J. R. ROBERTS, D. P. ROWE & L. S. LANE.

CLOTHES-POUNDERS.

No. 189,577. Patented April 17, 1877.

Fig. 1.

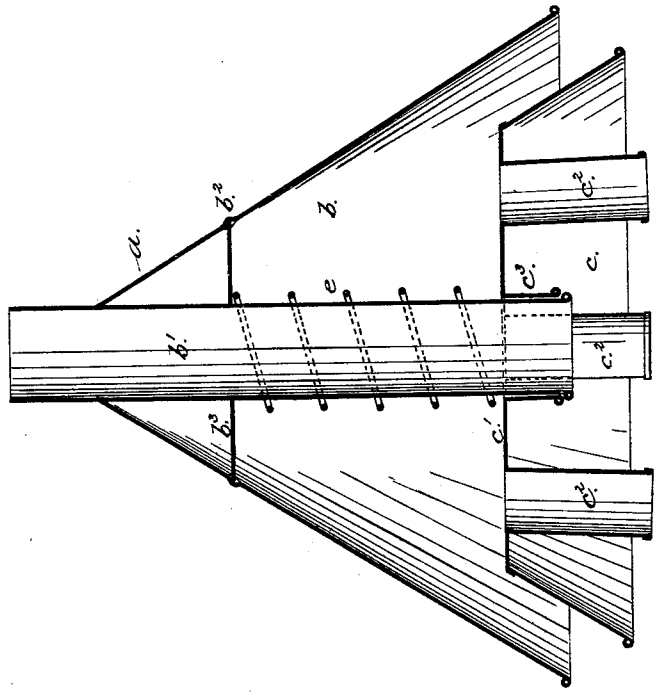
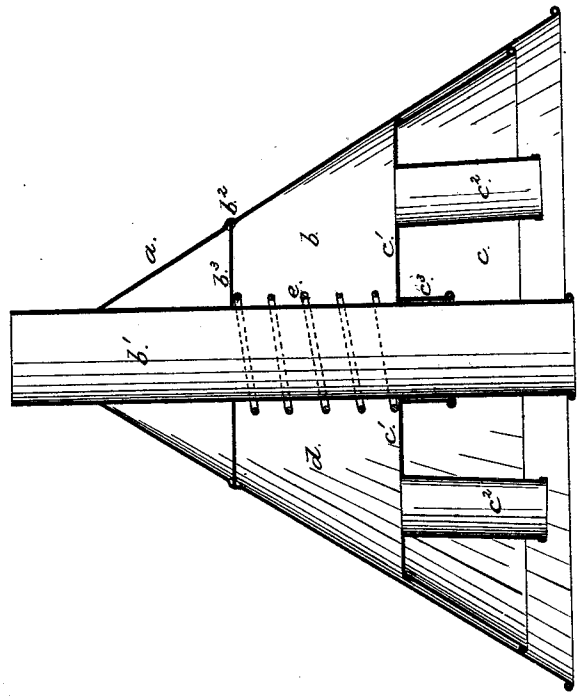


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JACOB R. ROBERTS, DAVID P. ROWE, AND LOUIS S. LANE, OF MORRISTOWN, TENNESSEE.

IMPROVEMENT IN CLOTHES-POUNDERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **189,577**, dated April 17, 1877; application filed March 14, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, JACOB R. ROBERTS, DAVID P. ROWE, and LOUIS S. LANE, of Morristown, in the county of Hamblen and State of Tennessee, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Clothes-Pounders; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Our invention relates to improvements in clothes-pounders.

It consists in two pounders combined—one arranged within the other. The outer pounder is provided with a central fixed stem, on which the inner pounder slides up and down. The inner pounder is constructed with a flat top and inclined sides, so that it will fit snugly in and form an air-chamber above it and within the outer pounder, and it is provided with a series of air-pipes, all arranged as hereinafter fully explained.

In the drawings, Figures 1 and 2 are vertical sections of our improved pounder, in which the inner pounder is shown in its different positions in the operation of the device.

a is the complete pounder, composed of the outer and inner parts or pounders *b c*. The outer pounder *b* is secured to the central stem b^1, and is by preference made conical in shape. It is provided with a circular indentation, b^2, formed on its inner face and near its upper end, and into which is inserted the edge of a partition, b^3, which contracts the size of the air-chamber hereinafter described, and serves as a brace or support to hold the said pounder *b* more firmly to the stem b^1. The stem b^1 extends downward, about flush, with the lower edge or rim of the pounder *b*, and is provided with enlargement or collar, b^4, which prevents the inner pounder from slipping entirely off.

The inner pounder *c* has its sides inclined to correspond with and fit snugly against the inner face of the sides of the outer pounder *b* when pressed up into the latter. It is made with a flat top, c^1, which is perforated and provided with a series of air-tubes, c^2, which extend downward about flush with the edge or under rim. It is provided with a central opening and sleeve, c^3, which fits and slides vertically on the stem b^1. When it is pressed up into the pounder *b* its sides close snugly against the inner face of the pounder *b*, and a space or air-chamber *d* is provided. *e* is a spiral spring placed around the stem b^1, and bears on the partition b^3 and on the top c^1, and facilitates the outward movement of the inner pounder *c*, as the device is raised out of the water. This spring may be dispensed with, as the compressed air in the chamber *d* will force the pounder *c* outward; but we prefer to employ it to provide against any accidental catching of clothes between the sides of the pounders *b c*, in which event the spring will be sufficient to overcome such clogging.

In the operation of the device, as the pounder *c* is forced upward by the water and clothes, the air is compressed into the chamber *d*, and it is also distributed and forced outward between the sides of the pounders and through the pipes c^2. By this construction the air is more equally distributed over the entire space covered by the pounder. The air is also discharged from the pipes c^2 on the same level with the discharge or passage of the air about the outer rim of the pounder *c*, thus causing a greater agitation of the water than is accomplished by the ordinary pounder. The water is more thoroughly broken, and as a result the dirt will be sooner removed from the clothes.

We would have it understood that we do not claim, broadly, a pounder composed of two parts, the one sliding on a central stem and into the other; but

What we claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The clothes-pounder, consisting of the two parts b and c, the part b being constructed with the central stem b^1, and the inner part c being constructed with a flat top, c^1, and sliding vertically on the stem b^1, and provided with a series of air-pipes, c^2, and so that when pressed up into the outer part b it will fit snugly therein and form an air-chamber, d, all substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that we claim the foregoing as our own we affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

JACOB R. ROBERTS.
DAVID P. ROWE.
LOUIS S. LANE.

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