

No. 632,802.

Patented Sept. 12, 1899.

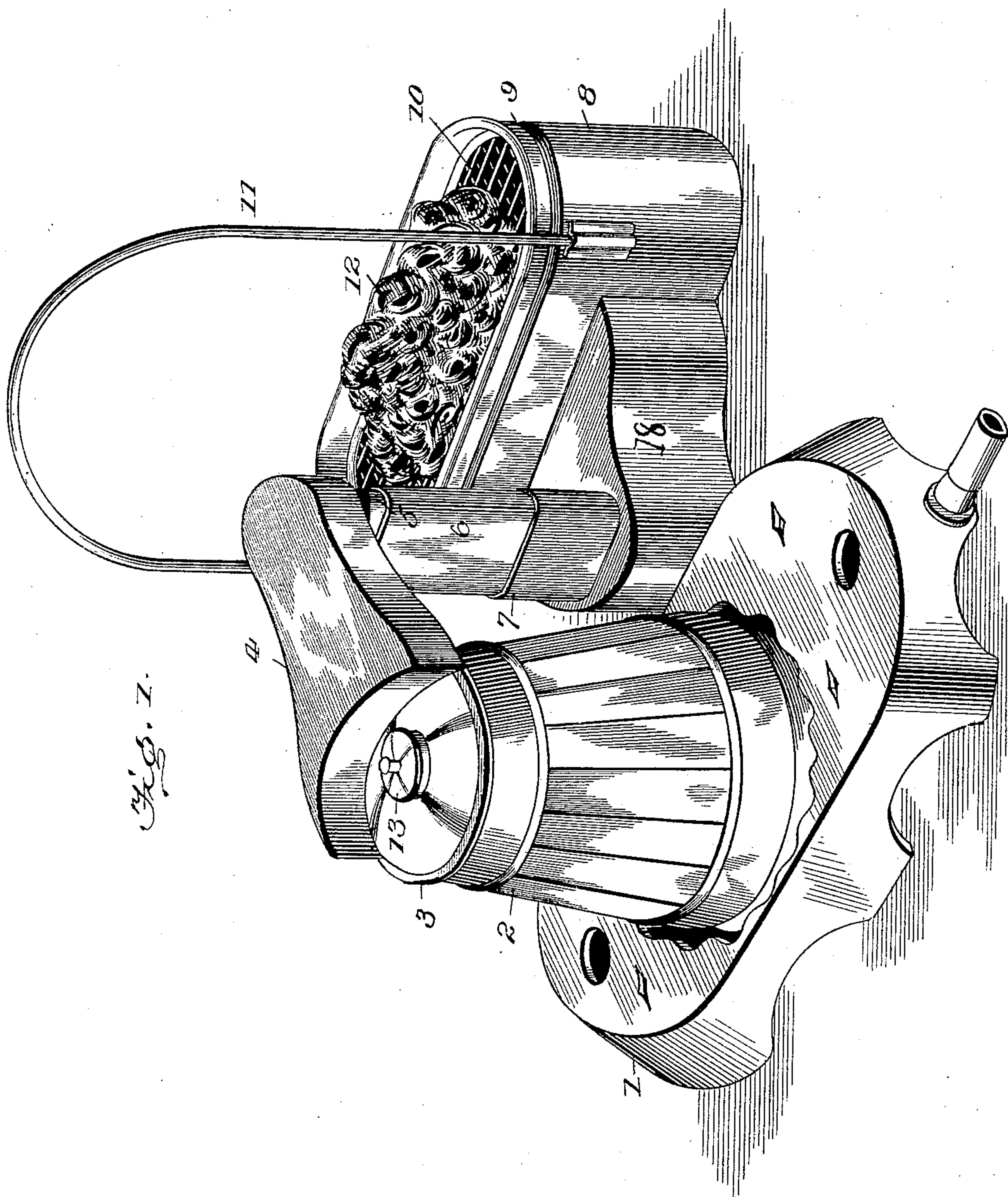
E. A. BUTTS.

VAPOR BATH APPARATUS.

(Application filed Feb. 3, 1897. Renewed Mar. 3, 1899.)

(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet 1.



