(No Model.)

J. T. SARGENT.

WASH BOARD.

No. 437,869. Patented Oct. 7, 1890.

FIG. 1.

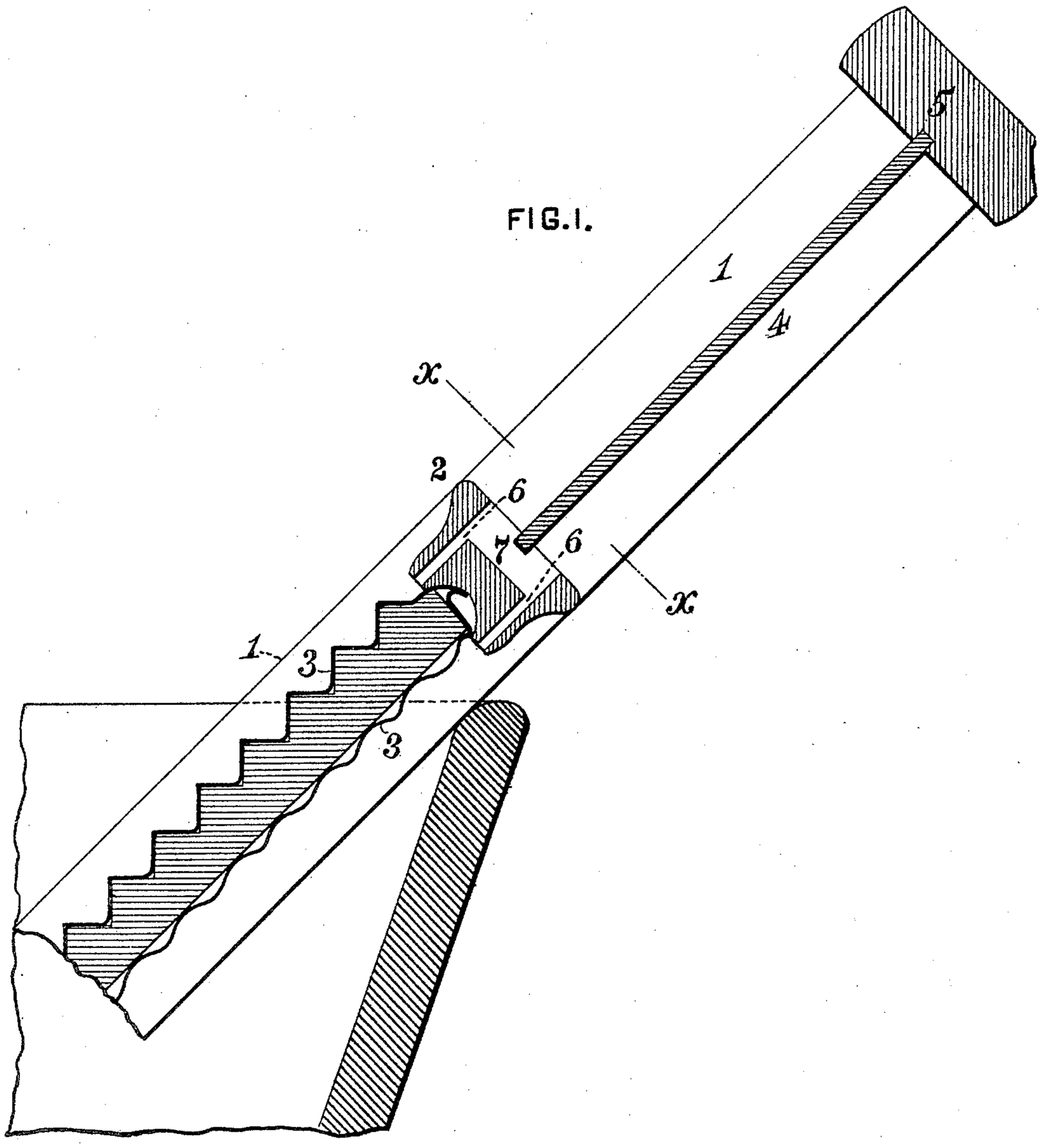
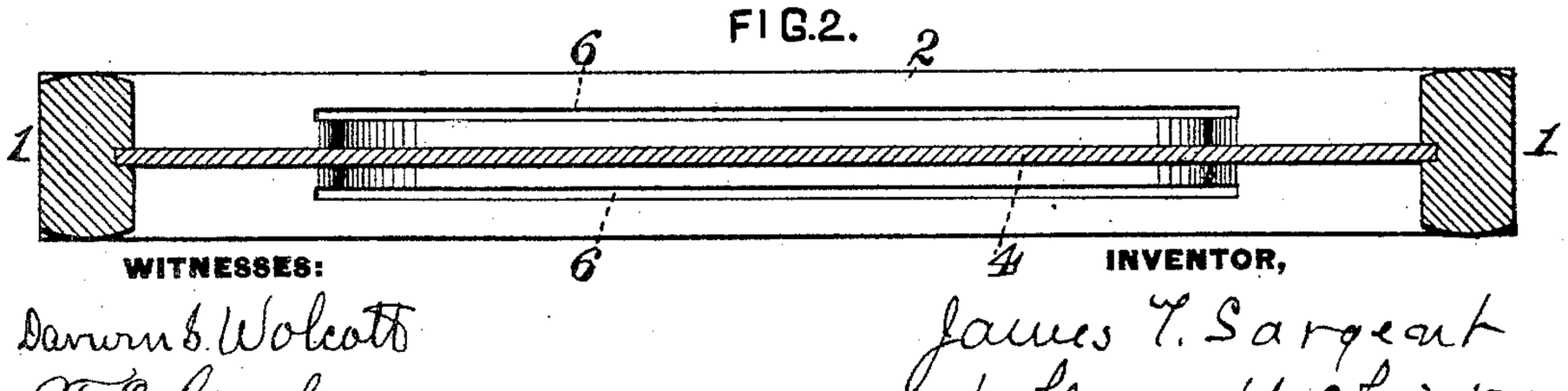


