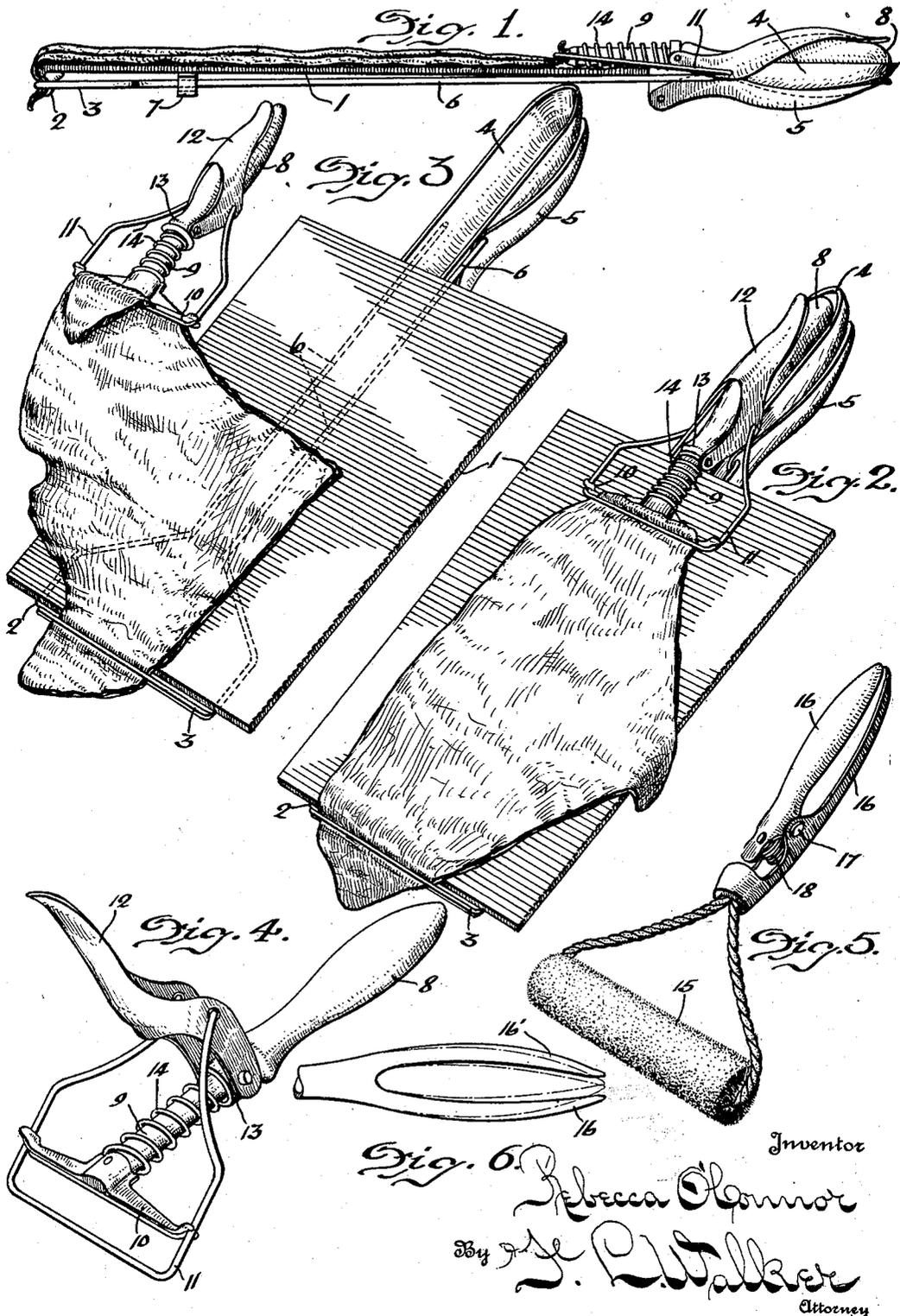
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R. O'CONNOR

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DIAPER WASHER

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Inventor

Rebecca O'Connor

By J. P. Walker

Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

REBECCA O'CONNOR, OF NEWARK, OHIO

DIAPER WASHER

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My invention relates to washing devices, and more particularly to an apparatus for cleansing infants' diapers preparatory to the scalding and sterilizing operation.

