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WALKING APPLIANCE

Filed March 29, 1939

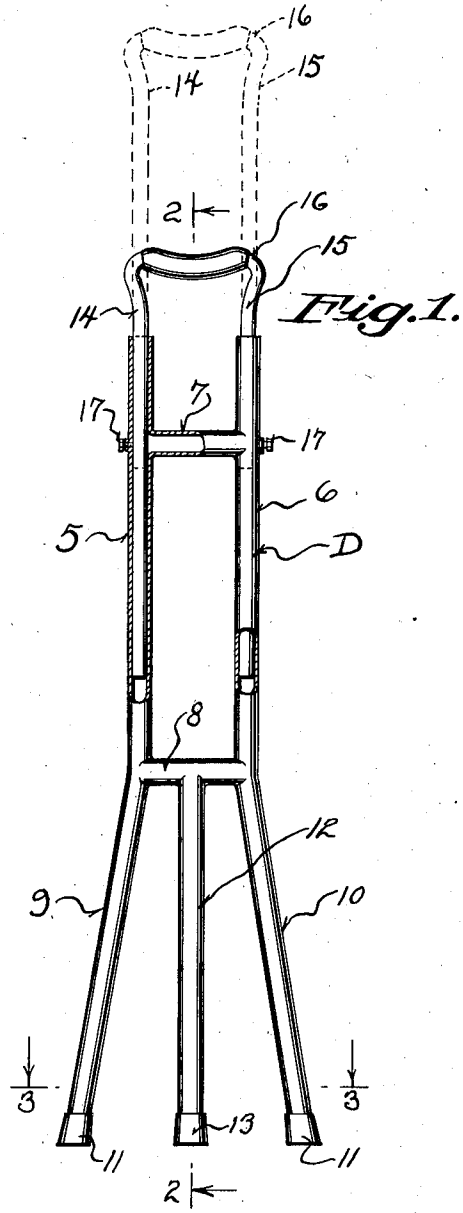


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

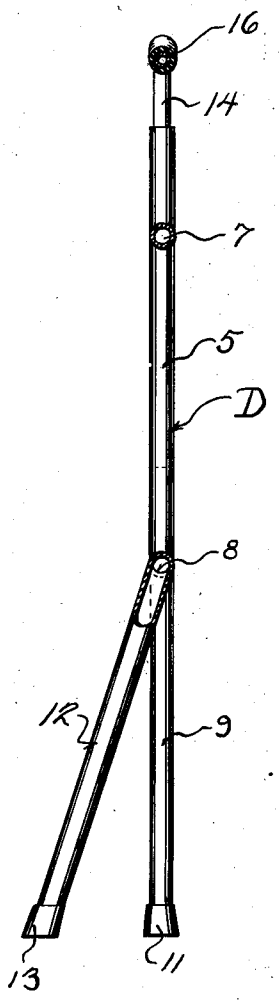
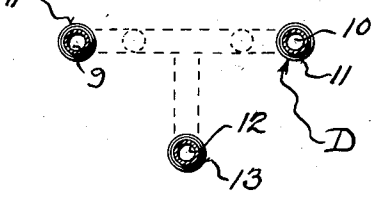


Fig. 3.



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WALKING APPLIANCE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 135—49)

This invention appertains to appliances for facilitating the walking of elderly persons or persons suffering from leg or other injuries.

One of the primary objects of my invention is to provide a walking stick, cane, crutch, or similar device having a novel base for engaging over a relatively wide area of ground, whereby the danger of the device slipping is reduced to a minimum.

Another salient object of my invention is to provide a cane or crutch having a novel tripod base for its lower end, whereby the weight of a person will be effectively distributed over a relatively wide area of ground surface, and whereby danger of the cane or crutch slipping is practically eliminated.

A further object of my invention is to provide a walking cane embodying a pair of spaced side rail members braced at spaced points terminating in ground-engaging feet, with a third leg or foot carried by one of the braces and disposed between the side rails, and a handle carried by the upper end of the side rails.

A further important object of my invention is the provision of means whereby the handle can be effectively elevated and held in a desired position, whereby the cane can be used as a crutch, in which instance the handle forms the shoulder support, and one of the braces a hand grip.

