

No. 734,000.

PATENTED JULY 21, 1903.

W. H. RICKEY.
SEAM DAMPENER.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 17, 1902.

NO MODEL.

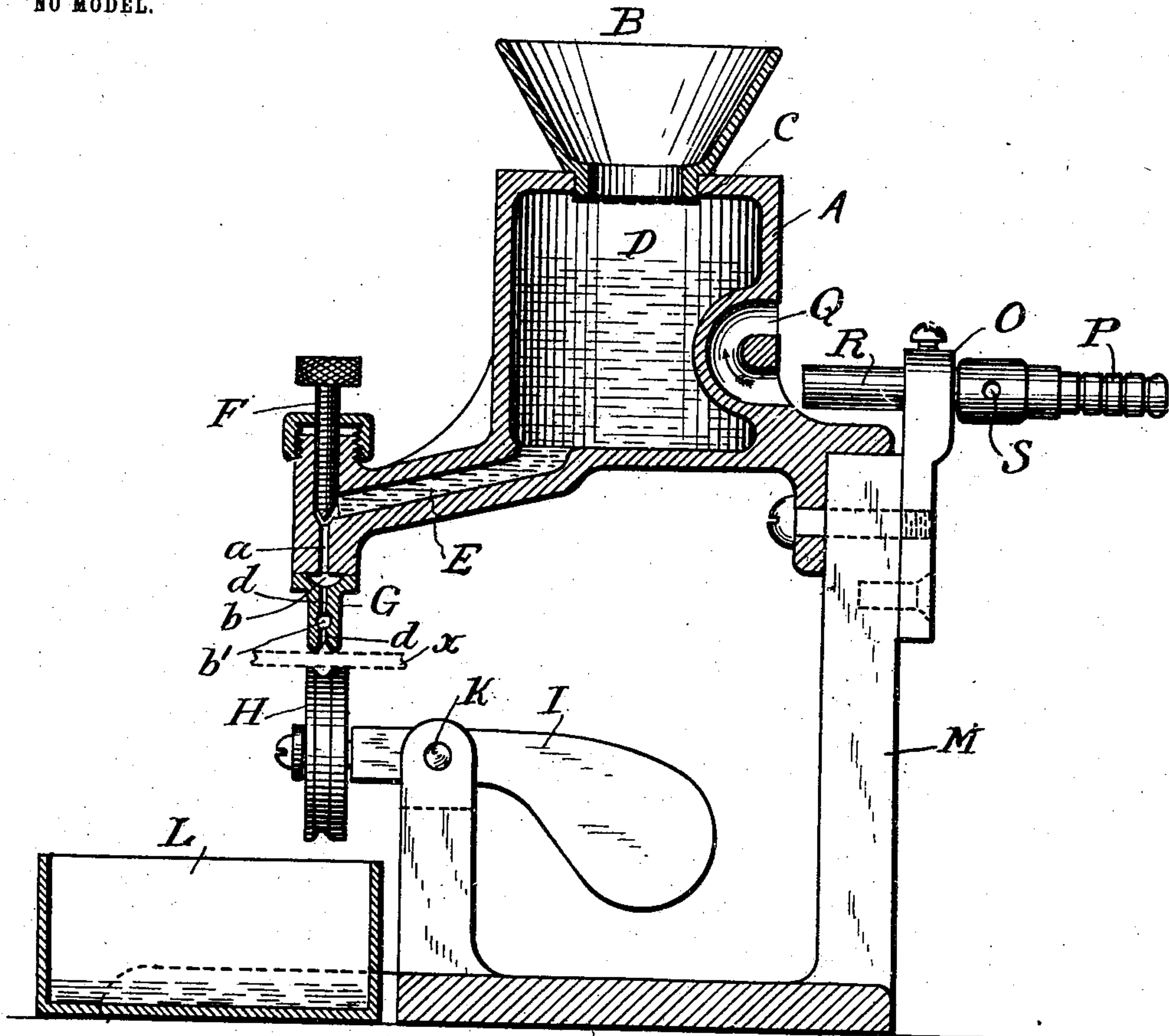


Fig. 1.