FIG. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES T. SARGENT, OF CLEVELAND, OHIO.

WASH-BOARD.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 437,869, dated October 7, 1890.

Application filed January 6, 1890. Serial No. 335,988. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES T. SARGENT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cleveland, in the county of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, have invented or discovered a certain new and useful Improvement in Wash-Boards, of which improvement the following is a specification.

The invention described herein relates to certain improvements in wash-boards generally, but more especially to that class or kind known as "double-faced wash-boards," and the invention has for its object a construction whereby a thorough drainage of the soap-box may be had.

In general terms, the invention consists in the construction, all as more fully hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a sectional elevation of a wash-board embodying my invention, a portion of a wash-tub being also shown; and Fig. 2 is a transverse section, the plane of section being indicated by the line *x x*, Fig. 1.

The wash-board is of the usual or any suitable construction, consisting of the side bars 1, cross-bars 2 at the upper and lower ends of the rubbing-faces 3, brand-board 4, and cap-piece 5. The brand-board has its edges in engagement with grooves formed in the side bars, upper cross-bar, and head-piece, preferably midway of the width of said parts, thereby forming a soap-box on both sides of the board, as shown. These boards when in use are inclined, as shown in Fig. 1, and as ordinarily constructed any water splashed up into the soap-box or flowing off from the soap will be retained in the box, thereby softening and dissolving the soap.

Provision has been made for draining the soap-box by cutting an opening through the brand-board just above the cross-bar 2, so that when the board is in the inclined position, as shown in Fig. 1, the water will flow through said opening. This construction is objectionable, however, for the reason that the water escaping from the soap-box will flow over the edge of the cross-bar and thence down outside the chine of the tub, as will be readily understood by reference to Fig. 1, thereby wetting the clothes of the washwoman. In order to avoid this objectionable feature, I form a slot or series of holes 6 through the cross-bar or soap-supporting ledge 2 on each side of the board and approximately parallel with the rubbing-faces thereof. The slots or holes 6 on one side of the board are connected with the soap-box on the opposite side by an opening 7 transverse of the brand-board. This opening or passage 7 is preferably formed by cutting away the portion of the cross-bar 2 on the upper side thereof and between the slots or holes 6. This opening or connecting-passage 7 may be made of a uniform depth throughout its entire length; but it is preferred to gradually increase the depth from the ends toward the middle.

