May 3, 1966 J. C. AUTEN 3,248,743

APPARATUS FOR MANIPULATING SHROUDS FOR BEDS

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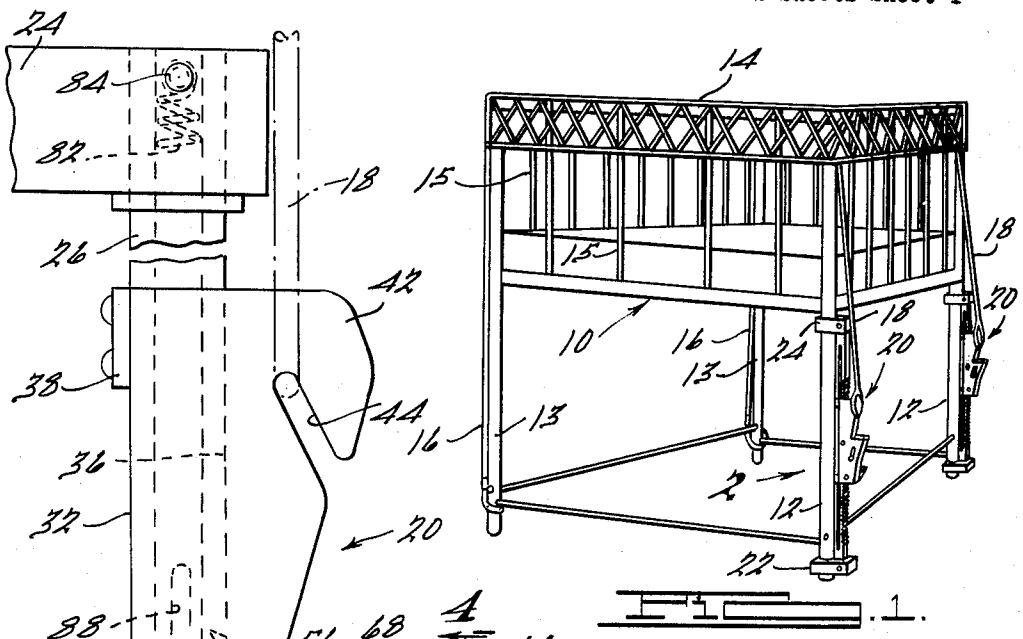


FIG. 1.

FIG. 2.

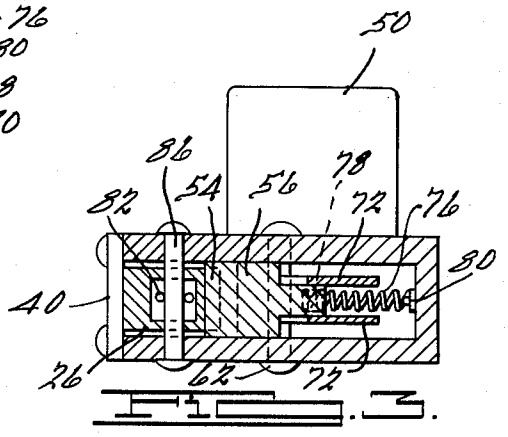


FIG. 3.

