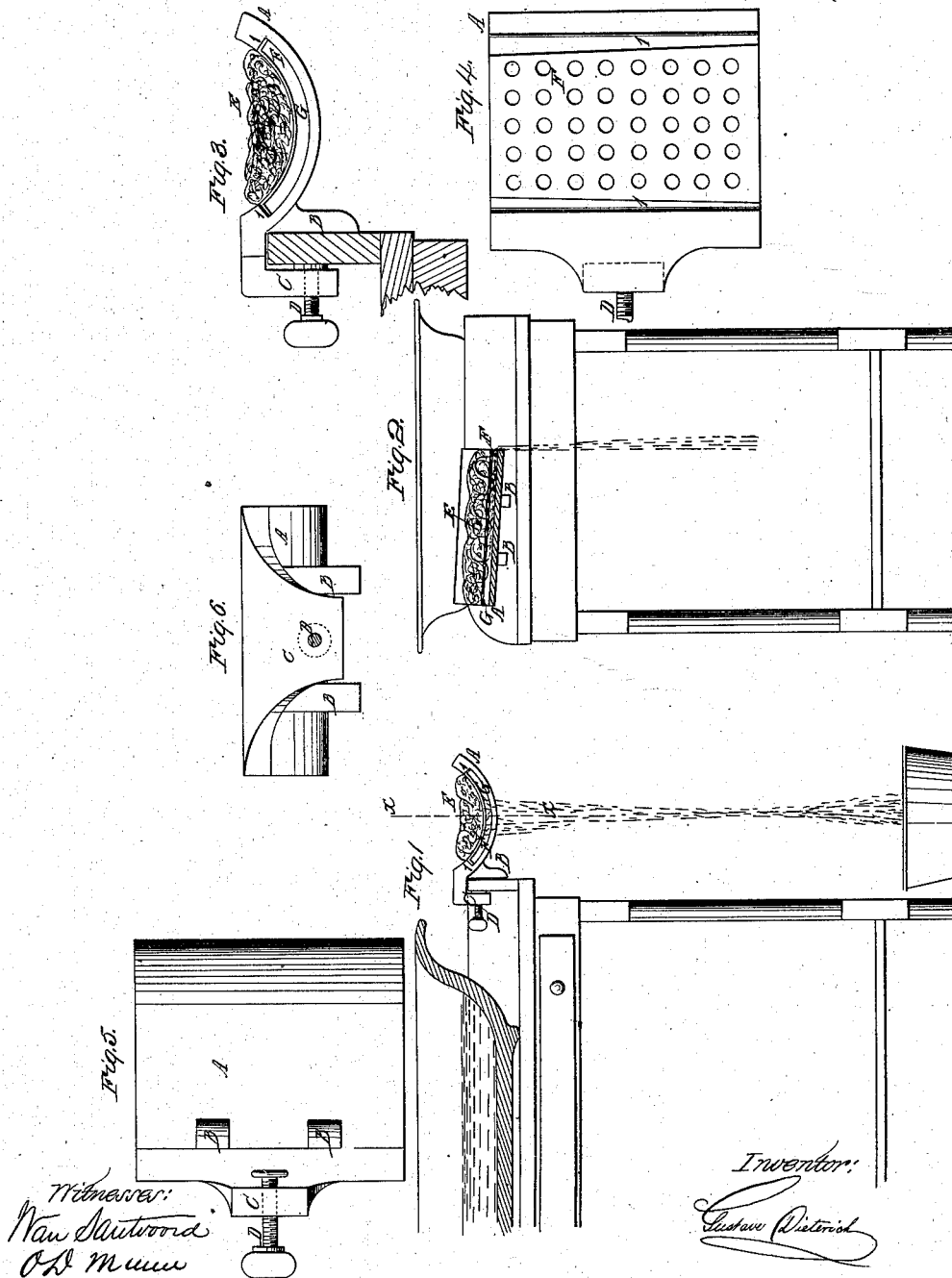


No. 48,533.

PATENTED JULY 4, 1865.

