

(No Model.)

J. H. WELCH.

DEVICE FOR SECURING SOAP IN WASH ROOMS OR PUBLIC PLACES.

No. 552,023.

Patented Dec. 24, 1895.

Fig. 1

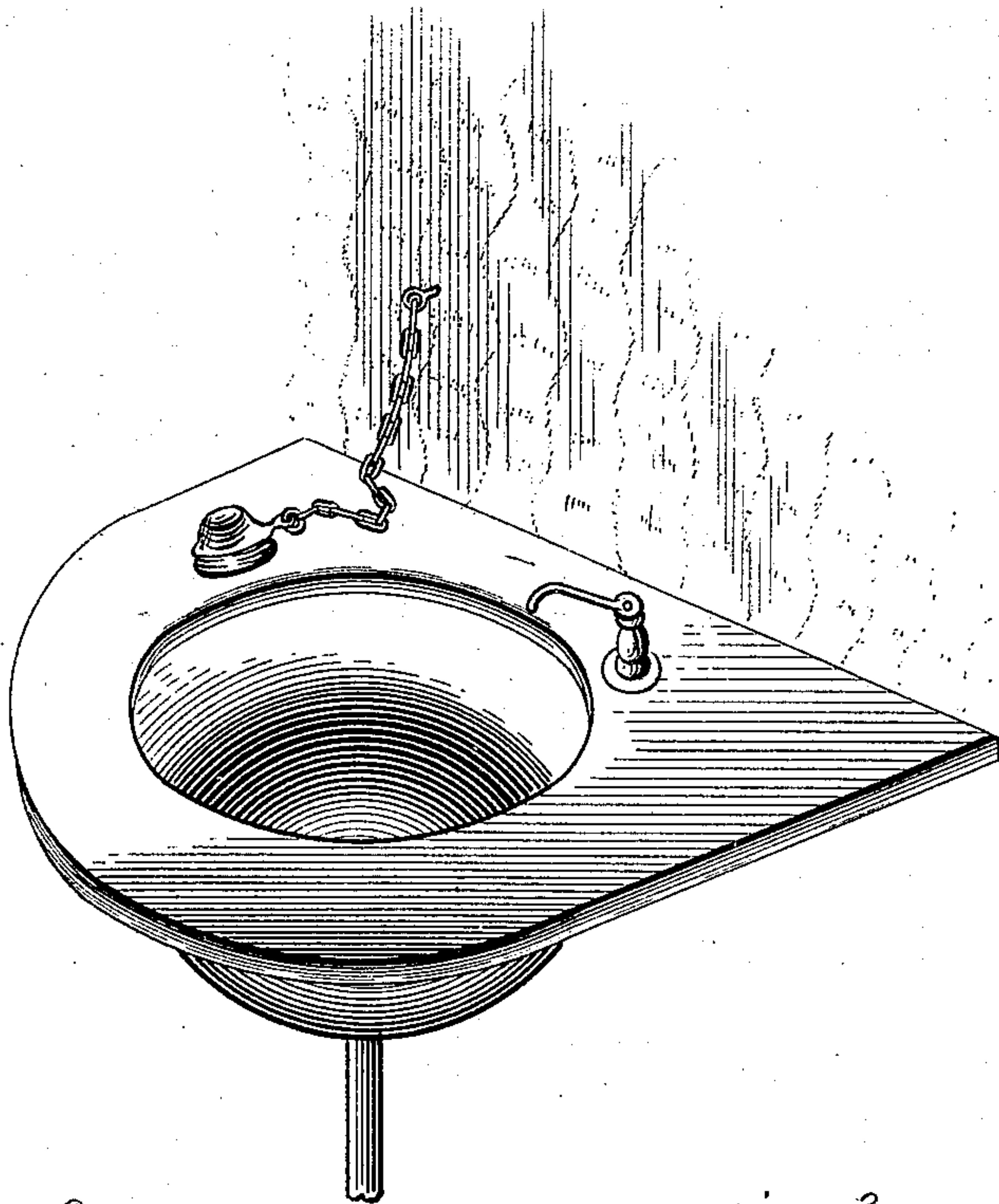


Fig. 2.

