

E. M. Stevens
Improve Washboard.

73404

Fig. 1.

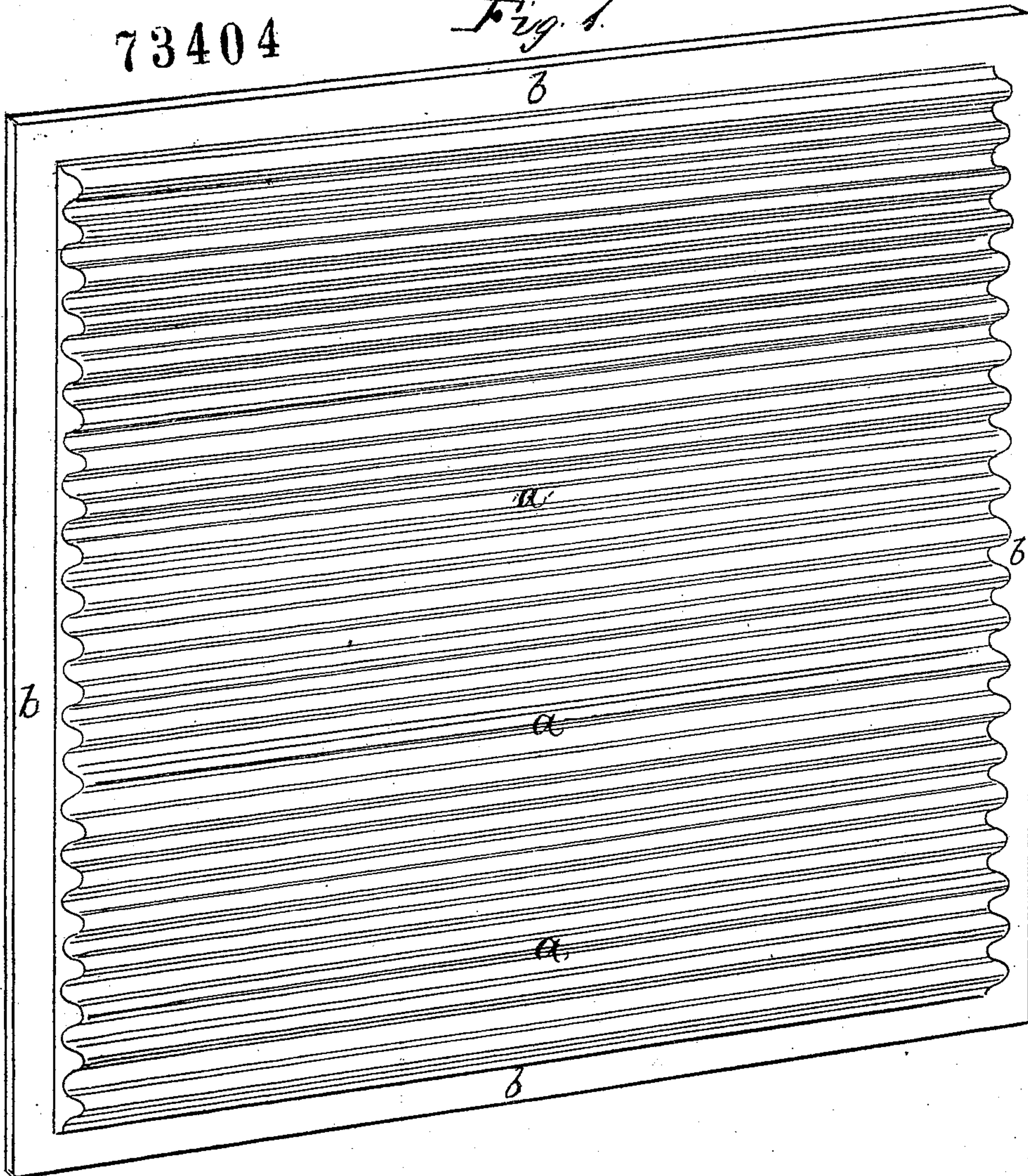
