

Steam Bath.

No. 113894.

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IMPROVEMENT IN STEAM-BATHS.

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

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES KAESTNER, of Chicago, in the county of Cook and in the State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bathing Apparatus; and do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my bath when in use;

Figure 2 is a similar view of the same with the wrapper removed;

Figure 3 is an enlarged perspective view of the steam-generator;

Figures 4 and 5 are, respectively, a vertical cross-section and a vertical longitudinal section through the center of said generator; and

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the metal block employed, when heated, for generating steam.

Letters of like name and kind refer to like parts in each of the figures.

My invention belongs to a class of bathing-apparatus employed for administering vapor-baths; and

It consists in generating steam by means of water contained within a tank or reservoir placed beneath the bather's chair, and emitted therefrom in suitable quantities and as desired upon a heated surface, substantially as is hereinafter shown.

In the annexed drawing—

A represents the wrapper, constructed of any suitable fabric in the form shown, its lower end being open and provided at suitable intervals with ordinary hooks for attaching the same to a carpet, while its upper end is inclosed except at its center, where is left an opening of suitable size and shape to contain the neck of the person operated upon.

A hood, B, is secured around the edge of said opening, and when the wrapper is in use incloses the head of said person, while two smaller openings, C, placed in front and covered by a flap, permit the hands to be passed outward through said wrapper for the purpose of adjusting any of the apparatus. For convenience the wrapper is divided in front and the overlapping edges secured together by means of buttons.

As thus constructed the wrapper is complete, and is used in connection with a chair, D, of ordinary construction, but having somewhat more than ordinary dimensions horizontally, the patient being seated in said chair with said wrapper placed over both, and hooked at its lower edge to the carpet.

In order to sustain the wrapper so as to keep it from sagging upon the shoulders of the bather I employ an arm, E, constructed of metal, in the form shown,

with its rear end resting within a suitable socket, F, attached to the wall, while its front end has pivoted to and supports two bars, G, corresponding in length to the diagonal diameter of said wrapper and arranged in the form of a cross, with their ends immediately over the upper corners of the latter, with which they are connected by means of suitable cords, g.

Another means of accomplishing this result (as shown in fig. 2) consists of a rod, H, bent in the form of a staple, with its ends passing through suitable lugs, I, attached to the sides of the chair at or near its corners. A set-screw, i, passing through the side of each lug into the opening containing the rod, enables the latter to be firmly locked in place when adjusted to vertical position.

As thus constructed and arranged it will be seen that these supports can be easily and quickly changed so as to cause the height of the wrapper to conform to that of the bather, and that they not only furnish a perfect support for said wrapper, but also hold the same in position laterally.

The device for generating steam consists of a square metal box, K, supported upon suitable feet, k, and inclosed at its upper side by means of a second box or tank, L, having a corresponding size and shape horizontally.

The tank L is provided upon its lower side with lugs or ribs, l, which, passing into the upper end of the box K, secure the relative lateral positions of said tank and box, while vertically they are held slightly apart by means of four raised bearings upon the lower side of said tank at its corners.

A cock, M, passing downward through the bottom of the tank, near one end thereof, and operated by means of a handle, m, permits water contained therein to be passed into the box K with any desired degree of rapidity.

The block N, used for vaporizing water from the tank, is formed of cast metal, and has a shape corresponding to the space between the bottoms of said tank and the box K, but is somewhat less in size than said space.

Two ribs, k', extending transversely across the bottom of said box, prevent the block from coming in contact therewith.

The upper surface of said block is provided with three grooves, n and n', extending lengthwise of the same and arranged parallel with each other, the center one of which, n, inclines downward regularly from one end to near the opposite end of said block, where it opens into a transverse groove, n'', from which the outer parallel grooves n' incline in an opposite direction, so that if water be poured upon the block at the upper end of the center groove it will flow to the

opposite end of the same, and then, dividing, will pass down the outer grooves to their lower ends, having traversed the length of said block twice.

A staple, O, placed in the center of the block N so as to enable it to be lifted, and a bail-handle, P, attached to the box K for a like purpose, complete the device, the operation of which is as follows:

The block being suitably heated is placed within the box, and the tank supplied with water and placed in position, with the cock over the upper end of the center groove, and the whole device then placed beneath the chair, with the handle of the cock within convenient reach of the bather's hand. After having been suitably incased by means of the wrapper the bather turns the cock so as to cause water to pass from the tank upon the heated block, where it is immediately converted into steam, which, passing outward between said tank and the box, fills the wrapper, the quantity of said steam being regulated by the flow of water.

As the block becomes chilled the water flows further through the inclined grooves before being converted into steam; but from the length of said grooves it is impossible for water to collect therein and run

over while the bath is being used, provided the block is properly heated.

The apparatus thus described is simple in construction, easy of operation, and affords a convenient and comparatively inexpensive means whereby the luxury of a vapor-bath may be more commonly enjoyed than has heretofore been possible.

Having thus fully described the nature and merits of my invention,

What I claim as new, is—

1. The means employed for generating steam, consisting of the box K, the tank L, and the block N, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.
2. The block N, provided with the inclined communicating grooves *n* and *n'*, in combination with apparatus for furnishing a supply of water, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 27th day of February, 1871.

CHARLES KAESTNER.

Witnesses:

C. J. CORSE,
A. H. WAGNER.