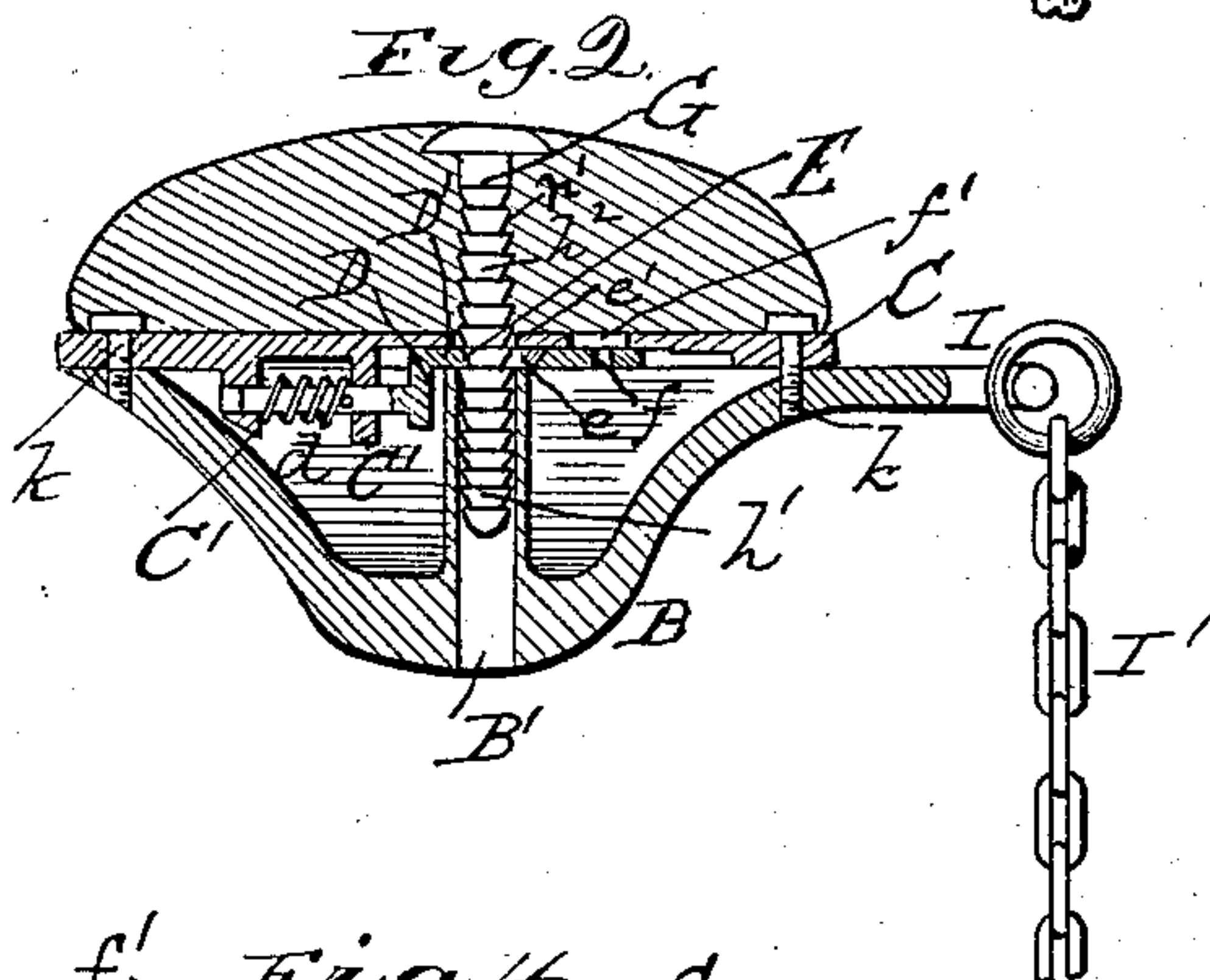


Fig. 3.

