

(No Model.)

C. M. BEARDSLEY.

BLOTTER BATH.

No. 375,794.

Patented Jan. 3, 1888.

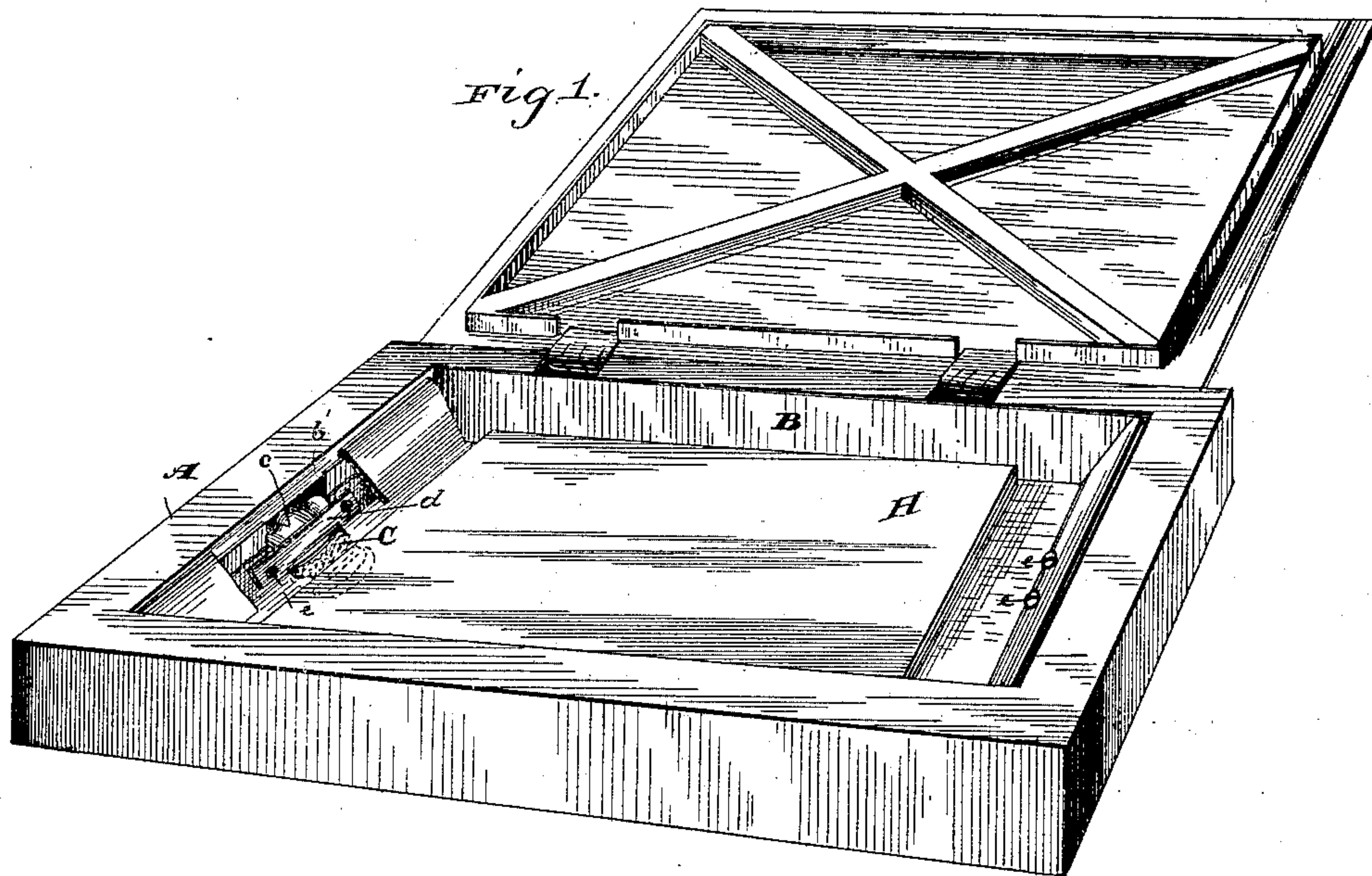


Fig. 2.

