

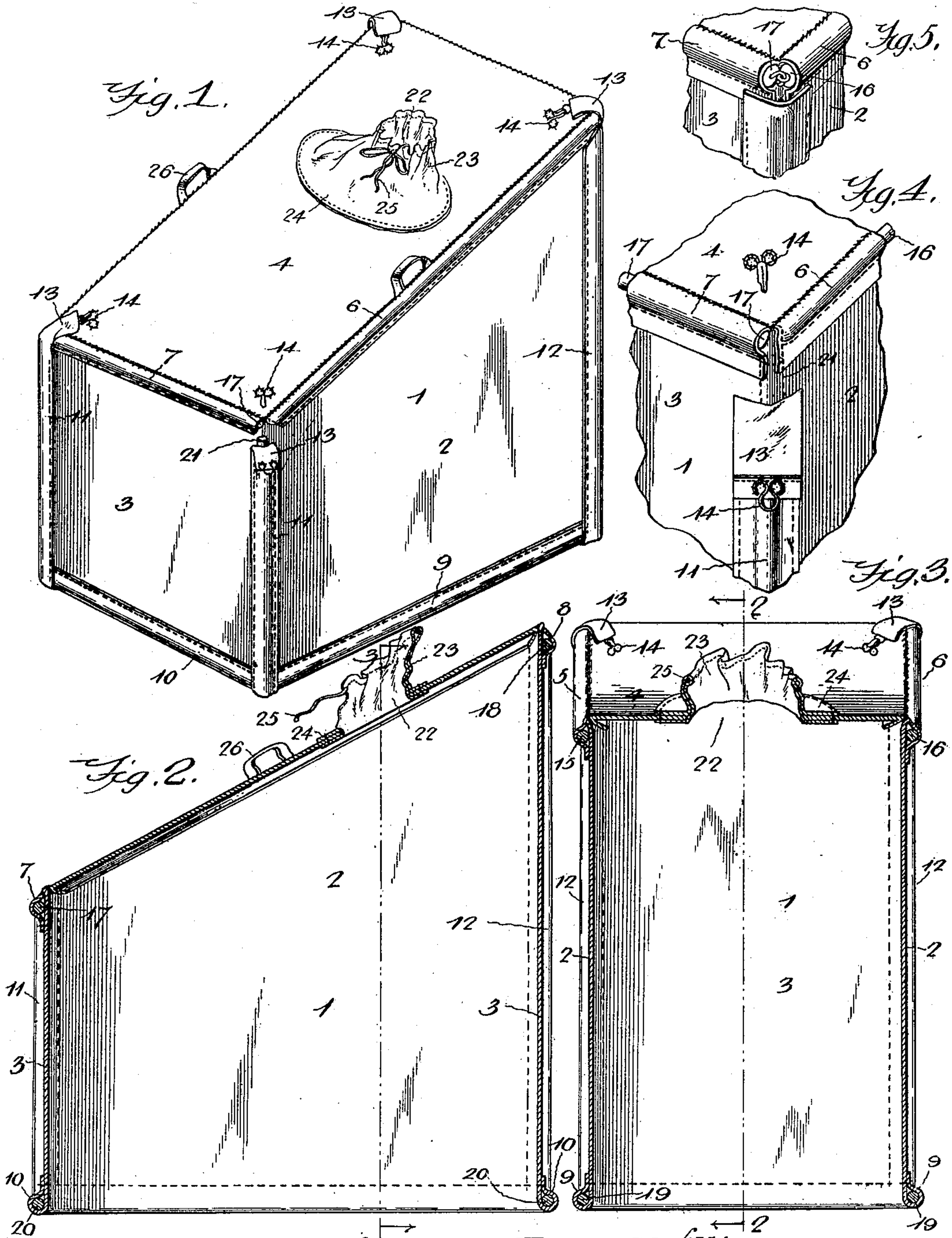
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Patented Feb. 7, 1899.

