

(No Model.)

W. A. JAMES.
STARCHING DEVICE.

No. 535,500.

Patented Mar. 12, 1895.

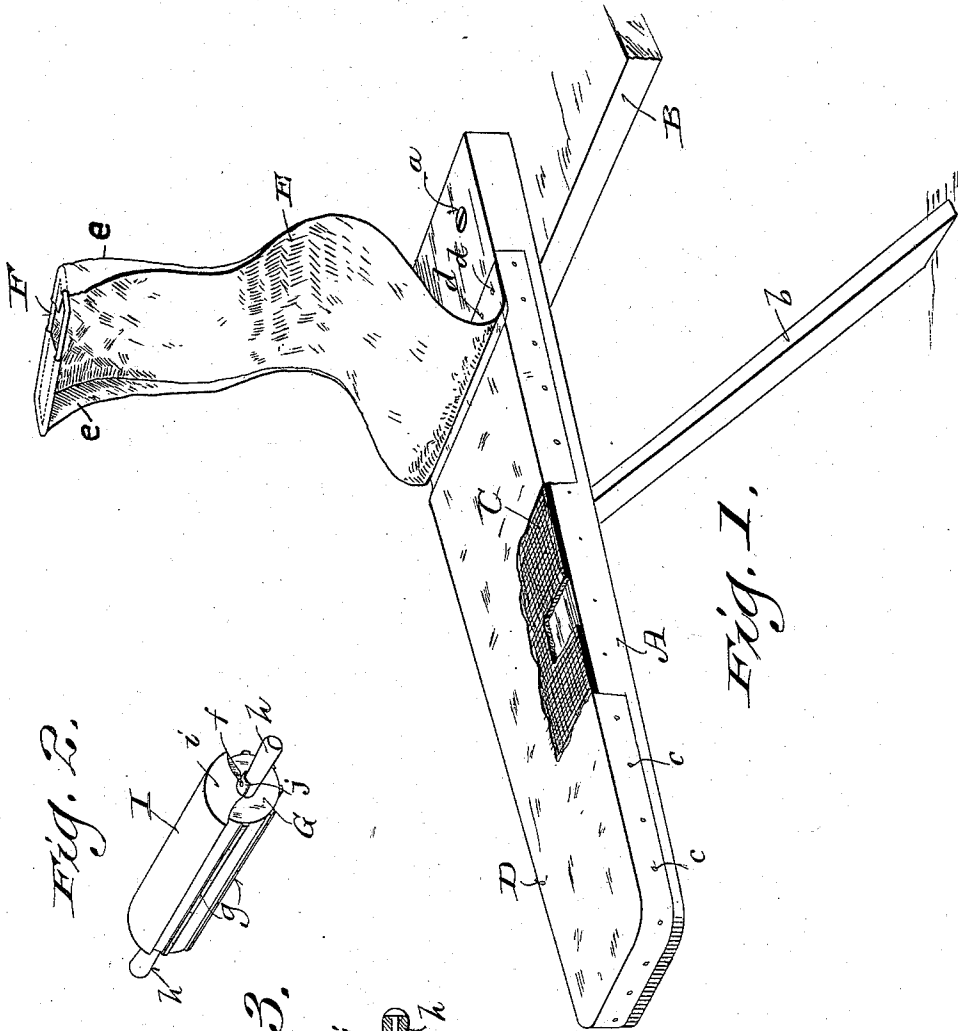


Fig. 1.

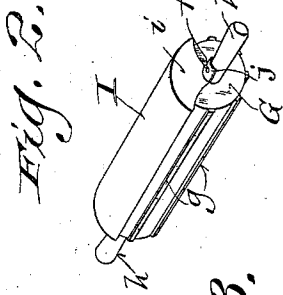


Fig. 2.

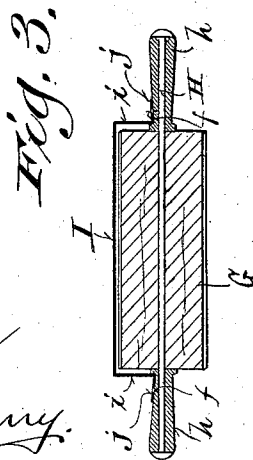


Fig. 3.

Witnesses
Geo. W. Loring.
C. H. Lath.

Inventor
William A. James.

By H. G. Underwood
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM A. JAMES, OF MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN.

STARCHING DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 535,500, dated March 12, 1895.

Application filed December 9, 1893. Serial No. 493,212. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM A. JAMES, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Milwaukee, in the county of Milwaukee, and in the State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Starching Devices; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof.