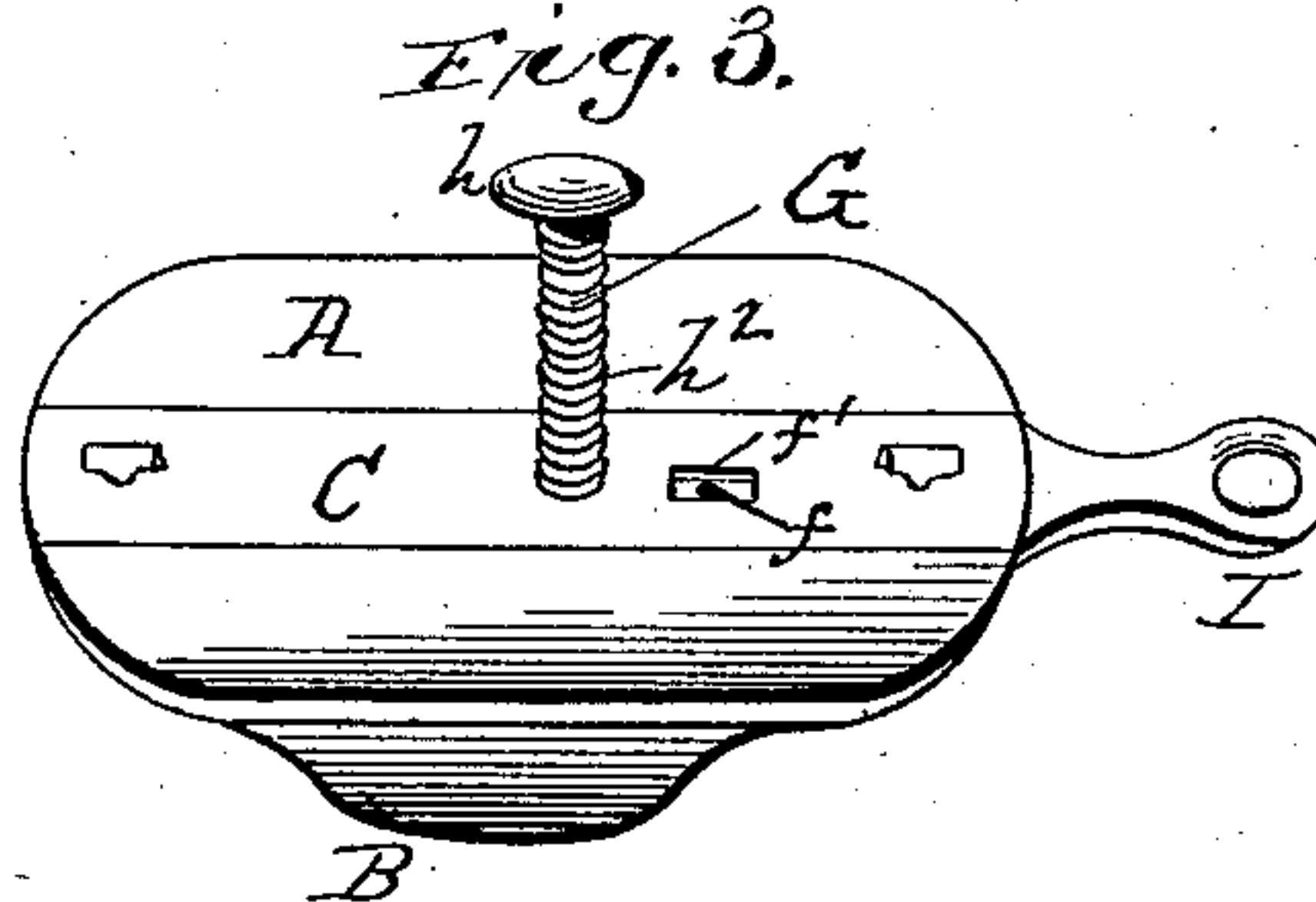


Fig. 4.

