

*E. Larrabee,
Shower Bath,*

Nº 5,993.

Patented Jan. 2, 1849.

Fig. 1.

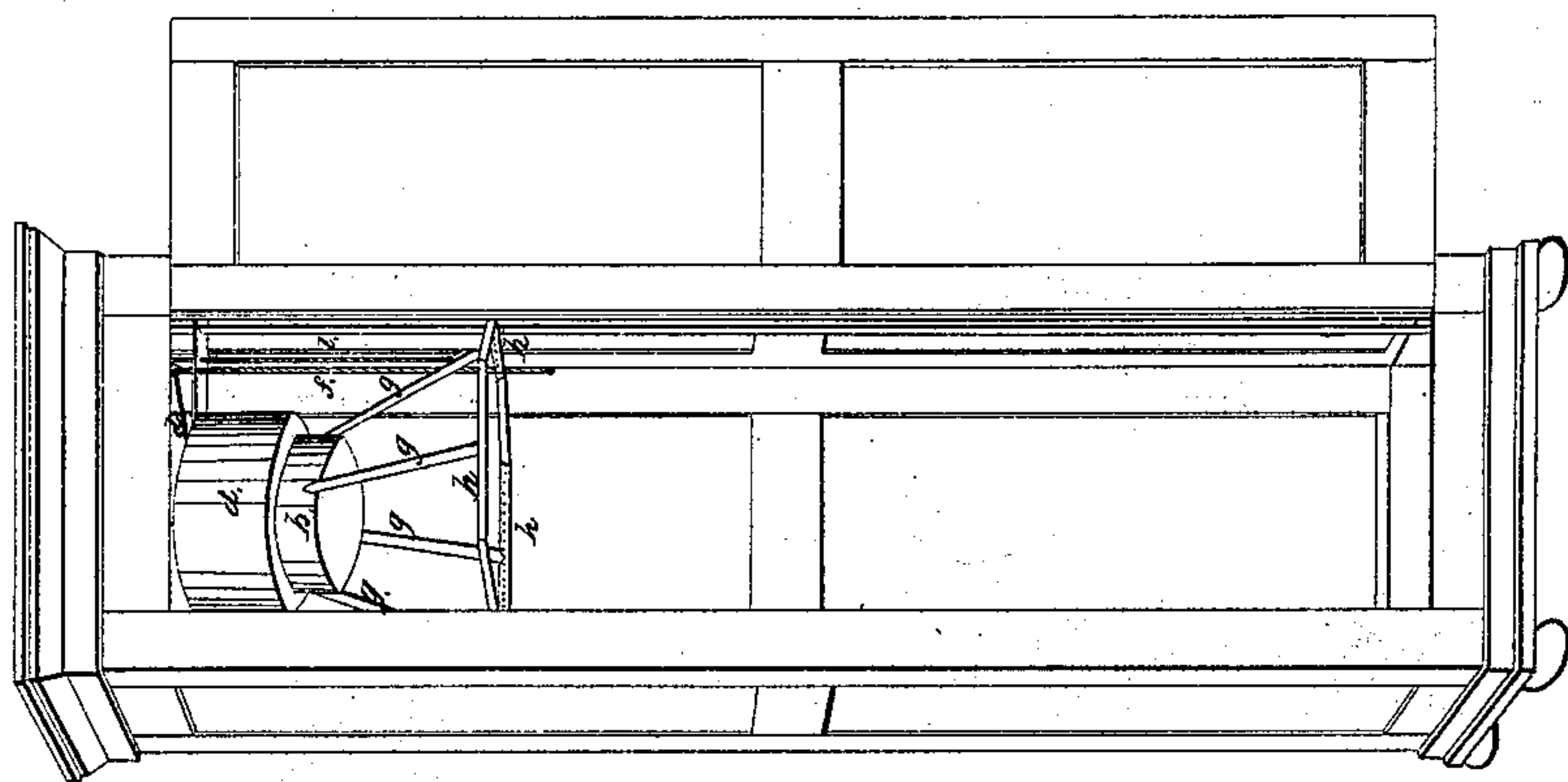


Fig. 2.

