Dec. 21, 1954 A. G. THOMAS 2,697,341

WASHING DEVICE

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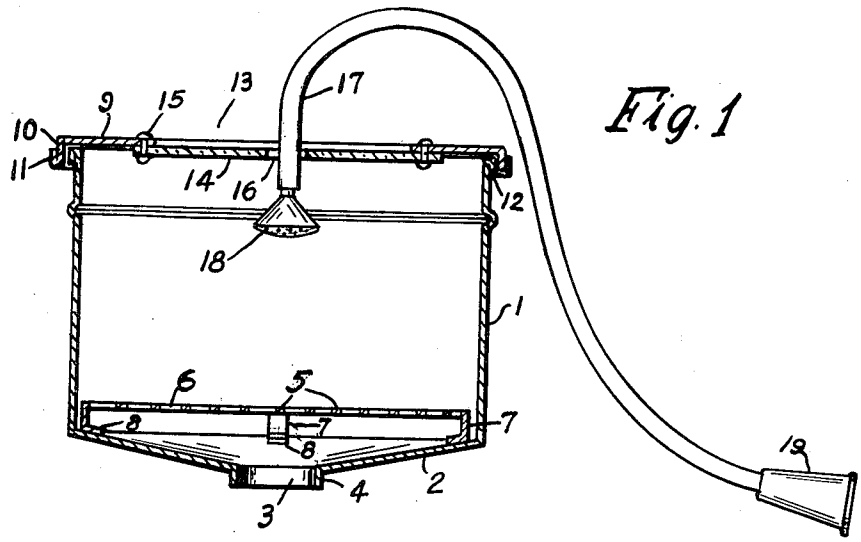

Fig. 1

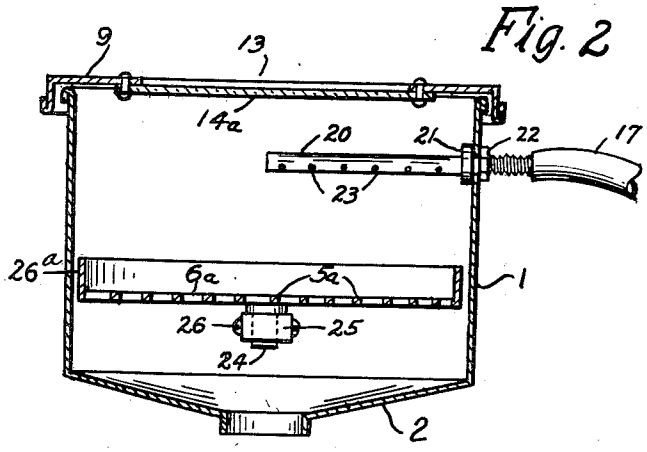

Fig. 2

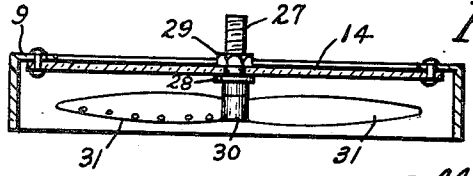

Fig. 3

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WASHING DEVICE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 68—205)

This invention relates to washing devices and has particular reference to a novel diaper washer.

In washing soiled baby diapers many mothers object to the disagreeable task of washing the diapers by hand, in the commode or elsewhere. This unsanitary, untidy practice has long been an unpleasant necessity. It is therefore a principal object of this invention to provide a simple, inexpensive washing device for cleaning baby diapers quickly and efficiently without the necessity of soiling the hands.

Another object is to provide a relatively cheap, easily handled diaper washer which can be readily manipulated.

A further object is to provide a diaper washer with a cover having at least a transparent portion through which the washing operation can be viewed.

An additional object is to provide a diaper washer with a cover that may be slipped back on a shower hose when desired.

A further object is to provide a diaper washer in which a diaper-supporting turntable is rotated beneath a spray by the force of the water.

A still further object is to provide a diaper washer in which a rotary sprinkler or spray head is revolved by reaction of issuing streams of water.

Other objects will appear in the following description:

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a part sectional elevation of the diaper washer, showing a shower spray head, connected tubing, and a screen or apertured disc for supporting diapers.

Figure 2 is a part sectional elevation of a diaper washer having a rotary, apertured turntable for supporting diapers.

Figure 3 is a part sectional elevation of a cover for a diaper washer, the cover carrying a rotatable reaction type spray device.

In Figure 1, casing **1** is cylindrical but may be oblong, eliptical or any suitable shape. It may be made of aluminum, tinplate, galvanized iron or steel, or of plastic or other material and is preferably from 28 to 30 gauge in weight. Bottom **2** is seamed, soldered, or otherwise fastened to the cylindrical wall of casing **1** and slopes toward central drain opening **3** therein, having surrounding lip or spout **4** to direct flow of water downward.

Disc **5**, of thin metal, wire, plastic or the like, has apertures **6** preferably from 1 to 4 square inches in area and of any suitable shape such a round, square, oblong or the equivalent. Legs **7** are preferably turned down at right angles to the plane of disc **5**, out of the same material. Feet **8** are bent inward out of the material of legs **7** so that the apertured disc **5** is supported a suitable distance above bottom **2**, the feet **8** resting on the bottom. There are preferably 4 legs and associated feet.

Cylindrical cover **9** has rim **10** which may be tucked as at **11** to avoid a sharp edge. Casing **1** may similarly be tucked as at **12**. Cover **9** has a relatively large central circular opening **13** which is covered underneath by transparent disc **14** of clear plastic such as cellulose acetate, methyl methacrylate or other suitable material. Rivets **15** passing through suitable holes in the cover and plastic disc, are used to fasten them together. Central hole **16** in the plastic disc is provided so that rubber tube **17** of smaller diameter placed therethrough and carrying spray head **18** may be adjusted at various angles to direct water issuing from the spray head against a diaper supported on disc **5**. The other end of tube **17** has attached rubber flared sleeve **19** for connecting the shower spray to a faucet.

