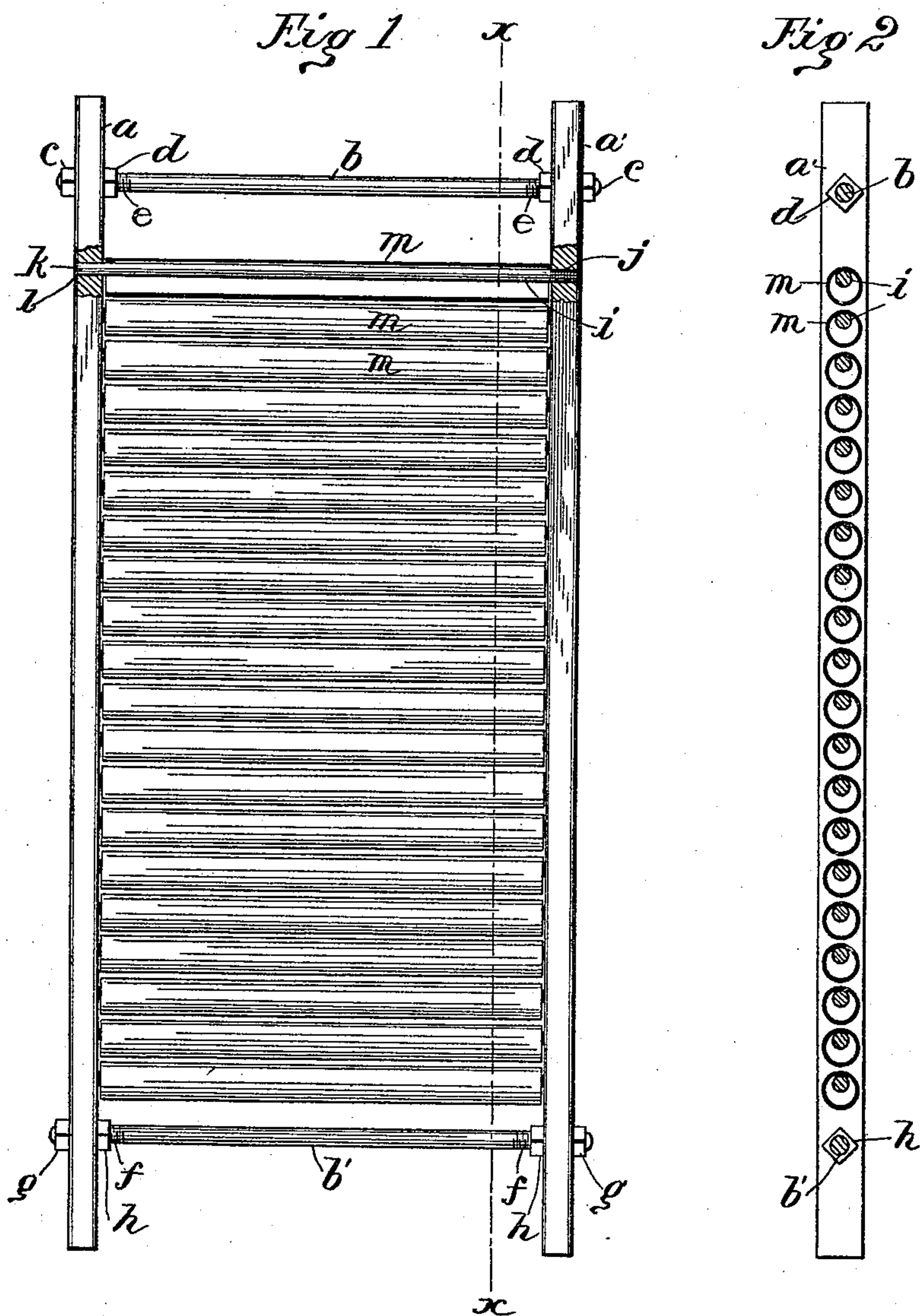


(No Model.)

H. PURCELL.
WASHBOARD.

No. 497,342.

Patented May 16, 1893.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY PURCELL, OF NEW MADRID, MISSOURI.

WASHBOARD.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 497,342, dated May 16, 1893.

Application filed January 16, 1893. Serial No. 458,545. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY PURCELL, a citizen of the United States, residing at New Madrid, in the county of New Madrid and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Washboards; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it

appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to wash-boards, and its object is to provide a wash-board, in which the rubbing surface may be rigid or movable, and to provide a board which may be reversed for use on either side. Its rubbing surface is adapted to be made rigid so that heavy articles, such as blankets, may be thoroughly rubbed and cleansed. The rubbing surface is also adapted to be made movable so that such articles as underwear, shirts, and the like may be rubbed without danger of tearing off the buttons and other attachments.

To these ends my invention consists of certain features of construction to be hereinafter described and then specifically claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is an elevation of my improved wash-board, and Fig. 2 is a section on line $x-x$ thereof.

a, a' , indicate the side-bars of the wash-board, and b, b' , upper and lower tie-rods, respectively, whereby the side-bars are connected to provide a rigid frame. The side-bars of the frame may be moved toward or from each other by means of two pairs of nuts, c and d , on the screw-threaded ends e of the upper tie-rod. The nuts c screw against the outer sides of the side-bars a, a' , and the nuts d against their inner sides.

On the screw-threaded ends f of the lower tie-rod b are two pairs of nuts g, h , similar to the nuts on the upper tie-rod. Nuts g screw against the outer sides of the side-bars, and nuts h against their inner sides. By means of the inner set of nuts the side-bars are held from inward movement, and by means of the outer set they are held from outward movement, and all parts of the frame held rigid. By proper adjustment of the nuts the side-bars may be adjusted inwardly or outwardly.

Spindles i project from one of the side-bars, being fixed securely therein, but the other side-bar is not secured thereto, it being provided with openings to receive their free ends. Part of Fig. 1 is broken away to show this construction, the end j of the upper spindle being fixed to the side-bar a' , and the free end k , being received by an opening l in the side-bar a . Fitted on these spindles i is a series of cylindrical sleeves or rollers m , their internal diameters being considerably larger (shown about twice as large) than the diameters of the spindles. This construction permits the sleeves or rollers to freely turn on the spindles when desired. When the side-bars a, a' , are adjusted inwardly by means of the nuts, they are forced against the ends of the sleeves or rollers m , and the latter cannot turn, whereby a rigid rubbing surface is provided. The outward adjustment of the side-bars withdraws them from contact with the ends of the sleeves or rollers, so that they are permitted to turn freely, and provide a rolling or movable rubbing surface.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new is—

1. A wash-board comprising side-bars, tie-rods connecting the side-bars, adjusting nuts on the tie-rods located on the opposite sides of and for adjusting the side-bars in or out, and sleeves or rollers on the spindles, adapted to be fixed against rotation or permitted free movement according to the adjustment of the side-bars substantially as set forth.

2. A wash-board comprising side-bars, tie-rods connecting the side-bars and provided with screw-threaded ends, nuts on said ends for adjusting the side-bars, spindles fixed to one of the side-bars, and disconnected from the other, and sleeves or rollers on the spindles, adapted to be fixed against rotation or permitted free rotation by the proper adjustment of the side-bars substantially as set forth.

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

HENRY PURCELL.

Witnesses:

GEO. L. WHELOCK,
S. A. TERRY.