(No Model.)

J. KELLY.

SHOWER BATH APPARATUS.

No. 538,521. Patented Apr. 30, 1895.

Fig. 1.

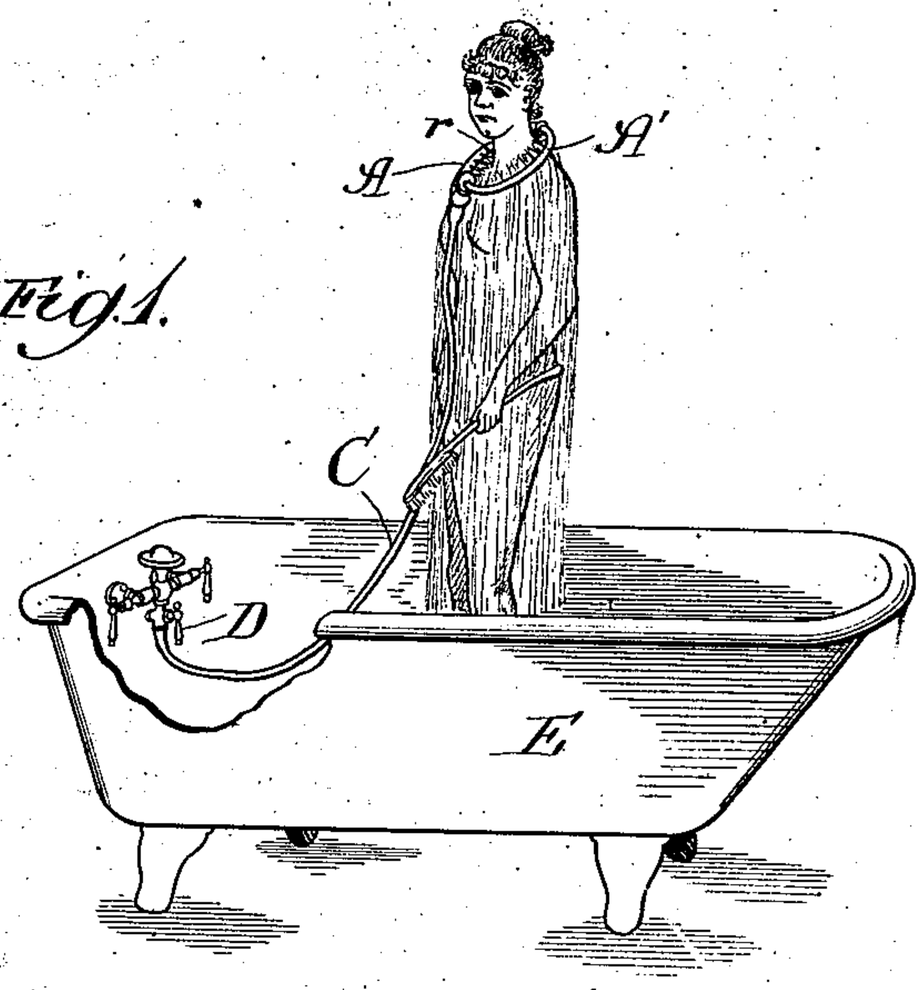
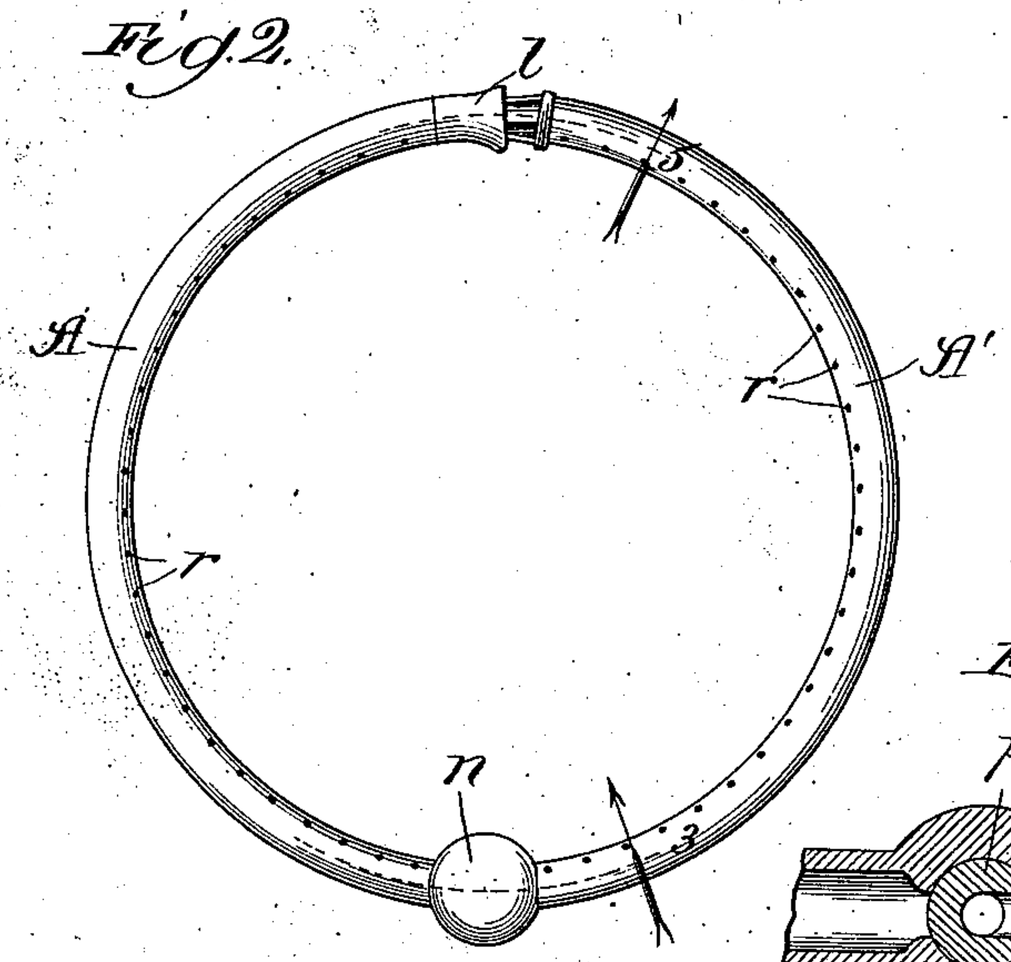


