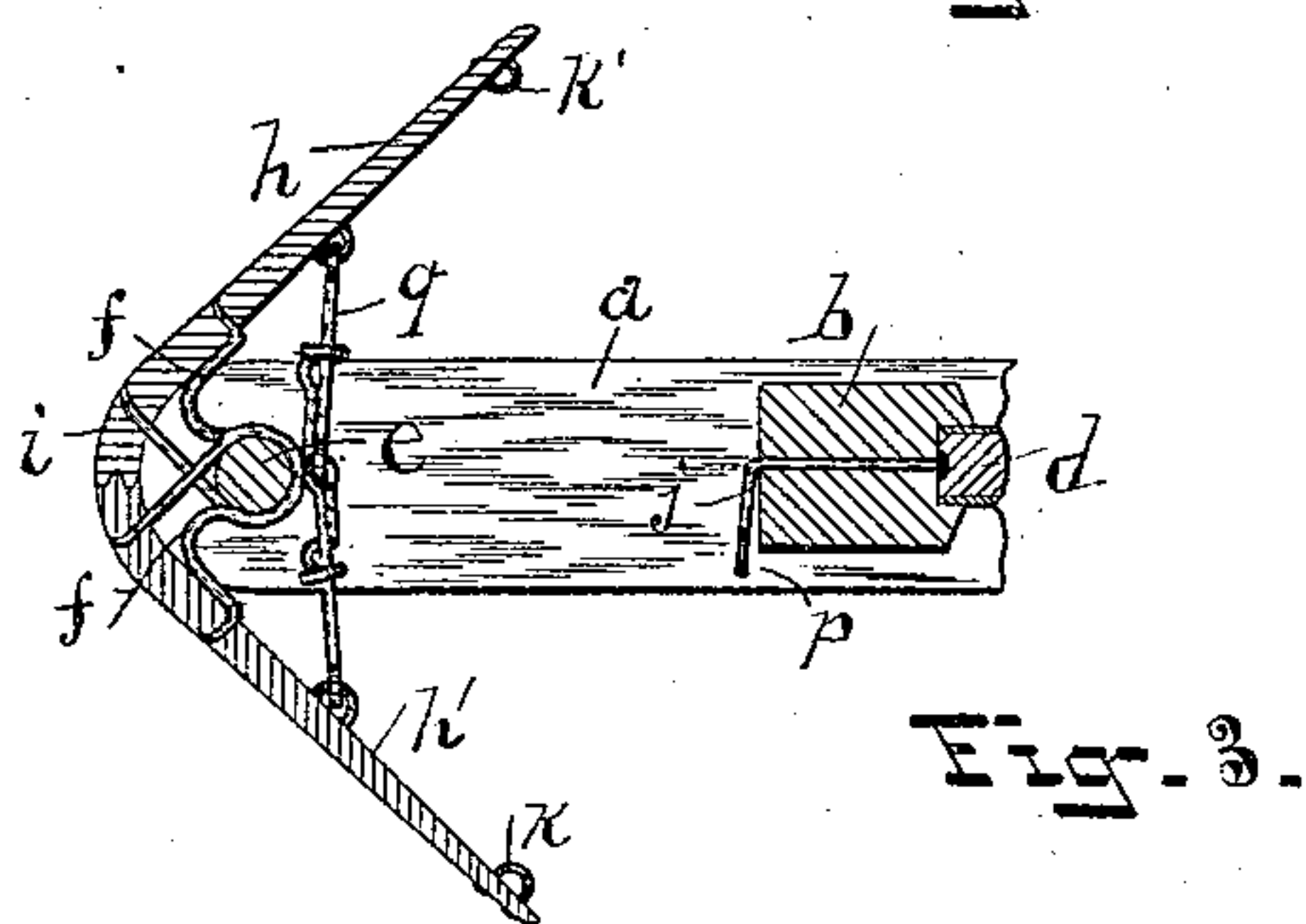
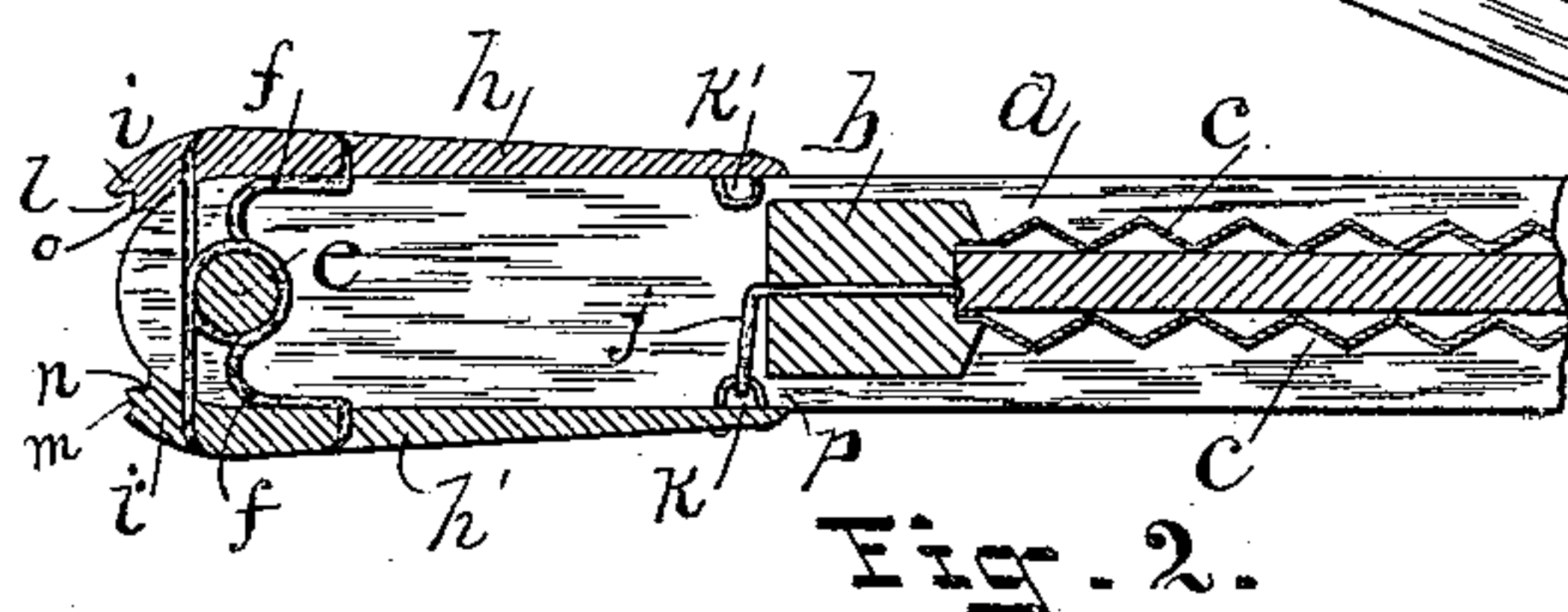
