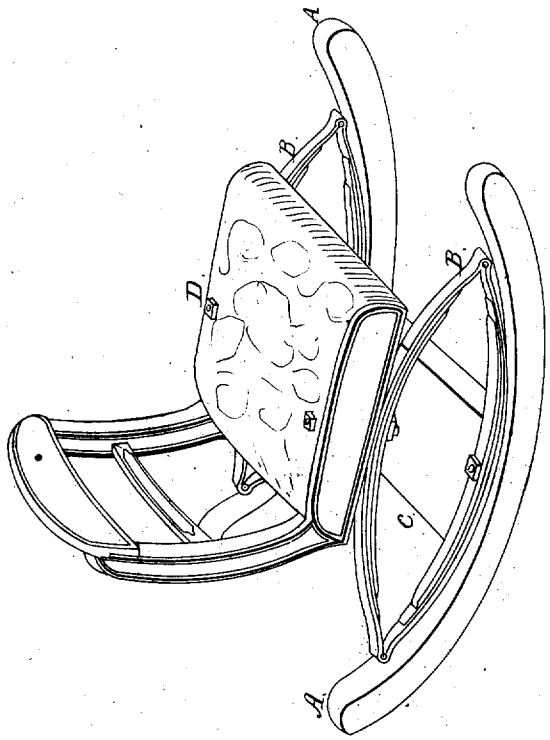
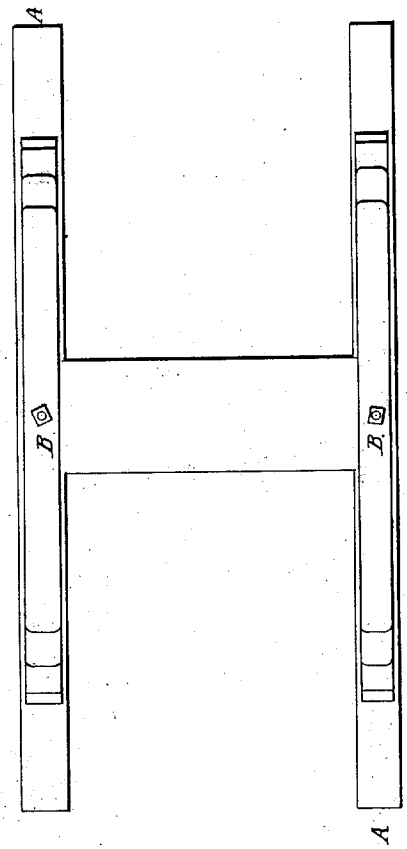
6514X

D. Harrington,

Rocking Chair,

Patented Apr. 23, 1831.





N. PETERS, PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHER, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Apr. 23, 1831 Apr. 28, 1831 25.

Daniel Harrington

6514X

The Petitioner reposed to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same containing a description in the words of the said Daniel Harrington himself of his said improvement for giving motion or exercise to invalids in their rooms or confinement. Shall to whom these presents shall come Be it known that I Daniel Harrington of Philadelphia in the County of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania have invented a new and useful improvement in a machine for the use of invalids and the following is a full and exact description of the construction and operation of the said machine reference being had to the annexed drawings. The undersigned by his arrangement, adaptation and combination of certain kinds of machinery (not in themselves new but formerly used for various purposes) thus forming by a compound claim of parts a new machine or engine never before constructed and thereby imbodying a principle (like a soul in a body) and applying said principle through said engine to the benefit of invalids in their rooms houses or yards of their houses, so that they may receive the healthful (life giving) exercise (principle) that is usually received from riding upon the back of a living or walking horse, or in a two or four wheeled carriage. The base or lower part of this engine is formed by a pair of cranes in form nearly similar to the cranes attached to common reading chairs only larger in all respects. The length of these cranes, forming said base, is three and a half feet each they may be longer or shorter. The height of these cranes in their centres as they stand on the floor is six inches each, they may be higher or lower at their ends when they turn up and there by form a post of a circle three inches from upper [illegible] under side of the

two inches at each end, or one and a half inch would be amply sufficient Their thickness is one and three quarters inch, or they may be two inches in thickness. These rockers may be made of wood of any kind perhaps Mahogany any is as good as any other wood, or they may be made of Metal. These rockers are fastened together near their middle by a piece of wood or iron fastened at each end (and fitted into a mortise in each rocker and made fast by pins or screws These rockers When connected together, centre and may be the same width or distance apart at their as above said, are six teen inches apart at their front and back ends or they may be somewhat wider in front and narrower behind as it is usually the case with common rocking chairs. The piece with which they are connected at their centre is six inches wide and two inches thick. These rockers as above described, form the base or ground work of the health vehicle The next part or series of the same resting upon the rockers at or near their middle and fastened to them by substantial screws. with nuts consist of three pair of elliptic springs made of steel. Two of these springs attached together at their middle one above the other with a thin pc thick iron-mercile substance (leather or wood) by two screws at each middle with nuts screwed together with the rockers beneath, a spring leg: and both of them a pair of spring legs (the connected at their base by the six inch piece above said) calculated to give a rolling or rocking motion or a perpendicular motion according to the exertion of the invalid occupying the seat above, said elliptic springs which seat is now to be described. Upon these elliptic springs at their ends and attached at their middle at each side by two substantial screws with nuts, rests a seat in the form of a chair without common legs, the spring legs serving in place of common legs for the invalid to sit on and to rock by