Fig. 3.

Fig. 2.



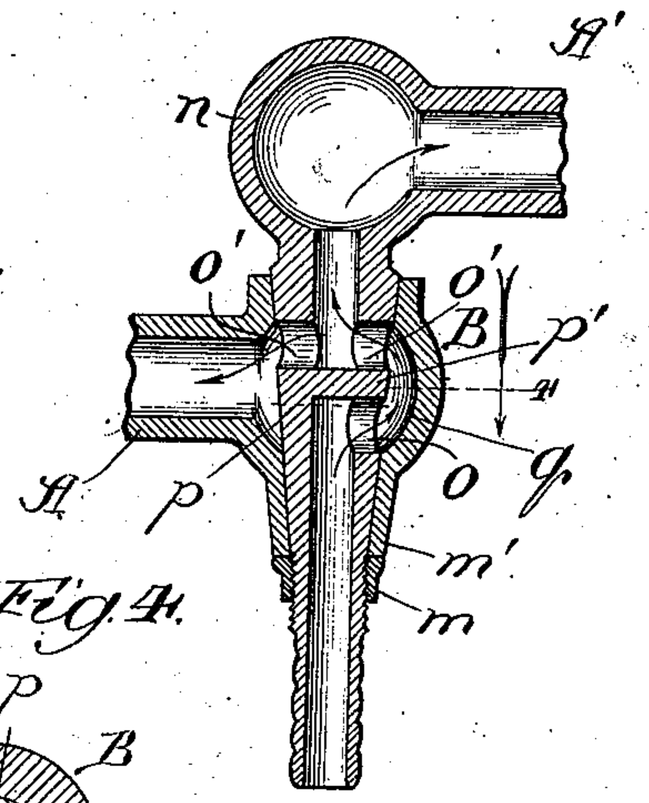


Fig. 4.

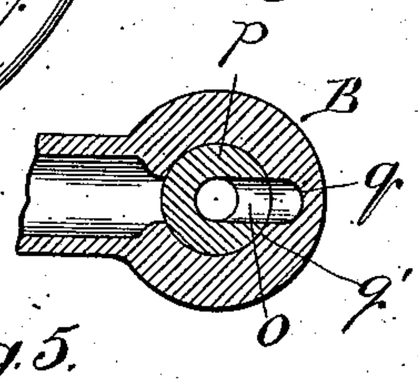
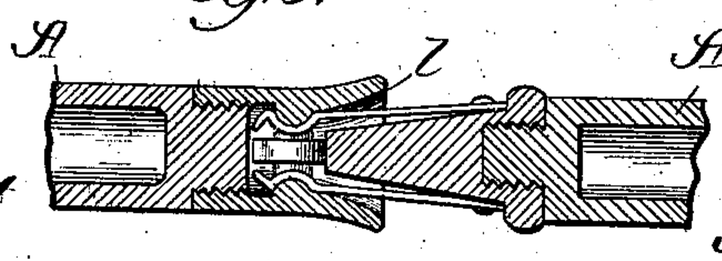


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES KELLY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

SHOWER-BATH APPARATUS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 538,521, dated April 30, 1895.

Application filed February 12, 1895. Serial No. 538,123. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES KELLY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Shower-Bath Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in the class of apparatus commonly provided in connection with a stationary bath-tub as a means for producing a shower; and it relates, more particularly stated, to improvement of a form of showering apparatus comprising an annular tube having an inlet and discharge-openings for the water, and adapted to be connected from its inlet by a flexible tube (as rubber) with the water-supply faucet of the bath-tub. The ring form of the shower-head adapts it to be slipped over the head of the user to rest on the shoulders and extend about the neck, leaving the hands free and enabling the shower to be used without wetting the hair of the head, as is sometimes desired, particularly in the case of ladies in bathing.