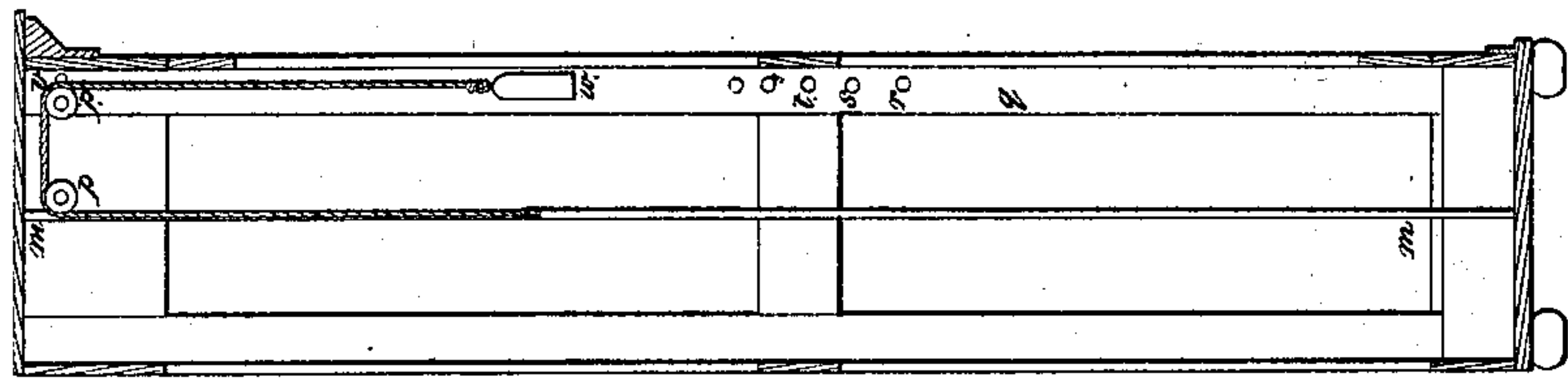


Fig. 3.

