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THERAPEUTIC APPARATUS

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Fig. 1

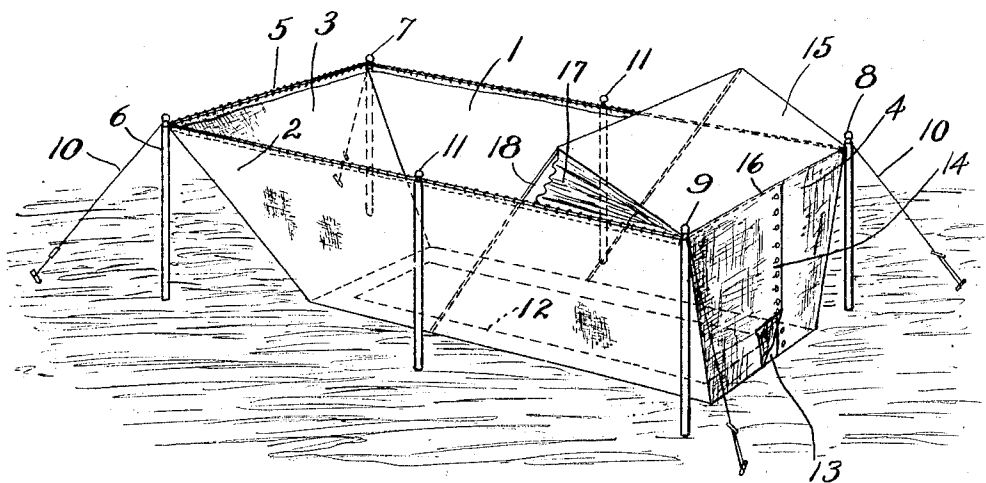
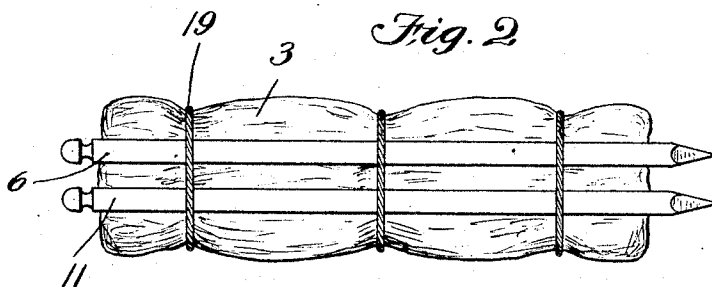


Fig. 2



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THERAPEUTIC APPARATUS.

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This invention pertains to therapeutic apparatus and more particularly to means useful in the treatment of the human body by exposure to the open air and to the actinic rays of the sun.

It is well recognized that for the cure of certain debilitating diseases, as well as for the maintenance of sound health, direct exposure of the uncovered skin of the body to the open air and especially to the unobstructed rays of the sun is of great benefit. Such treatment is often prescribed by physicians for persons who are unwell, while many people of average health are aware of the invigorating effects of such treatment and if possible or practical would take such treatment as a regular item of hygienic living.

However, in northern climates, exposure of the body to the air and sun is often rendered unsafe or at least uncomfortable by reason of cold winds, so that many persons, especially if not habituated to the treatment, shrink from it as from something disagreeable. Moreover, in communities, particularly of Anglo-Saxon origin, custom and teachings of personal modesty, as well as prohibitory statutes, forbid exposure of the nude body to the public view so that it is quite difficult, if not impossible, for many persons who might otherwise enjoy the benefits and pleasure of air and sun bathing to do so.

The present invention has for its principal object the provision of an apparatus or shield of inexpensive and of portable character, which may be erected wherever there can be found available space having the necessary exposure to sun and air. Suitable space may usually be found in the yard of a suburban dwelling house or upon the flat roof of a city house, or at least within easy reach of the patient's dwelling, and this shield is designed to afford all necessary protection from drafts and to provide privacy to the person desiring to take the treatment while at the same time allowing free access of air and of the sun's rays.