B. C. WILLIAMS.
PORTABLE BATH CABINET.

(Application filed Apr. 12, 1898.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BETTIE C. WILLIAMS, OF DEER LODGE, MONTANA.

PORTABLE BATH-CABINET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 618,968, dated February 7, 1899.

Application filed April 12, 1898. Serial No. 677,315. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BETTIE C. WILLIAMS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Deer Lodge, in the county of Deer Lodge and State of Montana, have invented a new and useful Portable Bath-Cabinet, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a portable bath-cabinet designed to afford a convenient means for taking a hot-air or vapor bath; and the object that I have in view is to provide a simple, durable, and cheap construction which may be easily and readily set up for service, capable of being folded within a very small compass, and self-sustaining when adjusted for use, notwithstanding its collapsible and foldable construction.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved neckband which is adapted to be contracted or drawn closely around the neck of the user and is readily detachable from the cabinet for the purpose of cleansing the same.

With these ends in view the invention consists of a portable and collapsible cabinet, comprising a pliable envelop or covering of proper shape and dimensions to accommodate the user, and a sectional frame the parts of which are disconnected one from the other and are readily removable from the cabinet, such frame serving to stiffen the envelop and render the cabinet self-supporting, and certain or all of the members of said frame being readily foldable to render the cabinet collapsible within an exceedingly small compass.

The invention further consists in the novel construction and arrangement of parts, which will be hereinafter fully described and claimed.

To enable others to understand my invention, I have illustrated the preferred embodiment thereof in the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a portable bath-cabinet constructed in accordance with my invention.— Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view on the plane indicated by the dotted line 2 2 of Fig. 3. Fig. 3 is a vertical transverse sectional view on the plane indicated by the dotted line 3 3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail perspective view illus-

trating the means for closing the open end of one of the rod-receiving sheaths. Fig. 5 is a detail fragmentary view illustrating the joint between adjacent bars or rods.

Like numerals of reference denote like and corresponding parts in each of the several figures of the drawings.

In carrying my invention into practice I first construct a pliable envelop or covering 1, preferably of the shape represented generally by the drawings and of proper height and length to accommodate the person in taking a vapor or hot-air bath. This envelop or covering is constructed of a suitable air and moisture proof fabric, and it consists of the side walls 2 2, the end walls 3 3, and the top or roof 4. I prefer to make the front wall shorter than the back wall and to give to the upper edges of the side walls a sloping appearance, so that when the several walls and top are joined together the roof or top will slope from the back toward the front, substantially as represented by the drawings, although it will be understood that the precise shape of the cabinet is not material. In connection with this fabric envelop or covering I employ a sectional frame which serves to stiffen and reinforce the envelop, so as to render it self-sustaining when set up for use, and the fabric-sections of the envelop or covering are constructed to receive the rods or members of said sectional frame. To this end the envelop is provided at its upper end with the longitudinal sheaths 5 and 6 and with the transverse sheaths 7 and 8, said longitudinal sheaths 5 6 being provided at or near the line where the roof joins with the side walls, while the transverse sheaths 7 8 are formed at the juncture of the roof with the end walls. At the bottom of the cabinet the side walls thereof are turned or folded upon themselves to form the longitudinal bottom sheaths 9, while in like manner the end walls are provided with the transverse lower sheaths 10, the edge of the fabric being folded along the bottom edges of the side and end walls and stitched upon itself or otherwise united to produce said sheaths 9 and 10. The sheaths 5 to 8, inclusive, at the upper edge of the envelop may be produced by extending one edge of the roof over the side and end walls, or, vice versa, by extending the side and end walls