ensign desirable from the vehicle. The form and dimensions of the said chair must be such as the invalid wishes for, or can best occupy, some cases of disease require one form, and some cases other forms. See drawing deposited in the patent office. These elliptic springs are similar in their form to those of the same name used by carriage makers, but for this purpose as described above, they are found to answer best when made of only four pieces of cast steel each; say two of the pieces longer and connected together at their extremities by screws, and two of them shorter and lying on the outside of the two longer pieces and made fast at their middle by a rivet in each. The pieces of tempered steel are all of them, one quarter of an inch in thickness at their middle only, thence becoming thinner towards their ends, say at their ends, in thickness, one eighth of an inch, or for a vehicle for a light person one twelfth of an inch in thickness their width from end to end is the same say one and three quarters inch. The longest and lowest of these springs is five and a half feet each, the next above is two feet three inches, and the next above (and last) is two feet - say in length all of them. These springs are set apart in their middle, each of them about five inches, while they curve towards and connect together at their ends, A single spring attached to each end might form a pair of spring legs for a health vehicle; but two, three or even five would be better as furnishing a much greater degree of elasticity and consequently a better motion.

These steel springs when exposed to rain have a coarse or unfinished appearance and should be covered with morocco, or some other kind of stuff, in the form of a casing, but this latter is not absolutely necessary as it is only for appearance. The undersigned truly believes that

that he is the first person who has taken hold of the principle in idea, above named and imbodied it so to speak, like a soul in a body, and rendered it in a manner tangible, its effects self evident through the powers of the health vehicle. The thereon hereby asserts his exclusive claim to the aforesaid "principle" as well as the means of applying it i.e. the health vehicle. being as before said, the first person who has successfully applied the same to the alleviation or relief of the miseries of the human family in all cases from the infant just in the arms to the adult of the age of an hundred years. The aforesaid "principle" embodied for as above by the undersigned, he denominates an operative cause terminating in successive activity (of duration longer or shorter as may be needful) tending to restoration of health its life giving influence attainable through the use of the health vehicle, within doors, in any local situation under all the various circumstances of weather and climate. The same principle tending to the same effect as above described and above limited at in these words, "some cases of disease require one form (of seat) and some cases other forms" has been embodied by the undersigned by the adaptation and application of the same spring legs and rockers to the under side of the top part of a saddle, (Mans saddle or Womans saddle) resting on them at their tops (and made fast to them with screws. Those saddles to be used in the same way, as when on the back of a horse, After the same spring legs and rockers have been adapted and applied to a frame resting on them at their tops and fastened to them by screws, this latter to meet the cases of invalids who require a recumbent posture of the body. In all of these forms, Any new or known saddle, (except the the seat of the undersigned has been to make the same spring

exercise (life giving principle) attainable by invalids of every description, from the bed rid to the sitting walking or riding invalid. On their application to a saddle the spring legs and rockers are brought nearer together, and on their application to a lounge they are extended further apart. Springs denominated elliptic or elliptical may be made of wood also of various substances besides steel, but such if made by any other person for the above described purpose would be considered an invasion of this specification and consequently of the rights of the undersigned. Also grasshopper springs, straight springs, (prices) with intermediate prices between their extremities operate on the same principle and are virtually the same. With elliptical springs in as much as they yield or give, from their centre towards their extremities alike. The mode of using this wealth vehicle is as followed. If the invalid sits in a chair resting upon the spring legs, if his strength will admit of it a rapid motion of the arms in the way of swinging them say oblique or perpendicularly will give to him through the aid of the vehicle a gentle or severe motion similar to the trot or rack of a horse or the pole of a Carriage, according to his exertion, if he sits upon a saddle, the same exercise will produce the same effect. if however the case requires it a friend or servant must give the necessary exercise to the invalid by applying his hand or foot to the vehicle. If a lounge is used the aid of a friend or servant will be requisite to give through the vehicle the needful exercise. If an infant or child receives exercise from the vehicle it must of necessity be through the aid of the nurse or some other person giving motion to the same.

Witness. W.S. Pilkington

W. Pilkington

Daniel Mannington