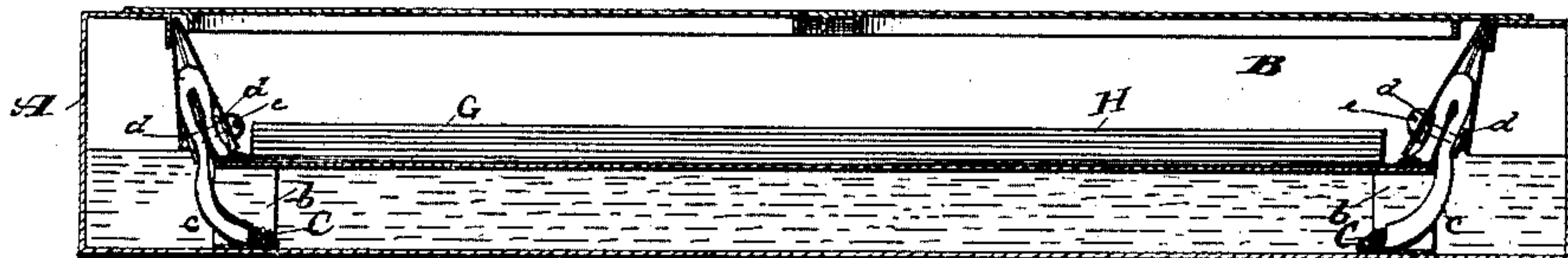
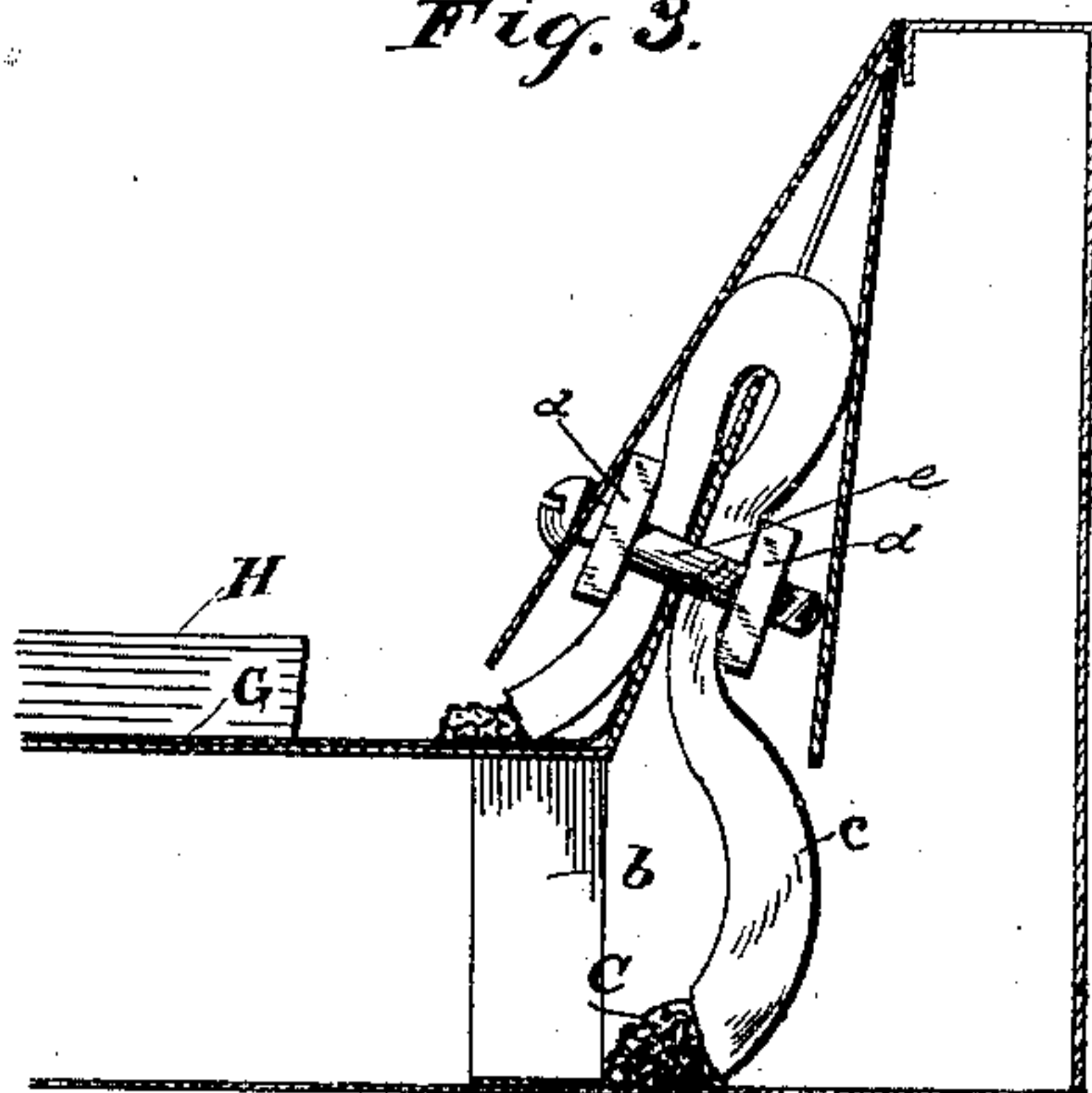


Fig. 3.



Witnesses,

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES M. BEARDSLEY, OF CLEVELAND, OHIO.

BLOTTER-BATH.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 375,794, dated January 3, 1888.