My invention relates to starching devices, and consists in certain peculiarities of construction and combination of parts as will be fully set forth hereinafter and subsequently claimed.

In the drawings: Figure 1 is a perspective view of the stationary portion of my said device. Fig. 2 is a like view of the movable portion. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view of said movable portion.

My device is designed to be used in laundries for the purpose, especially, of forcing starch into and through the bosoms, neckbands, and wrist-bands of shirts, preparatory to the mangling or ironing of the same.

Referring to the drawings A represents the base-board of my device, secured as by screws *a* to a bench B, or other suitable support and projecting therefrom as shown, the free end of the said base-board being supported by a brace *b*, whose lower end rests upon the floor, and whose upper end bears against the under side of said base-board, to which it may be hinged, or the said under side of the base-board may be provided with a notch, cleat, or projection to receive the upper end of the said brace, as preferred.

The upper side of the base board is covered with a layer of yielding or elastic material C, (preferably a thick sheet of india-rubber) and over this a sheet of muslin or analogous fabric D, is stretched, and the latter is secured to the side edges of the board, as by tacks *c c*. E is another sheet of similar fabric, whose rear or inner end is secured to the upper surface of the base-board, as by a transverse row of tacks *d d*, the front or free end of this sheet E being stitched or otherwise secured to a loop F, preferably of galvanized wire, of such a shape and size as to snugly fit over the front or free end of the base-board A and its superimposed layers when said sheet E is stretched or drawn forward, the forward side

edges of said sheet being fastened to the side edges of the loop F to form covering flaps *e e*, as shown.

In Figs. 2 and 3 I show the movable portion of my device comprising a roller G, the periphery of which is longitudinally channeled, or provided with strips to produce a surface of that nature. In the form shown in the drawings this is accomplished by fastening strips *g g* of any suitable material (and preferably elastic or yielding, such as india-rubber) to the said periphery, from end to end. The roller G is formed with a central longitudinal bore to receive a shaft or journal H, on which it turns, the ends of said shaft projecting to receive suitable handles *h h*, loosely mounted upon said shaft H, after which the ends of the shaft are preferably upset, or headed, as shown.

The body of the roller G may be made of wood, rubber, or any other suitable material.

I is a partial cover or hood, made of any suitable material, such as tin, copper, or other sheet metal, said hood being semi-circular in shape, so as to cover the upper part of the roller, and having down turned ends *i i* with horizontal projecting portions *j j* the former being parallel with the ends of the said roller, and the latter conforming in shape to and resting upon the handles *h h* to which the said projecting portions are secured, as by nails or screws *f f*, thereby serving, in use, to keep the handles stationary and rigid with the hood, while permitting the roller to turn freely upon its shaft.

The operation of my device is as follows: A little starch is applied to the upper surface of the sheet D and the shirt is placed upon the board with the under side of the bosom resting on this starched surface. Then more starch is applied, this time on the upper or outer side of the bosom, and on the neckband, and also on the wrist-bands which are spread out on the shirt on each side of the bosom, and then the sheet E is brought down, and the loop F fastened or caught over the free end of the board, thereby firmly holding the shirt in place. The operator then grasps the roller-device by the handles, and rubs it back and forth, briskly and with considerable pressure, over the sheet E thereby driving the starch through the described portions of

the shirt, evenly and thoroughly. The shirt is now ready to be dried and mangled or ironed, and the sheet E is freed and the shirt removed, and the device is ready for the treatment of another, in the same way. The hood I prevents the starch from flying off and thus prevents waste and the spattering of the operator and the laundry, and much better results are obtained by reason of the yielding and elastic surface of the board than if the shirt be starched upon a hard surface.

Having now fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a starching device, the combination of a stationary board, provided with a smooth upper surface, a superimposed yielding or elastic pad, and a sheet of fabric stretched tightly over the same, a second sheet of fabric secured at one end to said board and adapted to be drawn over the upper surface of the same, and having a fastening device at its

free end, and a pressure roller for engagement with the upper surface of the said board, substantially as set forth.

2. In a starching device, the combination of a stationary board provided with a smooth yielding or elastic upper surface for the reception of the articles to be starched, and a longitudinally channeled pressure roller, provided with a central longitudinal bore, a shaft or journal extended therethrough and having projecting ends, handles loosely fitted on said ends and a protecting hood rigidly secured to said handles, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand, at Milwaukee, in the county of Milwaukee and State of Wisconsin, in the presence of two witnesses.

W. A. JAMES.

Witnesses:

CLARA BARTHOLDO,
N. E. OLIPHANT.