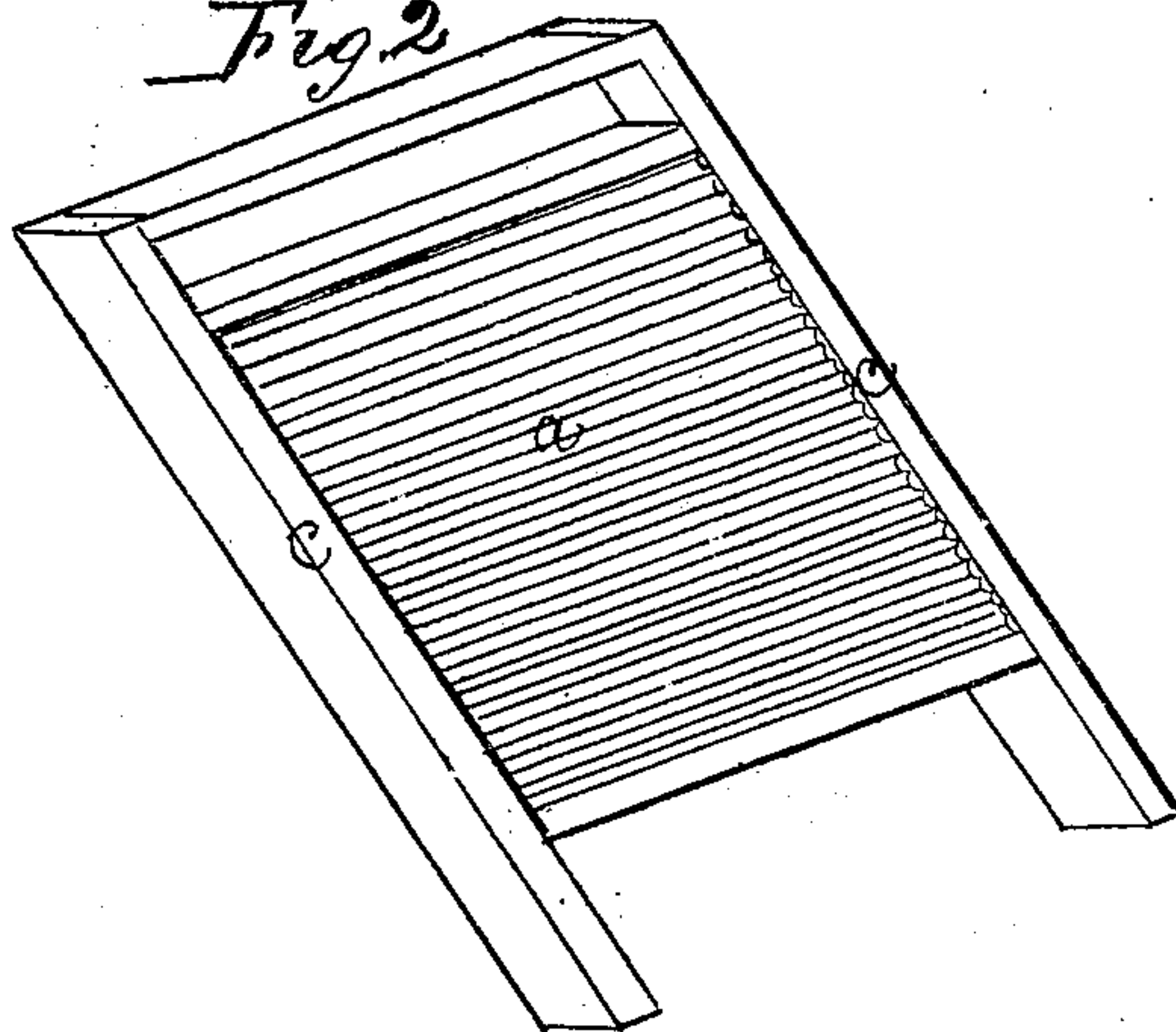
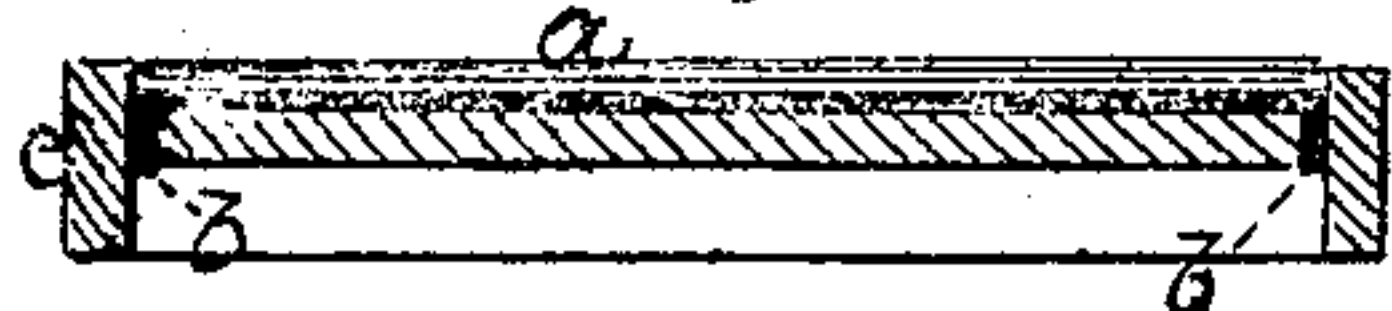