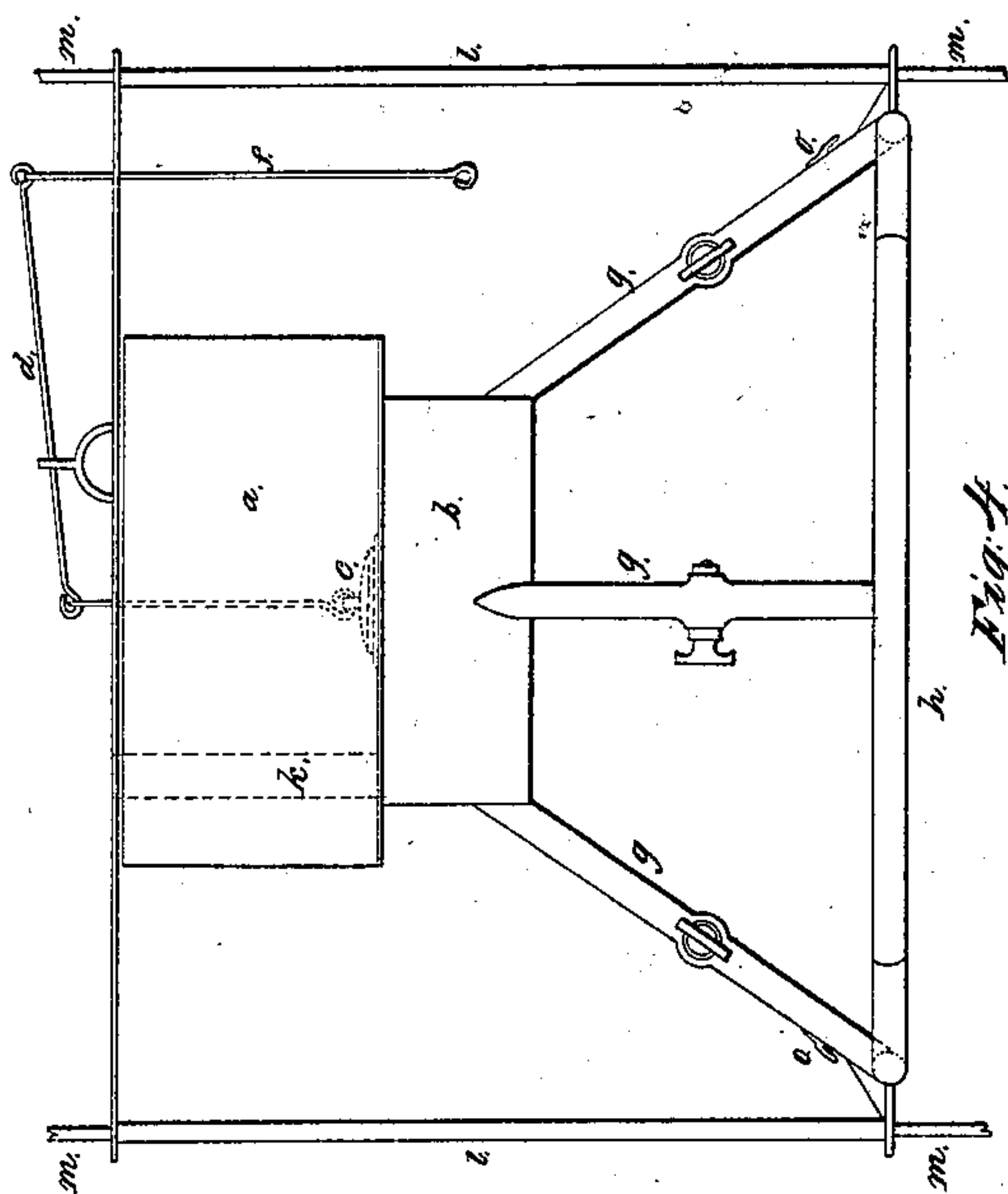
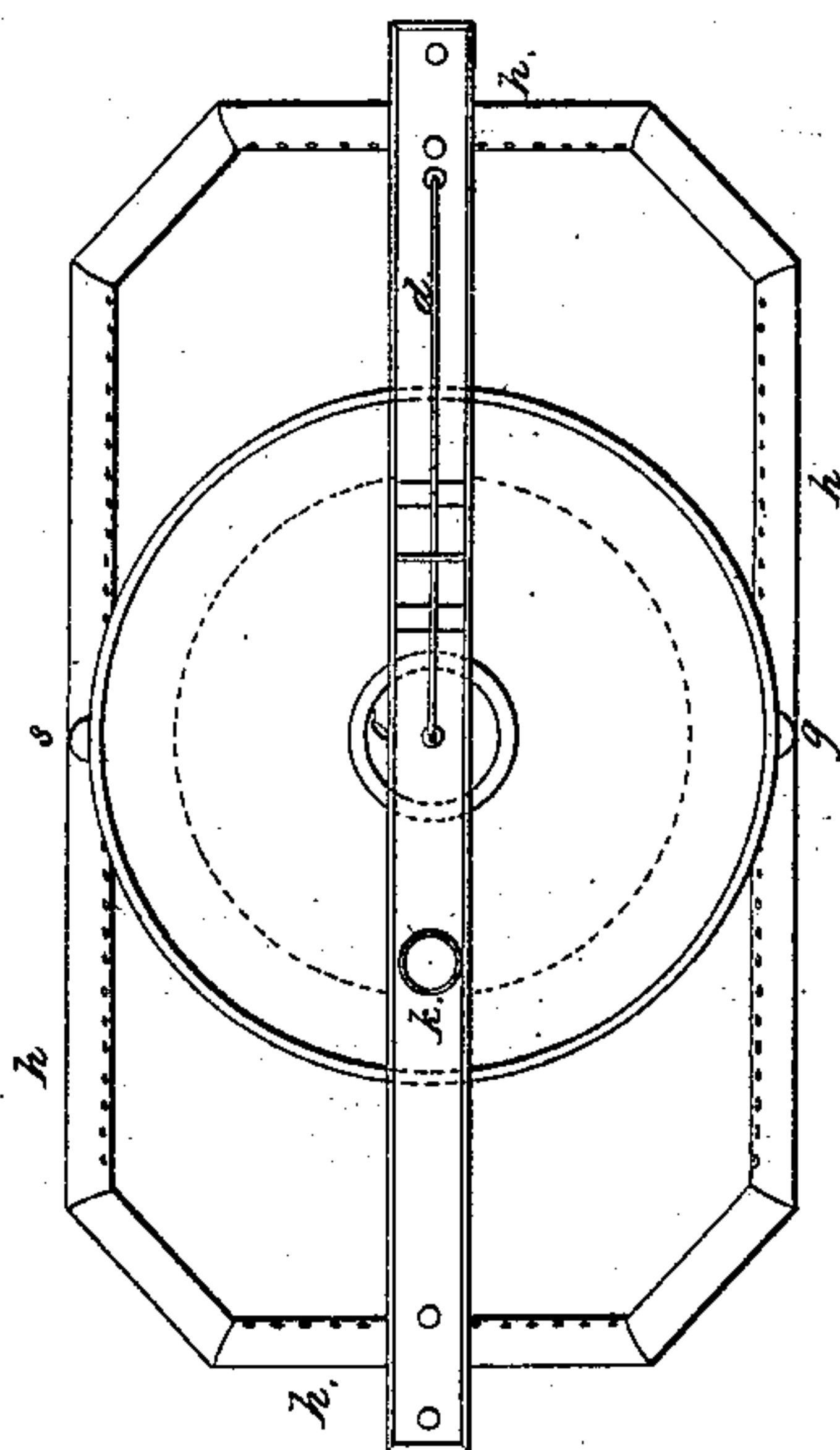


Fig. 4.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EPHRAIM LARRABEE, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

SHOWER-BATH.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 5,993, dated January 2, 1849.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EPHRAIM LARRABEE, of the city of Baltimore, in the State of Maryland, have invented certain new and useful
5 Improvements in the Construction of Shower-Baths, which Improved Bath is Styled by Me "The Niagara Bath;" and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description of the construction and
10 operation thereof, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1, is a perspective view of the apparatus fitted up in a case resembling a
15 wardrobe, being the form usually adopted for the casing of shower baths. Fig. 2, is a vertical cross section through the front and back of the case. Fig. 3, is a front elevation of the apparatus, drawn to a scale of one
20 quarter of an inch to the inch, and Fig. 4, is the plan or ground view of the same.

