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B. AMES

2,224,246

MOVABLE SUPPORT

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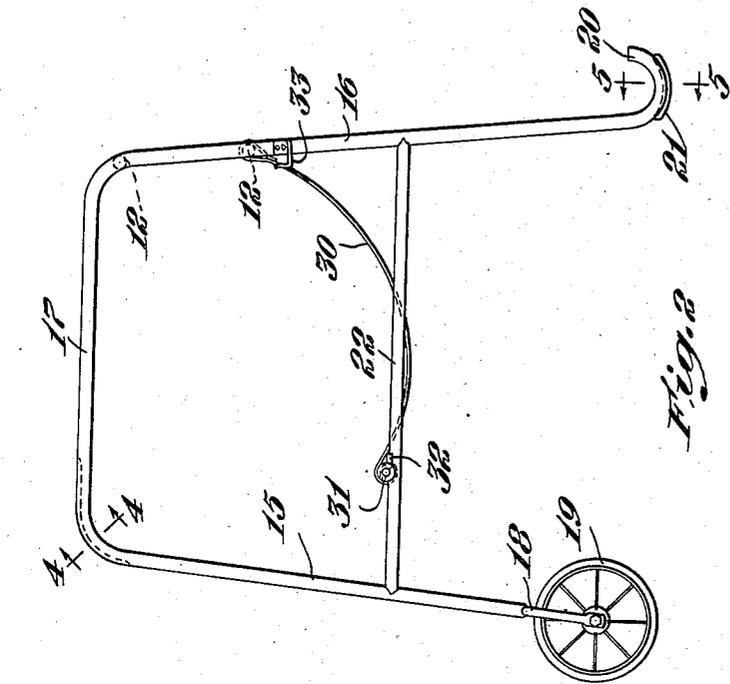


Fig. 2

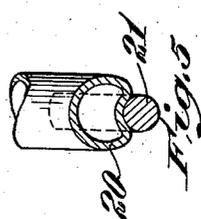


Fig. 3

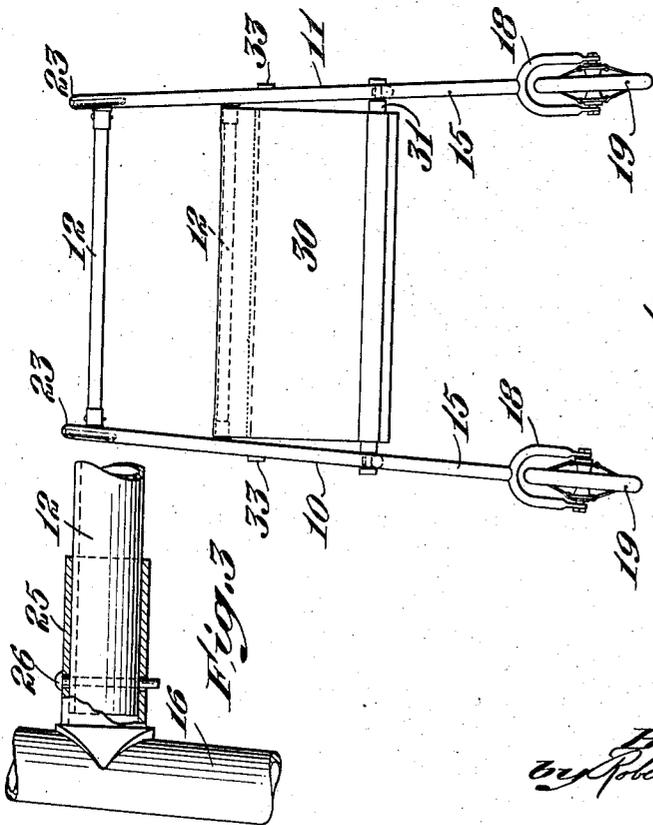


Fig. 1

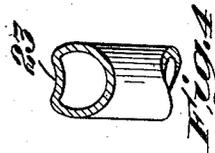


Fig. 4

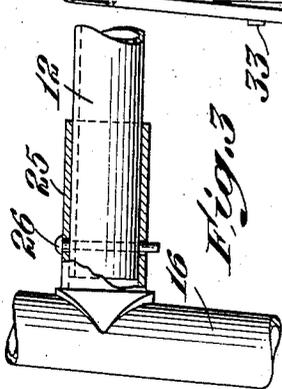


Fig. 5

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MOVABLE SUPPORT

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3 Claims. (Cl. 155—22)

This invention relates to an improvement in a movable support and has as its primary object the provision of a travelling support by the use of which invalids and those whose power of locomotion is impaired are enabled to walk freely and safely without danger of falling.

More specifically this device includes frames between which the user stands, said frames being connected so that they form a single unit and including bars to be grasped by the hands of the user to control the movement and direction of travel of the device, said device being supported at the forward ends of the frames upon rollers and at the rearward ends of the frames upon skids so that while the device can be moved easily it will be steadied against any side slip or skidding.