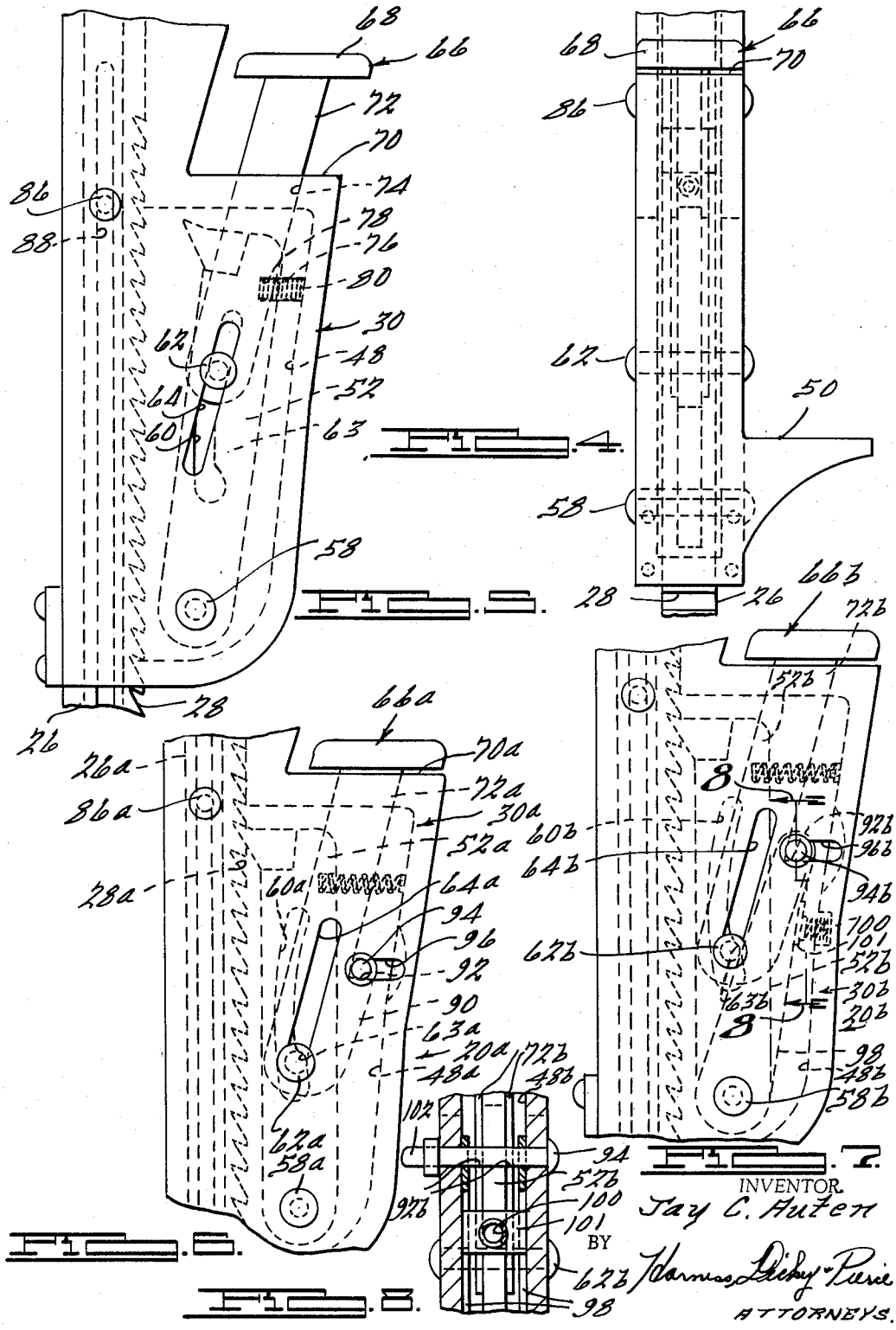
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APPARATUS FOR MANIPULATING SHROUDS FOR BEDS

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APPARATUS FOR MANIPULATING SHROUDS FOR BEDS

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19 Claims. (Cl. 5—97)

The present invention relates to apparatus for manipulating shrouds for beds and more particularly for hospital beds.

In the care of certain types of patients it is frequently required that the patient be located in a crib-type bed which, in general, has four upwardly extending sides each with a plurality of bars, and in which the top of the sides is covered by a shroud of a strong net or mesh construction. It has been past practice in hospitals to have at least one side, two corners, of the shroud permanently tied or fixed to the adjacent side or two legs of the bed and to have the opposite side, opposite two corners, removably tied to that adjacent bedside or legs. Normally the corners on the one side are removed only when it is necessary to remove the shroud for replacement, bed maintenance, etc.; hence, the phrase "permanently tied" refers to a connection which can be unfastened if necessary. Thus, in caring for a patient in such a bed construction, it is necessary for the attendant first to untie the one or both of the removably secured corners of the shroud before the patient can be reached for the administration of medicinal or other type of care. After the patient has been administered to, the end or ends which were undone must again be secured by the attendant. In many cases the patients being thus cared for are mentally disturbed and hence it is extremely important that these ends be secured in a manner and location such as to preclude the patient from releasing himself. Considering that each of these patients must be administered to several times over the course of a 24-hour period, it can be appreciated that the time required merely to manipulate the shroud is substantial. Of equal or greater importance is the possibility that injury or even death of the patient could result in emergency situations in which it would be necessary to reach the patient in a minimum amount of time and the patient could not be reached because of the time required to release the shroud. In the present invention a combination is provided in which the free end or ends of the shroud can be secured and released in a fraction of the time presently required, thereby resulting in a saving both in hours required and also in the possible saving of human life.