Fig. 2.



PATENTED
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Fig. 3.



E. M. Stevens
by J. H. Adams

Witnesses:
J. Brown Lord
M. S. Wilde.

United States Patent Office.

EDGAR M. STEVENS, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

Letters Patent No. 73,404, dated January 14, 1868.

IMPROVED WASH-BOARD.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

Be it known that I, EDGAR M. STEVENS, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk, and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Wash-Boards, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents my invention in perspective, the same consisting of a plate or sheet of corrugated India rubber before being applied to the frame.

Figure 2 is a view of the same applied to the frame on a reduced scale; and

Figure 3 is a section of fig. 2.

The object of my invention is to produce a wash-board which shall be more efficient and durable than those made of metal and wood now in use; and the invention consists in making the face of a wash-board of a plate or sheet of corrugated India rubber, or its compounds, mixed with any suitable fibrous material, such as cotton or linen rags, and shaped and vulcanized in the mould.

Wash-boards have heretofore been made of wood or metal, and attempts have been made to form them of ordinary vulcanized caoutchouc. The objection to those made of metal is that the surface is liable to become bent or broken, and thus tear or injure the clothes. Those made of wood soon wear away, and in consequence of the great friction applied in washing the clothes, the alternate wetting and drying, the raised portions of the surface become broken and splintered, and the board soon becomes useless.

In the manufacture of my rubber wash-board, any suitable compound of India rubber is used, which, after being ground upon the ordinary heated rolls, is spread in a sheet or plate of any suitable or required thickness or size. It is then placed in a mould and vulcanized, the mould being of the form that shall give it the required corrugation.

Fig. 1 represents the plate or sheet as it leaves the mould, consisting of the corrugations *a a*, which may be angular or curved, and around all its sides is left a plain border or space, *b*, by which the rubber is attached to the frame, as shown in fig. 3, the edges being turned down upon the sides, top, and bottom, and thus firmly secured in the frame, as shown in fig. 2.

The proportions of the compound which are preferred are as follows: Eight pounds crude rubber; two pounds litharge; one pound white lead; one pound lamp-black; four pounds calcined plaster, and six ounces flour of sulphur. To this are added, in about the proportion of one-fourth, ground rags or other suitable fibrous material. The whole, after being thoroughly ground upon the ordinary heated rollers, is placed in moulds and vulcanized by exposure for ten hours or thereabouts to a temperature of 275° Fahrenheit.

A wash-board made and formed as above described, will possess a certain flexibility and tenacity of frictional surface, which, while it will not wear or injure the clothes, as in the case of the metal or wooden wash-boards, will have the property of erasing, as it were, all dirt or filth from the clothes, and thoroughly cleanse them in a very efficient and expeditious manner.

The ordinary India rubber, without the admixture of some fibrous material, will not answer the purpose, as the severe friction and exposure to which it is subjected would soon wear it away and render it useless.

I do not confine myself to any particular compound, nor to any particular length of time for vulcanizing the same; but

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, as an article of manufacture, is—

A corrugated wash-board, when made of India rubber mixed with fibrous material, and shaped and vulcanized in the mould, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

E. M. STEVENS.

Witnesses:

J. H. ADAMS,

M. S. G. WILDE.