5 The handling of soiled diapers necessary to cleansing and washing operation is not only unsanitary but extremely obnoxious and offensive to most individuals. To enable the
10 handling of soiled diapers without physical contact of the operator's hands therewith, there has been provided in the present instance a pallet or washboard preferably cor-
15 rugated, having at one end adjustable gripper means with which one end or corner of the diaper may be engaged while such garment is extended flat upon such pallet or
20 wash board with the soiled side exposed. At the opposite end of such pallet or wash board there is provided a handle fixedly attached by which the pallet may be supported while
25 in use, and in association therewith there is provided a second gripper device having a handle portion registering with or seating within the handle of the pallet or wash board,
30 but capable of separation therefrom. The opposite end of the diaper or garment is engaged in this separable gripper device to hold the diaper distended upon the pallet during the preliminary cleansing operation.
35 This operation is preferably performed by use of a separate brush of suitable shape, which is provided with a bifurcated handle affording relatively adjustable clamp fingers
40 between which the ends of the diaper may be grasped to facilitate properly positioning it upon the pallet or wash board and engaging its ends in the respective gripper devices. When secured in this position the garment
45 may be submerged in water or held under a flowing stream while the brush is being applied. To remove the stain the garment may be rubbed or otherwise manipulated upon the pallet or wash board by separating the second
50 mentioned gripper device, which is provided with a suitable handle, while maintaining one end of the garment engaged therewith. By grasping the handle of this gripper device the diaper may be rubbed to and fro upon the pallet or washboard. When properly cleansed the surplus water may be

wrung therefrom by twisting the garment through rotation of the separable gripper element.

The object of the invention is to provide a device for cleansing diapers which will be 55 simple and cheap in construction, but which will be efficient in operation, and which will enable the diaper to be easily and quickly handled in a sanitary manner and will enable
60 cleansing of the diapers without physical contact of the operator's hands therewith.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved form of washing device or apparatus having means for holding the garment 65 distended thereon.

A further object of the invention is to provide means for grasping or manipulating a garment on a washboard or the like without 70 contact of the hands.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved form of cleansing brush 75 having a handle formed with garment engaging fingers, by which the garment may be grasped for adjusting it to proper position for cleansing.

A further and primary object of the invention is to provide cleansing apparatus for 80 diapers which will be sanitary and upon which the cleansing operation can be performed without physical contact with the soiled diaper.

With the above primary and other incidental objects in view, as will more fully appear in the specification, the invention consists of the features of construction, the parts 85 and combinations thereof, and the mode of operation, or their equivalents, as hereinafter described and set forth in the claims.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, wherein is shown the preferred, but obviously 90 not necessarily the only form of embodiment of the invention, Fig. 1 is a side elevation of the assembled diaper washing device with a garment positioned thereon. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the device 95 showing the garment distended for the preliminary flushing or scrubbing operation. Fig. 3 is a similar perspective view wherein the separable gripper element is shown removed from the pallet or washboard to facil- 100

itate the rubbing of the garment on the washboard and its subsequent wringing by twisting the garment through rotation of the gripper element. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the separable gripper element removed from the garment. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the cleansing brush having a bifurcated handle forming a pincer or tongs by which the garment may be grasped in adjusting it upon the pallet or washboard. Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the cleansing brush handle shown in Fig. 5.

Like parts are indicated by similar characters of reference throughout the several views.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, 1 is a pallet or washboard which is preferably corrugated or roughened on its face. This pallet 1 may be of non-corrosive metal, water proof fiber, composition or other material. Located at one end of the pallet or washboard 1 is a dependent flange or lip 2 projecting from the under or rear side of the pallet 1. This flange is preferably longitudinally indented or grooved to receive a clamping stirrup 3. At its opposite end the pallet or washboard 1 is provided with a handle 4 fixedly attached to the pallet 1. This handle is preferably of skeleton or shell like form. As illustrated in the drawings it is formed of metal and is channel shaped or recessed and contoured to agree with one half of a conventional handle grip form. Pivotaly mounted upon the handle 4 is a lever arm 5, to which the parallel arms 6 of the stirrup 3 are pivotaly connected in eccentric relation with the pivotal connection of the lever 5. The stirrup 3 with its extended arms 6 lies in parallel relation closely adjacent to the under side or rear face of the pallet or washboard 1 and is preferably supported and guided at a mid-length point by a keeper or guide lug 7 through which the arms 6 extend. By oscillating the lever 5 to and from the handle 4 the stirrup 3 is adjusted towards and from the flange or lip 2 of the pallet 1 to effect the clamping or release of one end of the diaper therebetween.

