

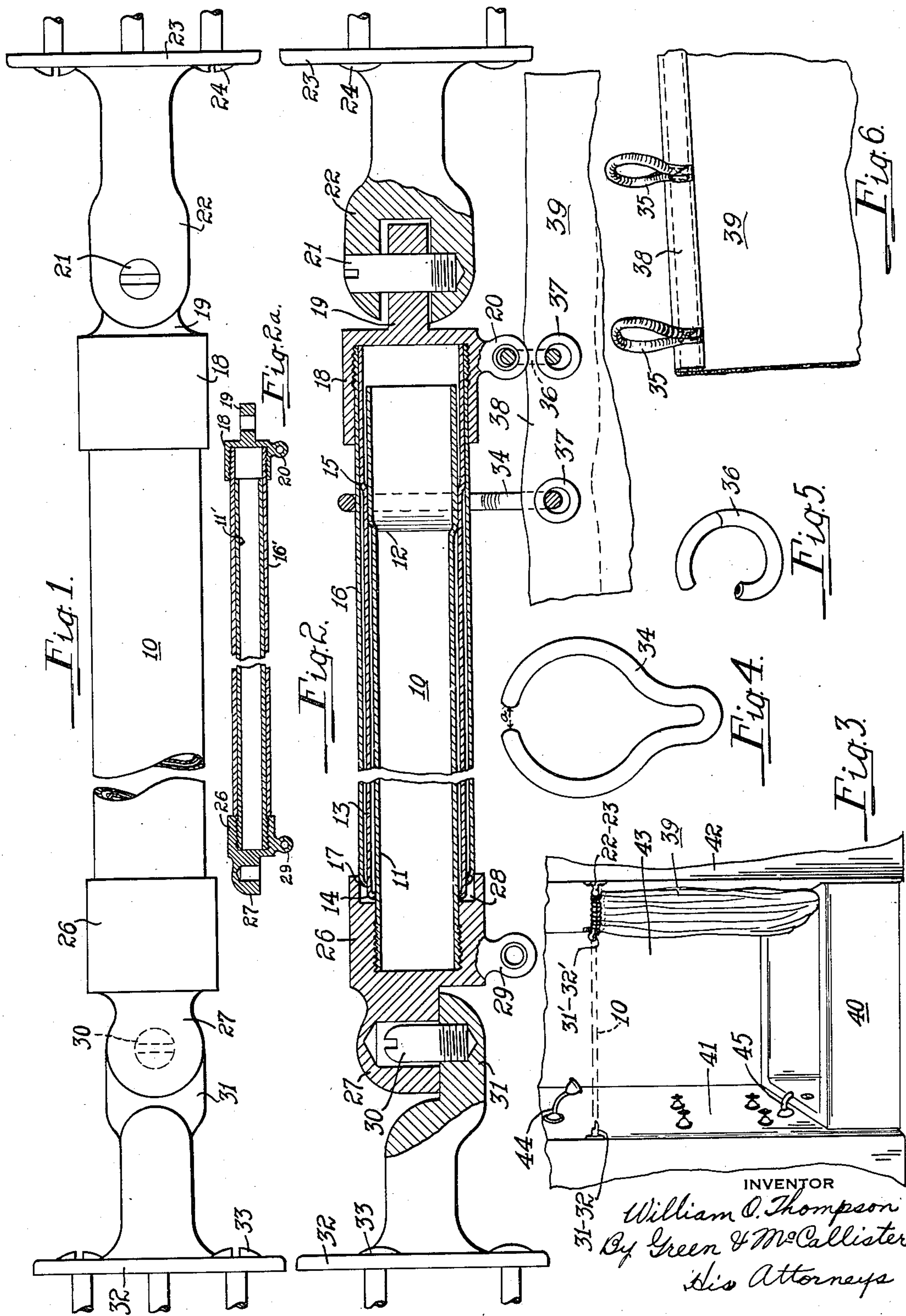
Aug. 20, 1935.

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2,011,662

MOVABLE SHOWER CURTAIN ROD

Filed May 2, 1934



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,011,662

MOVABLE SHOWER CURTAIN ROD

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Application May 2, 1934, Serial No. 723,511

13 Claims. (Cl. 4—154)

This invention pertains to curtain rods for a bathing space, and more particularly, to movable curtain rods and to those which may be adjusted to various positions.

Heretofore, curtain rods for shower baths have been of a stationary type and of a recess corner or pier pattern. Such rods function to support a curtain of duck, canvas, or some other suitable material, which in turn, functions to insure more privacy for an individual taking a bath and to confine the soap and water used within certain desired limits.

