This invention relates to improvements in rocking chairs, and more specifically as directed to a device for locking the movable seat frame of a platform rocker in stationary position in relation to the base of the platform rocker.

An object of this invention is to provide a lock for platform rockers which is simple in construction, easy to attach, easy to operate, positive in action, well adapted for its purposes, and relatively inexpensive to manufacture and maintain.

Another object of this invention is to provide a lock for platform rockers having a manipulating handle projecting exteriorly to one side of the rocking portion or seat frame of a platform rocker.

Still another object of this invention is to provide a lock for platform rockers which limits the pivotal movement of the rocking portion of the platform rockers and also provides a lock for securing the rocking portion of platform rockers in an extended seat position.

These together with other objects and advantages which will become 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 showing portions of the platform rocker base and a seat frame thereof with the lock of the present invention installed thereon;

Figure 2 is a side elevation of the platform rocker of the present invention with portions thereof being in section for clarity of illustration;

Figure 3 is an end elevation showing the relationship of the elements of the lock of the present invention;

Figure 4 is a bottom plan section taken substantially along section line 4—4 of Figure 1 showing the relationship between the sliding lock plate and the notched strap;

Figure 5 is a perspective view showing a modified form of the lock for platform rockers of the present invention;

Figure 6 is a detail section taken substantially along section line 6—6 of Figure 5 showing the details of construction of the sliding lock plate guide means; and

Figure 7 is a perspective view showing another modified form of the lock for platform rockers of the present invention.

Referring now specifically to the drawings, it will be seen that the numeral 10 designates the lock as illustrated in Figures 1—4, the numeral 12 indicates the lock as illustrated in Figures 5 and 6, and the numeral 14 indicates the lock as illustrated in Figure 7. Each of the locks 10, 12 and 14 is for utilization on a platform rocker having a stationary base 18 for positioning on a suitable supporting surface, such as a floor, and a rocking portion, as indicated by the numeral 20 which is generally a seat frame for supporting the upholstered portion and rocking portion of the platform rocker. The base 18 may be provided with an indented upper surface for permitting the rocking portion to pivot to its limits.
70. The end of the locking plate 70 is provided with an angulated end portion 82 which is substantially one corner of the plate 70 cut away for engaging the notches 38 on the elongated strap 26. It will be seen that the plate 70 reciprocates by manipulation of the operating knob 78, thereby engaging the locking plate 70 with selected notches 38 for locking the platform rocker in adjusted position.

Referring now specifically to Figure 7, it will be seen that the lock 14 operates in the same manner as above in respect to the elongated strap 26 and the plate member 42. As illustrated in Figure 7, the juncture between the horizontal leg 48 and the vertical leg 44 of the plate member 42 is provided with an upstanding member 84 for loosely receiving a handle 86 having an upturned end portion mounting an operating handle 88 for movement forwardly and rearwardly in relation to the frame 20. The inner end of the handle 86 is provided with a downturned right angularly extending portion 90 which projects through an arcuate notch 92 in the horizontal leg 48. The lower end of the downwardly extending portion 90 terminates in an offset portion 94 for retaining the downturned portion 90 within the arcuate slot 92. A locking plate 96 is pivotally secured to the horizontal leg 48 of the plate member 42 by a pivot pin 98 adjacent one corner thereof which is adjacent the upstanding plate 84. The depending portion 90 of the handle 86 extends through the locking plate 96 at a point remote from the pivot pin 98 whereby the locking plate 96 may be pivoted about the pivot pin 98 into and out of engagement with selected notches 38 on the elongated strap 26.

In operation of each of the devices, the elongated strap 26 slides in the closed slot 50 with the spring 32 urging the smooth side or smooth edge of the strap 26 against the outer edge of the slot 50 with the abutment 40 limiting the upward movement of the horizontal plate 48, thereby preventing the strap 26 from becoming disengaged with the plate member 42. In the device of Figures 1–4, the compression coil spring 66 will permit limited movement of the locking plate 60 away from the undersurface of the horizontal leg 48 of the plate member 42, thereby cushioning the locking effect of the locking plate 60. Further, the spring 66 assures that the locking plate 60 will not be accidentally disengaged with or disengaged from the notches 38, thereby assuring accurate control of the locking device. In the device of Figure 5, the sliding locking plate 70 engages the notches 38 in an obvious manner, and in the device of Figure 7, the pivotal locking plate 96 also engages the notches 38 in a like manner. Obviously, the devices may be constructed of any suitable material well known in devices of this nature, and the operating knobs may be decorated in any suitable manner, thereby enhancing the appearance of the platform rockers in which the locking device of the present invention is installed.

From the foregoing, the construction and operation of the device will be readily understood and further explanation is believed to be unnecessary. However, 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 shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed as new is as follows:
1. A lock for platform rockers having a base and a rocking portion comprising a bracket adapted to be mounted on the forward portion of the base of a platform rocker, an elongated rigid strap pivotally attached to said bracket, a plate member adapted to be secured to the rocking portion of a platform rocker in vertical alignment with said bracket, a closed slot in said plate member slidably receiving said strap, said strap having a plurality of spaced notches in one edge thereof, spring means urging the notched edge of the strap away from one end of the slot, and means movably mounted on said plate member for selectively engaging one of said notches, thereby locking the moving portion of the platform rocker in adjusted position, said movable notch engaging means being provided with a handle extending exteriorly of the platform rocker for manipulating the locking device, said notch engaging means including a lock plate slidably mounted on the underside of said plate member, a handle having a right angular bent portion extending through a slot in said plate member and secured to the lock plate, and a compression spring anchored on the bent end portion of said handle and having one end engaging the upper surface of the plate member for frictionally retaining the lock plate in adjusted position and permitting limited movement of the lock plate away from the plate member.

2. The structure as defined in claim 1 wherein said lock plate is provided with a recessed area in one edge thereof for permitting movement of the notched strap through the slot, and an enlarged portion adjacent the recessed area for movement into engagement with a selective notch.

References Cited in the file of this patent
UNITED STATES PATENTS
2,118,689 Whedon December 28, 1938
2,797,737

FOREIGN PATENTS
679,324 Great Britain September 17, 1952