Application filed January 13, 1887. Serial No. 224,204. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES M. BEARDSLEY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cleveland, in the county of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Blotter-Baths; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to 10 which it appertains to make and use the same.

The invention relates to improvements in blotter-baths; and it consists, broadly, in a blotter-bath in which the fluid for moistening the blotting-pads is supplied by capillary attraction, substantially as shown and described, 15 and especially pointed out in the claims.

The invention is designed to overcome the objection to placing the blotting-pads immediately in the pan or bath which contains the moistening-fluid, as in such cases it is very 20 difficult, if not impossible, to maintain a uniform moisture of the pads and have them always ready for use. Usually, when the bath is supplied with a fresh quantity of water, the pads at first become too wet, and, if they are 25 to be used soon, have to be pressed in the letter-press, so as to evenly distribute the moisture and make them dry enough not to run the ink on the paper to be copied. Then, if they 30 are frequently used or allowed to stand in the bath after all the water has been absorbed, they soon become too dry for immediate use. Then more water must be added and the pads placed in the press, for the reason aforementioned. 35 Again, the very wet pads can scarcely be handled without tearing, and if excessively moistened, as will frequently occur, mildew or lose their consistency and become worthless. By my invention these and other material ob- 40 jections and difficulties are overcome, and a bath is produced in which the degree of moisture can be easily and quickly controlled, according to the needs of the blotters, and in which the blotters can be kept uniformly moist 45 and in condition for use by a continuous and regular flow of fluid.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a bath embodying my invention, the cover being thrown open. Fig. 2 is 50 a longitudinal section of the bath closed. Fig. 3 is an enlarged section of one end of the bath,

disclosing the capillary wick and the means for holding and compressing it.

A represents the outer pan of the bath, (shown here as rectangular in shape,) and having a cover hinged thereon in the usual way. 55 This pan may be made of galvanized iron, sheet-tin, or other suitable material, it only being necessary that it should keep its shape and be water-proof. 60

B is an inner pan, of like material, supported on legs *b* on the bottom of the outer pan, so as to provide a reservoir for water between the two pans. Any way that suggests itself for maintaining this relation will answer the purpose, 65 or one pan may be set right upon the other. In the structure here shown there is a water-space about the sides and ends of the inner pan, as said pan is set within the flanged edges of the outer pan, said flanges being merely to 70 give strength to the structure. If preferred, the outer pan may fit closely within the inner pan and the size of the whole be materially reduced.

C represents a wick of fibrous material, of 75 such length that while one end rests on the bottom of the outer pan, or is immersed in the water therein, the other may be carried over the side of the inner pan and rest upon the bottom of said pan. Any material that will 80 conduct water or fluid by capillary attraction, and any arrangement of the material that will serve to convey the fluid from one pan to the other, will serve my purpose and fall within the spirit and scope of my invention. How- 85 ever, the arrangement shown probably is as good as any, and I know of no material that answers my purpose better than common sponge.

In the drawings I show a wick of sponge 90 inclosed in a sheath or tube, *c*, of rubber, preferably, and a slight recess, *b'*, cut in the pan B to enter said pan beneath the flange on the outer pan. On either side of the edge of the pan B, I place short bars *d d*, which are fast- 95 ened thereon by short screw-bolts *e e*; and as the wick is gripped between these bars on both sides of the pan I can, by merely turning the screws, regulate the attraction of fluid through the wick to a nicety, and permit just as much 100 fluid to enter the pan B as may be required, and no more. Either or both screws may be

operated, and the wick may have more or less width and thickness. A V-shaped cover over each end of the pan B is shown; but this has no use, except to cover the wick and to prevent the blotting-pads from slipping against the adjusting arrangement. The rubber sheath or tube is designed to confine the wick and keep it in a compact body, so that it may be more readily controlled. It is more especially useful when sponge forms the capillary medium.

G represents a sheet of cloth or material that will absorb and retain moisture readily. This sheet is laid in the bottom of the pan B, and serves admirably to take up the moisture from the wicks and distribute it to the pads. The capillary wicks might of course discharge on top of the pads, (shown in the drawings at H,) or immediately along their edges. The details of the arrangement are not essential so long as the principle of capillary attraction is employed to do the moistening; and the particular construction shown and described is not therefore regarded as material, and may be considerably varied without departing from my invention.

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

1. In combination, a blotter-bath having a reservoir for holding fluid, a blotter-holder removed from the fluid-chamber, and capillary conducting material for conveying moisture from the reservoir to the holder, substantially as set forth.

2. In a blotter-bath, the combination of a fluid-reservoir and a blotter-holder with a capillary conductor, and means, substantially as described, to regulate the flow of fluid through the conductor.

3. The combination of a water-reservoir and a blotter-holder, with a capillary conductor between said parts having a sheath in which the wick is inclosed, substantially as set forth.

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Witnesses:

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