I have found that the present stationary curtain rods have certain disadvantageous features which limit their application and use.

In the first place, since the rods are fixed in position, it is necessary to provide curtain hang rings, or some other like means, which may be opened or moved apart to permit a side removal of the curtain for laundering. It is tedious work to remove a plurality of such rings over the diameter of a curtain rod, and not only entails a considerable expenditure of time, but also is conducive to finger injury, particularly, if the rings are of the safety pin type.

In the second place, a curtain rod of the stationary type must be mounted in a position which will enable an occupant to freely enter and leave the bathing space and to do so without injury to head and limb. If the curtain rod is mounted too low, it will not sufficiently retain the water when the occupant is taking a shower, and must be stepped over by the occupant when entering and leaving the space. If the curtain is too high, it hinders the entry of sufficient light, and if placed in an intermediate position, will serve as a hazard to the occupant's head.

The above-mentioned features are of essential importance under normal conditions met in shower bathing, and especially so, where the bathing space is formed by three sides or even a portion of a fourth side of the walls of a room. It is thus seen that the question of sufficient light within the bathing space becomes of utmost importance, and since water and electricity make a dangerous combination, it has been customary to utilize the artificial or natural light furnished the main portion of the bathroom.

Another disadvantage of the present curtain rod structures is that they are not readily enough adaptable to meet various requirements. At the present time, it is necessary to manufacture a number of different sizes and lengths of rods and to stock them to meet the demands of different types and sizes of bathing spaces and/or tubs.

And, each rod has little adaptability for mounting in a number of positions upon the walls of a given bathing space.

On entering and leaving a tub of a shower bathing space, the occupant frequently needs a grab bar or rail to steady him or her and to prevent slipping. The present type of curtain rail cannot so function because of its stationary and hard-to-reach position.

And, it has been an object of my invention to provide a new and improved form of curtain rod, especially suitable for shower bathing.

Another object has been to provide a curtain rod for a bathing space which may be effectively employed although mounted in a lower position for allowing the entry of more light.

A further object of my invention has been to provide a curtain rod which may be moved to a position suitable for service as a grab rail.

A further object of my invention has been the provision of a curtain rod for bathing requirements which will enable the curtain to be slid off and on endwise thereof.

A still further object has been to provide a more efficient, effective, and adaptable form of curtain rod.

These and many other objects of my invention will appear to those skilled in the art from the following description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a longitudinal plan view of an illustrated embodiment of my invention;

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal side view, partially in section, of the embodiment of Fig. 1;

Fig. 2a is a longitudinal side view in section of another embodiment of my invention;

Fig. 3 is a side perspective view in elevation of a bathing space and illustrating an employment of the embodiment of my invention shown in Fig. 1;

Figs. 4 and 5 are illustrative of certain details; and

Fig. 6 is a fragmental side perspective view of a modified form of detail of the embodiment shown in Fig. 2.

In carrying out the illustrated embodiments of my invention, I contemplate the employment of a curtain rod which at one end may be mounted upon the wall of a bathing space and which at its other end, may be removably supported by one or more posts having one or more positions upon walls of the space. I may also employ a bathing curtain of duck or some other suitable material, which may be hung along the length

of the curtain rod, and which may be movably adjusted along such length.

And, in accordance with the principles of my invention, I have, for the purpose of illustration, shown a telescoping type of curtain rod structure which includes a number of elements that are movable with respect to each other, and that are also readily removable from their supporting structure.

In the embodiment illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, I have provided a telescoping rod or member 10 having an inner longitudinal extending tube 11, an intermediate tube 13, and an outer tube 16. The tubes are slidable with respect to each other for adjusting the rod to a number of longitudinal positions. To aid in such a sliding movement, the intermediate tube 13 and the outer tube 16 have at one end been provided with inwardly projecting annular flanges 14 and 17, respectively, which serve as slide surfaces and which tend to offset or space the longitudinal lengths of the tubes with respect to each other. In order that the tubes of the rod structure 10 may have the same relative position at each end of the rod, I have provided the inner tube 11 with a slightly offset annulus portion 12 and the intermediate tube 13 with an offset annulus portion 15; these annulus portions lie adjacent the other end of the rod 10. It will thus appear that the portion 12 and 15 will provide the necessary frictional slide surfaces for one end of the rod 10, and that they may be employed to provide any required retardation of the telescopic action of the members.

