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BED FENCE

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5 Claims. (Cl. 5-331)

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This invention relates to improvements in beds and, more particularly, to bed fences for beds to prevent infants or children, or even adults, from rolling or falling therefrom.

Heretofore, bed fences of this general type had to be stored or placed on the floor or in some other inconvenient place. This often caused scratching of the painted surfaces of the fence, and an accumulation of lint or dust, or otherwise proved inconvenient when storing such fences in some out-of-the-way place among other articles.

The principal object of the invention is to provide a device adapted to be secured to the under side of a bed whereby such fences can be stored and held in an upraised, out-of-the-way position in connection with the bed, yet always being ready at hand for immediate use.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device cooperatively associated with the fence which is substantially concealed from view and in such a position that no projecting portion will interfere with or injure an occupant getting into or out of the bed when the device is not in use.

Other objects of the invention will in part be obvious and will in part appear hereinafter.

The invention accordingly comprises the features of construction, combination of elements, and arrangement of parts, which will be exemplified in the construction hereinafter set forth and the scope of the application of which will be indicated in the claims.

For a fuller understanding of the nature and objects of the invention, reference should be had to the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view, with parts broken away, of a preferred form of device embodying the invention showing a bed fence in upright position when in use and in dotted line position when not in use;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of one of the slidably mounted projecting members for supporting an end of the fence;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of an end portion of the device with a section broken away in which the portion shown in Fig. 2 is slidably mounted;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a fragmentary end portion of the bottom of a fence with a locking member attached thereto;

Fig. 5 is a side elevational view illustrating the device on a smaller scale attached to a bed; and

Fig. 6 is a view of an eye-hook arrangement for holding the fence in vertical position.

Referring more particularly to the drawing,

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there is shown generally at 10 a preferred type of bed fence device constituting a framework which may comprise two elongated angle irons 11 and 12, connected at their ends preferably by channel irons 13 and 14.

Slidably mounted in the ends of the channels are short pieces of angle iron 15 and 16. Only two of these are shown in the drawing but it will be understood that similar members may be mounted in the opposite ends of the channel 13 and 14. These short angle irons each have an elongated slot 17 and an opening 18 in one face thereof and a stop element or pin 19 depending from the other face thereof.

In the end of each channel member is a stop element or pin 20 and a slot or opening 21. Each short angle iron is adapted slidably to fit in the end of a channel so that the pin 20 enters the opening 17 and the pin 19 enters the slotted opening 21. This provides a limited movement for each short angle iron so that it can be moved into the channel until it is at least flush with the end thereof and outwardly a sufficient distance to provide a support for a barrier or fence 22. Each pin 19, when located in its respective slot 21, will aid in keeping the short angle irons in aligned position and can be used as a finger grip to pull them outwardly to operative position.

The fence has secured at each end along its bottom edge a slidable bolt or latch indicated generally at 23 which, when the fence is supported in position on the angle irons 15 and 16, can be moved interlockingly to engage the openings 18 in each angle iron.

The above described framework, namely, angle irons 11 and 12, and channel irons 13 and 14 can readily be secured underneath the bed by attaching the angle irons 11 and 12 to opposite side rails 24 and 25 thereof and passing wood screws 26 through openings in the angle irons and into the side rails 24 and 25 of the bed. Where the side rails of the bed are made of metal, suitable stove bolts or machine screws can be used.

The channel irons 13 and 14 are connected to the angle iron 11 at points 27 and 28 by any suitable means and are connected at their opposite ends to the angle iron 12 by similar means (not shown in the drawing). It will be understood that when reference is made to a framework, it does not necessarily include the angle irons 11 and 12 since it is obvious that other means can be utilized to suspend the channels 13 and 14; or the channels may be directly connected to the bottom of the side rails 24 and 25

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of the bed in any suitable manner. Furthermore, it is to be understood that while the framework is illustrated and described as being made of "angle irons" and "channel irons," the same can be made of aluminum or any other suitable material. Also, conventional channel or angle irons need not be utilized provided that an equivalent structure having a supporting ledge is used to practice the invention.

When the fence is mounted in position as shown in the drawing, it is held upright when in use by any suitable holding means, for example, a hook and eye attachment indicated generally at 29. When it is desired to remove the bed fence, it is only necessary to disengage the hook 29, withdraw each sliding bolt 23 from the openings 18 in the supporting angle irons 15 and 16, move the fence to a horizontal position and push it horizontally between the channels 13 and 14 to an out-of-the-way position as shown by the dotted lines in Fig. 1, at 22'. On wide beds, a stop member 30 in each channel can be employed to prevent the fence from being pushed too far into the channels. Thereafter, the short angle irons 15 and 16 are also pushed inwardly into the channel irons 13 and 14 to the limit of their stop members until they are at least flush with the ends of the channels.

In the drawing, only one fence has been shown although it will be understood that a fence at the opposite end of the framework can be used particularly when the bed is moved away from a wall. Where the bed is against the wall, it is obvious that only one fence is necessary.

The device, besides being readily adapted to infants' and children's beds, can be applied to twin size, full size or three-quarter size beds. A suitable height for the fence for any of these beds is 20 to 24 inches and of a length approximating about 40 inches.

It will thus be seen that the objects hereinbefore set forth may readily and efficiently be attained and since certain changes may be made in the above construction and different embodiments of the invention could be made without departing from the scope thereof, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawing shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

It is also to be understood that the following claims are intended to cover all of the generic and specific features of the invention herein described, and all statements of the scope of the invention which, as a matter of language, might be said to fall therebetween.

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Having described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A bed fence device adapted to be attached to a bed to prevent an occupant from falling therefrom, which comprises a fence structure, a frame structure adapted to be secured to the under side of said bed and adapted to receive and hold a fence in horizontal, stored position, fence-supporting members slidably mounted in the ends of said frame structure and detachably secured to the bottom of said fence when the latter is held in upright position, and means to secure said fence in upright position.

2. A device of the character defined in claim 1, and further characterized in that said frame structure comprises a pair of spaced-apart channel irons.

3. A device of the character described in claim 1, and further characterized in that said fence-supporting members comprise a pair of angle irons.

4. A device of the character described in claim 1, and further characterized in that said frame structure comprises a pair of channel irons, said channel irons each having a limit stop member and a slotted portion; and in which said fence-supporting members each comprise angle irons, said angle irons also each being provided with a limit stop member and a slotted portion, said limit stops of each angle iron being engageable with the slotted portions of said channel irons, and said limit stops of said channel irons being engageable with the slotted portions of said angle irons.

5. A device of the character defined in claim 1, and further characterized in that said means comprise latching members engageable and disengageable with said fence-supporting members.

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