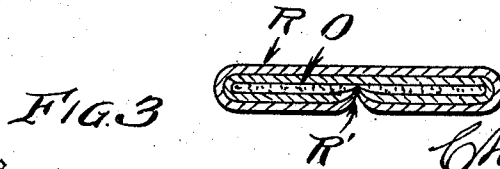
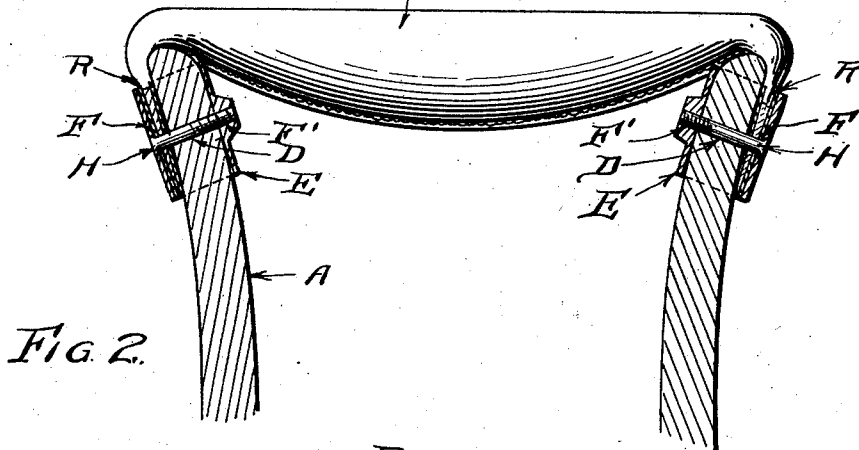
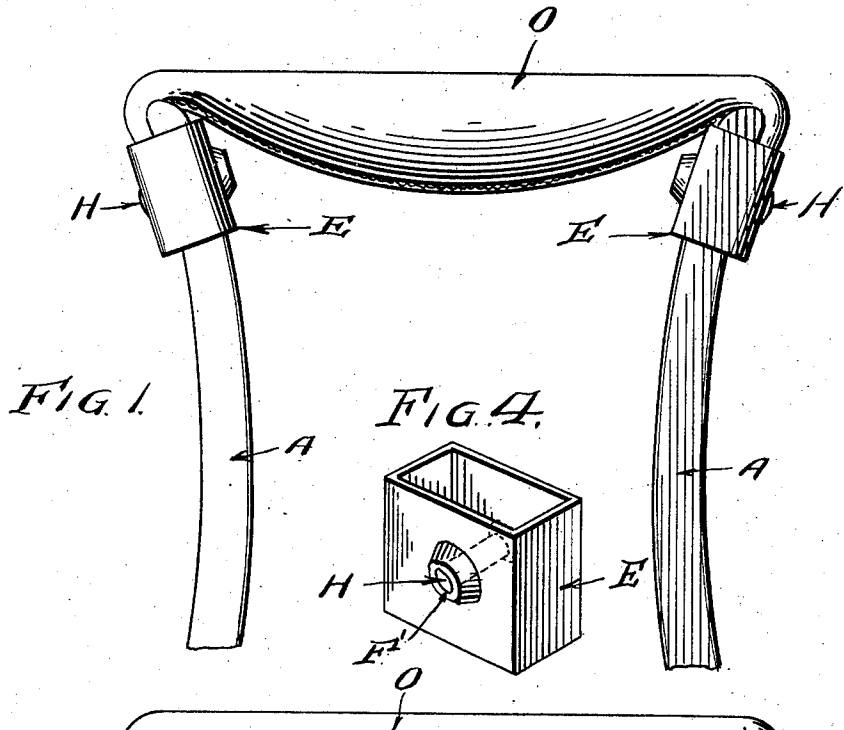


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CRUTCH.
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986,999.

Patented Mar. 14, 1911.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CRUTCH.

986,999.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES E. KRITSCH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Crutches; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in crutches and particularly in the provision of a detachable leather top for fastening to spring crutches and so constructed that a person may readily detach and replace the top.

Heretofore, when it has been desired to replace the tops of crutches, it has been necessary to remove the tacks holding the same to the sides of the crutch which has a tendency to damage the same and necessarily shorten the usefulness of the crutch. By my improved method, the top may be easily applied and removed by one unskilled in the art of manufacture of the crutch.

The invention consists essentially in the provision of a collar or band provided with apertures which register with apertures in the crutch over which it fits and in the provision of metallic ends of the top which are engaged by a screw passing through the same and said collars, thereby securely holding the tops in place.

The invention comprises various details of construction and combinations and arrangements of parts which will be hereinafter fully described and then specifically defined in the appended claim.

I illustrate my invention in the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a crutch made in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a sectional view longitudinally through the top of the crutch and sides. Fig. 3 is a detail sectional view through the

end of the leather top and clamping band with indenture therein, and Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail perspective view of the form of collar shown in Fig. 2.

Reference now being had to the details of the drawings by letter, A, A designate the side strips of the usual crutch, the upper ends of which are bowed outwardly, as shown, and each strip is provided with an aperture D. Collars, designated by letter E, formed preferably of metal, are adapted to fit over each upper end of one of said strips and each of said collars is provided with registering apertures, designated by letters F and F', the latter of which is interiorly threaded to receive the threaded end of a screw H which is passed through said apertures of the collar and also an aperture in the crutch, as shown.

The top, made of leather or other material and designated by letter O, has metallic clamping plates R about its ends and which members have spurs R' to securely hold the ends of the top in place. Each metallic clamping member is inserted intermediate the outer edge of the crutch and one end of the collar which fits over the latter and a screw is passed through registering apertures in the collar and metallic clamping member and, when the threaded end of the screw turns into the threaded aperture in the collar, the parts will be securely held in place. Before the ends are fastened, however, the strips of the crutch are brought toward each other so that they will normally hold the top under tension when the top is adjusted in place.

By the provision of a simple and efficient device as shown, it will be noted that any person may conveniently replace the top when desired for any purpose by taking out the screws and removing the ends of the top, as will be readily understood.

What I claim to be new is:—

In combination with a spring crutch having a pair of side strips each of which is provided with an aperture adjacent to the upper end thereof, a metallic collar fitted over each of said strips and having register-

ing apertures, one of which is threaded, a top, a metallic clamping member engaging each of the ends of said top and having an aperture passing therethrough, each of said
5 clamping members being inserted in one of the collars between one of the ends thereof and the outer edge of the corresponding strip, and a screw passing through the reg-

istering apertures in each collar, strip and clamping member.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

CHARLES E. KRITSCH.

Witnesses:

A. L. HOUGH,
GEO. L. THOM.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."