Therefore, it is an object of the present invention to provide an apparatus for manipulating shrouds for beds.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a quick release and securing mechanism in combination with a hospital bed and a shroud whereby the time required for releasing or securing one or more free ends of the shroud is reduced substantially over that normally required.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a quick release and securing mechanism for shrouds for hospital beds which cannot be operated by a patient located within the bed.

Other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the subsequent description and the appended claims, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view showing the combination of a crib-type hospital bed, shroud and two quick release and securing mechanisms;

FIGURE 2 is a side elevational view with some parts shown broken away of one of the quick release and securing mechanisms of FIGURE 1 taken generally in the direction of the arrow 2 in FIGURE 1 and shown in its secured condition;

FIGURE 3 is a sectional view of the apparatus in FIGURE 2 taken generally along the line 3—3 in FIGURE 2;

FIGURE 4 is an elevational view taken generally along the line 4—4 in FIGURE 2;

FIGURE 5 is a partial view similar to that of FIGURE 2 depicting the apparatus in its released condition;

FIGURE 6 is a view similar to that of FIGURE 2 depicting a modification of the apparatus of FIGURE 2;

FIGURE 7 is a view similar to that of FIGURE 2 depicting a second modification of the apparatus of FIGURE 2; and

FIGURE 8 is a sectional view of the apparatus of FIGURE 7 taken substantially along the line 8—8 of FIGURE 7.

Looking now to FIGURE 1, a hospital bed of the crib type is generally indicated by the numeral 10 and is provided with a plurality of legs 12, 13 and upwardly extending sides 15 each having a plurality of vertical bars. A net-type shroud 14 is provided with attaching cords 16 and 18 at its corners and is shown covering the top of the sides 15; two corners are permenently secured to two legs 13 by cords 16 and the other two corners are releasably connectible to the other legs 12 via quick release and securing mechanism 20 by cords 18.

The release mechanism 20 can be mounted upon an existing leg 12 without modification of the leg structure and for this purpose is provided with lower and upper mounting brackets 22 and 24 which grip the leg 12. A hollow post 26 is fixedly held between the mounting brackets 22 and 24 at a point slightly offset from the associated leg 12. The post 26 is of a generally rectangular cross section and for the most part has a smooth external surface and is provided along its outwardly facing surface with a plurality of openings or V-shaped grooves 28. The V-shaped grooves 28 face outwardly and slightly downwardly for a purpose to be presently understood.

A generally hollow housing 30 is provided with a channel 36 in its rearward surface for receiving the post 26. A pair of brackets 38 and 40 located at the upper and lower ends, respectively, of the channel 36 are used to secure the housing 30 to the post 26 whereby the housing 30 can be slidably moved freely upwardly and downwardly. The housing 30 at its upper forward end is provided with a forwardly extending portion 42 having a forwardly and downwardly inclined slot 44 for receiving a looped end of the cord 18 of the shroud 14. It can be appreciated that with the corners of the shroud 14 being pulled tightly with the loop of cord 18 located within the slot 44, it will be impossible to remove the loop of cord 18 from the groove 44 without first moving the housing 30 upwardly in a manner to be described. It can also be appreciated that the tension on the shroud 14 can be increased by moving the mechanism 20 downwardly.

The housing 30 is provided with a second forwardly extending portion 46 at its lower end which has a cavity 48 which communicates with the slot 36. Proximate the lower extremity of the housing portion 46 is located a pad 50 which can be foot-engaged for a purpose to be presently described.

