No. 705,284. Patented July 22, 1902.

G. W. NEWSOM.

WASHBOARD.

(Application filed Feb. 15, 1902.)

(No Model.)

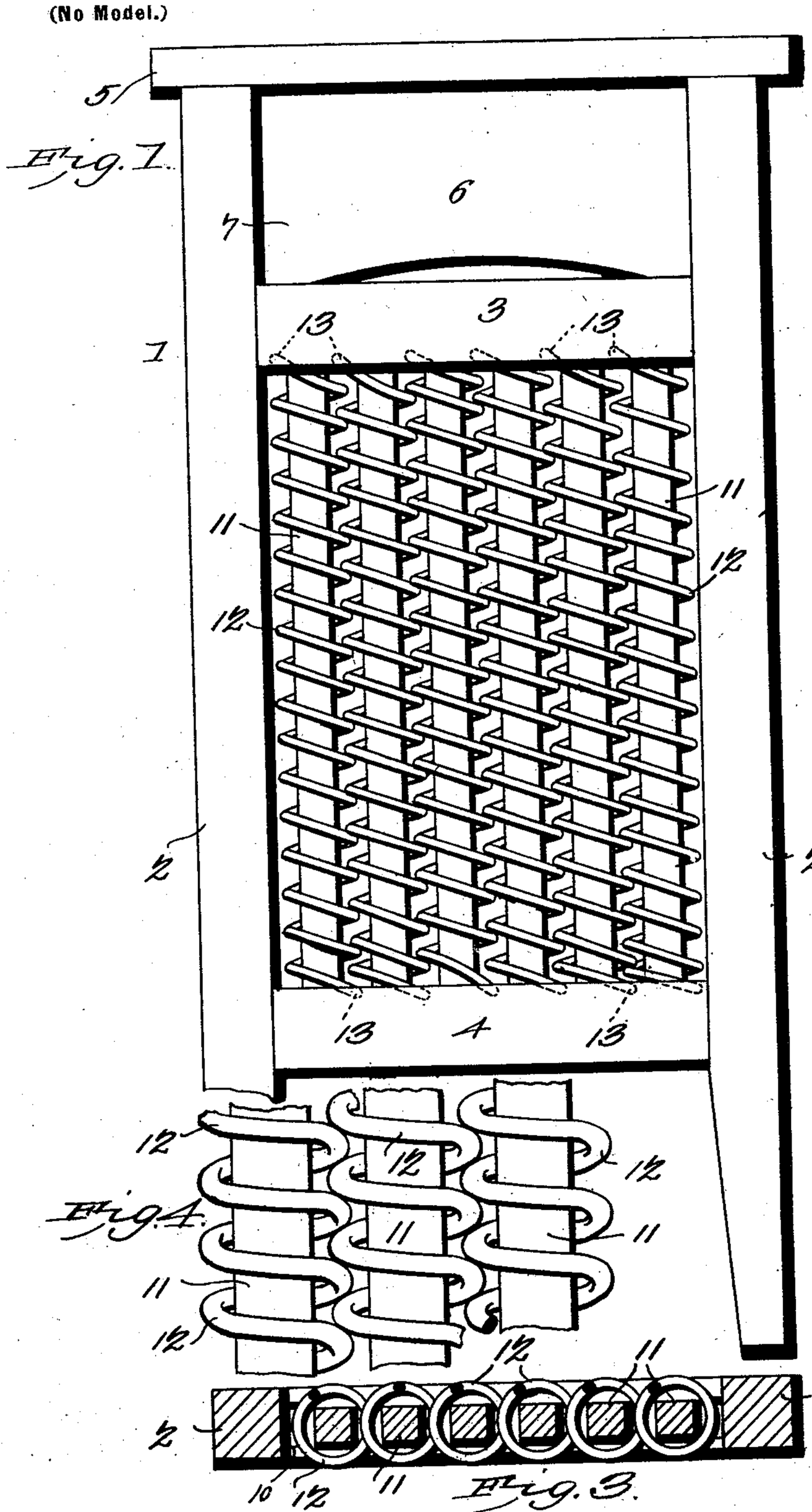

Fig. 1.