Witnesses  
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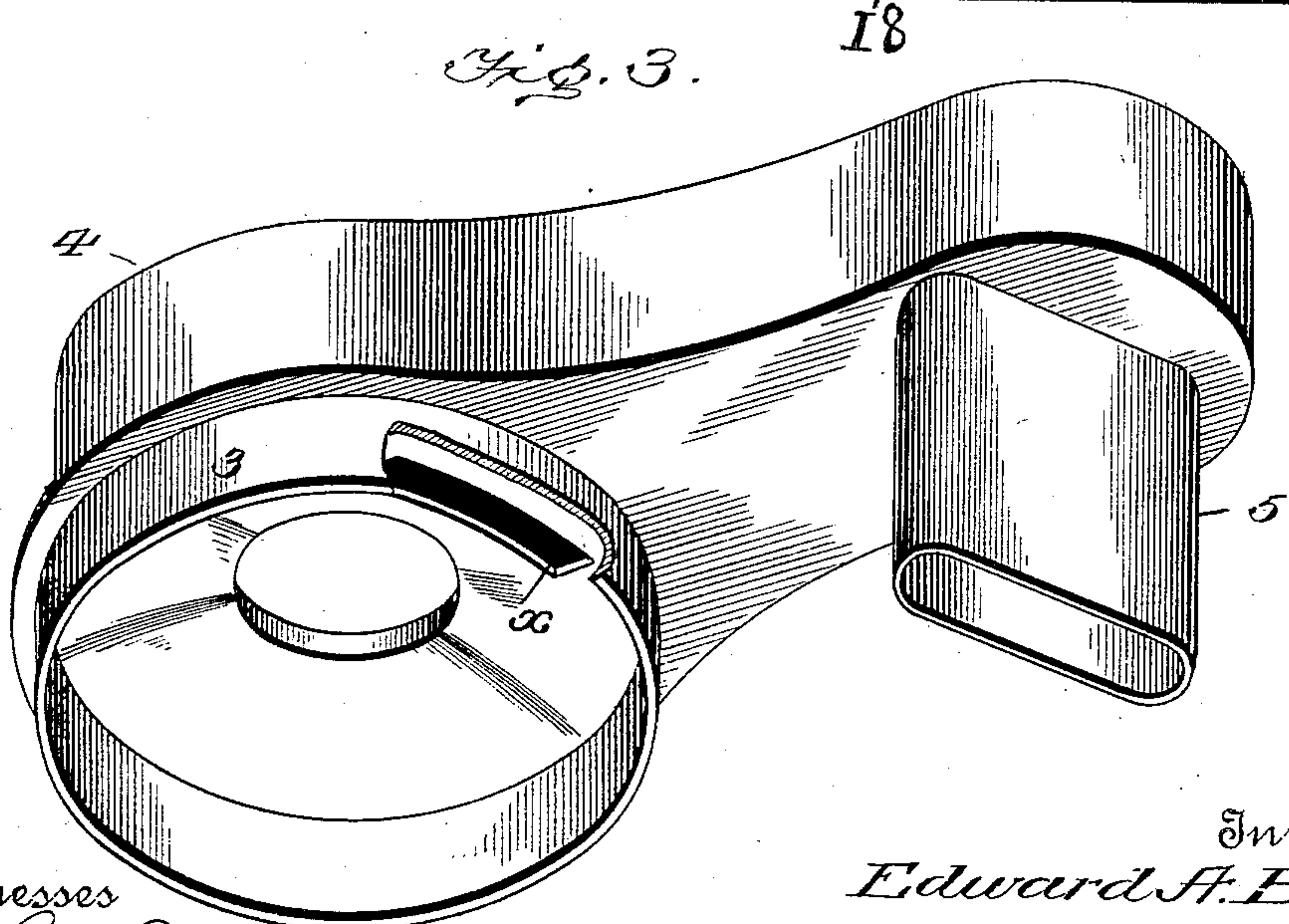
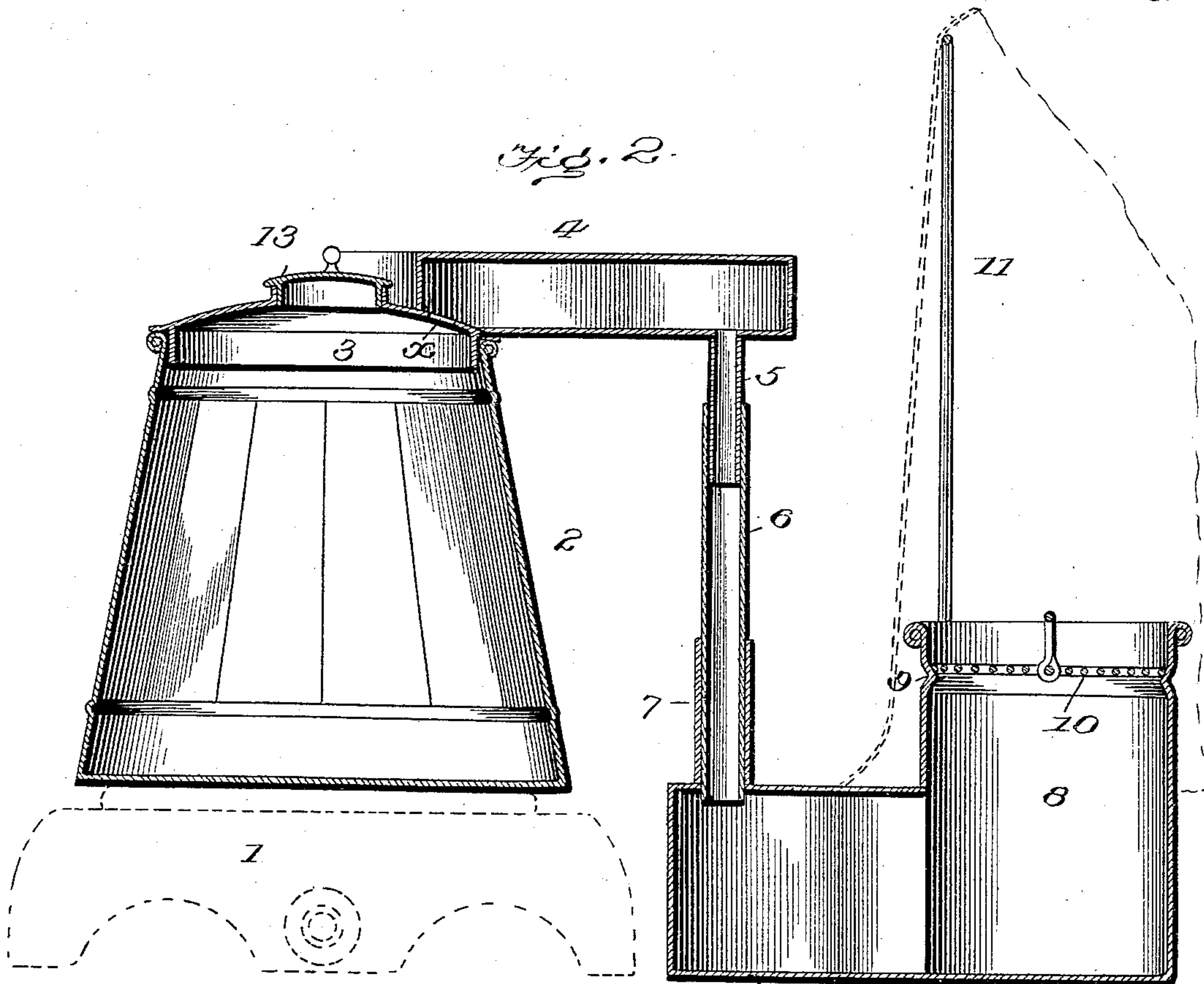
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3 Sheets—Sheet 2.



