No. 658,464. Patented Sept. 25, 1900.

E. REINLI.

APPARATUS FOR TEACHING CHILDREN TO WALK.

(Application filed Apr. 24, 1899.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

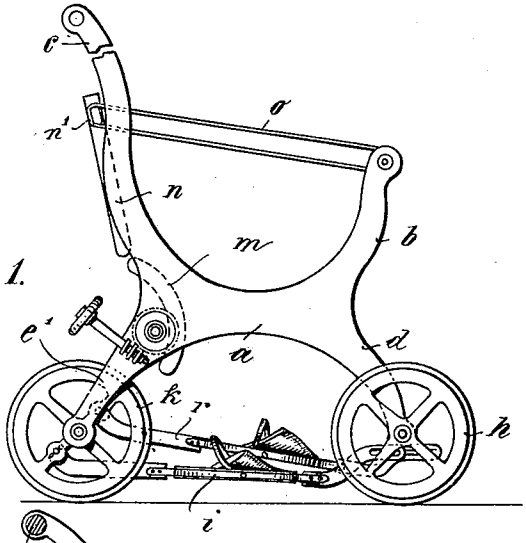


Fig. 2.

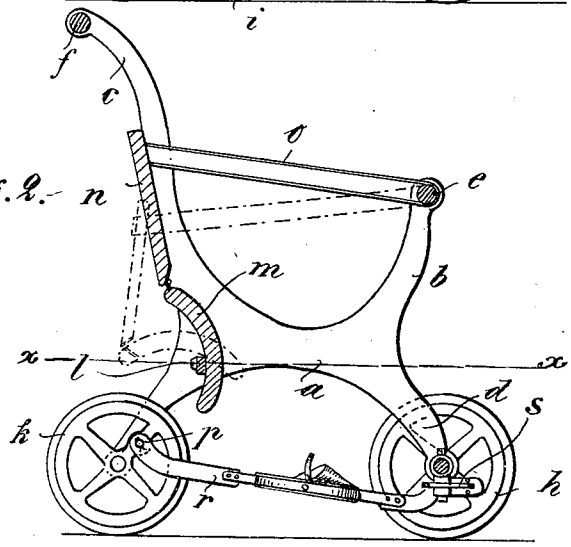
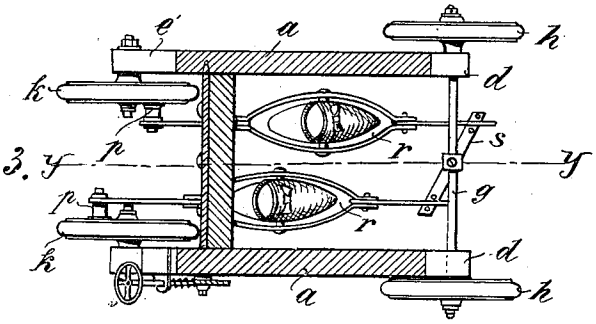


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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APPARATUS FOR TEACHING CHILDREN TO WALK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 658,464, dated September 25, 1900.

Application filed April 24, 1899. Serial No. 714,295. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD REINLI, a citizen of Switzerland, residing at Murgenthal, in the Canton of Aargau, Switzerland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Apparatus for Teaching Children to Walk, (for which I have applied for a patent in England, dated March 3, 1899, No. 4,722; in Germany, dated February 1, 1899; in Austria, dated March 3, 1899, and in France, dated March 1, 1899, No. 274,316,) of which the following is a specification.

As is well known, children who are just at the age of learning to walk, and at which age their legs are scarcely able to carry their bodies, are very liable to acquire crooked limbs, inturned feet, curvatures of the spine, or the like, which have very injurious effects on their later development.

Now the present invention has for its object to teach children to walk, so to speak, by way of playing. This apparatus will also be useful as an invalid's movable or bath-chair, especially in the case of old people who find walking extremely trying and who will find the apparatus a means of exercise of the legs in a manner closely simulating walking.

The present invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings in one arrangement, which is given by way of example.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of the apparatus. Fig. 2 is a vertical section on the line *y y* of Fig. 3, and Fig. 3 is a horizontal section on the line *x x* of Fig. 2.

The apparatus, as shown, comprises two side frames *a*, having each two arms *b* and *c*, which extend upward, and two arms *d* and *e'*, that extend downward. The corresponding upper arms are connected together by means of cross-bars *e f*, while through the lower arms *d* there extends an axle *g*, upon which are rotatably mounted wheels *h h* outside of the side frames. In the ends of the arms *e* there are fixed inwardly-projecting pins, each of which carries a wheel *k*. These wheels *k* are provided with a crank-pin, with which there engages a treadle or pedal *r*, the other end of which is connected to a rod *s*, that is mounted at its center in an oscillatory manner on the axle *g*, so that by the rotation of the wheels *k* the pedals are caused to make a sort of stepping or walking motion. Upon each pedal there is provided a device for attaching the feet of the child firmly to the pedals. The object of this attachment will be clear from the following. Between the frames *a* there is also rotatably mounted a bar *l*, to which the seat *m* is screwed fast, and which latter is movably jointed to the back *n*. This back has two laterally-projecting parts *n'*, which are capable of sliding along the arms *c*. A strap *o*, which is designed to serve as a support under the arms of the child, passes over these parts *n'* and the cross-bar *e* on each side of the apparatus. The bar *l* can be rotated by means of an endless worm-gear, which has the result of producing a shifting of the seat with the back and the straps. The two limit positions of these parts can be seen from Fig. 2. As will be perceived, the herein-described apparatus has the form of an invalid's movable or bath-chair and may also in certain cases be employed solely as such. It is propelled by pushing against the cross-bar *f*, which connects the long rear arms *c* with each other. By this means the pedals, as already stated above, will execute a kind of stepping or walking motion, so that the feet of a child sitting in the said chair will be compelled to execute the same motion when they are connected to the pedals by means of the hereinbefore-described device. As the child improves in learning to walk and gets stronger and bigger the seat can be shifted, so that the child will be brought gradually from a sitting position into a leaning position, and, finally, into a standing position. The straps, which also move upward, will always serve as a support under the arms of the child.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. A baby-walker, comprising two side frames rigidly connected, a back slidably mounted between the side frames, a seat pivotally mounted between the side frames and having connection with the back, means for adjusting and securing the seat and back in various positions, wheels for supporting the side frames, and pedals connected with and driven from the wheels.

2. A baby-walker, comprising a frame, a seat pivotally mounted in the frame, means for adjusting and securing the seat, a back

movably mounted in the frame independently of the seat and connected with the seat to be moved in unison therewith, the seat and back being adjustable to various positions, and means for sustaining the feet of the baby independently of the seat and back.

3. A baby-walker, comprising a frame, rear wheels for the same, a front axle, wheels mounted on the front axle, a rod pivoted to the front axle, pedals having connection with the ends of the rod and located rearward of the front axle, and pedals having cranked connection with the rear wheels.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of two witnesses.

EDWARD REINLI.

Witnesses:
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