

ELIZA ANN FOULKE.  
Clothes-Tongs.

No. 144,972.

Patented Nov. 25, 1873.

Fig. 1.

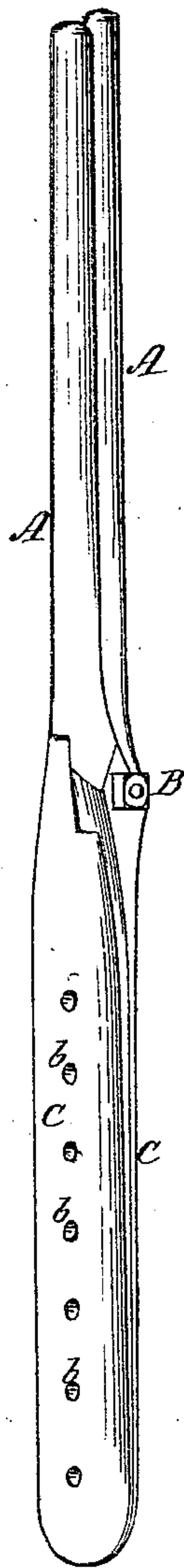


Fig. 2.

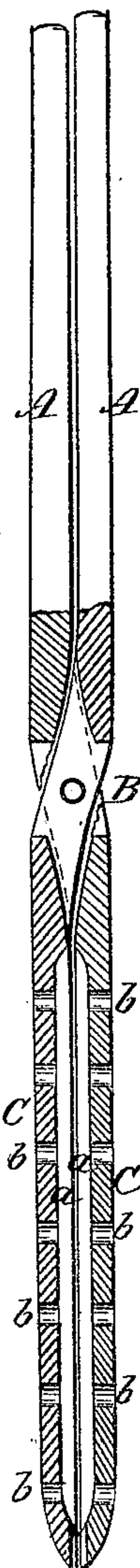
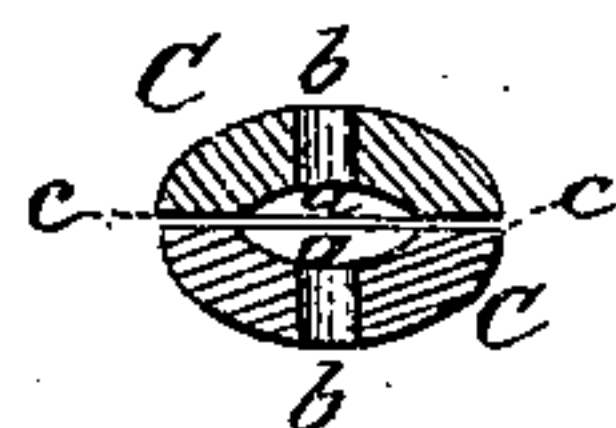


Fig. 3.



Witnesses.

Westhagner.  
J. A. Rutherford.

Inventor.

Eliza Ann Foulke—  
By Johnson & Johnson  
her Attorneys.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ELIZA ANN FOULKE, OF PARIS, ILLINOIS.

## IMPROVEMENT IN CLOTHES-TONGS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **144,972**, dated November 25, 1873; application filed September 15, 1873.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ELIZA ANN FOULKE, of Paris, in the county of Edgar and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Clothes-Tongs, of which the following is a specification:

My invention relates to devices for withdrawing clothes from scalding water during the process of boiling and washing them; and the improvement in such devices which I claim as my invention under this patent consists of the tongs hereinafter described, the jaws of which have inner or biting flat faces and concave intervening spaces, which are provided with outlet-holes for the water, as will hereinafter be more particularly described.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a view in perspective of my improved clothes-tongs. Fig. 2 represents a longitudinal section of the clamping-jaws thereof closed, and Fig. 3 represents a cross-section of the same.

The tongs A are riveted, at B, in a suitable manner to admit of being easily opened and closed. The tongs are so riveted, as shown in the drawings, that their jaws C may have an absolute contact the whole length of their biting-edges *c*, which extend from the hinge to their points. These jaws C are provided, on their inner or biting faces, with longitudinal grooves *a*, which serve the double purpose of a gutter for the escape of the water squeezed from the wet clothes, and producing clamping

or biting edges *c*, whereby to obtain a firm hold upon the clothes. In both of the jaws C are holes *b b b*, which serve as outlets for the water.

My invention is not only advantageous in preventing the hands from being scalded in removing the clothes from the boiler, but, in a great measure, rinses them of the scalding water, so that the receptacle into which they are transferred from the boiler before hanging them is not filled with water to such an extent as heretofore, thus permitting of the use of small receiving-tubs. Another advantage is that the clamping of the clothes by the jaws of the tongs deprives them of the bulk of the scalding water, so that their exposure to the atmosphere will soon render them capable of being wrung out without the usual scalding of the hands and other disfigurements thereof, to which many women have heretofore been subjected.

Having described my invention, I claim—

A pair of tongs the jaws C whereof have flat biting-edges *c* and intervening spaces or gutter-grooves *a*, provided with outlet-perforations *b*, as and for the purpose described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 28th day of October, A. D. 1872.

ELIZA ANN FOULKE.

Witnesses:

HENRY PLASNICK,  
WILLIAM FERGUSON.