Normally positioned adjacent to the handle portion 4 is a second gripper member which is independent of the pallet or washboard 1 and separable therefrom. This gripper member shown in detail in Fig. 4, comprises a handle portion from which projects a stem 9 having at its end a grooved or channeled cross head 10. Co-operating with this cross head 10 is a wire stirrup 11 pivotaly connected to an operating lever 12, which in turn is pivoted to the collar 13 slidably mounted upon the stem 9 and held in retracted position by a helical spring 14. This form of clamping element is merely illustrative and comprises a typical and well known form of mop head. Obviously other

forms of clamping devices may be used for the clamping members shown in Fig. 4 and also for the clamping means comprising the flange or lip 2 and stirrup 3.

To remove the soil from the diaper which has been spread in distended position upon the pallet or washboard 1 as shown in Fig. 2 a brush is preferably employed. While such brush may be of any suitable shape there has been shown in Fig. 5 for illustrative purposes a brush of cylindrical form which will be found quite suitable. The brush 15 is provided with a bifurcated handle having parallel relatively adjustable clamp fingers 16 with which the soiled garments may be picked up and properly engaged with the respective gripping devices and the main portion of the garment properly distended upon the pallet or washboard 1. As shown in the drawings, one of these fingers is pivotaly connected at 17 to the other and is provided with an actuating spring 18 by which the fingers are normally pressed together to grasp an interposed end or edge of the garment. They may be released by depressing the rear end of the upper finger 16 against the tension of the spring 18. Obviously other forms of tong like grasping devices may be employed.

In using the device the soiled diaper is lifted by the use of the split handle of the brush 15 and laid upon the pallet or board 1. By employing the gripper fingers of the brush handle the garment may be unfolded and spread flat upon the pallet. The operating lever 5 being oscillated to release the clamping stirrup 3 one end of the diaper is engaged within such stirrup, and by readjustment of the handle lever 5, it is clamped against the dependent ledge or flange 2. The opposite end of the diaper is then clamped in like manner between the stirrup 11 and cross head 10 of the independent gripper member by the adjustment of the lever 12. This separable gripper element is then laid upon the pallet or washboard 1 with its handle portion seated within the recess or concavity of the handle portion 4 of the pallet or washboard 1. As before described this handle portion 4 is cut or stamped from sheet material into conformity with one half of a conventional form of handle. The handle portion 8 of the separable gripper portion will therefore lie snugly in the contoured handle 4 of the pallet 1. This enables the assembly to be grasped in one hand and held together. By so grasping the apparatus, the operator holds in one hand both the pallet or washboard 1 and the handle 8 of the separable gripper element and also the clamp levers 5 and 12 pertaining to the respective clamping stirrups 3 and 11. The diaper is thus held firmly distended or stretched upon the pallet or wash board and may be held under a stream of running water while the

brush 15 is applied. After the soil has been removed, the separable gripper member may be grasped in one hand while the pallet or board is held in the other hand by means of the handle 4 and by manipulating the separate gripping member the garment may be rubbed to and fro upon the pallet or washboard 1 and may be turned and folded upon itself and such folds manipulated and rubbed together to remove any remaining stain. In other words, without physical contact with the soiled diaper by the hands of the operator but employing the separable gripping element illustrated in Fig. 4 with which to manipulate the diaper the usual rubbing and washing operation can be performed. After completion of this stage of the cleansing and while the opposite ends of the diaper still remain engaged in the respective clamping devices the excess water may be wrung therefrom by twisting the garment by rotation of the separate gripper member. When the garment has been wrung dry the lever 5 is operated to disengage the gripping stirrup 3 and so release one end of the diaper from the pallet or washboard. It may then be dropped into a waiting receptacle for scalding and rinsing by oscillation of the lever 12 which releases the clamping member 11 and thus frees the other end of the garment from the separable gripper element.