In the accompanying drawing in which is illustrated a device embodying one form of this invention

Figs. 1 and 2 are views in front and side elevation respectively;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged view, partly in section, of one detail of this invention; and

Figs. 4 and 5 are enlarged cross sectional views taken along section lines 4—4 and 5—5 in Fig. 2.

The device illustrated in the drawing comprises two side frames 10 and 11 joined by bars 12 to form a single unitary structure. Each frame preferably comprises a continuous tubular bar bent to provide front and back legs 15 and 16 respectively and a horizontal section 17 connecting the legs at the top. The front leg 15 of each frame terminates in a forked yoke 18 by which is supported a wheel 19. The wheel 19 is preferably provided with a rubber tire and is freely rotatable. The back leg 16 of each frame terminates in hook 20 to the bottom of which a rod 21 is secured. As shown in Fig. 5 the underside of the hook 20 is recessed longitudinally to provide a pocket in which the rod 21 is seated. The legs 15 and 16 preferably diverge slightly from the section 17 and are joined intermediate their lengths by a brace bar 22 which may be parallel to that section as shown in Fig. 2. The curve at the joiner of section 17 and leg 15 is preferably provided with a longitudinally extending depression 23 (see Fig. 4) for reasons to be pointed out later.

The bars 12 are preferably removably secured to the legs 16 of frames 10 and 11. One manner of carrying this out is shown particularly in Fig. 3 as comprising a sleeve or cup 25 rigidly fixed to each leg 16 which receives the end of a bar 12. The clearance between rod and sleeve is

held at a minimum and the inner wall of the sleeve 25 is nickel plated. The bar 12 and sleeve 25 are connected in any suitable manner as by a dowel 26.

From the above description it will be apparent that the user of the support stands between the frames 10 and 11 and in front of the bars 12 and grasps the sections 17. The user thus finds ready support at each side and is able to move with the support in any desired direction.

The frames 10 and 11 and bars 12 are of stainless steel or airplane tubing thus providing great strength and rigidity together with extreme lightness so that the support can be easily manipulated. When the bars 12 are removably attached to the frames the support can of course be easily knocked down into the frames and bars and can thus be stored or transported without difficulty. The user generally grasps the support adjacent the forward ends of the sections with fingers in the depression 23, thus making more convenient the handling of the support.

The support may also be provided with a removable seat in the form of a sheet of canvas or similar strong fabric 30. The fabric is attached at one end to the lower bar 12 and at the other end to a roller 31. When the fabric is extended, the roller 31 rests on the brace bars 22 and is held against backward travel by brackets 32 fixed to the bars 22. When the seat is not to be used, the roller 31 is disconnected from the bars 22 and suspended from brackets 33 fixed to the legs 11. Ordinarily the fabric is furled on the roller 31 so that it is completely out of the way.

It will be noted that the front legs only of the support are provided with wheels and that the rods 21 at the ends of the back legs serve as skids. Thus while the support can easily be moved in any desired direction, the rods 21, when the weight of the user is applied to the support, act as brakes to retard the movement of the support and to prevent any involuntary movement thereof. Moreover, the wheels are so mounted that they have movement in one linear direction only and thus act with the rods to prevent any side slipping of the support. This is an important feature of the support, since it guards against and prevents falls which might otherwise occur if, for example, wheels were provided on all four legs or if the wheels were swiveled like casters so that they could shift easily from one position to another.

I claim:

1. A movable support comprising a pair of side frames, each frame including front and back legs

and a horizontal section connecting the tops of the legs, the legs and horizontal section of each frame being formed by a bent continuous tube, a wheel rotatably mounted at the bottom of the front leg and the back leg terminating in a hook, the under side of the hook and the upper side curve at the joinder of the front leg and horizontal section being recessed to provide longitudinally extending pockets, a rod fixed in the pocket at the hook, and bars connecting the back legs of the frames to form a unit.

2. A movable support comprising a pair of side frames, each frame including front and rear legs, and a brace bar connecting said legs, bars connecting said frames to form a unit, a seat comprising a sheet of fabric connected at one end to one of said frame-connecting bars and a roller to which the other end of said sheet is connected, means on said brace bar by which said roller

is engaged to hold the seat fabric extended, and means on the rear legs of the frame by which the roller is supported when the seat is not in use.

3. A movable support comprising a pair of side frames, each frame including front and rear legs, a horizontal section connecting the tops of the legs and a brace bar parallel to said section connecting said legs intermediate their lengths, bars connecting said frames, one of said bars being connected to the rear legs of the frames, a seat comprising a sheet of fabric connected at one end to said bar, and a roller to which the other end of the sheet is connected, said roller resting upon the brace bars of the frames when the seat is in position for use, means carried by said brace bars which engage said roller, and brackets on said rear legs by which the roller is supported when the seat is not in position for use.

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