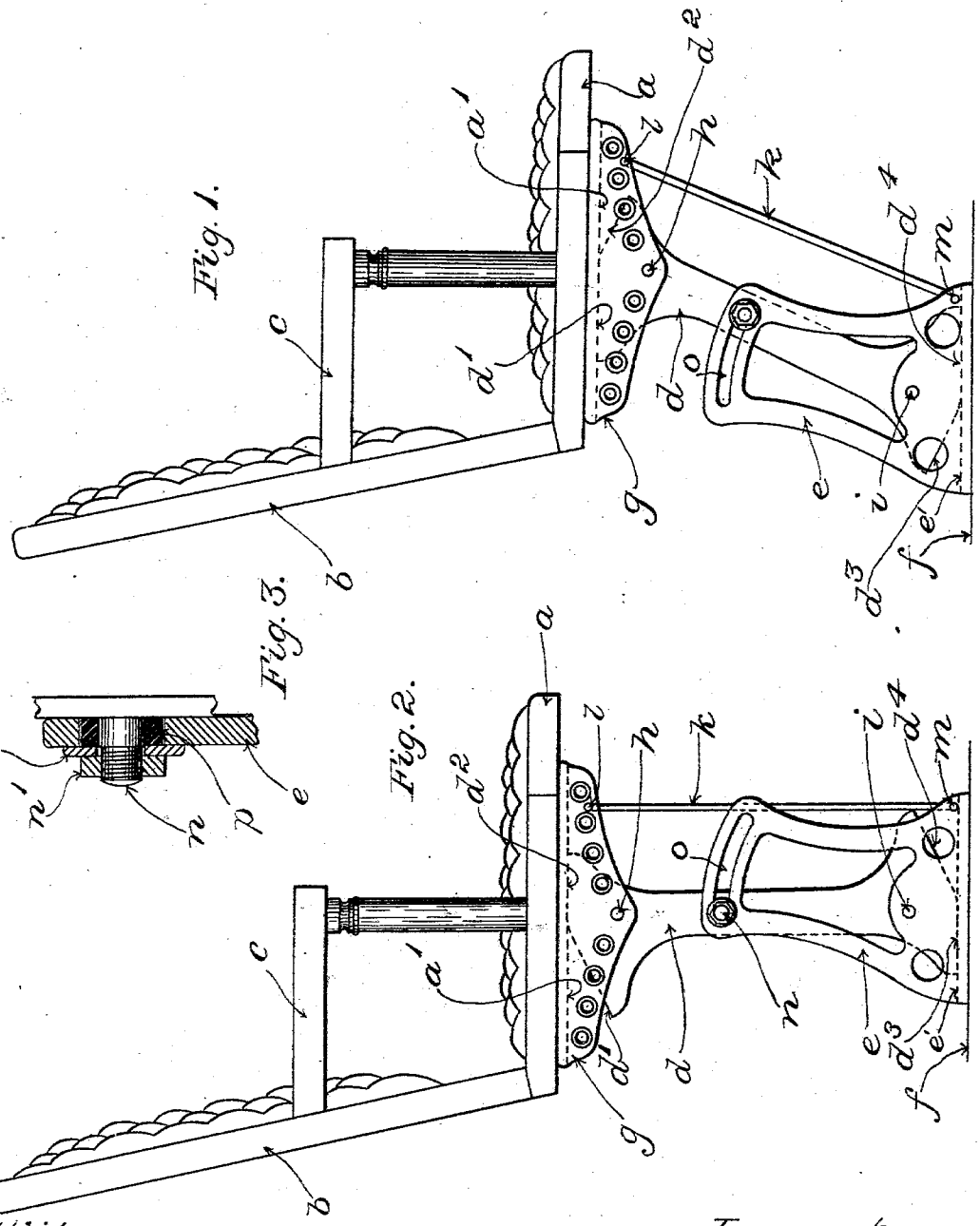
No. 694,990. Patented Mar. 11, 1902.

M. REED.

THEATER CHAIR.

(Application filed June 3, 1901.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses:
Oscar F. Hill
Arthur D. Randall

Inventor:
S. Marshall Reed
by S. Macleod Calver Randall
Attorneys.

THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARSHALL REED, OF WHITMAN, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO OLIVER H. WADE, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

THEATER-CHAIR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 694,990, dated March 11, 1902.

Application filed June 3, 1901. Serial No. 62,882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARSHALL REED, a citizen of the United States, residing at Whitman, in the county of Plymouth, State of Massachusetts, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Theater-Chairs, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

The aim of the invention is to produce a chair, more especially designed for use in theaters, halls, and the like places where seats occupying fixed positions on the floor are employed, which shall be so constructed as to enable the occupant thereof without rising from a sitting position to shift his position rearwardly, and thereby make room for the passage of another person in front of the seated person, between the latter and another seat or other object in front. This aim I attain by means of a chair having a seat portion which is so combined and arranged as to permit the occupant of the chair without rising from a sitting position to force said seat portion rearwardly relatively to the points of attachment of the chair to the floor and afterward resume his former position. Preferably the chair is constructed so that the seat portion returns automatically to its normal position as soon as the effort which shifted it rearwardly is ended.