It will be readily understood by reference to Fig. 1 that any water draining from the soap and splashed into the soap-box will flow down into the cut or opening 7 in the top of the cross-bar, and that while a portion of the water will pass through the slots or openings 6 on the upper side of the board a very much larger portion will flow under the brand-board on account of the inclination of the wash-board, and escape thence through the slots or openings 6 on the under side of the board. By connecting the slots or openings 6 by means of a depression or cut in upper side of the cross-bar any water entering the soap-box will be collected in said cut or depression, and, flowing to the opposite side of brand-board, will be guided to the escape slots or openings, and cannot therefore flow over the edge of the cross-bar, as in the construction hereinbefore referred to. It will be observed that the slots or openings 6 are so formed that their lower or discharge ends are adjacent to the rubbing-faces of the board and that the water escaping therefrom will be so directed as to flow down along said faces into the tub and not flow outside thereof.

I am aware that it is not new to make a drainage-notch in the rear edge of the cross-bar which is ordinarily arranged at the upper end of the rubbing-surface, and I am also aware that in connection with a notch thus made the brand-board, lying in a plane back of said notch, has been extended downwardly sufficiently far to perform to a greater or less

extent the drainage function. My invention differs from this, among other things, in the material respect that in instead of the drainage-groove in the back edge of the cross-bar and a drainage-board back of that I make one or more drainage holes, ports, or openings directly through the body of the cross-bar in such manner that at their upper open ends when in use the water of drainage flowing from the brand-board will find ready access thereto, and so that at their lower ends they will discharge such water toward or in the direction of the inside of the tub. One advantage of such construction is this—that the brand-board, instead of being arranged and employed as a drainage-board to discharge the drainage-water after it leaves the cross-bar into the tub, really discharges it, directly or indirectly, into the holes or openings referred to, which are made in the body of the cross-bar, and from that point the latter take care of it. Such holes—one or more—so made through the body of the cross-bar, consituting, as they do, a material and important feature of my invention, may be varied at pleasure in number, size, arrangement, and direction, provided, only, that, as above stated, they be suitably arranged so as to have the capacity when in use of receiving the drainage-water, directly or indirectly, from the brand-board at their upper open ends and of guiding and discharging it at their lower ends toward or in the direction of the inside of the tub; but in the form or embodiment of my invention, herein particularly shown—by which I mean one wherein a recess 7 is made to receive the drainage-water from the brand-board 4 and conduct it to the lower drainage hole or holes—it is a further feature of improvemet that the lower edge of the brand-board 4 shall extend a short distance into the recess 7, as shown in the drawings, so as to guard against any tendency which the water might otherwise have to flow back and out over the rear upper edge of the cross-bar and soil the garments of the operator or make a sloppy floor.

I claim herein as my invention—

1. In the construction of a wash-board, the cross-bar thereof provided with a hole or passage made in the body thereof and in suitable position to receive at its upper open end when in use the drainage-water which flows down on the brand-board and to conduct and discharge the same at its lower open end into or in the direction of the inside of the tub, substantially as set forth.

2. In a double-face wash-board having a brand-board 4 in or approximately in a plane passing midway between its two rubbing-surfaces, and in combination with such brand-board a cross-bar 2, having therein a recess or passage 7, suitable for receiving the splash or drainage from either face of the brand-board, and provided with drainage-holes in any desired number adapted to discharge within the tub and on either side of the wash-board proper, no matter which side is in use, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

JAMES T. SARGENT.

Witnesses:
P. G. KASSULKER,
W. S. HAMM.