April 6, 1965 R. MULCAHY 3,176,322

BEDSIDE SUPPORT

Filed Dec. 6, 1963

Fig. 1

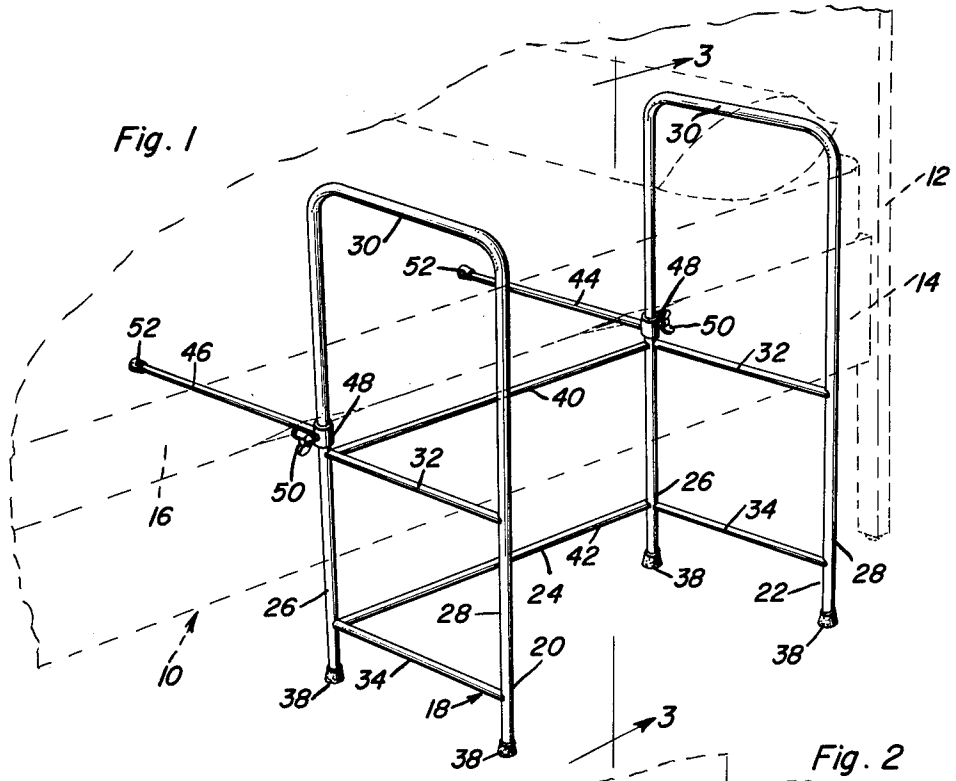


Fig. 2

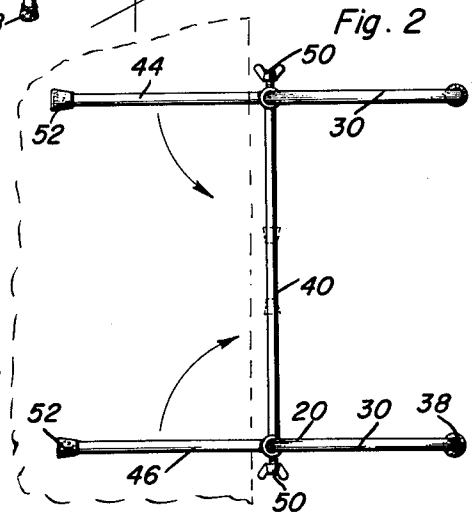
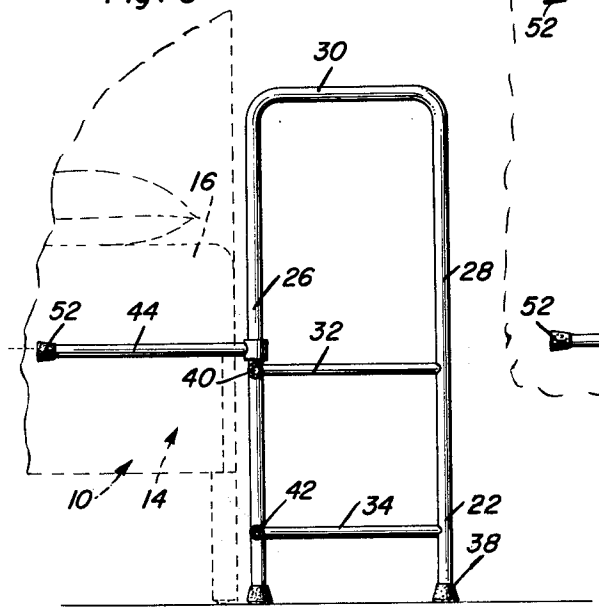


Fig. 3



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BEDSIDE SUPPORT

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This invention relates to a novel and useful bedside support and more specifically to a support frame adapted to define a pair of generally parallel and elevated hand rails immediately adjacent an invalid's bed with the hand rails projecting away from the bed. By use of the bedside support of the instant invention an invalid may grasp the hand rails defined by the bedside support and utilize the rails for support while climbing on or off the bed.