I have illustrated an embodiment of my invention in the best form thereof which I have yet contrived in the accompanying drawings, in which latter—

Figure 1 shows in side elevation a chair containing the said embodiment with the seat portion in its normal position. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the seat portion in its rearward position. Fig. 3 is a sectional detail.

Having reference to the drawings, the seat portion of a chair is designated *a*, the same being provided with a back *b* and with arms *c*. The form, character, arrangement, &c., of the seat portion may be varied as desired in practice. An upright support for the said seat portion is represented at *d*, one or more of such upright supports being employed in practice, as deemed advisable. At *e* is shown a stand, which is fixed to the floor *f* in convenient manner and to which the support *d* is attached.

The drawings show only one side of a chair. Preferably the supporting devices for the seat portion are duplicated at the opposite sides of the chair.

The upright support *d* is connected with the seat portion *a* and stand *e* in a manner enabling the parts to move relative to one another. Herein the seat portion is shown formed with a depending bracket *g*, with which the upper portion of the support *d* is connected by a pivot *h*, and the lower portion of the support *d* is connected with stand *e* by means of a pivot *i*. Pivot *i* allows the upright support *d* to swing forwardly and rearwardly in a vertical plane, and pivot *h* permits the seat portion to rock in a vertical plane relative to the upper portion of the upright support. For the purpose of holding the seat in the same position relative to the horizontal as the seat portion is shifted forward and backward a rod or link *k* has the upper end thereof pivoted at *l* to the bracket *g* and the lower end thereof pivoted at *m* to the stand *e*. The support *d* and rod *k* constitute, in effect, a parallel-motion arrangement. The upper and lower ends of the support *d* are expanded widthwise to give increased bearing between the outer surface of the said support and the contacting surfaces of the bracket *g* and stand *e*, whereby tendency to twisting or turning of the parts relative to one another is obviated. The upper portion of the support is formed with bearing-faces d' d^2, designed for contact with the bearing-surface a' on the seat portion *a*, and the lower portion thereof is formed with bearing-surfaces d^3 d^4, making contact with surface e' on stand *e*. These bearing faces and surfaces take the weight and relieve the pivots at *h* and *i*, which preferably are relied upon simply to connect the parts together. Surfaces d' and d^2 are formed at an obtuse angle with respect to each other, and the same is true of surfaces d^3 d^4. These surfaces d' d^2 d^3 d^4 by their contact with the surfaces *a* and e' limit the extent of forward and rearward movement of the seat portion

a. The middle of the length of the support d has applied thereto a screw or bolt n, working in a slot o in the upper portion of the stand e, the said slot being concentric with pivot i, the said screw or bolt receiving a nut n' and washer n^2, by means of which the support is held close against the side of the stand e. A cushioning-washer p of suitable material (rubber, leather, or the like) is applied to the body or stem of the screw or bolt n within slot o, and by its contact with the ends of slot o slightly before faces d' d^2 and d^3 d^4 bring up against their coacting surfaces in the back and forth movements of the seat portion and upright support d arrests the movement of the latter parts without noise.

The parts are arranged in practice to gravitate forward into the position in which they are represented in Fig. 1, which is the natural or normal position thereof. A slight effort by the occupant of the chair exerted, for instance, by pressure of his foot against the floor will carry the seat portion rearward into the position which is represented in Fig. 2. When such effort is relaxed, the seat portion resumes its forward position. Preferably in practice it is arranged so that in the rearward position of the seat portion the pivot h shall be a little to the front of a vertical line passing through the pivot i.

While I have been thus particular to describe the construction and arrangement which are shown in the accompanying drawings, I wish it to be understood that so far as the broad principles of the invention are concerned I do not limit myself to the said construction and arrangement inasmuch as such principles admit of being variously embodied.

I claim as my invention—

1. In combination, the fixed stand having the slot o, the seat portion, the support d loosely connected with said stand and seat portion, and the screw or bolt n applied to said support and working in said slot, said seat tending normally to assume a relatively advanced position and having capacity for being temporarily shifted rearward to afford increased space in front of the chair, substantially as described.

2. In combination, the fixed stand having the slot o and the bearing-surface e', the seat portion having the bearing-surface a', the support d loosely connected with said stand and seat portion, and having the bearing-faces d' d^2 d^3 d^4, the screw or bolt n applied to said support and working in said slot and the link k, substantially as described.

3. In combination, the fixed stand having the slot o and the bearing-surface e', the seat portion having the bearing-surface a', the support d loosely connected with said stand and seat-support, having the bearing-faces d' d^2 d^3 d^4, and the screw or bolt n applied to said support, working in said slot, and the cushion applied in connection with said screw or bolt, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

MARSHALL REED.

Witnesses:

CHAS. F. RANDALL,

WILLIAM A. COPELAND.