My object is to improve the construction of the annular showering head by forming it in hinged sections, in order that it may be applied, as around the neck of the user, without requiring it to be slipped over the head; and whereby, also, the shower-water may be turned on while the showering-head is being applied without causing the hair of the head of the user to be wet. Moreover, my improved construction is designed to enable the diameter of the showering ring to be contracted at will to cause it to fit as closely about the necks of smaller persons as it fits, in its normal condition about the necks of larger persons.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 shows by a perspective view, diagrammatic in its nature, a bath-tub equipped with my improvement. Fig. 2 is a plan view of my improved sectional showering-ring. Fig. 3 is a section of the same, taken at the line 3 on Fig. 2 and viewed as indicated by the arrow; Fig. 4, a section taken at the line 4 on Fig. 3 and viewed in the direction of the arrow, and Fig. 5 a section taken at the line 5 on Fig. 1 and viewed in the direction of the arrow.

A and A′ are tubes provided with series of perforations *r* and formed into the shape of half-rings or approximate half-rings, to afford the sections of my improved annular showering-head. The two sections A and A′ are connected, to hinge them together, preferably by means of a suitable valve, the construction of which adapts it to be opened by bringing the free ends of the sections together and thereby let on the water to the showering head, and to be closed by separating the sections at their free ends, thereby to shut off the water.

The preferred construction of the valve-connection is that illustrated, and denoted as B. It comprises a valve-chamber *q* at an end of one section, as the section A, containing a ground surface *q′* for the valve formed as a hollow stem *p* containing a diaphragm *p′*, below which there is a port *o* in the stem and above it, in the stem, ports *o′*, the stem extending from a chamber *n* at one end of the other section. The stem *p* passes through the chamber *q*, thereby connecting the sections A and A′ together, a nut *m* being provided on the stem to bear against the nipple *m′* to fasten the connected parts, and the stem where it projects beyond the valve-chamber being corrugated to afford a nipple for the application to the showering head of a rubber tube C leading from the bath-tub faucet D.

The foregoing is one of several valve-constructions which may be employed with my improved showering head and still be within my invention.

The sections A and A′ are preferably, but not necessarily closed at their free ends, one section, as the section A, terminating at its free end in a socket *l* to receive the adjacent spring-end of the section A′.

To use my improved device it is operated as follows: With the sections A and A′ separated at their free ends and turned back on the hinge afforded by their valve-connection B, the port *o* of the valve is closed by being then against the ground surface of the chamber *q*. By bringing the free ends of the sections together the valve is turned to open the port *o* and, with the connecting-hose C attached to the faucet D, as that of a bath-tub E, with the faucet turned on (as it may be with the showering-head sections separated,

without allowing the water to enter them) the water passes through the port *o* into the chamber *q*, thence into the section A and, through the ports *o'*, into the stem *p* above the diaphragm *p'* and into the chamber *n*, from which it enters the section A'.

As will be seen, the hinged-section construction in which the showering head is formed adapts it to be applied about the neck without requiring it to be slipped over the head, or to be placed about the leg of the user without requiring it to be slipped over his foot; and by forming the hinge-connection as a valve opened by closing the sections together and closed by separating the latter, the user can quickly remove the device from his person and at the same time shut off the showering flow in case the shower-water shall be too hot or too cold and require regulation. Moreover, if the diameter of the shower-ring be too large for the user, it may be reduced by separating the free ends of the sections and forcing them to overlap each other to any desired extent, so as to fit more snugly about, say, the user's neck. It is particularly for this last-named function of my improved apparatus that the free ends of the sections should be closed, since otherwise, when they are caused to overlap, as described, the flush-water would run out at their extremities.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A shower-bath apparatus comprising an annular head having an inlet and discharge-openings for the water and formed in hinged tubular sections, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. A shower-bath apparatus comprising an annular head having an inlet and discharge-openings for the water and formed in tubular sections, and a valve-device forming a hinge-connection between the sections to be opened and closed by closing and opening said sections on their hinge, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. A shower-bath apparatus comprising an annular head having an inlet and discharge openings for the water and formed in tubular sections each closed at one end, and a valve-device forming a hinge-connection between the sections at their opposite ends to be opened and closed by closing and opening said sections on their hinge, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

4. A shower-bath apparatus comprising an annular head having an inlet and discharge-openings for the water and formed in tubular sections A and A', one section having a socket at one end to receive the adjacent end of the other section, and a valve-device forming a hinge-connection between said sections at their opposite ends to be opened and closed by closing and opening said sections on their hinge, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

5. A shower-bath apparatus comprising, in combination, the tubular perforated sections A and A' provided at adjacent ends with chambers *q* and *n*, respectively, and a stem *p* extending from the chamber *n* through and rotatably fastened in the chamber *q* and containing a diaphragm *p'* and ports *o* and *o'*, respectively at opposite sides of the diaphragm, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

JAMES KELLY.

In presence of—
M. J. FROST,
J. H. LEE.