In Fig. 6 there is shown a modification of the brush handle wherein the grasping fingers 16' instead of being pivoted one to the other as in Fig. 5 are of resilient or spring material and tend to remain separated but may be compressed toward each other to grasp the interposed fold of the garment by squeezing the handle within the hand of the operator.

From the above description it will be apparent that there is thus provided a construction of the character described, possessing the particular features of advantage before enumerated as desirable but which obviously is susceptible of modification in its form, proportions and arrangement of parts, without departing from the principle involved or sacrificing any of its advantages.

While in order to comply with the statute the invention is described in language more or less specific as to structural features, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the specific details shown, but that the means and construction herein disclosed comprise the preferred form of several modes of putting the invention into effect, and the invention is therefore claimed in any of its forms or modifications within the legitimate and valid scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. In a washing device of the character described, a pallet having a clamping means

adjacent to one end thereof, a handle projecting beyond the opposite end, and a separable clamping element normally positioned adjacent to the end of the pallet opposite the first mentioned clamping means having a handle portion extending beyond the pallet and registering with the handle of the pallet whereby the handle of the clamping element and that of the pallet may be simultaneously grasped.

2. In a washing device of the character described, a pallet having means thereon for detachably engaging one end of a garment therewith, an independent handle member, gripping means carried thereby for detachably engaging the opposite end of the garment therewith, said handle member being engageable with the pallet with the garment extended there across, said separate handle member serving to manipulate the garment upon the pallet and by rotation relative to the pallet serving to wring the washed garment.

3. In a washing device of the character described, a pallet across which the garment to be washed is laid, garment gripping means at opposite ends of the pallet, one of said gripping means being fixedly located adjacent one end of the pallet, the second gripping means being detachable from the pallet while engaging the garment and independently movable relative to the pallet and to the other gripping means to enable manipulation of the garment relative to the pallet.

4. In a washing apparatus of the character described, a corrugated pallet, means for detachably engaging one end of a garment therewith, and a manipulative handle and gripping means carried thereby detachably engageable with the opposite end of the garment by which the garment may be rubbed upon the pallet and twisted relative thereto.

5. In a washing device of the character described, a pallet, a recessed handle at one end thereof, a garment gripper device at the opposite end of the pallet, gripper control means mounted upon said handle, an independent handle member, garment gripper means carried thereby, said independent handle member being adapted to be removably seated in the recess of the pallet handle while the garment engaged in the respective gripper devices is extended across the pallet.

6. In a device of the character described, a corrugated washing board, garment gripping means carried by the washing board adjacent one end thereof, a second garment gripping means detachably engageable with the washing board at the opposite extremity thereof, and variously movable relative to the washing board and to the first mentioned garment gripping means and a handle for the last mentioned gripping means, by which a garment extending across the board and engaged with the respective gripping means

may be manipulated relative to the wash board.

7. The combination with a wash board, of a pair of relatively movable garment gripping means one of which is fixed on said board, said means engaging at separated points a garment extending across the board, by which on the relative movement of one of said gripping means in relation with the other and with the board the garment may be manipulated upon the board.

8. In a device of the character described, a pallet having at one end a dependent lip, a handle at the opposite end of the board, a reciprocatory stirrup extending in substantially parallel relation with the pallet and enclosing the dependent lip, an operating lever mounted upon said handle by which the stirrup may be adjusted relative to the lip to clamp a garment therebetween, and a second garment clamping element engageable with the garment, said second clamping element being detachably engageable with the pallet substantially coincident with said handle.

9. In a device of the character described, a pallet having garment gripper means carried thereby, a handle for said pallet comprising two separable portions, one portion of the handle being attached to said pallet, and an independent garment gripping means carried by the other handle portion.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 11th day of January A. D. 1928.

REBECCA O'CONNOR.

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