In use, the device, which may be called a diaper shower, is placed upon a commode, and rubber sleeve or connector **19** is slipped over a bathtube or other water faucet. Cover **9** is lifted and a diaper, preferably soiled side up, is spread out on apertured disc **5** and then the cover is replaced and the water faucet is opened so that a strong water spray issues from perforated spray head **18**. This spray can be manipulated and directed by manually adjusting tube **17** at various angles so that all parts of the diaper are washed relatively clean. If there are folds in the diaper the cover can be slipped back on tube **17** and one hand can be used to re-arrange the diaper. By slipping the cover back the spray head can be moved freely above the diaper, reaching all parts, at close range if desired. In this case the flow of water can be reduced if spattering occurs. The flowing water and debris pass through opening **3** and into the commode.

In cleaning the diaper by means of the shower as described, it is helpful if a little powdered soap is sprinkled over the diaper. While this device is intended primarily as a preliminary washer, before sending the diapers out for further laundering, I have found that in many cases the cleansing action is good enough to obviate the necessity for additional laundering. After the washing operation is finished the diaper is removed, the commode is flushed and the device is stored in a corner or elsewhere until needed again. The device is self-cleaning, due to the flowing water, and needs little attention.

By means of this washer, diapers can be cleaned more quickly than formerly, and it is not necessary to soil the hands as in the past. The diapers can be grasped by clean portions in handling them and in re-arranging them as described. While its use for diapers is depicted, the washer can be employed also for cleaning other clothes, or other objects. For instance, a dish washer based upon principles described could be made.

In Figure 2, a modified washing device is shown. In this case, central opening **13** of cover **9** is overlapped by solid transparent disc **14***a* of plastic material or the like. Closed-end pipe **20**, having flange **21**, is passed through an opening in the vertical cylindrical wall of casing **1** and is clamped in horizontal position, as shown, by nut **22** screwed onto the threaded end of pipe **20**. A suitable rubber tube can be slipped over the threaded end of the pipe to supply water thereto. This pipe extends approximately to the center of the casing and has holes **23** therein arranged to discharge jets of water downward and at an angle so that apertured turntable **5***a* will be revolved by the force of the streams of water striking it. This turntable has apertures **6***a* and is attached at its center to stub shaft **24** which is freely rotatable in bearing **25** about a vertical axis. This bearing is seen endwise and is integral with an arm extending from ears **26** which are bolted to the vertical wall of casing **1**.

In use, connected rubber tube **17**, shown in fragmentary manner, is connected to a water faucet and a soiled diaper is spread over disc **5***a*, the rim **26***a* preventing the diaper from rubbing against the casing. Then cover **9** is placed over the device and the water is turned on, after placing the washer on a commode. The jets of water flowing from openings or orifices **23** strike the diaper and wash it, at the same time causing the diaper and supporting turntable to be revolved so that all parts are cleaned. If desired, another pipe similar to pipe **20** could be arranged beneath the turntable so that upward-directed jets of water would assist in the cleansing and rotating action.

This modification of the invention has the advantage that manual operation is largely dispensed with and it can be left to operate itself until the diaper is clean, at which time the water is cut off and the diaper is removed.

It is obvious that more than one diaper can be placed in either of the washers at one time but it is desirable to wash the diapers promptly.

In Figure 3, cover **9** has attached clear plastic disc **14** riveted to it and a central hole as in Fig. 1. Pipe **27** is clamped in this central hole by means of integral flange **28** and nut **29** screwed onto the threaded pipe. Hollow closed-end cup **30** is rotatably mounted on the end of pipe **27**, in well known manner as in lawn sprinklers, and communicates with attached, hollow blades **31** having discharge orifices for water in opposite faces of the

blades so that the blades will be revolved by the reaction of downwardly directed jets of water. Therefore if pipe 27 is connected to a faucet by a suitable hose or pipe, this cover may then be placed over a casing holding a diaper which will be cleaned by the revolving jets of water. This construction also provides automatic operation.

In using any of the diaper washers described the hot and cold water faucets may be opened to provide an ample stream or streams of water. If clouding of the transparent disc occurs, due to condensed moisture, it is helpful to use cold water alone.

It is obvious that many changes of detail may readily be made without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What I claim is:

An article of manufacture comprising a diaper washer, including: a casing having a cylindrical portion and a bottom portion sloping downwardly toward a central drain opening therein, a closed-end pipe having its axis substantially at right angles to the axis of said cylindrical portion and passing through a hole in said cylindrical portion, said pipe having a flange thereon inside said casing and the projecting exterior portion of said pipe being threaded, a nut on said exterior portion clamping said casing against said flange, the closed end of said pipe being situated substantially at the axis of said casing, said pipe having holes downwardly directed with their axes in a plane which is at an acute angle to the vertical for discharge of fluid therefrom, a circular apertured rack

below said pipe and concentric with said cylindrical casing portion, a stub shaft attached to said rack beneath and concentric therewith, a bearing post for said shaft attached to said cylindrical portion, said stub shaft being detachably mounted in said bearing post, said pipe holes being positioned to discharge fluid downward upon a diaper held by said rack to cause rotation thereof, a loosely fitting cover for said casing, said cover comprising an annular outer portion having a depending rim with upturned bead and a central transparent disc riveted to said annular portion, the upper edge of said casing having a down-turned bead.

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