Although I have shown for the purpose of illustration, a particular type of offset at each end of the unit 10, it will appear to those skilled in the art that the offsetting may be reversed as far as the ends are concerned, and/or changed in order to accomplish desired results, such as to lock the portions of the rod in certain desired expanded and/or contracted positions. The description deals with a telescopic and movable curtain rod which may serve as a grab rail.

In order that the unit 10 may be suitably mounted on the wall structure of a bathing space, I have at one end thereof provided a mount element having a sleeve-like portion 18 which is inwardly threaded to removably receive the threaded end of the outer tube 16. As seen, the sleeve 18 terminates in a lug or tongue portion 19. It will also appear that the mount element may be provided with a downwardly projecting eye-like lug 20 for receiving a movable hinge type of end ring 33 (see particularly Figs. 2 and 5). The ring 33 is adapted to support or hang the end of a suitable curtain 30 and to limit its end slide.

In order that the mount element 18—19 may be suitably supported, I have provided a wall post whose flange or escutcheon 23 may be drilled to receive any suitable securing means such as oval head screws or bolts 24. As shown, the wall post has an intermediate neck portion terminating in a bifurcated end 22, whose groove is adapted to receive the tongue-like portion 19 of the adjacent mount element. A set screw, pivot, hinge pin, and/or connection lug 21 extends downwardly through a drilled out portion of the top bifurcation of the wall post 22—23, through a drilled-out portion in the tongue 19, and is threaded within the lower bifurcation of the post. In this manner, the rod 10 may be said to be movably or pivotally secured to the wall of a bathing space by male and female connecting

members. As seen, the spacing between the bifurcations of portion 22 is preferably slightly greater than the thickness of the tongue portion 19, in order that the rod 10 may be lifted about the lug 21 to clear the hook of an opposite post 31—32, and thence, may be moved to a new position; such as 31'—32' of Figure 3 by turning it about the lug as a pivot point.

In order that the opposite end of the rod 10 may be suitably supported, I have provided a mount element 26—27 having at one end a chamber or sleeve-like portion 26 which is inwardly threaded to removably receive the threaded end of the inner tube 11. As shown (see Fig. 2), the sleeve-like portion is somewhat offsetly chambered out near the open end 28 thereof, in order that the outer tube 16 and intermediate tube 13 may slide therewithin. Like the opposite element 18—19, this mount element may be provided with a downwardly projecting curtain ring receiving eye-lug 29. The other end of the mount element 26—27 has a somewhat hood-like portion 27 whose horizontal face is adapted to rest upon a suitable wall post 31—32 and is centrally drilled out to receive a latch or hook member 30. If desired, the hook-like portion may be provided with an open side or end, in order that the rod 10 may be removed without lifting it off latch projection 30.

The hook post 31—32 may be provided with an escutcheon or flange plate 32 which is drilled out to receive any suitable securing means such as oval head screws or bolts 33.

The post 31—32 also has a downwardly curved intermediate neck portion which terminates in a horizontal support face 31, upon which the horizontal face of the hood 27 of the mount element is adapted to rest.

In order to temporarily, at least, prevent the mount element 26—27 from being pushed or knocked off the hook post 31—32, I have provided a small set screw-like, upwardly extending lug or post 30 which is threaded into the upper horizontal face 31 of the post. The chambered or drilled out hood 27 receives mount element 30, and for this reason, can only be removed therefrom when raised upwardly to clear the latter. That is, the rod 10 is normally held in a latched or hooked position by its own weight and by the weight of the curtain 30. It cannot be knocked off post 31—32 when hit sideways, but may be readily removed by lifting it about pivot lug 21 the distance necessary to clear lug 30.

As shown in Figs. 2 and 4, I have provided a plurality of curtain slide rings 34 of suitable form which are adapted to hang from the rod 10 along a plurality of points of the length thereof for supporting a bathing curtain 30.

In the modification of Fig. 2a, I have employed only two longitudinal slide members 11' and 16'. This construction may be advantageous from the standpoint of manufacturing cost in that the intermediate member 13 of the embodiment of Fig. 2 has been eliminated. Then too, it is not necessary to employ means such as flanges 12, 14, 15, and 17 of Fig. 2, in order to retard one member such as 16 after it has been pulled out for a sufficient portion of its length, and in order to cause the next member such as 13 to be pulled out for a sufficient portion of its length. However, if it appears advantageous, the members 11' and 16' may be provided with suitable retarding means, in order to prevent the unit from being completely pulled apart.