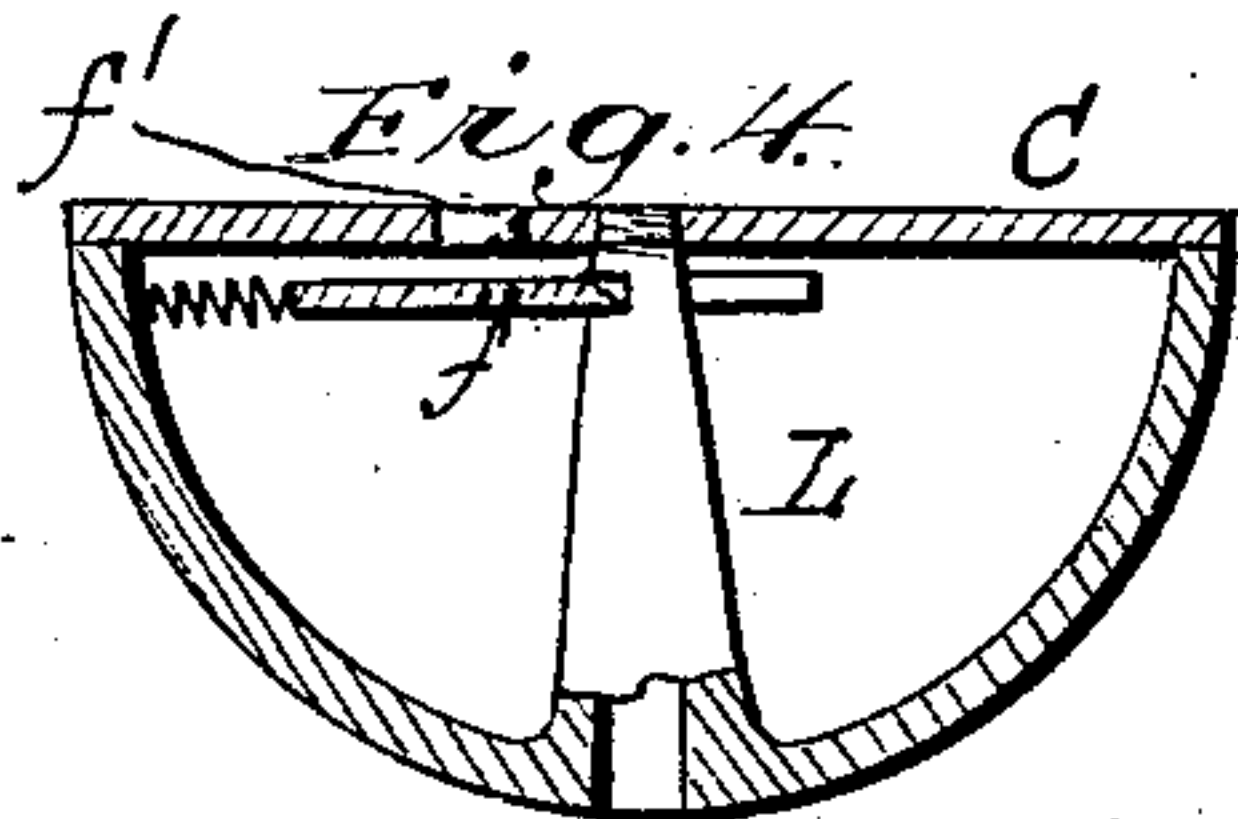


Fig. 5.



Witnesses:

J. M. Fowler Jr.
Marion C. Stone

Inventor

James H. Welch

By Alex Mahon
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES H. WELCH, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, ASSIGNOR
OF TWO-THIRDS TO J. EDWARD WELCH, OF SAME PLACE.

DEVICE FOR SECURING SOAP IN WASH-ROOMS OR PUBLIC PLACES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 552,023, dated December 24, 1895.

Application filed May 8, 1894. Renewed September 9, 1895. Serial No. 562,014. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES H. WELCH, of Washington, District of Columbia, have invented new and useful Improvements in Devices for Securing Soap in Wash-Rooms and Public Places, of which the following is a full and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification.

My invention relates to improvements in devices for securing soap in wash-rooms of hotels and other public places or in bath-rooms to prevent the same from accidentally dropping into the basin or tub and thereby wasting or clogging the waste-pipe, and also to keep the same always accessible to the guests or patrons by preventing its removal by unauthorized persons.

My invention consists, first, in the combination with a holder adapted to be connected to the wall or other frame convenient to the bowl provided with an automatically-acting locking mechanism for holding the soap connected with the holder.

It further consists in so constructing the locking mechanism that the same shall act automatically, as the soap is consumed, to continue to grip the soap firmly connected with the holder.

It further consists in so constituting the locking mechanism that the soap when connected therewith shall form a guard to prevent access to the locking mechanism, whereby when the soap is once connected the entire cake must be consumed before the mechanism can be unlocked.

It further consists in certain novel features in the construction and arrangement of parts, all as hereinafter described.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is perspective view of a washbasin, showing my improved locking device connected to the wall in proper position for use. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section through the device, showing a cake of soap connected therewith. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the device; Fig. 4, a sectional view of a modification; Fig. 5, a plan view of a modification of the locking-bolt.

The holder may be constructed of any desirable material to combine lightness and

strength and of any desired configuration or ornamental design, in the present instance consisting of a flat face portion A, against which the soap rests when connected therewith, from which projects a hand portion B of such form as to adapt it to be easily held in the hand. The portion B is provided with a perforation B' preferably extending entirely through the same, hereinafter referred to.

The flat or face portion A is preferably slotted longitudinally, in which slot is mounted the plate or frame C carrying the locking-bolt. The plate C consists preferably of the flat portion C, from which depend legs C' C', which form the bearings for the sliding bolt D, the spring d, which actuates the bolt, being preferably mounted on the bolt-shaft between said legs, as shown. The end of the bolt D', which engages the key or rod hereinafter referred to, is made flat and extends from the shaft in angle form, as shown at E, with its lower face to move in close contact with the lower face of the plate C, and this portion is provided with a perforation e, with its side walls inclining from the upper to the lower edge, and the plate C is provided with a similarly-formed perforation e'.