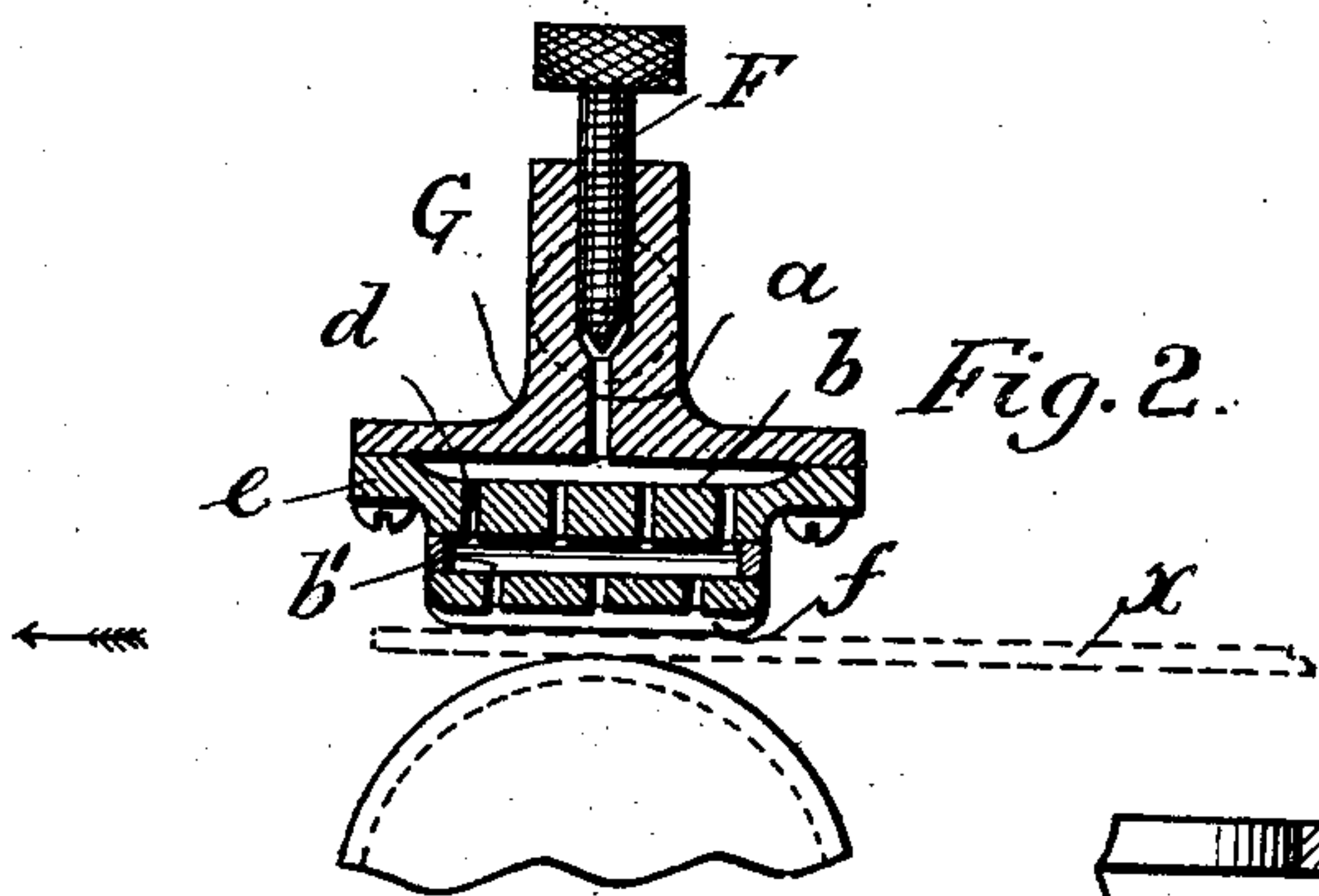


Fig. 2.