G. DIETERICH.
HAND WASHING DEVICE FOR ONE ARMED PERSONS.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GUSTAVE DIETERICH, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN WASH-STAND APPLIANCES FOR ONE-ARMED PERSONS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 48,533, dated July 4, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GUSTAVE DIETERICH, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Toilet Devices for Soldiers with One Arm; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable those skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents my invention in front elevation, showing it applied to a wash-stand. Fig. 2 represents it in section on the line *x* of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is an enlarged front view of the device. Fig. 4 is a plan of the same, the sponge being removed. Fig. 5 is an under-side view thereof. Fig. 6 is a side view, seen from the side by which it is applied to a wash-stand or other fixture.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

The object of this invention is to provide means to enable one who has lost an arm or a hand to wash his remaining hand and arm without assistance.

A sponge or other suitable material, which should be flexible and porous, is fixed to the upper surface of an open frame, which slides in grooves on the upper surface of a bed-plate capable of being attached to the side of a wash-stand or other fixture. The apparatus is affixed in an inclined position, so as to let any water expressed from the sponge to run off from it through a channel in the bed-plate.

A designates the bed-plate of the apparatus. It consists of a curved plate, from one of whose sides depends an ear, C, which receives a clamping-screw, D. The bottom of the bed-plate has two studs, B B, separated a little ways from each other and standing far enough behind the pendent ear to permit the edge of a wash-stand to come between them, as illustrated in the drawings. When the clamping-screw is applied against the edge of the wash-stand the implement will be held securely thereto. It is applied in an inclined position, as shown in Fig. 2, to allow water to run off from it. The bed-plate A is curved in cross-section, and its upper face is depressed throughout its whole length to receive the sliding frame F. This

depression is confined between the lines 1 1, which designate the sides of the depression. These sides are made tapering, so as to approach each other toward the lower or inner end of the apparatus.

F is a perforated plate, of curved form in cross-section, of a length equal to the bed-plate, and of a width and form to allow it to be inserted between the sides 1 1 of the depression in said plate. Its sides are bent down to a depth equal to the depth of the depression in which it is to be placed, so as to raise its body or under surface clear above the bed-plate, thus leaving a channel, G, in the bottom of the bed-plate, through which the water and suds from the sponge may run off from the apparatus, as shown in the drawings. The perforations of the plate F serve a twofold use: first, to allow a sponge to be tied to it by strings or by wire, which may pass through said perforations; and, second, to permit water from the sponge to run through to the surface of the bed-plate A, down which it will go and be discharged at its end into any receptacle beneath. Instead of a perforated plate, I can use a frame of wire or of open-work. The plate or frame F may be fitted to the sides 1 1 of the depression after the manner of a dovetailed or other convenient joint. It will be observed that by reason of the tapering character of the edges of the plate F and of the sides 1 1 of the bed-plate the plate F cannot be forced through or past the bed-plate; but in order to insure its removal it must be drawn backward.

If it is desired to use the washing-surface of the apparatus after the manner of a wash-cloth, water and soap are first applied to the sponge or other soft material, E, when the frame or plate F, bearing with it the sponge, is removed from the bed-plate and held in the hand with the lower side of the plate next to the palm. In this position the sponge can be used to wash the different parts of the body. When the plate F and sponge are replaced the latter can easily be rinsed and cleaned out by alternately filling it with water and squeezing it out, when it will clear itself through the open bottom of the plate F.

In order that one who has but a single hand may use the apparatus to cleanse his hand and arm, the sponge is to be moistened and sup-

plied with soap, when the hand and arm can be rubbed to and fro over and against the sponge. The bottom of the bed-plate is solid, and therefore any water which falls on it from the sponge and its plate is received in the channel G, which is formed by the depression or recess cut in it between the sides 1 1, and the water will run off thence at the lower end, the apparatus being clamped in an inclined position for this purpose.

The form and size of the apparatus may be varied, as well as the mode of attaching it to any fixture, without departing from the principle of my invention.

I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. A rubbing or washing surface composed of a sponge or other suitable porous substance fixed to a frame with an open or perforated bottom, substantially as and for the purpose above described.

2. In combination, the perforated plate for holding a sponge or other flexible material with a bed-plate, upon which it may be fitted by sliding in grooves or otherwise, substantially as described.

GUSTAVE DIETERICH.

Witnesses:

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