G represents a key, a rod having a head portion h and a shank portion h', and said shank portion is provided with a series of circumferentially-arranged grooves or notches h², each inclining inward in the direction of the point, and which notches are adapted to be engaged by the end D' of the bolt or inclined face portion of the perforation e after the key has been passed through the soap and through the perforation e' in the plate C.

The frame C is secured to the hand portion by means of screws k, one at each end, and the heads of said screws are preferably made in V form and act when the soap is pressed upon the holder and clamped by the key to prevent the soap from being turned or revolved on the key.

The hand portion extends out from one end and is provided with an eye I, to which a chain I' is connected and which chain in turn is adapted to be connected to the wall or other framework where it is desired to place the soap.

The end of the bolt which engages the key

at a point in advance of the perforation *e* is provided with a perforation *f*, and the frame C is slotted at a point over the perforation, as shown at *f'*, to permit the insertion of a bent wire or other device to hold the bolt out of engagement with the key to permit said key to be disconnected from the holder after a cake of soap has been consumed and it is desired to put a new cake in place.

10 The operation of the device is as follows: When it is desired to attach a cake of soap a hole is cut in the soap so that the key will closely fit the same. The end of the key is then forced through the opening in the frame and through the opening in the bolt, the notches in the key being engaged by the inclined edge of the opening in said bolt. As the soap is consumed the pressure of the hand in rubbing the soap acts to force the key downward holding the lower face of the soap in close contact with the holder, the heads of the screws *k* acting to prevent the soap from being turned on the key, and the perforation *B'*, extending through the hand portion, forms a guideway therefor.

The form of notches in the key and end of the bolt for engaging the same may be constructed in a different manner, as will readily suggest themselves to any skilled workman, so long as the key when being pressed into the holder shall act to force the spring back and permit it to move forward to take a new hold as the soap is consumed.

35 In Figs. 4 and 5 a modification in the form of the hand portion, which is shown, is made in semispherical form with a hollow central post or standard L, which forms the guideway for the key or rod G. The upper end of the post is screw-threaded and the cap-plate C is provided with a central screw-threaded perforation by which to connect it with the post. In the modification the locking-bolt is provided with an inclined locking-edge *D'* and is provided with forwardly-extending arms *d'* to straddle the post or standard L, the bolt being actuated by means of a spring L, connected at one end to the bolt and at the other to the hand portion, by which construction it will be seen that all the operating parts are mounted in the hand portion, and that the device is much simplified.

After a cake of soap has been consumed, by inserting a piece of bent wire through the slot *f'* into the perforation *f* the bolt may be forced backward out of engagement with the key and permit the detachment thereof from the holder.

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

1. In a device for securing soap, a holder to be adapted to be connected to a stand or wall, a locking device mounted in the holder,

and means adapted to be passed through the soap and engaged by the locking device, substantially as described whereby the soap is held fast to the holder as set forth.

2. In a device for securing soap, a holder adapted to be connected to a stand or wall, a locking device mounted in the holder, and a key or rod adapted to be passed through the soap and engaged by the locking device substantially as described, whereby the soap is held fast to the holder as set forth.

3. In a device for securing soap, a holder adapted to be connected to a stand or wall, a locking device mounted in the holder, and a key or rod provided with a series of locking notches or faces adapted to be engaged by the locking device automatically step by step as the soap is consumed substantially as set forth.

4. In a device for securing soap, a holder adapted to be connected to a stand or wall a locking device mounted in the holder, a key or rod adapted to be passed through the soap and engaged by the holder, and means substantially as described adapted to be covered by the soap when in position for permitting the locking mechanism to be released from engagement with the key or rod when the soap is consumed as set forth.

5. In a device for securing soap in wash rooms and like places, a holder adapted to be connected flexibly with a wall or stand, an automatically acting bolt mounted therein, having a locking face or tooth at one end, a key or rod provided with a series of grooves or notches adapted to be engaged by the locking face or tooth of the bolt, substantially as described.

6. In a device for securing soap in wash rooms and like places, a holder adapted to be connected to a wall or stand, a locking bolt mounted therein, a key or rod adapted to be passed through the soap and engaged by the locking bolt, and locking legs projecting from the face of the holder to engage the soap substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

7. In a device for securing soap in wash rooms and like places a holder adapted to be connected with a wall or stand, an automatically acting bolt mounted in the holder, provided with an inclined engaging face and a key or rod provided with circumferential grooves or notches, a perforation or opening in the holder for adapting the bolt to be pressed out of engagement with the key or rod substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 3d day of April, A. D. 1894.

JAMES H. WELCH.

Witnesses:

ALEX. MAHON,
J. M. FOWLER, Jr.