Located within the cavity 48 is an elongated pawl 52 having a generally V-shaped tooth portion 54 in an enlarged head section 56 with the tooth portion 54 being of a shape to matably engage within the V-shaped grooves 28. The pawl 52 is pivotally secured at its lower extremity via a pin structure 58. The pawl 52 has a generally arcuate cam groove 60 in which a cam actuating pin 62 is located; pin 62 extends outwardly at opposite

sides of the housing portion **46** and is also located within a cam groove **64** provided in opposite sides of the housing portion **46**. The grooves **60** and **64** extend upwardly and forwardly; however, with the pawl **52** located in the position shown in FIGURE 2, the groove **60** is located slightly behind the groove **64**. Also the lower portion of the groove **60** is slightly enlarged and defines a cam shoulder **63** which initially engages the pin **62**. As the pin **62** is moved upwards along the groove **64** two components of force are provided to act upon the pawl **52** via the groove **60** and shoulder **63**; one component tends to move the pawl, and hence the entire housing **30**, generally upwardly and another component of force tends to pivot the pawl **52** generally forwardly about the pivot **58**. However, because of the downward inclination of the grooves **28** and because of the matable engagement of the tooth portion **54** therein, the upwardly directed component of force tends to further engage the tooth portion **54** within one of the grooves **28** while the component tending to pivot the pawl **52** will not be sufficient to withdraw the tooth portion **54** from that groove **28**. In fact, with the construction as shown, before pivotal movement of the pawl **52** can be effectuated it must be physically moved downwardly until the tooth portion **54** is in clearance relationship with the associated groove **28**. Thus the simultaneous occurrence of two forces is required to release the pawl **52**; first the pawl **52** must be moved downwardly until the tooth portion **54** clears the groove **28** and next the pin **62** must be moved upwardly to pivot the pawl **52** forwardly.

To effectuate the latter action, a lock release arm **66** is provided and has an enlarged head portion **68**, which in the lower position of arm **66** is located proximate to a flat shelf portion **70** at the upper end of the housing portion **46**. The release arm **66** has a pair of legs **72** which extend downwardly through an opening **74** through the shelf **70** and extend into the cavity **48**; the legs **72** are extended to opposite sides of the pawl **52** and are secured to the pin **62**. Thus, the upward and downward movement of pin **62** can be effectuated by the manipulation of the lock release arm **66** via the head **68**. A return spring **76** has one end located within a pocket **78** in the forward upper end of the pawl **52** and has its opposite end centered about a protrusion **80** extending into the cavity **48**; the return spring **76** is biased to normally urge the pawl **52** to pivot in the rearward direction with its tooth portion **54** in engagement with one of the grooves **28**.

A return spring **82** is located within the hollow post **26** and has its upper end fixed to a pin **84** and has its lower end fixed to a pin **86** fixed to housing **30** and extending through the slot **36**. The pin **86** extends through a pair of oppositely disposed vertically extending slots **88** located on opposite sides of the post **26**. The return spring **82** is biased to normally urge the housing assembly **30** upwardly along the post **26**. Thus, with the spring **76** normally urging the pawl **52** to pivot rearwardly with its tooth **54** into engagement with one of the grooves **28**, the return spring **82** will maintain the tooth **54** in engagement with this one of the grooves **28** by means of the upward force exerted on the housing assembly **30** and hence upon the pawl **52** itself. Thus, in order to release the mechanism, first a downward force must be exerted upon the housing **30** to overcome the bias of spring **82** and to move the pawl **52** to a position where the tooth **54** is in clearance relationship with that associated one of the grooves **28**. This can be done by the foot of the operator against the pad **50**. Once in this position, the pawl **52** can be pivoted forwardly to a clearance position (as shown in FIGURE 5) by merely pulling up on the release arm **66** via the head **68**, and hence permitting upward movement of the housing **30**. The clearance at the bottom of groove **60** is provided to permit the pawl **52** to pivot forwardly and in clearance relation with grooves **28** upon downward movement only of the body **30**. Thus, while release of the pawl **52** requires the simultaneous application of two forces, its engagement to lower positions along the post **26** can be effectuated merely by a downward force on body **30** via foot pad **50** or head **68**. Thus, tensioning of the shroud **14** via the cord **18** is simply accomplished by a single operation, that is by pressing down upon the foot pad **50** or head **68**. Note that both tensioning and release of shroud **14** can be accomplished in a matter of a few seconds.