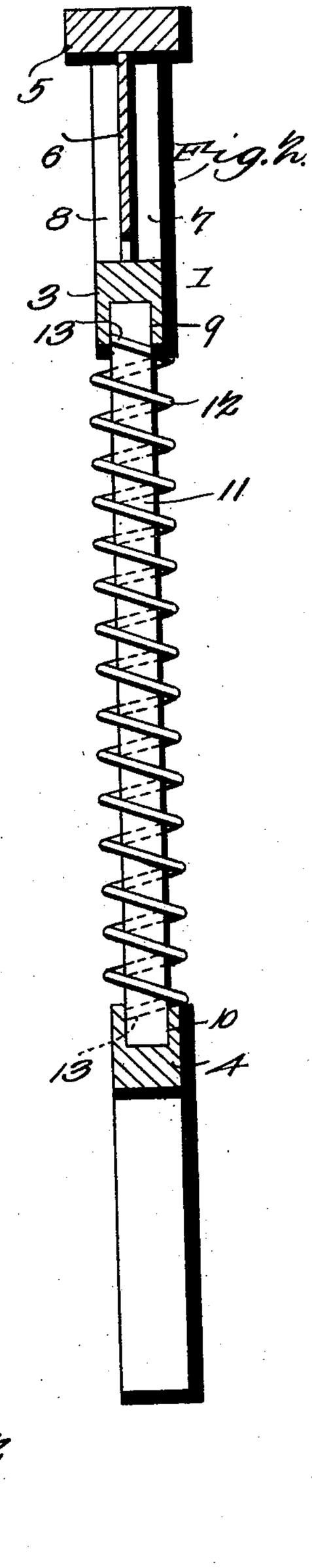

Fig. 2.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 3.

Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE WASHINGTON NEWSOM, OF SACHSE, TEXAS.

WASHBOARD.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 705,284, dated July 22, 1902.

Application filed February 15, 1902. Serial No. 94,269. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE WASHINGTON NEWSOM, a citizen of the United States, residing at Sachse, in the county of Dallas and State of Texas, have invented a new and useful Washboard, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to improvements in washboards.

The object of the present invention is to improve the construction of washboards and to provide a simple, inexpensive, and efficient construction adapted to afford a rubbing-surface at each face of the washboard to enable the latter to be reversed.

A further object of the invention is to provide a double washboard of this character which will permit water to drain thoroughly from its rubbing-surface during and after the operation of washing and which will expose the parts of the rubbing-surface, so that the same will thoroughly dry.

A further object of the invention is to provide a washboard having a yielding rubbing-surface in which the strain will be distributed over a considerable number of coils of springs and in which the latter will be held against rotary movement and will have their ends housed, so that there will be no liability of the end of a spring becoming accidentally exposed and liable to tear clothes or other fabrics.

The invention consists in the construction and novel combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and pointed out in the claims hereto appended.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is an elevation of a washboard constructed in accordance with this invention. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of the same. Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view. Fig. 4 is a detail view, on an enlarged scale, illustrating the arrangement of the coils of the springs and the manner in which each of the coils of one spring is interposed between and contacts with the contiguous upper and lower coils of the adjacent springs to form a continuous resilient rubbing-surface of mutually coacting and supporting coils.

Like numerals of reference designate corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawings.

1 designates the frame of a washboard, composed of side bars 2 and transverse connecting-bars 3 and 4, located between the ends of the side bars and suitably secured to the same. The frame is provided at the top with a cross-piece 5, which is secured to the upper ends of the side bars or pieces, and the space between the top cross-bar and the upper transverse bar 3 receives a division-board 6, arranged between the faces or edges of the side bars or pieces and forming soap-receptacles 7 and 8. The division-board which forms the soap-receptacles is recessed or cut away at the bottom to provide a drain-opening to permit water to drain from either soap-receptacle.