over the roof, or separate pieces of fabric may be employed to form the upper sheaths. At the corners or angles of the envelop or covering are provided the vertical sheaths 11 and 12, the first - mentioned sheaths 11 being formed at the front end of the cabinet, where the front wall joins the side walls, while the vertical sheaths 12 are situated at the rear of the cabinet, where the back wall joins said side walls. These vertical sheaths are formed by suitable pieces of fabric which are united to the several walls of the envelop; but each fabric sheath does not terminate at the roof of the cabinet. The sheath at each corner of the envelop exceeds in length the height of the wall or walls to which it is joined, thereby forming at the upper end of the envelop an extended flap 13, which is foldable over the joint between the longitudinal and transverse sheaths at the upper end of the envelop and is adapted to be secured or confined by a suitable fastener attached to the roof or top of said envelop. This flap 13 forms an extension of the sheath to inclose the meeting ends of one transverse sheath and a longitudinal sheath for the purpose of preventing the bar or member of the frame from having endwise movement or displacement accidentally in the sheath and obviating any tendency of the envelop to collapse when the structure is in use. The fastener for each flap 13 may be of any suitable construction, and as one example thereof I have illustrated such fastener 14 as consisting of the ordinary hook and eye; but it will be evident that various different styles of fasteners may be used in lieu of the one shown.

The frame which I employ to hold the pliable envelop in its distended or unfolded position against collapsing or folding about the person when taking a hot-air or vapor bath consists of a series of rods or members which are fitted in the several sheaths of the pliable envelop and are adapted to stiffen said envelop against its pliable walls or top folding together when in use. In the sheaths 5 and 6 are inserted the longitudinal upper rods or members 15 16 of said collapsible frame, in the sheaths 7 and 8 are thrust the transverse upper rods or frame members 17 18, and in the bottom sheaths 9 and 10 are housed the longitudinal and transverse lower rods or frame members 19 and 20. The vertical sheaths 11 and 12 at the four corners of the envelop are reinforced or stiffened by the vertical rods or stays 21. These rods, stays, or frame members may be of any suitable material, either wood or metal; but I prefer to employ wood because of its lightness and non-corrosive character, although copper rods or wires may be used to good advantage.

In the practical service of my cabinet it is designed to be suspended or hung up in a closet when the cabinet is not in use. Hence in one embodiment of the invention I do not contemplate the removal of all of the members or rods forming the stiffening-frame.

For ordinary service it is sufficient to make the transverse rods at the top and bottom of the end walls 3 3 removable, so that the end walls and the roof may collapse or fold longitudinally with a view to allowing the side walls to be folded inwardly toward each other, thus materially reducing the compass or floor area of the envelop or covering and allowing the cabinet to assume a compactly-folded condition, which renders it well adapted for standing in a closet or storage in a narrow space. To the attainment of this end I contemplate making the vertical rods 21 and the longitudinal rods 15, 16, and 19 a permanent part of the pliable envelop or cover. Hence the longitudinal sheaths at the top and bottom of the cabinet are closed at their ends to securely confine the longitudinal rods or frame members within said sheaths; but to provide for the insertion or withdrawal of the transverse rods or frame members 17, 18, and 20 the ends of the transverse sheaths 7, 8, and 10 are left open. The transverse rods or frame members may be readily inserted in the sheaths at the bottom edge of the end walls or withdrawn therefrom, and in like manner the rods or frame members at the upper edges of said end walls may be inserted in the sheaths 7 8, after which the flaps 13 should be turned over the meeting ends of the rods and attached by the fasteners 14 to the roof of the envelop. Said transverse rods are prevented from accidental withdrawal by the flaps at the upper corners of the envelop, and, if desired, the transverse sheaths 10 at the lower edges of the envelop may be provided with foldable flaps similar to the flaps 13.

In the sloping top or roof 4 of the envelop at a suitable point therein is cut or otherwise formed a head or neck opening 22, around which is arranged a detachable and collapsible neckband 23. This neckband is of a suitable fabric which may be readily cleansed by washing the same, and said neckband is secured detachably in place to the top or roof by turning out one edge thereof, as at 24, and stitching, basting, or otherwise fastening said edge 24 to the roof or top. The collapsible neckband is hemmed and stitched to receive a draw-string 25, which may be pulled to contract said neckband around the neck of the user and reduce to a minimum the escape of hot air or vapor from the cabinet.