A still further object of my invention is to provide a device of the above character, which will be durable and efficient in use, one that will be simple and easy to manufacture, and one which can be placed upon the market at a reasonable cost.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists in the novel construction, arrangement, and formation of parts, as will be hereinafter more specifically described, claimed, and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which drawing:

Figure 1 is a front elevational view of my improved device, showing parts thereof broken away and in section to illustrate structural detail.

Figure 2 is a central, vertical, sectional view through the improved appliance, taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1, looking in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 3 is a horizontal, sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1, looking in the direction of the arrows.

Referring to the drawing in detail, wherein similar reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several views, the letter D generally indicates my improved walking device, and the same embodies a pair of spaced side rails 5 and 6. These rails are preferably formed of hollow construction, and, thus, the rails can be formed from tubes, if such should be desired.

The rails adjacent their upper ends are connected by a hollow tubular cross-brace 7, and at a point intermediate their ends, by a cross-brace 8. If preferred, the rails can have their upper portions arranged in parallel relation, but it is proposed to have their lower ends diverging in opposite directions to provide supporting legs 9 and 10. These diverging legs 9 and 10 can carry at their lower terminals ground-engaging feet 11. These feet can be formed from rubber, if preferred.

Arranged between the legs 9 and 10 is a third supporting leg 12. This leg is firmly connected to the cross-brace 8, and its lower end terminates in a ground-engaging foot 13, which can also be formed from rubber or similar material. It is to be noted that the leg 12 angles outwardly from the legs 9 and 10, and, thus, the legs 9, 10, and 12 form a tripod to support the device. These three legs forming the tripod prevent the accidental slipping of the device and give a large bearing surface, whereby the weight of the user will be distributed over a relatively wide area.

If the device is to be used as a cane alone, the upper ends of the hollow side rails 5 and 6 can terminate at the desired height and can be connected by any preferred handle construction. It is proposed, however, to construct the device in such a manner that the same can be either used as a cane or as a crutch at the pleasure of the user.

To carry out this feature of my invention, the hollow rails 5 and 6 slidably and telescopically receive spaced side bars 14 and 15. The upper ends of the side bars 14 and 15 are connected together by the handle 16. The handle is provided with any desired character of hand grip. The bars 14 and 15 are held in their selected adjusted position in the hollow rails 5 and 6 by means of set screws 17. The set screws are threaded into the side rails, and the same impinge against the outer surface of the bars. If preferred, the bars can be indented at spaced points, so that the inner ends of the screws can fit therein.

When the device is being used as a crutch and the bars 14 and 15 are raised to an elevated position, as shown in dotted lines in Figure 1, then the handle 16 constitutes a shoulder support, and

the upper brace 7 then forms the hand grip. Obviously, the handle 16 can be modified in various manners, so that the same can form a small seat or rest to enable persons to sit to view athletic or similar events.

From the foregoing description it can be seen that I have provided a novel walking appliance which will be especially useful for crippled persons or persons suffering from leg or other injuries.

Changes in details may be made without departing from the spirit or the scope of my invention, but what I claim as new is:

1. A walking appliance comprising, a pair of spaced side rails, braces connecting the rails together at spaced points, diverging legs formed on the lower ends of the side rails, a handle carried by the upper ends of the side rails, and a third leg carried by one of the braces and arranged between the first mentioned legs and angling outwardly therefrom.

2. A walking appliance comprising, a pair of spaced side rails, diverging legs formed on the lower ends of the side rails, spaced upper and lower braces connecting the side rails together, a handle carried by the upper ends of the side rails, a third leg arranged between the first mentioned legs and carried by the lower brace, said third leg angling outwardly from the first mentioned legs, and ground-engaging feet on the lower ends of all of said legs.

3. A walking appliance comprising, a pair of side rails, upper and lower cross-braces connecting said rails together, diverging legs formed on the terminals of the side rails, an outwardly angled third leg connected to the lower cross brace, ground-engaging feet on the lower ends of the legs, side bars adjustably connected to the side rails, a combined shoulder support and hand grip connecting the upper ends of the side bars, means adjustably holding the side bars in a raised position to form a crutch, or in a lowered position to form a cane, the upper cross brace forming a handle when the side bars are in a raised position to form a crutch.

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