It can be seen that with the arrangement of parts as previously described, it would be impossible for a patient located in the bed **10** to manipulate the apparatus **20**. In this regard, the foot pad **50** and in fact the entire housing **30** can be located at a point inaccessible to a person within the bed **10** and certainly inaccessible to the simultaneous application of both forces required for release; note also that the spring bias of spring **82** can be provided to be substantial such as to be easily overcome by the use of the operator's foot but impossible to operate by hand. Thus it would be impossible for a patient to apply the dual forces required to release the mechanism. If necessary, the release arm **66** could be covered such as to make it accessible only from the forward end and hence to further insure that a patient in the bed **10** would be unable to reach the head **68** to manipulate the release arm **66**. Note that in the embodiment just previously shown and described, use of at least two simultaneous forces or movements is required; in FIGURE 6 a modification of the apparatus of FIGURES 2–5 is shown requiring three operations.

In the description of the apparatus of FIGURE 6, parts serving like functions to like apparatus of FIGURES 2–5 have been given the same numeral designation with the addition of a letter subscript "*a*." The release arm **66***a* has legs **72***a* which are provided with forwardly projecting portions **90** at their lower extremities which define thereby shoulders **92**. The shoulders **92** are engageable with a lock pin **94** which is located within a generally horizontal slot **96** in the housing portion **46** which communicates with the cavity **48**. Thus, before the release arm **66***a* can be moved upwardly whereby the pawl **52***a* can be pivoted forwardly, the lock pin **94** must first be moved forwardly by the operator; the lock pin **94** could be provided with a shield whereby it is completely inaccessible to a patient within the bed. Note that groove **96** can be provided to give sufficient clearance to accommodate the arc traversed by pin **94**.

In FIGURES 7 and 8 is shown a further modification in which the components similar to those in FIGURE 6, and in FIGURES 2–5 and serving similar functions are given the same numerical designation with the addition of a letter subscript "*b*." In FIGURE 7 the locking pin **94***b* is secured to the forward end of a pair of pivot bar members **98** which are located in cavity **48***b* and are pivoted at their lower extremities on the pivot pin **58***b* along with the pawl **52***b*. The bars **98** are maintained normally in their rearward position by means of a spring **100** which acts on a block **101** connecting the bars **98** and hence the locking pin **94***b* is maintained in its rearward position in engagement with the shoulders **92***b*. Thus in the manipulation of the embodiment shown in FIGURES 7 and 8, it is necessary that the operator employ three simultaneous operations; the first is to depress the foot pad (similar to the pad **50**); the next is to pull the locking pin **94***b* forwardly and hold it there; and the third is to pull up on the release arm **66***b*. All three must be performed simultaneously before release can be effectuated. Thus, even if the patent could get two hands on the mechanism **20***b*, he could not release it. Note that the pin **92***b* extends outwardly slightly from one side as at **102**; the extension of **102** is sufficient to permit actuation but not adequate enough to facilitate gripping whereby downward movement of housing **30***b* could be effectuated.

It can be seen with any of the three embodiments the actuation of the mechanisms **20**, **20***a* or **20***b* is rapid,

requiring at most only a few seconds, thus reducing the time of manipulation to a mere fraction of that required by the conventional means of tying and untying; in addition to the obvious savings in time realized, quick access to the patient is provided and hence possible loss of life or injury as a result of delay is prevented.

While it will be apparent that the preferred embodiments of the invention disclosed are well calculated to fulfill the objects above stated, it will be appreciated that the invention is susceptible to modification, variation and change without departing from the proper scope or fair meaning of the subjoined claims.

What is claimed is:

1. Apparatus for a bed having upwardly extending sides comprising: a shroud for enclosing the top of the bed over the top of the sides, first means operatively fixed with the bed, second means supported on said first means for selective movement on said first means to selected positions between a first and a second position and for engaging said shroud and tensioning said shroud upon movement toward said first position and for loosening said shroud upon movement toward said second position, and lock means having one selectable condition for locking said first and second means together at said selected positions and a second selectable condition for releasing said first and second means for relative movement.

2. Apparatus for a bed having upwardly extending sides comprising: a shroud for enclosing the top of the bed over the top of the sides, first means operatively fixed with the bed, second means supported on said first means for selective movement on said first means to selected positions between a first and a second position and for engaging said shroud and tensioning said shroud upon movement toward said first position and for loosening said shroud upon movement toward said second position, and lock means having one selectable condition for locking said first and second means together at said selected positions and a second selectable condition for releasing said first and second means for relative movement, said lock means including lock release means selectively actuable for placing said lock means in said second condition.