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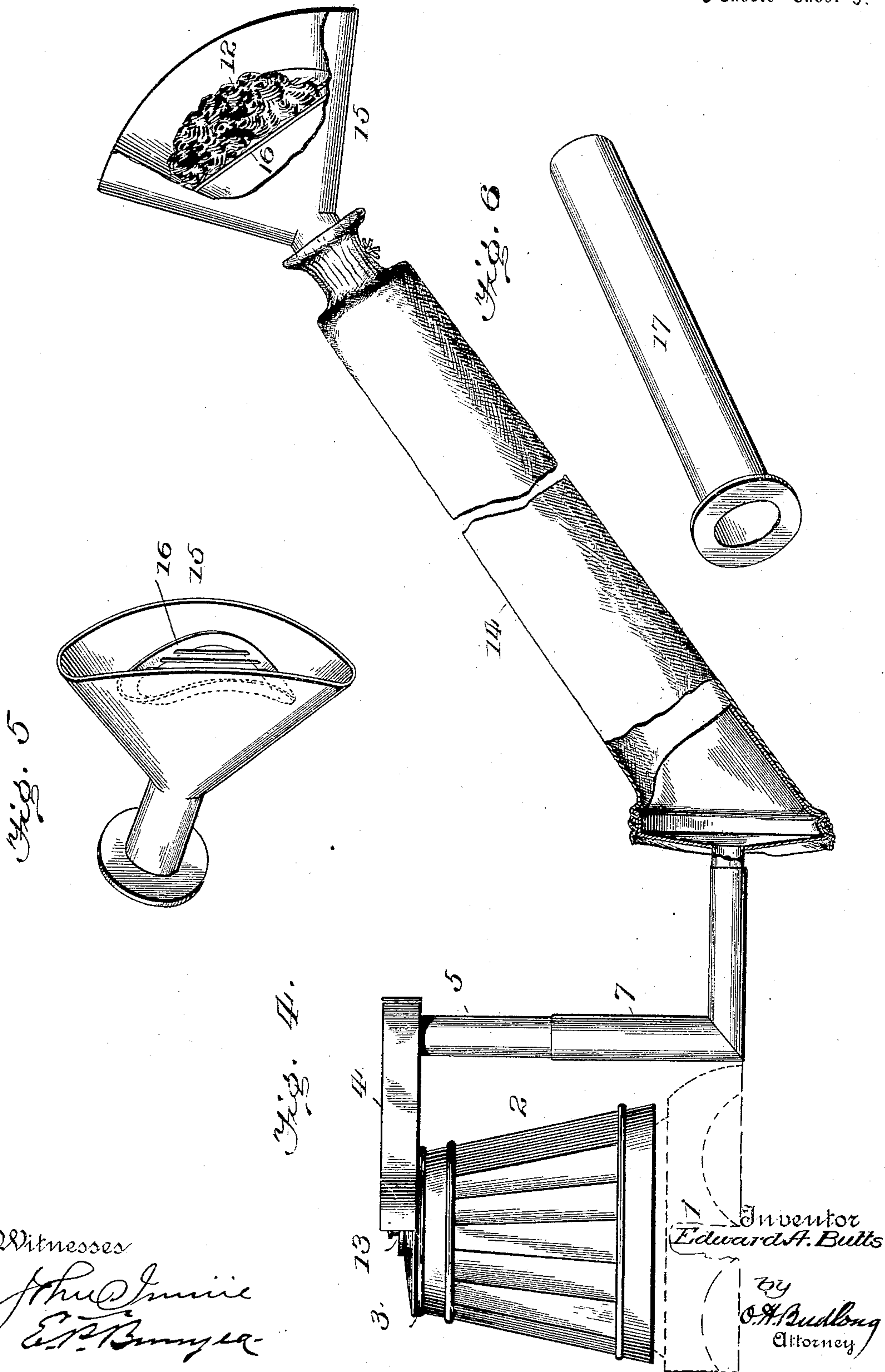
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD A. BUTTS, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