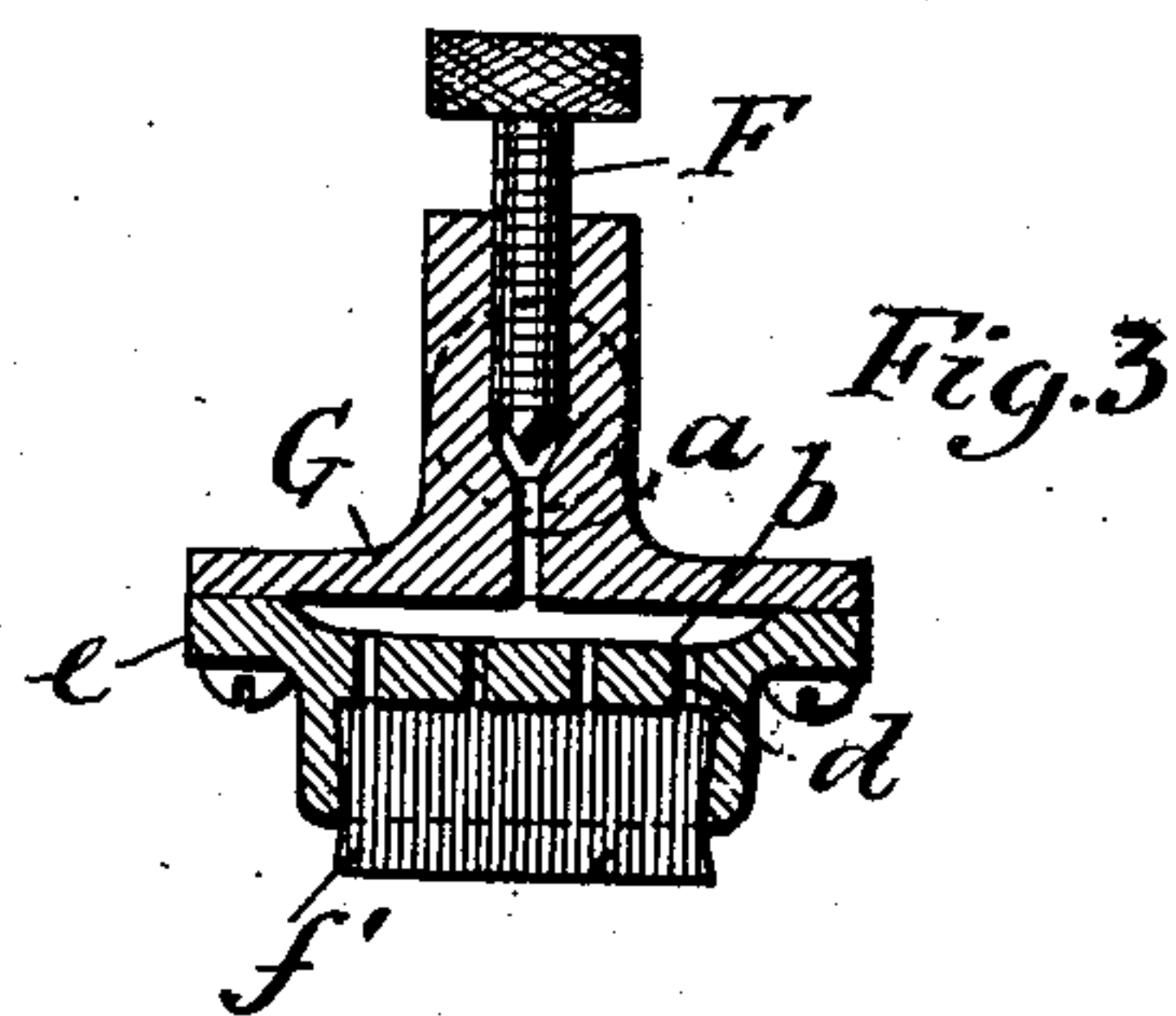


Fig. 3.