3. Apparatus for a bed having upwardly extending sides comprising: a shroud for enclosing the top of the bed over the top of the sides, first means operatively fixed with the bed, second means supported on said first means for selective movement on said first means to selected positions between a first and a second position and for engaging said shroud and tensioning said shroud upon movement toward said first position and for loosening said shroud upon movement toward said second position, and lock means having one selectable condition for locking said first and second means together at said selected positions and a second selectable condition for releasing said first and second means for relative movement, with said second means being selectively movable toward said first position with said lock means in said one condition, said lock means including lock release means selectively actuable with said second means maintained in a position between adjacent ones of said selected positions for placing said lock means in said second condition.

4. Apparatus for a bed having upwardly extending sides comprising: a shroud for enclosing the top of the bed over the top of the sides, first means operatively fixed with the bed, second means supported on said first means for selective movement on said first means to selected positions between a first and a second position and for engaging said shroud and tensioning said shroud upon movement toward said first position and for loosening said shroud upon movement toward said second position, lock means having one selectable condition for locking said first and second means together at said selected positions and a second selectable condition for releasing said first and second means for relative movement with said second means being selectively movable toward said first position with said lock means in said one condition, said

lock means including lock release means selectively actuable with said second means maintained in a position between adjacent ones of said selected positions for placing said lock means in said second condition, and means operatively connected with said lock release means for normally preventing actuation of said lock release means and selectively movable to a condition permitting actuation of said lock release means.

5. Apparatus for a bed having upwardly extending sides comprising: a shroud for enclosing the top of the bed over the top of the sides, first means operatively fixed with the bed, second means supported on said first means for selective movement on said first means to selected positions between a first and a second position and for engaging said shroud and tensioning said shroud upon movement toward said first position and for loosening said shroud upon movement toward said second position, and lock means having one selectable condition for locking said first and second means together at said selected positions and a second selectable condition for releasing said first and second means for relative movement, said lock means including a plurality of openings between said first and second positions, and a member engaged with one of said openings in said one condition and disengaged from said openings in said second condition.

6. Apparatus for a bed having upwardly extending sides comprising: a shroud for enclosing the top of the bed over the top of the sides, first means operatively fixed with the bed, second means supported on said first means for selective movement to selected positions between a first and a second position and for engaging said shroud and tensioning said shroud upon movement toward said first position and for loosening said shroud upon movement toward said second position, and lock means having one selectable condition for locking said first and second means together at said selected positions and a second selectable condition for releasing said first and second means for relative movement with said second means being selectively movable toward said first position with said lock means in said one condition, said lock means including a plurality of openings between said first and second positions, and a member engaged with one of said openings in said one condition and disengaged from said openings in said second condition, and a lock release arm inoperable with said second means in one of said selected positions and selectively actuable with said second means maintained in a position between adjacent ones of said selected positions for disengaging said member from said openings and hence for placing said lock means in said second condition.

7. In a bed having upwardly extending sides and a shroud for enclosing the top of the bed over the top of the sides, apparatus comprising: a longitudinally extending post fixed with the bed and having a plurality of openings in one surface, a housing supported on said post for movement to selected ones of said openings and having means for engaging said shroud and tensioning said shroud upon movement in one direction along said post and for loosening said shroud upon movement in an opposite direction, a pawl pivotally supported on said housing and having a head portion engageable with said openings for locking said housing and said post together, means urging said pawl into engagement with said openings, and a release arm movably supported on said housing and operatively connected with said pawl and selectively actuable for moving said pawl out of engagement with said openings.

8. In a bed having upwardly extending sides and a shroud for enclosing the top of the bed over the top of the sides, apparatus comprising: a longitudinally extending post fixed with the bed and having a plurality of openings in one surface, a housing supported on said post for movement to selected ones of said openings and having means for engaging said shroud and tensioning said shroud upon movement in one direction along said post

and for loosening said shroud upon movement in an opposite direction, a pawl pivotally supported on said housing and having a head portion engageable with said openings for locking said housing and said post together, means urging said pawl into engagement with said openings, a release arm movably supported on said housing and operatively connected with said pawl and selectively actuable for moving said pawl out of engagement with said openings, and means on said head portion of said pawl and said openings for preventing movement of said pawl by said release arm out of engagement with said openings unless said housing has been moved a preselected distance in said one direction.