While numerous types of bedside supports have been heretofore designed, the bedside support of the instant invention is novel in that it includes a pair of retractible arm members which are, when in the extended positions, generally horizontally disposed and receivable between the box spring and the mattress of a bed in order that the support stand out only receives support from the floor on which it rests but is also held in a position relative to the bed and against movement across the floor.

The arms or members carried by the bedside support are vertically adjustable and also pivotally supported from the bedside support for rotation about upstanding axes whereby they may be swung from the operative positions to inoperative positions contained within the confines of the support.

The vertically adjustable and horizontally swingable arms of the bedside support include means engageable with the bedside support for retaining the arms in adjusted rotated and vertically shifted positions and in this manner the arms or arm members may be positioned so as to conform to substantially all types of beds and to hold the bedside support in position immediately adjacent and abutting one side of a bed.

The main object of this invention is to provide a bedside support for invalids that will enable an invalid to get into or out of bed with more assurance and with little possibility of falling. If it is desired, the bedside support may be utilized in conjunction with a walker in order that an invalid may move from his bed to a remote location without ever being without an artificial means of support, the bedside support assisting the invalid while mounting and dismounting from the bed and the walker being utilized by the invalid during travel to and from the bed.

Another object of this invention, in accordance with the immediately preceding object, is to provide a bedside support including means by which there will be three points of contact between the support and the bed adjacent to which the support is located thereby insuring that the bedside support will be maintained in position against movement relative to the bed.

Still another object of this invention is to provide a bedside support in accordance with the preceding objects which will be light in weight and which will be easy to install.

A final object to be specifically enumerated herein is to provide a bedside support which will conform to conventional forms of manufacture, be of simple construction and easy to use so as to provide a device that will be economically feasible, long-lasting and relatively trouble-free in operation.

These together with other objects and advantages which will be come subsequently apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the bedside support of the instant invention shown with the support operatively associated with a conventional form of bed, the bed being shown in phantom lines;

FIGURE 2 is a top plan view of the assemblage illustrated in FIGURE 1; and

FIGURE 3 is a vertical sectional view on somewhat of a reduced scale taken substantially upon the plane indicated by the section line 3—3 of FIGURE 1.

Referring now more specifically to the drawings the numeral 10 generally designates a conventional form of bed including a headstead 12, a box spring assembly 14 and a mattress 16 which is disposed over the box spring assembly.

The bedside support of the instant invention is generally referred to by the reference numeral 18 and includes a pair of side walls 20 and 22 interconnected by means of a back wall 24. Each of the side walls 20 and 22 comprises an inverted U-shaped tubular member including a pair of depending legs 26 and 28 which are interconnected at their upper ends by means of an integral bight portion 30. In addition, a pair of horizontal brace members 32 and 34 are secured between the lower free ends of the legs 26 and 28 of each of the side walls 20 and 22. The lower brace members 34 are spaced above the lower ends of the legs 26 and 28 which are provided with rubber feet 38.

The rear wall 24 comprises a pair of generally parallel upper and lower horizontal members 40 and 42 which are interconnected between the legs 26 in any convenient manner such as by welding. In additoin, it may be seen that the horizontal members 40 and 42 lie in planes containing the brace members 32 and 34, respectively.

The stand 18 further includes a pair of arms 44 and 46 which are each provided with an upstanding sleeve 48 on one end thereof. Each of the sleeves 48 is rotatably and slidably mounted on the corresponding leg 26 and provided with a setscrew 50 for engagement with the corresponding leg 26 wherein the arms 44 and 46 may be retained in adjusted rotated and axially shifted positions.

The free ends of the arms 44 and 46 are also provided with rubber tips 52 and it may be seen that when the stand 18 is in use it is disposed along one side of the bed 10 with the rear wall or back wall 24 extending longitudinally of the bed and abutting against one side thereof. The arms 44 and 46, when in the operative position, extend outwardly from the rear of the stand 18 and are received between the mattress 12 in the box spring 14 in the bed 10. While the arms 44 and 46 are illustrated in FIGURE 1 of the drawings as being substantially parallel, it may be desirable to have the arms 44 and 46 outwardly convergent or divergent as desired. In any event, the arms may first be adjusted to the proper height and then rotated as desired and retained in position by use of the setscrews 50. Accordingly, it may be seen that the arms 44 and 46 may be adjusted to suit any height bed.

