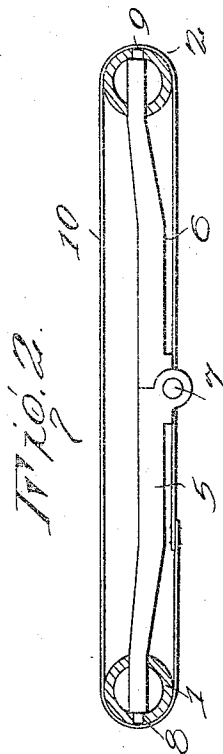
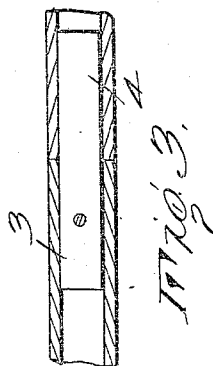
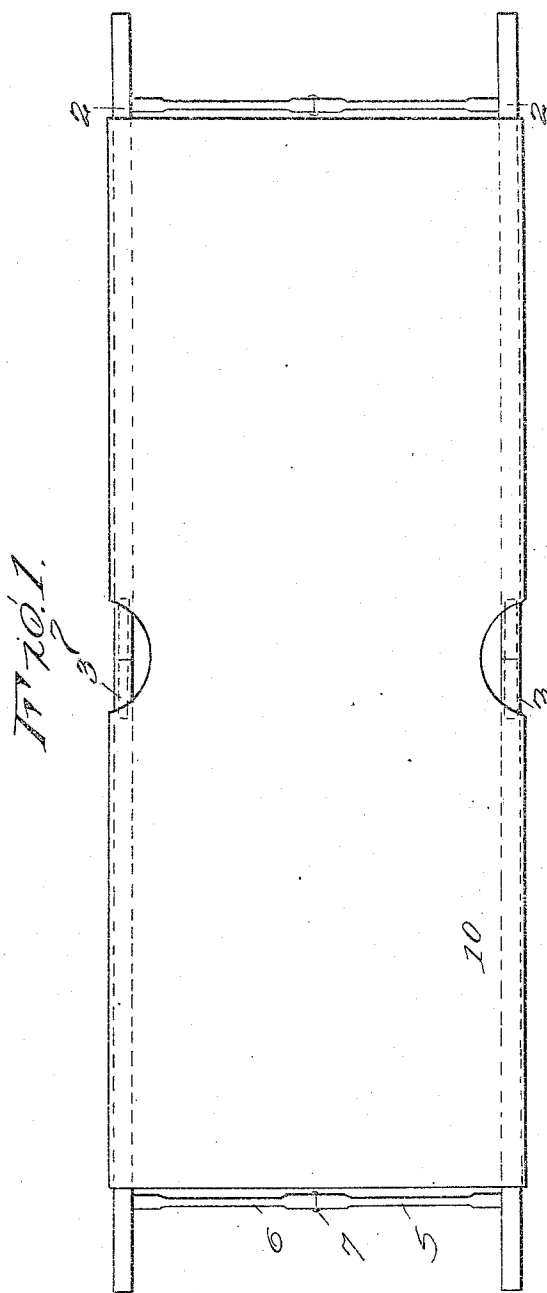


F. A. KEITH.  
STRETCHER.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 5, 1917.

1,277,084.

Patented Aug. 27, 1918.



F. A. Keith  
Inventor

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRED A. KEITH, OF SOUTH POLAND, MAINE.

## STRETCHER.

1,277,084.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 27, 1918.

Application filed May 5, 1917. Serial No. 166,632.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FRED A. KEITH, a citizen of the United States, and resident of South Poland, in the county of Androscoggin and State of Maine, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stretchers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved 10 stretcher that is of a foldable nature.

The primary object of my invention is to provide a device of the character mentioned that is easily manipulated, efficient in operation, strong and durable, and that may be 15 folded when not in use thereby taking up a minimum amount of space.

A still further object of my invention resides in the provision of a stretcher of the character mentioned that is simple in construction and that can be manufactured and 20 placed on the market at a minimum cost.

Other improvements and novel details in the construction and arrangement of the various parts of the stretcher will be brought 25 out more in detail in the description to follow, which, for a clear understanding of the invention, should be considered in connection with the accompanying drawing, forming a part hereof, and wherein is disclosed, 30 for the purpose of illustration, convenient and satisfactory embodiments of the invention. It is to be noted, in this connection, that minor changes in the construction and arrangement of parts may be made without 35 departing from the spirit of the invention or the principle of operation of the various parts.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of my invention; 40

Fig. 2 is a transverse section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, and

Fig. 3 is a sectional view of the connecting means for the stretcher comprising my invention. 45

Referring now more particularly to the drawing, wherein like reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several views thereof, the supporting 50 frame of my invention comprises a pair of sections detachably associated. Each of the sections includes a pair of tubular members 1 and 2. The tubular members are provided with apertures therein adjacent the ends for 55 a purpose which will hereinafter appear.

Projections comprising tubular lugs designated 3 are rigidly secured within the ends of one section of the tubular members, the ends 4 thereof projecting outwardly and adapted to be detachably engaged in the 60 free ends of the tubular members of the other section.

The tubular members of each section are hingedly connected by means of arms 5 and 6 by the pin 7. The free ends of the rod 65 members are reduced as at 8 and 9 and are adapted to be seated in apertures provided in the tubular members and rigidly secured therein. The said arms are adapted to fold downwardly but as more clearly shown in 70 Fig. 1 the construction thereof limits the upward movement after the tubular members have both reached the same plane.

The supporting means of my invention comprises a sheet or canvas member 10 75 adapted to be folded over the tubular sections and retained in the desired position by pins or other suitable fastening means. By this construction it is obvious that by having the fastening means associated with the 80 sheet or canvas near the ends thereof the patient may be deposited on a bed and the sections released without removing him from the supporting or carrying element and thus avoiding any unnecessary moving 85 of the patient.

It is of course obvious that my invention is particularly adapted for use in the army where a light but durable stretcher is desired that may be folded thereby taking up 90 a minimum amount of space when shipping.

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

In a device of the character described the 95 combination of a pair of sections detachably associated, each section comprising a pair of longitudinally extending tubular members having apertures therein, the apertures being diametrically opposite, a pair of arms 100 hingedly connected, the free ends of the arms being reduced and adapted to engage in said openings to retain the tubular members in the same plane or to be folded, and a supporting means associated with said 105 sections for a purpose specified.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature hereto.

FRED A. KEITH.