9. In a bed having upwardly extending sides and a shroud for enclosing the top of the bed over the top of the sides, apparatus comprising: a longitudinally extending post fixed with the bed and having a plurality of openings in one surface, a housing supported on said post for movement to selected ones of said openings and having means for engaging said shroud and tensioning said shroud upon movement in one direction along said post and for loosening said shroud upon movement in an opposite direction, a pawl pivotally supported on said housing and having a head portion engageable with said openings for locking said housing and said post together, means urging said pawl into engagement with said openings, a release arm movably supported on said housing and operatively connected with said pawl and selectively actuable for moving said pawl out of engagement with said openings, means on said head portion of said pawl and said openings for preventing movement of said pawl by said release arm out of engagement with said openings unless said housing has been moved a preselected distance in said one direction, and means operatively connected with said release arm for normally preventing actuation of said release arm and selectively movable to a condition permitting actuation of said release arm.

10. In a bed having upwardly extending sides and a shroud for enclosing the top of the bed over the top of the sides, apparatus comprising: a longitudinally extending post fixed with the bed and having a plurality of openings in one surface, a housing supported on said post for movement to selected ones of said openings and having means for engaging said shroud and tensioning said shroud upon movement in one direction along said post and for loosening said shroud upon movement in an opposite direction, a pawl pivotally supported on said housing and having a head portion engageable with said openings for locking said housing and said post together, means urging said pawl into engagement with said openings, a release arm movably supported on said housing and operatively connected with said pawl and selectively actuable for moving said pawl out of engagement with said openings, and means on said head portion of said pawl and said openings for preventing movement of said pawl by said release arm out of engagement with said openings unless said housing has been moved a preselected distance in said one direction and operatively connected with said release arm and normally, resiliently urged into a position for preventing actuation of said release arm and selectively movable to a position permitting actuation of said release arm.

11. In a bed having upwardly extending sides and a shroud for enclosing the top of the bed over the top of the sides, apparatus comprising: a longitudinally, vertically extending post fixed with the bed and having a plurality of outwardly facing, downwardly inclined grooves in one surface, a housing supported on said post for movement to selected ones of said grooves and having means for engaging said shroud and tensioning said shroud upon movement downwardly along said post and for loosening said shroud upon movement upwardly, a pawl pivotally supported on said housing and having a tooth portion matably engageable with said grooves for locking said post together, first spring means urging said pawl toward said post and into engagement with said grooves, second spring means for urging said housing upwardly and hence for urging said tooth portion against a mating surface of said grooves, and a release arm movably supported on said housing and operatively connected with said pawl and selectively actuable for moving said pawl out of engagement with said grooves.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 with said means for engaging said shroud including a forwardly, downwardly extending groove for receiving a cord of said shroud and being of a preselected length whereby with said shroud tensioned said cord cannot be removed from said groove.

13. The apparatus of claim 12 further including a flat, horizontal pad portion on said housing for engagement by a person's foot.

14. In a bed having upwardly extending sides and a shroud for enclosing the top of the bed over the top of the sides, apparatus comprising: a longitudinally, vertically extending post fixed with the bed and having a plurality of outwardly facing, downwardly inclined grooves in one surface, a housing supported on said post for movement to selected ones of said grooves and having means for engaging said shroud and tensioning said shroud upon movement downwardly along said post and for loosening said shroud upon movement upwardly, said housing having an upwardly extending, outwardly inclined first cam surface, a pawl pivotally supported on said housing and having a tooth portion matably engageable with said grooves for locking said housing and said post together, first spring means urging said pawl toward said post and into engagement with said grooves, second spring means for urging said housing upwardly and hence for urging said tooth portion against a mating surface of said grooves, a release arm movably supported on said housing, a cam member secured to said release arm and engageable with said first cam surface for movement therealong in response to movement of said release arm, said pawl having a second cam surface engageable by said cam member and extending between said first cam surface and said post whereby movement of said release arm upwardly moves said cam member along said first cam surface and along said second cam surface for urging said pawl outwardly out of engagement with said grooves.

15. The apparatus of claim 14 with said second cam surface having an outwardly, downwardly inclined portion engageable with said cam member when said release arm is in its normal, unactuated position.

16. The apparatus of claim 14 with said pawl having clearance for said cam member at the lower end of said second cam surface whereby said pawl can pivot outwardly to permit said housing to be moved downwardly to selected positions along said post solely by the application of a downward force on said housing greater than the bias of said second spring means.