## VAPOR-BATH APPARATUS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 632,802, dated September 12, 1899.

Application filed February 3, 1897. Renewed March 3, 1899. Serial No. 707,666. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, EDWARD A. BUTTS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Washington, District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Vapor-Bath Apparatus; and I do 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, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to apparatus for administering either plain or medicated vapor baths for local or general application.

The objects of my invention are to provide an apparatus which shall be simple in construction, efficient in use, which can be manufactured at a comparatively small cost, and which may be used for a great variety of conditions and ailments, and which is easily prepared for use.

It is a well-known fact to the medical profession that medicated vapor is a superior vehicle for the administration of medicaments owing to its absorptive action, and this treatment is of great value in such disorders as catarrh, croup, asthma, and sore throat. After a long series of experiments in this line I have discovered that vapor treatment is valuable in many diseases not heretofore treated by such process, and I have designed certain attachments to my apparatus for the treatment of these disorders. I have also discovered that the volume of vapor must be broken and distributed to have contact with the skin only after its temperature has been sufficiently modified so as not to scald, and this regulation of temperature must be within the control of the bather. To attain the ends referred to, I have produced the apparatus shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the apparatus ready for use as a face-steamer. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal vertical section through the apparatus. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the conductor. Fig. 4 is a side view of the apparatus in condition for use in the administration of medicated vapor for local disorders. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a mouth-

piece or inhaler. Fig. 6 is a perspective view of an attachment to be used for purposes hereinafter to be referred to.