The same letters are used to designate the same parts in all the figures.

a is a reservoir for holding the water for
25 the bath, beneath which there is another smaller chamber *b* with which it communicates by the valve *c* which valve opens upward and closes downward and is operated by the lever *d* on pulling the wire or
30 cord *f*.

Proceeding downward from the subreservoir or chamber *b*, are four tubes *g, g, g, g*, which are furnished with stop cocks and connect with the horizontal discharging
35 tubes *h, h, h, h*, these discharging tubes are connected together by short pieces at their ends so as to form an oblong octagon as shown in Fig. 4, but they are stopped up at the place of joining so as to prevent the
40 water passing from one tube to the others. These discharging pipes have a row of holes along their inner sides and directed slightly upward, the water passing through there is of course conveyed or thrown directly to-
45 ward the center of the bath. The space in the clear of the said pipes being sufficiently large to admit the head of the bather, the water can be directed so as to strike about the top of the shoulders and leave the head
50 dry, but if it be desirable to shower on the head all that is necessary in that case is to raise the apparatus about nine inches higher and the object will be attained. Again, when it is desirable that the water shall not
55 fall on the back, the breast or on either side

of the bather, it can be turned off from the discharging pipe on that particular side by the stop cock which belongs to it.

To enable the water to pass freely through the valve *c* without interruption from the
60 air which the subchamber *b* previously contained escaping through the same opening I have introduced the air tube *k* which communicates freely with the upper part of the subchamber *b* and reaches to the top of the
65 upper reservoir *d* and through this tube the air escapes on the water being admitted through the valve *c* into the subchamber *b*.

The apparatus is made to be movable in the case in which it is set up by means of
70 the two guide rods *m m, m m*, which rods are firmly secured to the top and bottom parts of the case and are parallel and out of winding with each other. The apparatus is suspended by cords attached to the hooks
75 *o, o*, Fig. 3, and passing over the sheaves *p p* Fig. 2, thence downward to the hooks or pins *q, r, s, t*, if the pin or hook *q* is used, the apparatus will be in its highest position and will discharge the water on the top of
80 the head in much the same manner as a common shower bath—but if the pin or hook *r*, is used the water will be discharged upon the shoulders and downward, permitting the head to remain dry. The pins or hooks *r, s, t, &c.*, are put into the same case so as to
85 suit the various heights of different individuals. These loops on the cords serve also another important purpose, for by stopping against the obstacle *v*, placed near one
90 of the sheaves *p*, Fig. 2, the apparatus descends to and is retained at a convenient place for pouring the water intended for the bath into the reservoir *d*. Attached to the
95 loops on the said cords are two small weights one of which is seen at *w* Fig. 2, which together about equal the weight of the apparatus exclusive of water—the arrangement of the hooks or pins and the loops on the
100 cords superceding the necessity of using heavier weights to counterbalance the whole.

This improved shower bath presents many advantages in a medical view over those of the common construction, as it is avoidable to wet the head or any other part which it
105 might be desirable to keep dry, for the same reason also warm water can be used, which would be altogether inadmissible if it fell directly on the head; it can therefore be employed in many cases as a desirable remedial
110

agent where the common bath could not apply, and being readily adaptable to the physical peculiarities of many persons at present debarred the use of shower bathing, because
5 the good it might do them in one respect would not compensate for the evils it would entail in others.

The drawings herewith deposited are referred to for further particulars and are
10 considered sufficient to enable any competent person to construct or use shower baths on this principle.

Having thus described the nature, construction and operation of the shower bath
15 as improved by me, I will now point out what I consider and claim as my invention

therein and desire to secure by Letters Patent.

I do not claim the jet bath, neither do I claim the movable reservoir, both having
20 been used separately before, but

I do claim and desire to secure—

The combination of a movable reservoir with a jet bath constructed as herein described. This combination I believe to be
25 new and useful and to have been made for the first time by myself.

EPHM. LARRABEE.

Witnesses:

I. M. LARRABEE,
W. M. OLDHAM.