

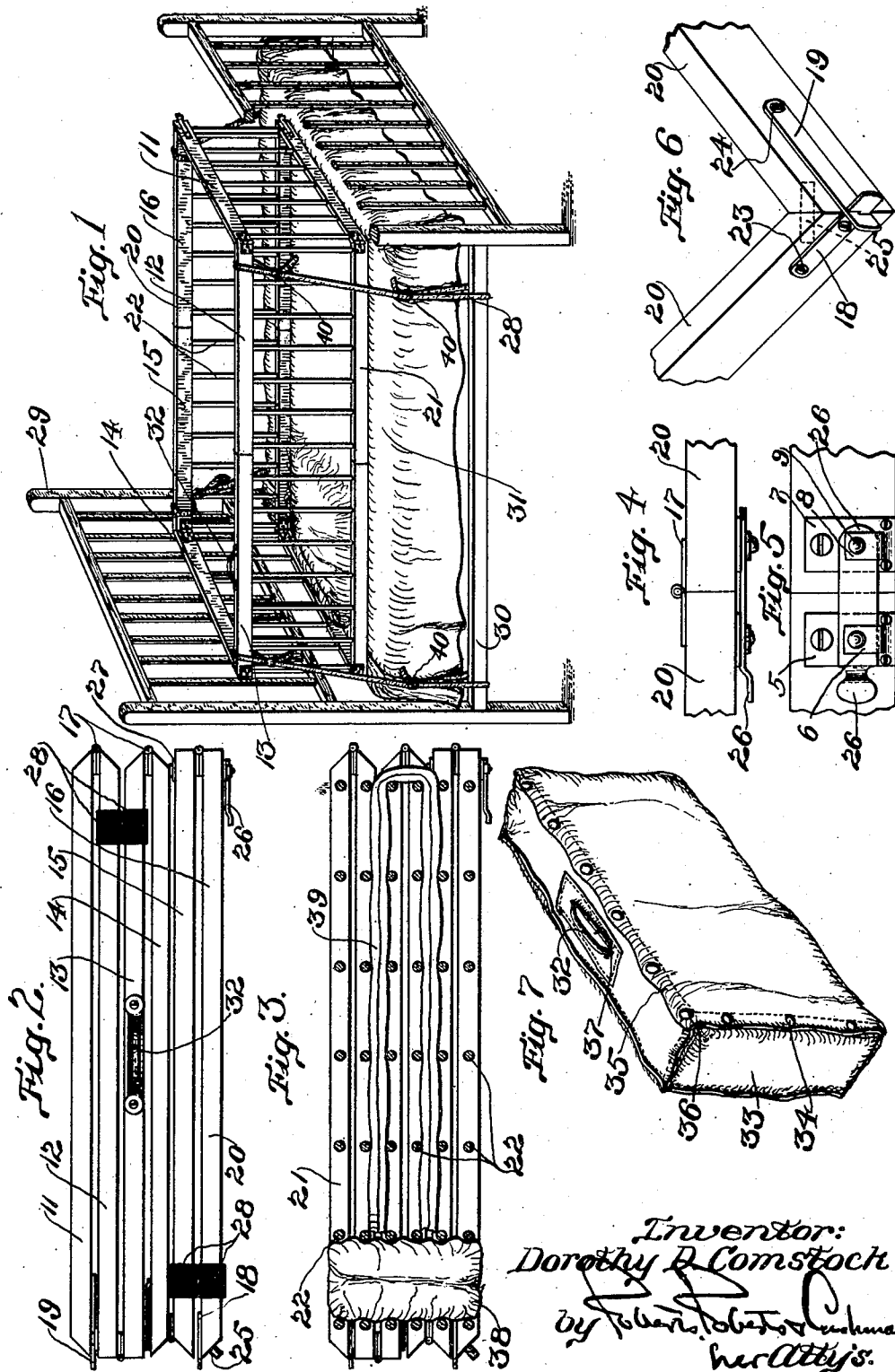
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PORTABLE CRIB

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Inventor:
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by *[Signature]*
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PORTABLE CRIB.

Application filed January 19, 1921. Serial No. 438,371.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DOROTHY DEWEY COMSTOCK, a citizen of the United States of America, and resident of Dedham, in the county of Norfolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented new and useful Improvements in Portable Cribs, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to babies' cribs.

Cribs are a necessity for protecting a baby while asleep, but the usual crib can not be folded into compass to be readily carried about, and travel with an infant generally involves, for this reason, makeshift sleeping arrangements of an unsatisfactory sort. Adequate beds for adults are generally available wherever one travels, and adaptable arrangements for putting a baby to bed safely in an ordinary adult cot or bed are highly desirable for traveling families, but have not heretofore been available.

The only necessary feature distinguishing a crib from the usual bed structure to be found every where is a frame or inclosure of proper proportions to furnish protection against falls and confine the baby to its sleeping place, and to eliminate its natural fear of what would otherwise be strange surroundings.

One object of my invention is to provide a portable structure which can be attached to any bed to convert the bed into a crib; further objects are to provide a structure which will collapse into small space and when collapsed be of a form readily carried as luggage anywhere; and to provide convenient and simple means for retaining the crib in its collapsed and extended forms. An additional object is to provide a structure of these characteristics in such a form, when extended, as shall be properly proportioned for a crib and for placement on any usual bed, and which, when collapsed, will have internal spaces useful as carrying spaces for infant's clothing, bedding, toys, etc. Another object is to provide a structure utilizing the ordinary full-size bed clothing and mattress for the baby's use and which will secure such clothing against disturbance by restless movements.