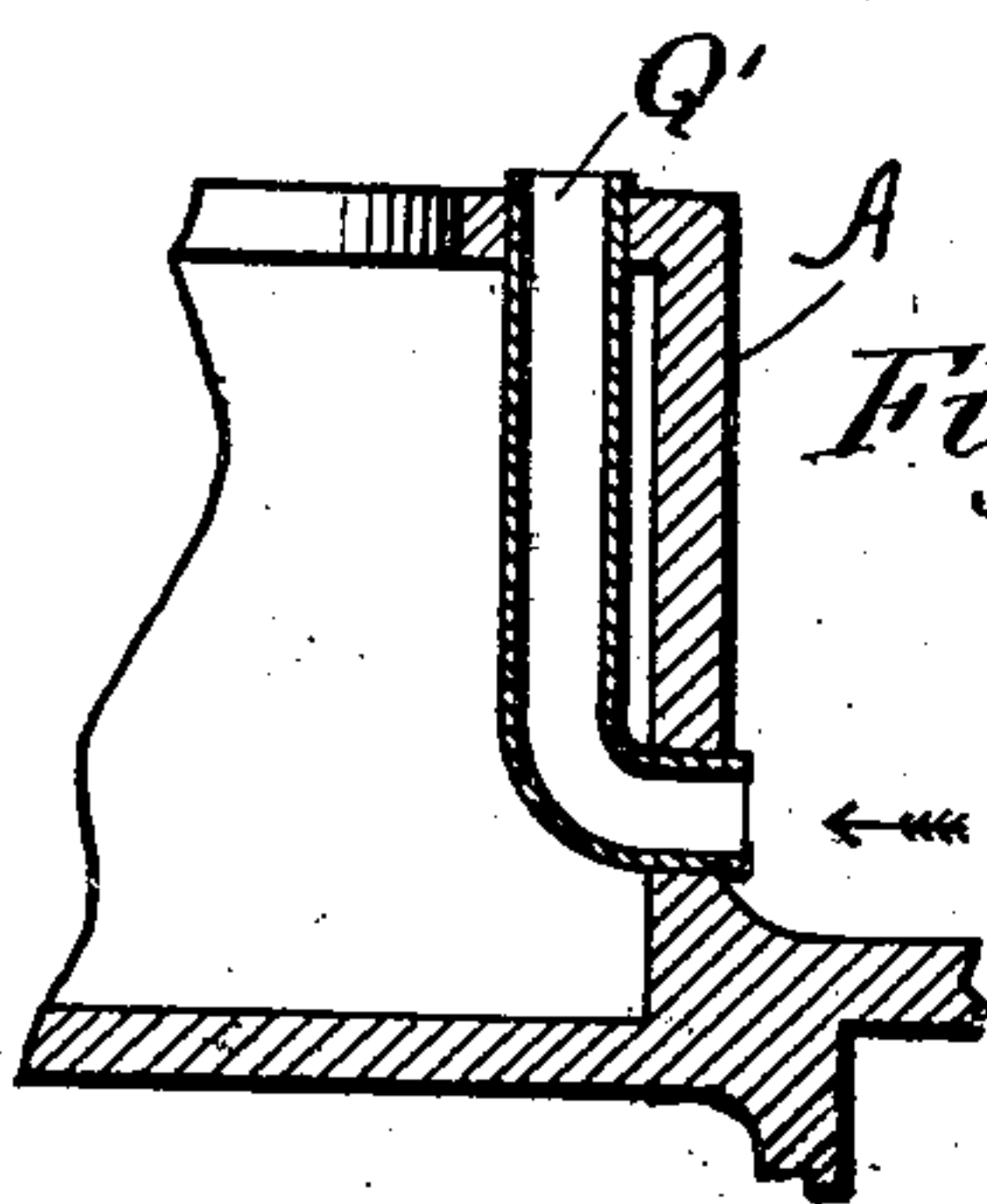


Fig. 4.

WITNESSES:

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WILLIAM HENRY RICKEY, OF EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY.

SEAM-DAMPENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 734,000, dated July 21, 1903.

Application filed February 17, 1902. Serial No. 94,402. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM HENRY RICKEY, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of East Orange, in the county of Essex and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Seam-Dampeners, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to laundry machinery, more especially to the class known as "seam-dampeners."

The object of my invention is to furnish an improved device by means of which the portions of collars, cuffs, &c., that are to be folded over can be dampened and turned without breaking the edge at the fold-line. It is necessary in the handling of such goods that the portion at the fold-line should be moistened with some liquid, generally water. The liquid can be used either cold or warm; but it is found in practice that warm liquid will act more thoroughly and quickly on the starched article than will the cold liquid. I have therefore devised an improved means of heating the liquid before it reaches the starch and have set forth the various arrangements in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a vertical section through the principal parts of the machine; Fig. 2, a vertical section of the liquid-distributor, taken at right angles to Fig. 1; Fig. 3, a vertical section of a modified form of distributor having one chamber and employing a porous material in contact with the goods to be dampened, and Fig. 4 a detail section of a modification of the liquid-heating means.