From the construction and design of the illus-

trated embodiments of my invention, it is now possible for the first time, to remove a bathing curtain endwise from a curtain rod. To do this, it is only necessary to move each end hinge-ring 36 about its pivot point to open it, to raise the rod 10 off post 31—32, and then, to slide the plurality of remaining slide rings 34 off and over the mount element 26—27 of rail 10. Since the assembly including slide rings 34 and curtain 39 may be slid endwise off the rod 10, I do not need to make provision for an opening of these rings. It will thus appear that the small "a" spacing between the opposite ends of a ring 34 need only be sufficient to permit its removal from an eyelet 37 of edge portion 38 of the curtain after the ring has been removed from rod 10. This spacing, of course, is not sufficiently wide to hinder free movement of the ring 34 along rod 10.

The present construction also makes possible for the first time the utilization of continuous and non-opening rings, as well as curtain straps 35 instead of removable rings. These straps 35 may be formed of the same material as the curtain and may be securely fastened at both ends to the upper edge 38 of such a curtain (see Fig. 6). It will thus appear that my invention makes possible the employment of a wider range of curtain ring constructions, and that the invention is not limited to any particular type of ring.

In Fig. 3 I have shown a bathing space having a tub 40, opposite walls 41 and 42, a back 43, a suitable shower spray 44, and a water faucet 45. In this layout, I have shown an application of the illustrative embodiment of my invention. As seen, the dotted lines represent the position of the curtain rod 10 after the occupant has entered the bathing space and wishes to close it off, and the full line position shows the location of the rod prior to entry or when the occupant is leaving the bathing space. In this position, it will appear that the rod may conveniently serve as a grab rail and thus accomplish an additional function. In this illustrative application of my invention, I have provided two hook posts, one 31—32 which is mounted on wall 41, opposite to the hinge post 22—23, and another, 31'—32' which is mounted directly opposite to, but on the same wall as the hinge post 22—23. However, in accordance with the teachings of my invention, any suitable number of hook posts may be provided to meet the demands of a given situation, or of a certain type of bathing space. By reason of the telescopic nature of the rod, it is now possible for the occupant to adjust the rail to fit in almost any position, irrespective of the width or size or relative proportions of the bathing space.

My invention, as seen from Fig. 3, also makes possible the utilization of more light, in that it leaves a greater space between the ceiling and the top of the rod. The curtain 30 has a height sufficient to retain the water. If a bather wishes to only utilize the tub faucet 45, the rail 10 may remain in the full line position shown. Of course the rail 10 may also serve as a towel rack.

It will thus appear that the parts employed in the illustrated embodiments of my invention are effectively and strongly constructed, in order that they may be used in at least the two important capacities above-designated. Thus, the usual flimsy type of curtain rod construction has been eliminated in order that the rod may be employed as a grab rail, in addition to being employed as a curtain and/or towel rail.

While I have described certain illustrative em-

bodiments of my invention, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that certain modifications, changes, substitutions, additions, and omissions, or combinations thereof, may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the appended claims.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a bathing space having suitable wall and open portions, a rod adapted to be mounted at more than one position with respect to the bathing space, means for at one position mounting said rod across the open portion, whereby it may serve as a curtain rod, and for at another position mounting said rod adjacent a wall of the space, whereby it may serve as a grab rail for a person utilizing the bathing space.

2. In a bathing space having suitable wall and open portions, a rod adapted to be mounted at more than one position with respect to the bathing space, means for at one position mounting said rod across the open portion whereby it may serve as a curtain rod, and for at another position mounting said rod adjacent a wall of the space, whereby it may serve as a grab rail for a person utilizing the bathing space, said rod having portions slidable with respect to each other, whereby it may be adjusted to conform to various widths of a bathing space.

3. In a bathing space having suitable wall and open portions, a rod movable to a position across an open portion and to a position adjacent a wall portion, and means for removably supporting said rod at each of said positions, whereby said rod may serve as a curtain rod when in said first-mentioned position, and whereby it will be out of the way of a person entering and leaving the bathing space and may serve as a grab rail when in said second-mentioned position.

4. In a bathing space having suitable walls and an open portion, a curtain rod movably mounted at one end thereof adjacent a wall and movable from a position extending across the open portion to a position extending along a wall of a space, post means mounted at spaced locations about the bathing space, whereby one post means will removably hold the other end of said rod when said rod is positioned to extend across the open portion of the space, and whereby another post means will removably hold said other end when said rod is positioned to extend along a wall of the space, so that said rod may serve as a curtain rod in one position and as a grab rail in another position.