The opposed edges of the upper and lower transverse connecting-bars 3 and 4 are provided with grooves or recesses 9 and 10 for the reception of the upper and lower ends of polygonal bars 11, which may be rectangular or any other angular shape in cross-section and which are snugly fitted in the grooves or recesses, being retained therein when the parts are assembled and being readily assembled during the manufacture of the washboard, as they do not require fastening devices, and are permitted a limited movement in the grooves or recesses transversely of the washboard, as hereinafter explained. The polygonal supporting-bars receive coiled springs 12, and the coils of the latter are supported by the corners of the bars, as clearly illustrated in Fig. 3 of the accompanying drawings. The longitudinal spring-supporting bars are spaced from each other by the coils of the springs and are located midway between the side faces of the transverse connecting-bars 3 and 4, and the coils project outward from both faces of the washboard and form resilient rubbing-surfaces. Also the spaces between the outer portions of the coils and the faces of the bars 11 form ways to permit water to drain readily from the springs and to flow freely from the top to the bottom of the rubbing-surfaces.

The ends of the coiled springs are housed in the grooves or recesses of the upper and lower transverse connecting-bars, and the

said ends 13 abut against the walls of the grooves or recesses, as clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and thereby lock the springs against rotation, whereby the ends of the springs are effectually prevented from becoming accidentally exposed, so that there will be no liability of the clothes being accidentally torn on the ends of the springs.

The coils of one spring are arranged between the coils of the adjacent spring or springs, and the strain incident to the rubbing action is distributed over a considerable portion of the rubbing-surface and is sustained by a number of the springs, so that there is no liability of any one of the springs being subjected to a severe strain and the strain cannot be concentrated on a single spring. Also the transverse grooves or recesses permit the angular spring-supporting bars to have a limited play transversely of the washboard to permit the coils of the springs to expand and contract when subjected to the pressure of the clothes or other fabrics, and the coils yieldingly space the spring-supporting bars. When the coils of one spring are moved longitudinally of the supporting-bars, they will engage the coils of the adjacent springs, and the latter will coöperate with the first spring in resisting any force tending to flex or displace the coils. As soon as the pressure is removed the coils will immediately resume their normal position, and it will be apparent that when the pressure is applied to the center of the board the overlapping coils will distribute the same to the outer side coils and that by arranging the springs in this manner a rubbing-surface of the desired stiffness may be readily obtained, and comparatively light springs may be advantageously employed in the construction of rubbing-surfaces.

It will be seen that the washboard is exceedingly simple and inexpensive in construction, that it possesses great strength and durability, and that the springs and the supporting-bars form double rubbing-surfaces to provide a double or reversible washboard. It will also be apparent that both the springs and the angular spring-supporting bars are adapted to yield to provide resilient rubbing-surfaces and that the said angular or polygonal supporting-bars may be readily changed to bring their side faces to the front and back when the frame of the washboard is partially separated. Also it will be clear that the coils are supported by the corners of the bars and that the intermediate portions of the coils form bowed resilient portions which are adapted to yield and spring during the operation of washing.

What I claim is—

1. A washboard comprising a frame, longitudinal supporting-bars angular in cross-section arranged within the frame, and coiled springs arranged on and supported by the said bars and provided with projecting portions, substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. A washboard comprising a frame, longitudinal supporting-bars angular in cross-section slidably mounted within the frame and capable of a limited movement transversely of the washboard, and coiled springs arranged on the supporting-bars and having projecting portions forming rubbing-surfaces, and spacing the supporting-bars, substantially as described.

3. A washboard comprising a frame provided with upper and lower bars having grooves, polygonal supporting-bars having their ends fitted in the grooves, and coiled springs disposed on the supporting-bars and having their terminals extended into the said grooves and abutting against the walls thereof, whereby the springs are held against rotary movement to prevent their ends from being exposed, substantially as described.

4. A washboard comprising a frame provided with upper and lower bars having grooves, polygonal supporting-bars having their ends fitted in the grooves and capable of a limited movement transversely of the washboard, and coiled springs disposed on the supporting-bars and having projecting portions forming rubbing-surfaces at both faces of the washboard and yieldably spacing the supporting-bars, substantially as described.

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

GEORGE WASHINGTON NEWSOM.

Witnesses:
D. C. SACHSE,
T. J. SWIM.