With attention now directed more specifically to FIGURE 2 of the drawings, it may be seen that the setscrews 50 may be loosened and that the free ends of the arms 44 and 46 may be swung toward each other so as to be disposed in overlapped relation with the arms 44 and 46 disposed vertically above and in substantial longitudinal alignment with the horizontal member 40. In addition, the arms 44 and 46 may be swung to a position substantially paralleling and extending along the side walls 20 and 22. However, the most desirable retracted position of the arms 44 and 46 is the position illustrated in FIGURE 2 of the drawings.

In use, the support stand 18 may be positioned adjacent the bed in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 1 of

the drawings with the arms **44** and **46** disposed between the mattress **16** in the box spring **14**. Then, a patient may use the bight portions **30** of the side walls **20** and **22** as elevated railings for supporting the patient or invalid as he dismounts from the bed or as he is mounting the bed.

As hereinbefore set forth, the support stand of the instant invention may be utilized in conjunction with a conventional walker thereby enabling an invalid to be self-sufficient and to mount and dismount from the bed **10** and to move to a remote location and back while having artificial means of support at all times.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

1. A bedside support comprising a frame including a pair of generally parallel upstanding side walls, means defining an upright back wall extending and secured between one pair of corresponding ends of said side walls, said side walls extending upwardly a considerable distance above the upper end of said back wall and including generally horizontal members extending along the upper ends thereof, said support being adapted to be placed on the floor adjacent a bed with said back wall against one side of said bed, said side walls and said horizontal members projecting away from said one side of the bed, said back wall having a vertical extent adapted to position the uppermost portion of at least a central portion of said back wall a spaced distance below a mattress on said bed, said side walls being free of brace members extending therebetween forwardly of said back wall.

2. The combination of claim 1 including rearwardly generally projecting horizontal arm means carried by the rear of said support frame and adapted to be received between the spring construction and mattress of said bed, said arm means and support frame including coacting means mounting said arm means on said frame for movement between an operative rearwardly projecting position and in inoperative position disposed in an upright plane generally paralleling and adjacent at least one of said walls and with said arm means disposed at least substantially entirely within the side outline of said one wall.

3. The combination of claim 2 wherein said coacting means also include means for vertically adjustably positioning said arm means when the latter is in said operative position.

4. The combination of claim 1 including rearwardly projecting generally horizontal arm means carried by the rear of said support frame and adapted to be received between the spring construction and mattress of said bed, said arm means comprising a pair of arm members each secured to a corresponding one of said side walls.

5. The combination of claim 4 wherein the rear marginal edge portion of each of said side walls comprises an upright cylindrical member, each of said arms including an upright sleeve on the end thereof secured to the corresponding side wall rotatably and axially slidable on the corresponding cylindrical member.

6. The combination of claim 5 wherein the front to rear length of each of said side walls is at least substantially equal to the length of the corresponding arm.

7. A bedside support comprising a frame including a pair of generally parallel upstanding side walls, means defining an upright back wall extending and secured between one pair of corresponding ends of said side walls, said side walls extending upwardly a considerable distance above the upper end of said back wall and including generally horizontal members extending along the upper ends thereof, said support being adapted to be placed on the floor adjacent a bed with said back wall against one side of said bed and said side walls and said horizontal members projecting away from said one side of the bed, said back wall having a vertical extent adapted to position the uppermost portion of at least a central portion of said back wall a spaced distance below a mattress on said bed, said side walls being free of brace members extending therebetween forwardly of said back wall, the rear marginal edge portion of each of said side walls comprising an upright cylindrical member, each of said arms including an upright sleeve on the end thereof secured to the corresponding side wall rotatably and axially slidable on the corresponding cylindrical member.

8. The combination of claim 1 including rearwardly projecting generally horizontal arm means carried by the rear of said support frame and adapted to be received between the spring construction and mattress of said bed, each of said side walls comprising an inverted U-shaped member including a pair of upstanding legs interconnected at their upper ends by means of a bight portion defining the corresponding horizontal member, each of said arms including an upright sleeve on the end thereof secured to the corresponding side wall rotatably and axially slidable on the corresponding leg.

9. The combination of claim 8 wherein each of said sleeves includes means releasably engageable with the corresponding leg for retaining said sleeves in adjusted rotated and axially shifted positions.

10. The combination of claim 1 including rearwardly projecting horizontal arm means carried by the rear of said support frame and adapted to be received between the spring construction and mattress of said bed, each of said side walls comprising an inverted U-shaped member including a pair of upstanding legs interconnected at their upper ends by means of a bight portion defining the corresponding horizontal member, each of said arms including an upright sleeve on the end thereof secured to the corresponding side wall rotatably and axially slidable on the corresponding leg, said back wall including at least one horizontal member seured between the rear legs of said side walls and disposed below said sleeves.

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