In the accompanying drawings which illustrate a preferred embodiment of the invention,

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing the invention as embodied in a shield or appa-

tus of portable type, the shield being shown as erected and in operative position; and

Fig. 2 is a view of the device of Fig. 1 collapsed and bundled for transportation or storage.

Referring to the drawings, the numerals 1 and 2 designate opposite side walls of a substantially rectangular shield or enclosure while the end walls are indicated at 3 and 4 respectively. While the apparatus is here shown as elongate and of substantially rectangular contour, the exact shape is not material, and it is to be understood that the walls may be curved as well as straight and that any desired change in relative proportions or dimensions may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention.

The only substantial limitation in the dimensions of such an apparatus is that it shall provide sufficient floor space for the patient in whatever posture he may wish to assume. Usually a floor space approximating in area that of a single bed will be found sufficient for the purpose providing but one patient at a time is to be treated. Obviously the size of the apparatus may be increased if available space permits and if greater freedom of movement within the disclosure is desired.

The apparatus is of portable form and to this end the side and end walls are formed of some flexible material, for example, textile fabric. This fabric or material should be substantially opaque so as completely to cut off the view of the interior, and the walls are of such height as to prevent persons at the outside from looking in.

The upper edges of the side walls are sewed or otherwise secured to ropes indicated at 5, such ropes being supported at their opposite ends by means of suitable detachable corner posts 6, 7, 8 and 9 respectively. These corner posts may be set into the ground if circumstances permit, and are provided with guy ropes 10. Preferably the posts are vertical or at least so disposed that their lower ends define an area on the ground greater than the base of the enclosure, thus giving stability and preventing the device from tipping over when subjected to wind pressure.

In the arrangement illustrated the sides 1 and 2 are relatively long and to assist in

supporting these sides center posts 11 may be provided. Obviously additional posts may be arranged to provide supports at closer intervals if necessary.

5 In order to make close contact with the ground or other support upon which the apparatus rests, it is preferred to provide the lower edges of the side walls with flaps 12 adapted to lie flat upon the surface of the
10 ground and to be pinned or otherwise secured thereto if desired.

To insure full exposure of the patient to the sun's rays the end wall 3 is inclined upwardly and outwardly from the bottom of
15 the apparatus at such an angle that when the apparatus is properly positioned the sun's rays may enter and strike the bottom of the enclosure without any shadow being cast by the wall 3. While it is not wholly
20 necessary, provided the device be properly oriented with due regard to the latitude and to the time of day during which it is to be used, I prefer to arrange the side walls 1 and 2 to flare upwardly and outwardly from
25 the bottom of the apparatus so that less care is required in setting the apparatus relative to the points of the compass in order to insure full flooding of the interior of the enclosure.

30 This inclination of the side walls has a further desirable effect since it tends to reflect the sun's rays more nearly in a horizontal direction and thus to concentrate them upon the patient who in most cases
35 will recline upon a cot or other support raised somewhat from the floor of the apparatus.

The exact inclination of the walls of the enclosure may be varied in accordance with
40 circumstances and in particular with respect to the latitude and time of year at which the apparatus is to be used.

The end wall 4 is conveniently, though not necessarily, substantially vertical and is
45 provided with an ingress opening 13 provided with a suitable closure. As here shown the wall 4, being made of textile fabric, is divided vertically into two portions to form the ingress opening and one of the portions
50 overlaps the other to form a closure flap 14 which may be buttoned or otherwise secured in closed position.

In certain locations, as, for example, where windows of nearby building overlook
55 the only available location for the apparatus, it may be desirable to provide one or more of the walls with a shield to prevent persons outside from obtaining a view of the interior of the apparatus. In the drawings such a shield 15 is shown as movably
60 attached to the upper edge 16 of the wall 4. This shield is adapted to swing about said edge 16 as an axis. The shield may consist of a suitable light and collapsible frame covered with textile fabric or may be of any
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other suitable character, and if desired the ends of this shield may be connected with adjacent walls of the enclosure by means of an extensible bellows-like connection 17. Suitable braces 18 or other devices may be
70 employed for adjusting and retaining the shield 15 in desired position.