5. In a bathing space having suitable enclosing walls and an open wall, a curtain rod pivotally mounted on one wall and movable from a position extending across the open wall to a position adjacent an enclosing wall of the space, post means mounted on an opposite wall of the space for removably receiving said rod when in said first-mentioned position, and a post mounted upon an enclosing wall at a spaced relationship with respect to said pivot mounting for removably receiving said rod when in said second-mentioned position, said rod serving as a curtain rod and grab rail when in said first mentioned position and serving as a grab rail when in said second-mentioned position.

6. In a curtain rod for a bathing space having suitable walls, a longitudinally extending rod, said rod having a plurality of members, at least one of which is slidable with respect to another, a mount element secured to one of said members, a support post mounted on a wall of the space for

supporting said mount element, another mount element mounted upon another member adjacent the other end of said rod, additional posts mounted upon walls of the bathing space, said last-mentioned mount element having means for cooperating with each of said last-mentioned posts, said rod being movable from one of said last-mentioned posts to another.

7. In a bathing space having a back wall, opposite side walls, an open front wall, and a tub at the bottom thereof as well as a shower spray extending from at least one of its walls, a telescopic curtain rod, a suitable curtain removably hung therefrom, means pivotally and removably mounting one end of said rod upon the portion of a side wall of the bathing space adjacent the open front wall, a post member extending from the opposite side wall of the space and being mounted adjacent the open front wall, said post having means for removably holding the other end of said rod thereupon, a similar post member mounted on the same side wall of the bathing space as said pivot means and being mounted adjacent the rear wall thereof for removably holding said rod thereon, said rod being movable about said pivot means from one post to another, so that said rod may serve to close off the opening of the front wall while an occupant is taking a shower, so that said rod may be moved away from the opening thereafter to permit the occupant to freely leave the tub, and so that said rod may be moved to a position along one of the side walls to serve as a grab rail when the occupant is entering and leaving the tub.

8. In a curtain rod for a bathing space having a suitable wall portion, the combination of a longitudinally extending rod, a post adapted to be mounted upon the wall portion of the bathing space, means movably and pivotally mounting one end of said rod with respect to said post, a hook post adapted to be mounted on the wall portion at a spaced position with respect to said first-mentioned post, a hood-like female element extending from another portion of said rod, said hook post having a male element cooperating with the female element of said rod and preventing a sidewise removal thereof while allowing an upward removal thereof and whereby said male and female elements will be protected from sediment.

9. In a curtain rod for a bathing space having suitable walls, the combination of a longitudinally extending rod, a bifurcated post adapted to be mounted upon a wall of the bathing space, a tongue means mounted on the rod and extending from one end thereof for cooperating with the bifurcations of said post, a removable pivot pin extending across the bifurcations of said post

and through said tongue for pivotally and removably mounting said rod thereon, a hook post adapted to be mounted on a wall of the compartment, a hood-like female element extending from another portion of said rod, said hook post having a male element for cooperating with the female element of said rod and preventing a sidewise removal thereof while allowing an upward removal thereof.

10. In a curtain rod for a bathing space having suitable walls, the combination of means including a tongue and groove connection for pivotally mounting said rod at one end thereof upon a wall of the bathing space, said means having an eye extension for receiving an end hook of a bathing curtain, a plurality of hooks slidably mounted upon the rod and hanging a curtain therefrom, a plurality of support members mounted upon walls of the compartment, means extending from a portion of said rod for cooperating with an adjacent support member, so that said portion of said rod may be removably supported thereon, an eye means extending from said last-mentioned means for receiving an end hook of the bathing curtain, and means included in said rod for adjusting it to positions to cooperate at one portion thereof with any of said support members, so that said rod may serve as a curtain rod in one position and may serve as a grab rail in another position.

11. In a curtain rod for a bathing space having suitable walls, the combination of at least three slide members, each of said members having a telescopic relationship with respect to each other, and means for limiting the maximum telescopic expansion of said members.

12. In a curtain rod for a bathing space having suitable walls, a plurality of longitudinal sleeve-like members mounted in a sliding relationship with respect to each other, means for mounting said sleeve-like members upon the walls of a compartment, and means extending from said sleeve-like members and cooperating with each other for limiting the maximum outward slide of said sleeve-like members with respect to each other.

13. In a curtain rod for a bathing space having suitable walls, the combination of a plurality of rod members, at least one of which is slidable with respect to another, means mounting said rod members upon a wall of the compartment, at least one of said rod members having portions offset with respect to another of said members for aiding sliding movement therebetween, and means for removably mounting the other end of said rod members.

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