A preferred way of accomplishing these and other objects will be described in connection with one instance of the invention shown in the accompanying drawings, in which,

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing the

device in use as a bed attachment for converting the bed into a crib;

Fig. 2 is a section in plan showing the device in folded condition;

Fig. 3 is a section showing the device in use as a carrier of articles when folded;

Fig. 4 is a detail plan view of one of the hinge and latch structures;

Fig. 5 is a detail side elevation of the parts shown in Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the separable corner construction and latch therefor; and

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of the device when collapsed and packed for transport. In the form shown the device consists of six sections 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16; but any desired even number may be provided. When extended, these sections are so placed and connected as to form an enclosure oblong in shape and preferably twice as long as it is wide, so that each of the long sides may consist of two sections joined end to end, all of the sections being of the same or nearly the same length. The sections are suitably connected as by hinges 17 on alternate sides of the sections at each juncture between sections, so that the device can be folded in zig-zag fashion by separating the connections at one place and turning adjacent sections against each other. To permit such separation and folding, a separable latch which may comprise a bar 18 fastened at 23 and a bar 19 having a hook to engage the bar 18 pivoted at 24 to the respective beveled ends of the rails 20, of adjoining sections, may be employed instead of a hinge at one of the corners. A dowel pin 25 fast in one rail fits in a hole in the other when the parts are fastened together. The sections may be of any suitable construction, for instance having upper and lower rails 20 and 21, connected by spindles 22, and differing from each other only in having squared or beveled ends for the rails at the middle and corner joints respectively. The ends of the rails act as stops limiting the relative movement of the hinged section relative to the adjacent one. When the construction is of the preferred rail-and-spindle type, the joints and fastenings between the upper and the lower rails respectively are exactly alike, the structures shown in Figs. 4, 5 and 6 being duplicated at the lower joints between sections of the lower rails 21. The joints between the side sections 12, 13

and 15, 16 respectively are adapted to be made rigid by suitable means, such as a bar 26 pivoted at 9 under a wing 8 of plate 7 screwed to one of the rails, and adapted to take under wing 6 of a similar plate 5 screwed on the adjacent end of the adjoining rail.

Near the ends of the long sides of the extended wall formed by the side sections straps or tapes 28 are secured on or about the upper rails. These tapes provide means by which the crib, when set up on a bed, may be drawn downwardly and held tightly upon the bed 29 by fastening the tapes to the side rails 30, or at other suitable parts of the bed; any suitable buckles or clasps 40 may be provided to fasten the tapes, or they may merely be tied in place. The crib, being of oblong shape, can be placed either lengthwise or cross-wise on any ordinary bed; and, when drawn down upon the bed, converts the bed into a satisfactory crib. When placed upon the bed-clothes 31 the device acts as a clamp to prevent displacement of the bed clothes, and insures proper covering for a restless child, and provides a framework for crib side pads to which so many children are accustomed. In this way also the child is made to feel thoroughly at home, without which feeling it is difficult to induce many children to go to sleep or to keep them quiet.

For carrying the device in folded condition, a handle 32 is attached in a convenient place on the upper rail 20 of one of the sections. The tapes 28 provide means by which the collapsed crib can be tied in folded condition, if desired. When folded, the crib parts define a rectangular solid, the spindles 22 being in line, and leaving useful packing spaces between them. These spaces and the parts of the device are preferably enclosed by a canvas or other case. For cheapness and ease of application, the case 33 may be made without stiffening and open at two edges 34 and 35 to define a closure flap giving access to the packing spaces between the

spindles 22. Snap fasteners 36 at the edges 34, 35 hold the flap closed. A slit 37 in the top of the case permits the handle 32 to extend therethrough. The remaining edges of the case 33 are suitably sewed seams or integral folds.

Articles can be placed within the folded crib, either crosswise as shown at 38, or lengthwise as shown at 39 in Fig. 3. The latter arrangement is possible on account of the end-hinge construction, which permits separation of any two adjacent sections to clamp articles between them.

I claim:

1. A folding crib for use on a bed comprising sides and ends somewhat shorter than the sides and ends of the bed respectively, so as to rest on the bed coverings along the sides and foot of the bed with a space between the upper end of the coverings and the head of the crib, in combination with flexible fastening means adapted to hold the crib in place on the bed, the sides of the crib being approximately twice as long as the ends and being divided in the middle, the sections so divided being hinged together, thereby affording six light, rigid sections of approximately equal length, whereby the crib may be folded with the sections in parallel juxtaposition to fit into an oblong casing.

2. A folding crib comprising light frames for sides and ends pivoted together to define three corners of a rectangular enclosure, the sides being approximately twice as long as the ends and being hinged in the middle, thereby affording six sections of approximately equal length, and means for detachably connecting two of the sections to each other at the fourth corner of the rectangle so that when detached all the sections may be folded into parallel juxtapositions, the side sections being provided with means for holding them in rigid alignment.

Signed by me at Boston, Massachusetts, this 15th day of January, 1921.

DOROTHY DEWEY COMSTOCK.