17. In a bed having upwardly extending sides and a shroud for enclosing the top of the bed over the top of the sides, apparatus comprising: a longitudinally, vertically extending post fixed with the bed and having a plurality of outwardly facing, downwardly inclined grooves in one surface, a housing supported on said post for movement to selected ones of said grooves and having means for engaging said shroud and tensioning said shroud upon movement downwardly along said post and for loosening said shroud upon movement upwardly, said housing having an upwardly extending, outwardly inclined first cam surface, a pawl pivotally supported on said housing and having a tooth portion matably engageable with said grooves for locking said housing and said post together, first spring means urging said pawl toward said post and into engagement with said grooves, second spring means for urging said housing upwardly and hence for urging said tooth portion against a mating surface of said grooves, a release arm movably supported on said housing, a cam member secured to said release arm and engageable with said first cam surface for movement therealong in response to move-

ment of said release arm, said pawl having a second cam surface engageable by said cam member and extending between said first cam surface and said post whereby movement of said release arm upwardly moves said cam member along said first cam surfac and along said second cam surface for urging said pawl outwardly out of engagement with said grooves, said release arm having a generally horizontal shoulder at its outer end, a lock member slidably supported on said housing for movement into and out of blocking relation with said shoulder whereby said release arm cannot be actuated until said lock member has been moved out of blocking relation.

18. In a bed having upwardly extending sides and a shroud for enclosing the top of the bed over the top of the sides, apparatus comprising: a longitudinally, vertically extending post fixed with the bed and having a pluralty of outwardly facing, downwardly inclined grooves in one surface, a housing supported on said post for movement to selected ones of said grooves and having means for engaging said shroud and tensioning said shroud upon movement downwardly along said post and for loosening said shroud upon movement upwardly, said housing having an upwardly extending, outwardly inclined first cam surface, a pawl pivotally supported on said housing and having a tooth portion matably engageable with said grooves for locking said housing and said post together, first spring means urging said pawl toward said post and into engagement with said grooves, second spring means for urging said housing upwardly and hence for urging said tooth portion against a mating surface of said grooves, a release arm movably supported on said housing, a cam member secured to said release arm and engageable with said first cam surface for movement therealong in response to movement of said release arm, said pawl having a second cam surface engageable by said cam member and extending between said first cam surface and said post whereby movement of said release arm upwardly moves said cam member along said first cam surface and along said second cam surface for urging said pawl outwardly out of engagement with said grooves, said release arm having a generally horizontal shoulder at its outer end, a lock member slidably supported on said housing for movement into and out of blocking relation with said shoulder whereby said release arm cannot be actuated until said lock member has been moved out of blocking relation, and means for resiliently urging said lock member into blocking relation.

19. In a bed having upwardly extending sides and a shroud for enclosing the top of the bed over the top of the sides, apparatus comprising; a longitudinally, vertically extending post fixed with the bed and having a plurality of outwardly facing, downwardly inclined grooves in one surface, a housing supported on said post for movement to selected ones of said grooves and having means for engaging said shroud and tensioning said shroud upon movement downwardly along said post and for loosening said shroud upon movement upwardly, said housing having an upwardly extending, outwardly inclined first cam surface, a pawl pivotally supported on said housing and having a tooth portion matably engageable with said grooves for locking said housing and said post together, first spring means urging said pawl toward said post and into engagement with said grooves, second spring means for urging said housing upwardly and hence for urging said tooth portion against a mating surface of said grooves, a release arm movably supported on said housing, a cam member secured to said release arm and engageable with said first cam surface for movement therealong in response to movement of said release arm, said pawl having a second cam surface engageable by said cam member and extending between said first cam surface and said post whereby movment of said release arm upwardly moves said cam member along said first cam surface and along said second cam surface for urging said pawl outwardly out of engagement with said grooves, said release arm having a generally horizontal shoulder at its outer end, a lock member slidably supported on said housing for movement into and out of blocking relation with said shoulder whereby said release arm cannot be actuated until said lock member has been moved out of blocking relation, a pivot arm pivotally supported on said housing and having said lock member secured at is free end, and a spring member resiliently urging said pivot member rearwardly and hence urging said lock member into blocking relation.

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