Like letters and figures of reference indicate like parts wherever they occur in the drawings.

Referring to Fig. 1, the numeral 1 indicates an ordinary gas-stove, heater, or burner, and I may use either gas, oil, spirits, or other fuel to produce the vapor. Placed upon this burner is the generator 2, which may be of any desired size, shape, or material. This generator, as shown, is a plain vessel for containing water. The cover 3 has formed integrally therewith or intimately connected thereto a conductor 4, which extends horizontally outward from the generator and is provided with a depending pipe 5. Connected to this pipe is a telescope extension 6, which may be adjusted to suit the height of the burner. The extension 6 at its lower end is inserted within a pipe 7, rising from the reservoir or distributor 8, which may be of any desired contour, and at its exit end 9 it is provided with a wire tray 10, the purpose of which is to break up the volume of vapor and to support a sponge, pad, or other absorptive material for containing medicine. A U-shaped wire support 11 is detachably connected at its ends to the reservoir, and the purpose of this device is to support a hood or piece of fabric to be used to envelop either the head or the entire body of the bather. This hood or cover 12 is supported at one end by the wire 11, and the other end is thrown over the head or body of the bather. In order that the desired temperature of the vapor may be obtained by the subject under treatment, the edges of the cover may be grasped and either raised to admit sufficient air to mingle with the vapor to suit the requirements of the case or drawn more tightly about the person.

It will be understood, of course, that the vapor passes from the generator 2 through the aperture *x* into the conductor 4, thence downward through the connection 5 6 7 into the reservoir 8, and out through the meshes of the tray 10. It will also be seen that by removing the medicated sponge or absorbent material 12 from the tray a plain-vapor bath may be readily prepared. The desired medicine for the disorder under treatment may be



applied to the sponge. A small cover 13 may be removed from the generator, either for the purpose of refilling the same while in use or for adjusting the temperature of the vapor.

5 As thus far described my device may be used as a face-steamer or for administering baths to any portion of the body. When used as an apparatus for the treatment of various diseases, the appliances or attachments shown  
10 in Figs. 4, 5, and 6 are connected, as will now be described.

For local application of medicated vapor a flexible conveyer or pipe 14 is attached to the exit end of the pipe 7 and at its outer end is  
15 provided with a mouthpiece or nozzle 15, which contains a wire tray 16, upon which is placed a medicated sponge or absorbent pad. As thus arranged my apparatus may be used as an inhaler for throat troubles or for ad-  
20 ministering vapor to the ears, eyes, or for various local treatments. The reservoir may be used in connection with the flexible tube by placing a cover over the reservoir having an opening in the top of said cover of suffi-  
25 cient size to receive the end of the flexible tube when it is desired to use the reservoir instead of placing the flexible tube directly on the depending pipe.

In Fig. 6 I have shown a nozzle 17 for in-  
30 ternal treatment. This nozzle when attached to the end of the conveyer may be inserted in the vagina for such diseases as neuralgia of the womb and kindred acute diseases or for treatment of the rectum, and as an aux-  
35 iliary I may use a speculum for holding the parts distended.

It will be readily appreciated by those familiar with the treatment of diseases of the characters named that my device is capable

of a large range of usefulness not contemplated by apparatus heretofore in use for administering medicaments. 40

In place of a sponge I sometimes use an asbestos pad for the application of certain medicines, and this pad may be readily cleaned  
45 by burning the same, as the pad is non-destructible by fire.

It will be observed that the tray 10 is located immediately at the open mouth of the reservoir and is approximately of the same  
50 dimensions as said mouth, whereby it is freely accessible at all times, and the disadvantageous necessity for removing any part of the device in order to apply medicament to the pad or to remove or insert said pad is obviated. 55

What I desire to obtain by Letters Patent and claim is—

In a vapor-bath apparatus, the combination of a generator, a cover therefor having an exit-opening at its top, a horizontal conduc-  
60 tor 4 leading from said opening and having a depending pipe at its free end, a flexible discharge-conduit and connections between it and the free end of the said depending pipe, and interchangeable mouths without  
65 side slot or opening, and each of said mouths having a flanged rear end and one of said mouths having a wire tray at or near its outlet end, said mouths being removably at-  
70 tached to the other end of said flexible tube, substantially as shown and described.

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

EDWARD A. BUTTS.

Witnesses:

S. A. TERRY,  
GEO. E. TERRY.