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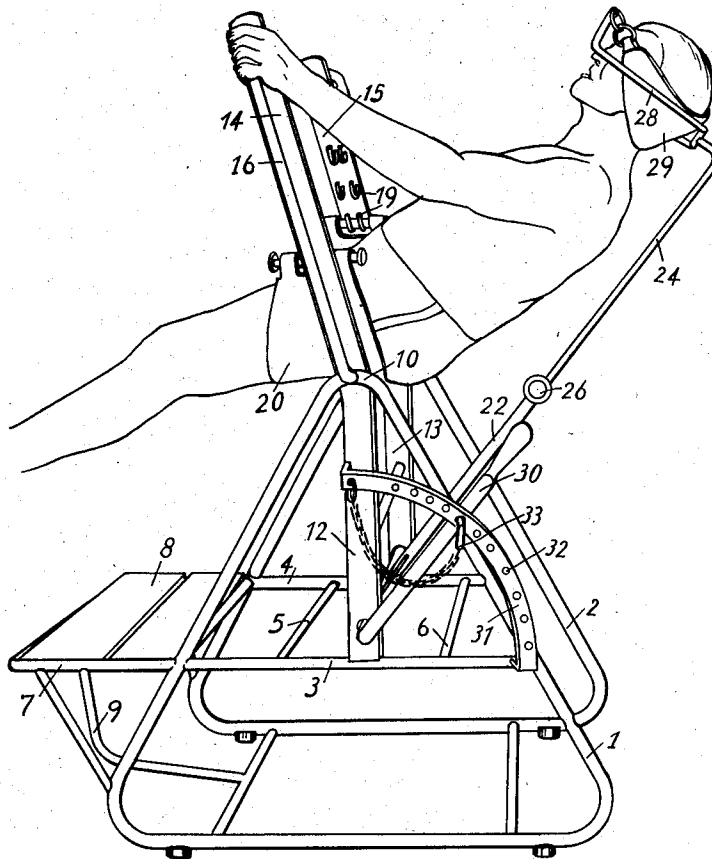
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CHAIR FOR HYDROTHERAPEUTIC TREATMENT

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2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1



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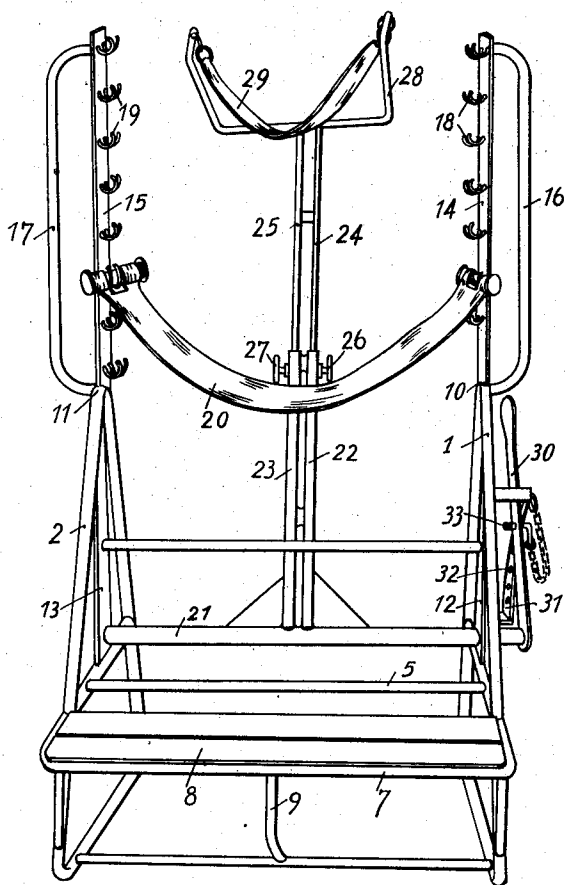
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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 2



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1

2

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CHAIR FOR HYDROTHERAPEUTIC TREATMENT

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3 Claims. (Cl. 155—28)

The present invention relates to a chair for hydrotherapeutic treatments for patients, and particularly for underwater massages.

Hydrotherapeutic treatments and particularly underwater massages in order to be really successful usually require that the patient's body be placed into different positions underneath the water surface. This is true particularly if the massages are carried out by means of a jet of water under high pressure. The pressure of such a jet is usually so high that, if it would hit the patient's body outside of the water it would not only cause insufferable pain but might also cause serious bodily harm. The jet must therefore always be applied under water which, in turn, usually requires that the person giving the treatment also be in the water.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a chair for hydrotherapeutic treatments and massages which is provided with means for adjusting the distance between the surface of the seat of the chair and the surface of the water in accordance with the size of the patient and also in accordance with the respective method of treatment.

A feature of the invention for attaining this object consists in the provision of a seat for the new chair which consists of a strap of fabric or the like which supports the patient's body approximately at the height of his buttocks, and which suffices for adequately supporting the body because of the buoyancy of the latter in the water. This strap may be adjusted to different fixed positions on the lateral side members of stringers of the chair by means of hooks on these stringers on which the seat strap may be suspended.

Since the total height of the chair is such that during a treatment the upper parts of these stringers are intended to project above the water surface, it is possible to adjust the position of the patient's body to be at different distances from the water surface. Consequently, if the seat strap is suspended on hooks which are placed close to the bottom of the bath, the patient will be seated at such a low level underneath the water surface that it is possible, for example, to treat his chest. He may, however, also sit in such a position that, for example, a back treatment may be carried out on him. If the seat strap is suspended on higher hooks, the patient's body will lie at a lower distance from the water surface and in a position required, for example, for a treatment of his lower extremities.