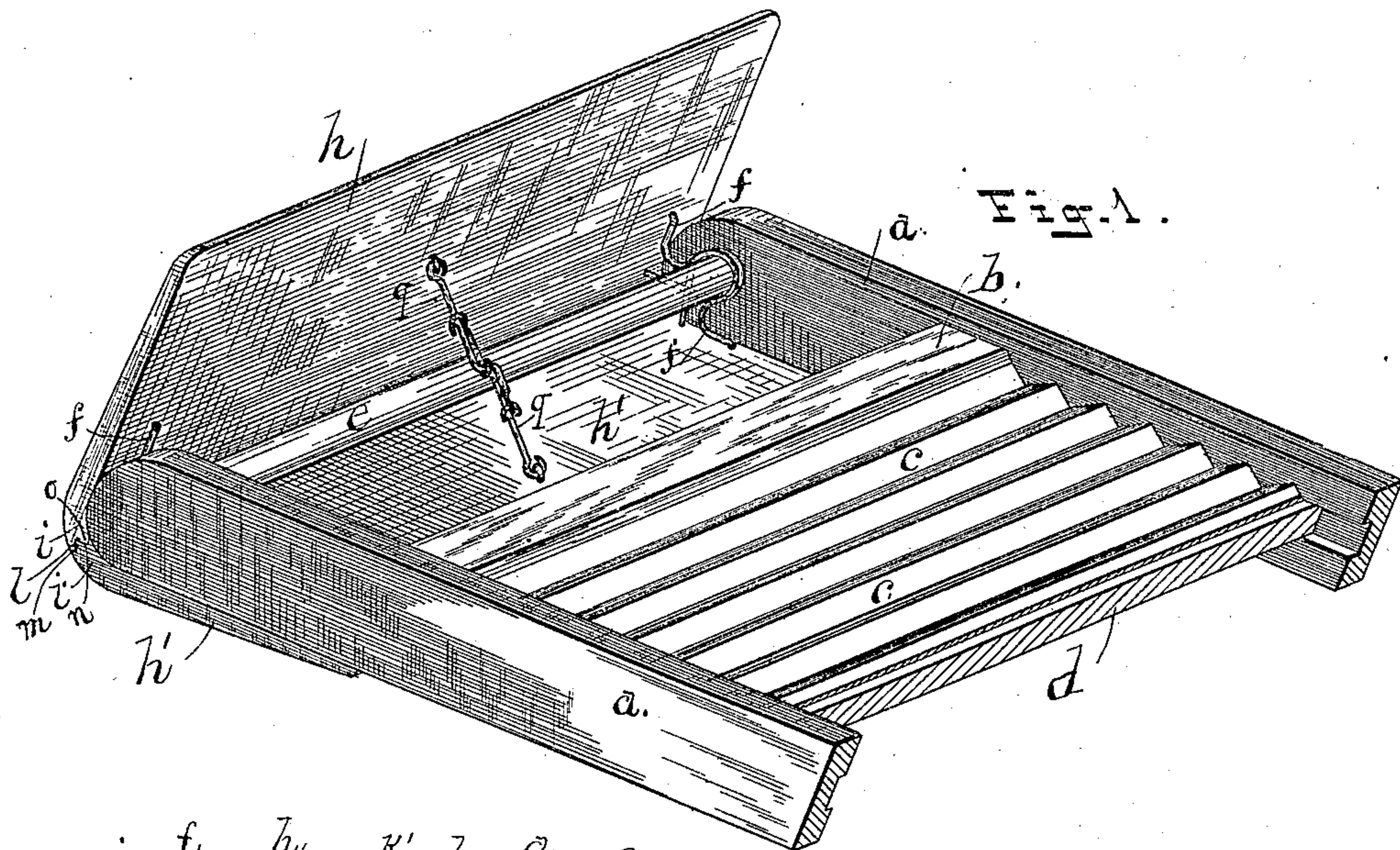