Referring to the drawings, A is a receptacle for holding the moistening liquid D; B, a funnel for pouring in the liquid, and it is provided at its base with a strainer C.

E is a channel for conveying the liquid to the distributor G, the flow through said channel being controlled by the screw needle-valve F.

G is the liquid-distributor.

H is a yielding support situated below the distributor G. The same has been shown as a grooved wheel rotatably mounted on the

end of the weighted lever I, pivoted at K to the stand M, which supports the various parts of the machine.

L is a drip-pan for receiving the superfluous liquid, that can be reused, if desired.

O is a bracket detachably connected to the frame M and supporting the Bunsen burner R, provided with the air-inlet S and the nipple P, to which the gas-pipe is attached.

Q is the heating-passage for warming the liquid D.

In Fig. 4 the heating-passage Q' is shown as extending through the top of the receptacle A.

a is a small passage controlled by the needle-valve F and supplying the liquid D to the distributing-chambers b and b'. From the distributing-chambers the liquid is led by means of small channels d to the goods x, which are to be moistened. This distributing attachment may have a single distributing-chamber, Fig. 3, or a second lower one, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. The dampening-surface may be metal f, Figs. 1 and 2, or felt or other soft absorbent material, as shown at f', Fig. 3. This latter felt attachment is rendered necessary when the goods in question are of a delicate nature and too thin to permit a direct contact with the flow of water, since that would moisten them too much, and the upper and lower folds becoming moistened would ruin them.

The operation of my device is easily seen from the drawings. The liquid is poured in through the funnel B into the receptacle A, being freed from injurious foreign matter by the strainer C. The heating of the liquid is brought about by lighting the Bunsen burner and directing the flame through the channel Q. When ready for use, the needle-valve is raised and the liquid passes into the distributing-chamber, whence it goes, by means of the passages d, into the second chamber or to the absorbent material f'. If the device has a second chamber, two series of passages carry the liquid to the dampening-surface. The heavy pivoted lever I assures automatically a regular and constant pressure against the goods and this in turn against the grooved

dampening-surface above, and thereby I attain an even amount of dampening on all the goods passed through the machine.

The advantages of a series of liquid-conveying passages over a single hole are apparent. The distributing-chambers are to make sure of always having a regular and constant supply of liquid delivered through the dampening-channels. The distributing chambers and channels act as a reservoir and will always be full of liquid. They will consequently not be affected by slight variations in the flow of liquid from the receptacle A—that is to say, while the device is in operation a certain amount of liquid is being delivered from the dampening-surface onto the goods. If the flow of liquid from the receptacle A to the distributor is not sufficient to supply the immediate demand, it will not affect the action of the device, as a sufficient quantity exists in the distributor to dampen the article which is for the time being dampened. There will always be sufficient liquid in the distributing chambers and channels, and an accurate adjustment of needle-valve is not an essential feature. While the operator is preparing a new piece of goods these chambers and the passages are being refilled with liquid, and thus an even dampening is assured.

Having thus fully described and illustrated my invention, what I claim is—

1. In a seam-dampener, the combination with a fixed dampening-surface, of a lever having one arm weighted, and a support for

the goods located beneath said dampening-surface, mounted on the unweighted arm of said lever, and normally urged thereby toward said dampening-surface. 35

2. In a seam-dampener, the combination with a fixed dampening-surface, of a rotary wheel, constituting a support for the goods, located beneath said dampening-surface, the said support being movably mounted and normally urged upwardly with a constant yielding pressure. 40

3. In a seam-dampener, the combination with a fixed dampening-surface, of a lever having one arm weighted, and a rotary wheel, constituting a support for the goods, located beneath said dampening-surface and mounted for rotation on the unweighted arm of said lever. 45

4. In a seam-dampener, a liquid-distributor having a dampening-surface at its discharge end, and having a plurality of distributing-chambers therein, with separated ports leading from one of said chambers to different points in the other and with separated ports leading from the lower distributing-chamber to different points along said dampening-surface. 50 55 60

Signed at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, this 13th day of February, A. D. 1902.

WILLIAM HENRY RICKEY.

Witnesses:

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A. STETSON.