To provide for ready handling of the cabinet and its suspension when not in use, the loops 26 are attached in a suitable way to the side walls of the roof of the envelop or covering 1.

In adjusting my cabinet for service the transverse rods or frame members are thrust into the transverse sheaths at the upper and lower end edges of the envelop and the flaps are closed over the open ends of said sheaths to be engaged with the fasteners 14. The ends of the several bars or members of the frame abut, practically, against one another

to prevent the envelop from tilting over side-
wise, and said rods serve to obviate any tend-
ency of the fabric to fold or collapse. The
cabinet is lifted up and the user thrusts the
5 head through the opening and the collapsi-
ble neckband, after which the draw-string
should be tightened around the neck, so that a
person is able to take a hot-air or vapor bath
in a sitting posture. Previous to storing the
10 cabinet away the transverse rods are with-
drawn from the sheaths and the end walls
and roof are folded inwardly, so that the sides
may be compactly closed together and bring
the loops 26 adjacent to each other for fitting
15 over a suitable suspending device.

As shown by the drawings, I prefer to make
the neckband so that it slopes from the rear
toward the front, thus making the neckband
fit closely around the neck.

20 In Fig. 5 of the drawings I have shown a
means by which the stiffening rods or bars at
the top or bottom edges of the envelop may
be joined together, particularly when the rods
are made of wood. In this construction the
25 ends of the horizontal sheaths at the top and
bottom of the envelop should be left open
and the rods or bars are united or coupled
detachably together by suitable interlocking
devices—as, for example, by a hook 28, fas-
30 tened to one end of the rod 7, and an eye 29,
attached to the adjacent end of the rod 6. It
will be understood that the contiguous ends
of each pair of rods or bars are similarly
united together by interlocking devices which
35 contribute to the stability of the structure
and obviate a tendency of the envelop to col-
lapse.

It is evident that changes in the form and
proportion of parts may be made by a skilled
40 mechanic without departing from the spirit
or sacrificing the advantages of the invention.

Having thus described the invention, what
I claim is—

1. A collapsible bath-cabinet comprising a
45 pliable covering or envelop having the rod-
receiving sheaths certain of which are open

at their ends, a sectional frame the members
of which are disconnected one from the other
and are inclosed within said sheaths of the
envelop, and the flaps arranged to close the 50
open ends of the sheaths and provided with
detachable fastenings, for the purposes de-
scribed, substantially as set forth.

2. A portable and collapsible bath-cabinet
comprising a pliable envelop provided at its 55
corners with vertical sheaths and at its edges
with the longitudinal and transverse horizon-
tal sheaths, and the stiffening-frame having
its parts or members housed or contained
within the several sheaths and with their ends 60
at the corners of the envelop contiguous one
to the other, the transverse members of said
frame being withdrawable from the trans-
verse sheaths at the upper and lower edges
of the cabinet, whereby the vertical and lon- 65
gitudinal frame members may remain at-
tached to the envelop and the latter collapsed
or folded together along its middle, substan-
tially as described.

3. A portable and collapsible bath-cabinet 70
comprising a pliable envelop closed on all
sides thereof and having the sloping top with
the neck-opening therein and also provided
with the sheaths at the corners and edges
thereof, the collapsible and separate neck- 75
band united detachably to the envelop-top
around the edges of the opening therein and
having a draw-string by which said band may
be contracted to fit closely around the user's
neck, and a sectional stiffening-frame having 80
its members fitted within the several sheaths,
the ends of the horizontal and vertical frame
members being contiguous at the corners of
the envelop, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as 85
my own I have hereto affixed my signature in
the presence of two witnesses.

BETTIE C. WILLIAMS.

Witnesses:

MATTIE G. H. SCHARNIKOW,
ED. SCHARNIKOW.