(No Model.)

C. J. BONSFIELD.
WASH BOARD PROTECTOR.

No. 353,283.

Patented Nov. 30, 1886.



ATTEST:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLIE J. BONSFIELD, OF SOUTH BAY CITY, MICHIGAN.

WASH-BOARD PROTECTOR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 353,283, dated November 30, 1886.

Application filed April 21, 1886. Serial No. 199,609. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLIE J. BONSFIELD, a citizen of the United States, residing at South Bay City, in the county of Bay, State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Wash-Board Protectors, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

My invention relates to improvements in wash-board protectors which are attached to an ordinary wash-board in a suitable manner to serve to prevent the water and suds from splashing over the upper end of the board; and it consists, chiefly, in the combination, construction, and arrangement of the several portions of the device, as hereinafter more fully described and claimed.

The objects of my invention are to arrange a wash-board protector in a manner that it will be more effective in its operation, that may be folded compactly for shipping and storing, and that may be firmly braced in a working position, and to construct it so that it may be quickly and easily changed for use on either side of the board in a manner that while one portion is extended for use on one side the other portion is folded on the opposite side, and forms the bottom of the soap-holder or branding-board, whereby a deeper and more roomy soap-holder is formed and the material used in the construction of an ordinary branding-board is applied to form a portion of the device, whereby a saving of material is effected. I attain these objects by means of the devices illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of my improved protector in a position for use and attached to a common wash-board. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal vertical section of the same, showing the double protector closed. Fig. 3 is the same, showing the manner of reversing the double protector.