While this shield has been shown as attached to the end wall 4, it is obvious that a similar shield or shields could be secured
75 to the edges of the side walls 1 or 2 if desired, although it is, of course, obvious that for giving sun treatments the shield should in no case be so arranged as to obstruct the entrance of the sun's rays to the interior of
80 the apparatus, unless the shield is purposely intended as a shutter for regulating the amount of sun to be admitted. In the latter case the shield might be of some transparent material colored for example, celluloid, adapted to admit rays of one wave
85 length while excluding others. Such arrangement might be useful in the treatment of certain specific diseases where certain of the sun's rays are more beneficial than
90 others.

The arrangement hereinabove described may, when not in use, be collapsed and folded up into a bundle as shown in Fig. 2 well
95 adapted to be carried on the running board of an automobile, the fabric and the posts being held in compact form by means of an encircling rope 19.

The device thus provided affords complete privacy to the patient desiring to take the
100 air or sun treatment while at the same time it allows free access of air and sun. The apparatus is relatively inexpensive to make and may be set up with a minimum of labor and trouble and when collapsed occupies but
105 little space. Its portable character makes it of great value for tourists and especially persons who wish to combine this air and sun treatment with bathing at the beach since the apparatus is readily set up upon
110 the beach and it can be used immediately before or after a dip in the water.

I claim:

1. Apparatus for use in taking sun baths in the open comprising a collapsible enclosure having flexible side walls and end walls of opaque material, the side walls inclining outwardly and upwardly and one of the end walls having an ingress opening, the top of the enclosure being substantially open and
115 posts detachably secured to the upper edge of the enclosure, the lower ends of the posts defining an area greater than the area of the base of the enclosure.

2. Apparatus for use in taking sun baths in the open comprising flexible side and end walls of opaque textile material, the side walls and one end wall flaring outwardly and upwardly, the other end wall being substantially vertical and provided with an in-
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gress opening, and a closure for said opening, the top of the enclosure formed by the side walls being substantially open, and a supporting post detachably secured to each upper corner of the enclosure.

3. Apparatus for use in taking sun baths in the open comprising walls of opaque textile fabric, means supporting the walls to form an enclosure, said supporting means comprising a plurality of independent detachable posts, the top of the enclosure being substantially open, one at least of the walls sloping upwardly and outwardly to admit the sun's rays without obstruction to enter and pass to the bottom of the enclosure, and a shield for increasing the effective height of a part at least of the wall of the enclosure.

4. Apparatus for use in taking sun baths in the open comprising flexible side and end walls of opaque material, independent posts for supporting said walls, the side walls and one end wall flaring outwardly and upwardly to permit the sun's rays freely to enter through the open top of the enclosure, an adjustable shield of colored transparent celluloid attached to the upper edge of the opposite end wall, and means for positioning said shield.

5. Apparatus for use in taking sun baths in the open comprising flexible walls forming an elongate portable enclosure open at the top, the sides and one end of said enclosure sloping upwardly and outwardly, a swinging shield attached to the upper edge of the opposite end wall, vertical posts detachably secured to the upper corners of the enclosure, extensible closures connecting the opposite ends of the shield with the respective side walls of the enclosure, and means for adjusting the shield.

6. Apparatus for use in taking sun baths in the open comprising walls or textile fabric forming an elongate enclosure open at the top, one end wall of the enclosure sloping upwardly and outwardly to permit the sun's rays to enter freely and without casting a shadow upon the enclosed space, the opposite end wall being substantially vertical, said latter wall having overlapping flap to provide an ingress opening and a closure for the opening, and an adjustable shield attached to the opposite edge of the vertical wall.

Signed by me at Boston, Massachusetts, this 15th day of March, 1926.

CHARLES W. MOWRY.