By these different heights adjustments of the seat it is possible to use the chair for treating patients any size and also children. The patient may support himself during the treatment by holding on to a pair of handles which are provided at the upper parts of the stringers of the chair and preferably consist of round rods or pipes extending parallel to the stringers. The stringers on each side of the chair extend at an angle to each other facing toward the bottom. This has the advantage that, when an adjustable head rest is to be used, the distance between the surface of the head supported by the head

rest and the angular stringers will always remain substantially the same.

The frame of the chair supporting the stringers is of a tubular construction, the pipes thereof being connected to form an equal-sided triangle at each side of the chair so as to give the chair great solidity. At its front side, the frame has a stair step for permitting the patient to sit down on the seat strap more easily and particularly also for permitting the person giving the treatment to rest his foot on this raised step to support the legs of the patient during the treatment by placing his upper leg underneath the patient's legs. Since such treatment is often rather painful, such support, which forces the patient to keep his leg in a certain position, will be of a very great value.

Another feature of the invention, as already indicated consists in the provision of a head rest on the chair. This head rest is pivotably mounted and adjustable to various angular positions. It may also be pivoted to such an extent as to be entirely removed from the area of the patient's body. The patient may lie on the strap and hold himself on the handles. Since the weight of his body will be practically nullified by the water, he will have no difficulty in holding himself easily in this position. The head rest itself consists of pipes which are telescoping within each other and are adjustable relative to each other to different lengths so that the distance from the rotary axis may at any time be adjusted in accordance with the length of the patient's body.

Further objects, features, and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following detailed description, particularly when read with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Fig. 1 illustrates a perspective side view of the new chair; while

Fig. 2 illustrates a perspective front view thereof.

Referring to the drawings, the frame of the new chair consists of two lateral members 1 and 2 made of pipes which are bent into the shape of two equal-sided triangles. The two upright arms of each lateral frame member are connected to each other by crossbars 3 and 4, respectively, which extend parallel to the lower arm of the triangle and, in turn, are connected to each other by crossbars 5 and 6. Such framework gives the chair very great solidity. Crossbars 3 and 4 are forwardly extended to form stair supports 7 on which boards or the like 8 are mounted to form a stair step which is additionally supported by a central rod 9 which is substantially vertical.

Between crossbars 3 and 4 and the upper apex 10 and 11 of each triangle 1 and 2, stringers 12 and 13 are mounted, the upper parts 14 and 15 of which are bent at an inclined angle in the direction toward stair step 8. These angular parts 14 and 15 carry the two handle bars 16 and 17, respectively, and also a plurality of hooks 18 and 19 at certain spaced intervals into which seat strap 20 may be engaged and thus be adjusted to different levels.

The lower ends of stringers 12 and 13 serve as bearings of a shaft 21 on which two pipes 22 and 23 are secured in which pipes 24 and 25 are slidably mounted which may be secured at any desired level by means of set-screws 26 and 27, respectively. At their upper end, pipes 24 and 25 are connected to each other by a yoke 28 which carries a strap 29 forming the head rest. Shaft 21 carries at one end a lever 30 which may be secured in different positions of angular adjustment by means of a pin 33 which may be inserted in different bores 32 in a curved bar 31 which is secured at opposite ends on stringer 12 and the rear arm of member 1. Thus, the head rest 29 may be adjusted to any desired position. The upper parts 14 and 15 of stringers 12 and 13, respectively, are preferably bent at such an angle relative to

3

the lower parts thereof that, when the head rest is adjusted to its normal position as illustrated in Fig. 1, parts 14 and 15 will be disposed substantially within an arc of a circle about a center formed by the head rest. Therefore, regardless of whether the seat strap 20 is adjusted to a higher or lower position, the head rest when once adjusted will remain in the same position.

Although my invention has been illustrated and described with reference to the preferred embodiment thereof, I wish to have it understood that it is in no way limited to the details of such embodiment, but is capable of numerous modifications within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus fully disclosed my invention, what I claim is:

1. A chair for hydrotherapeutic treatments, comprising a frame including a pair of tubular side members, each forming a substantially equal-sided triangle and means for securing said triangular members in spaced relationship to each other, a pair of lateral stringers mounted on said frame, a seat for supporting the body of a patient substantially at the level of his buttocks, said seat comprising a flexible strap, means on said stringers for adjustably securing said strap thereon at different levels, and a stair step mounted on said triangular members at the front side of said chair and disposed at a level intermediate the levels of the base and apex of said triangular members.

2. A chair for hydrotherapeutic treatments, comprising a frame, a pair of lateral stringers mounted on said frame, a seat for supporting the body of a patient substantially at the level of his buttocks, said seat comprising a flexible strap, means on said stringers for adjustably securing said seat strap thereon at different levels, a head rest, means connecting said head rest to said frame including means for pivoting said head rest to different angular positions relative to said frame and for securing said head rest in any of said angular positions,

4

said pivoting means comprising a shaft connecting and rotatably mounted within said stringers, a lever mounted on one end of said shaft for pivoting said head rest about the axis of said shaft, and means for securing said lever in any one of various angular positions.

3. A chair for hydrotherapeutic treatments, comprising a frame, a pair of lateral stringers mounted on said frame, a seat for supporting the body of a patient substantially at the level of his buttocks, said seat comprising a flexible strap, means on said stringers for adjustably securing said seat strap thereon at different levels, a head rest, means connecting said head rest to said frame including means for pivoting said head rest to different angular positions relative to said frame and for securing said head rest in any of said angular positions, said connecting means including at least one pair of tubular members telescopically slidable within each other to vary the distance between said head rest and the pivotal axis of said connecting means on said frame, and means for securing said members to each other in any one of various extended positions.

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