Similar letters refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

a represents the side pieces of an ordinary wash-board.

b is the upper cross-bar, and *c* is the corrugated portion, upon which the clothes are rubbed, and is supported in the usual manner by the back-board *d*. The upper ends of the

side pieces, *a*, instead of having the usual square cap or head-piece, are rounded over, and a rod or rung, *e*, extending across, with its ends passed through and secured to the side pieces, forms a strong and durable support therefor. Adjustably secured by the hinge-pieces *f* to this rod *e* is the protector *h*, which extends the entire width of the board, including the side pieces, and is arranged to rest upon the side pieces, as shown in Fig. 2, when not in use, and to be raised up to a position at right angles with the board when in an operative position, the portion *i* being slightly curved to conform to the rounded ends of the side pieces, and is held in position to bear against the rounded ends of the side pieces by the hinge-pieces *f*. A second protector-piece, *h'*, of a similar form and secured in a similar manner to the rod *e*, is placed upon the opposite side of the side pieces, and is secured in a closed position by a hook, *j*, pivoted to the cross-bar *b* and a staple, *k*, in the piece *h'*. This piece *h'*, when in the position shown, forms the bottom of a soap-holder, which in the usual double board is very shallow, being formed by placing a bottom piece or branding-board midway between the edges of the side pieces, so that a shallow pocket is formed on each side of the branding-board, while with my device a soap-holder of a depth of the full width of the side pieces, *a*, is obtained without additional expense or material, the extra protecting-piece forming the branding-board.

In order to prevent the suds or water from leaking through the joint between the curved edges, a groove, *l*, is formed in the meeting edge of the piece *h*, and a lip, *m*, adapted to fit into the groove *l*, is formed upon the edge of the piece *h'*, and also a groove, *n*, is formed upon the edge of the piece *h'*, and a corresponding lip, *o*, is formed upon the piece *h*, so that when the protector-pieces are in a working position the water splashing against the extended protector will be prevented from passing through the joint by the grooves and lips, so that it must pass upon the closed protector or bottom of the soap-holder, and thence again to the tub through the opening *p* between the lower edge of the closed protector or soap-holder bottom and the cross-bar *b*.

In order to secure the protector in an ex-

tended or working position, a jointed brace, *q*, is placed in the central portion of the board, with one end pivotally secured to the protecting-piece *h*, near its outer edge, and with its opposite end secured in a similar manner to the protector *h'* at the bottom of the soap-holder. This brace forms, when extended, a rigid support, which holds the protector-piece in a working position, and also holds the pieces *h* and *h'* in a proper position relative to each other when the board is reversed, as when the hook *j* is disengaged from the staple *k* the pieces *h* and *h'* may be operated in the manner shown in Fig 3, bringing the piece *h* to bear upon the side pieces, *a*, where it can be secured by engaging the hook *j* with the staple *k'*, so that the board may be reversed and have the soap-holder and protector upon the opposite side thereof, and when the protector is closed the jointed brace *q* folds within the soap-holder, leaving the outside of the board free from any projecting parts, and forms a space upon the outside surface of the protectors for affixing the name of the manufacturer, &c., which is at all times exposed to view, and is free from the action of the soap and suds, &c. I do not, however, confine my invention entirely to the jointed brace *q* for holding the protector in a working position, as other forms of braces and devices may be used instead and produce a similar result.

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

35 1. The combination, with a wash-board

having a rod extending across and passed into the upper ends of its side pieces, of two protector-pieces hinged independently of each other to the said cross-rod and provided on their outer edges, the one with a longitudinal groove and the opposite one with a lip fitting into the said groove, and means, as described, for retaining the protector-pieces in a working position, substantially as and for the purpose herein set forth.

2. The combination, with a wash-board having the rod *e* extending across and passed into the upper end of the side pieces, *a*, of the protector-pieces *h* and *h'* on opposite sides of the side pieces and hinged to the rod *e*, the jointed brace *q*, the hook *j*, and staples *k* and *k'*, substantially as shown, and for the purpose herein set forth.

3. The combination, in a wash-board protector, of the piece *h*, extending across and over the side pieces, *a*, and hinged to the cross-rod *e*, and provided with the curved portion *i*, and having the groove *l* and lip *m* on its upper edge, with a piece, *h'*, placed upon the opposite side of the board and hinged to the cross-rod *e*, and provided with a curved portion, *i'*, and having upon its upper edge the groove *n* and lip *o*, substantially as herein shown, and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

CHARLIE J. BONSFIELD.

Witnesses:

J. E. THOMAS,
W. H. POWER.