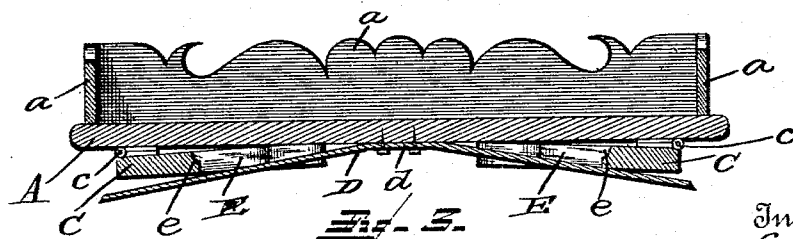
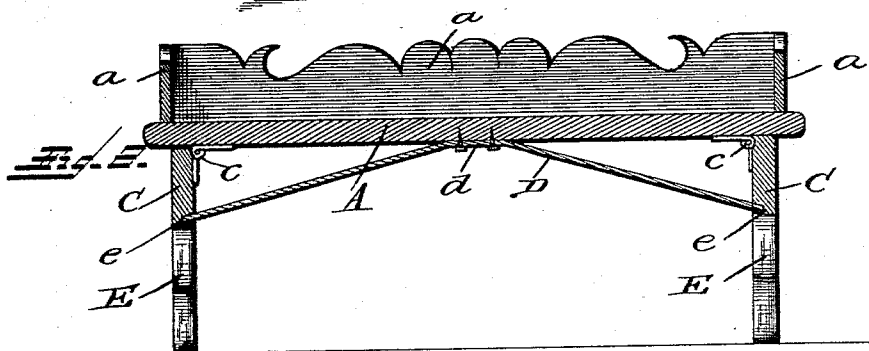
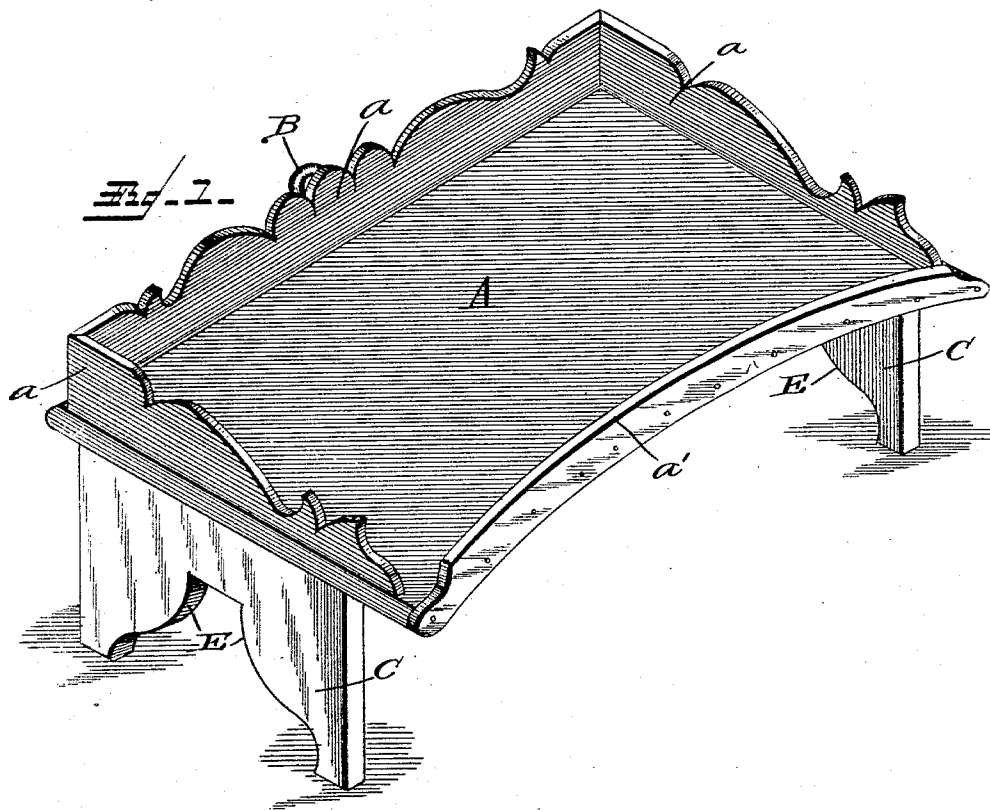


(No Model.)

F. E. ASPER.
INVALID'S TABLE.

No. 561,955.

Patented June 16, 1896.



Witnesses
Jos. Gregory
H. A. Van.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FLORENCE E. ASPER, OF CHILLICOTHE, MISSOURI.

INVALID'S TABLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 561,955, dated June 16, 1896.

Application filed February 29, 1896. Serial No. 581,318. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FLORENCE E. ASPER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chillicothe, in the county of Livingston and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Invalids' Tables; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in tables of that class designed for use by invalids and persons eating in bed without rising, and it has for its objects, among others, to provide a simple, cheap, light table that can be carried from place to place, and which will support the plates and other dishes without danger of their being displaced. It embodies a light support having a surrounding flange, and may be as ornamental as desired, and folding legs with a spring for holding them in their closed position or extending them for use.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will hereinafter appear, and the novel features thereof will be particularly pointed out in the appended claim.

The invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, which, with the letters of reference marked thereon, form a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved table. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section. Fig. 3 is a similar section with the table in its folded position.

Like letters of reference indicate like parts in the several views.

Referring now to the details of the drawings by letter, A designates the table or support, which is made of any desired material, preferably thin light wood, having a raised surrounding flange *a* upon the rear side and the ends, and the front, which is preferably formed upon a curve so as to better accommodate itself to the shape of the person, is provided with a flange *a'*, which, together with the flange at the rear and ends, serves to hold the dishes upon the same.

The table may be of any desired length. At

the rear, or it may be at the end, there is provided a hook or other means B, by which it may be hung upon the wall or other support when not in use. C are legs hinged to the under side of the board near opposite ends by hinges *c*, so arranged that the legs may fold down flat against the under face of the board when not in use. D is a spring, preferably of a suitable piece of wood, secured, as at *d*, at its center to the under side of the board and its ends of sufficient length to hold the legs distended. For this purpose the legs are formed with the adjacent curved sides forming the openings E, the rear wall of which is provided with an offset or ledge *e*, into which the ends of the spring, which are slightly beveled, are adapted to automatically engage as the legs are turned into their operative position. When the legs are folded, the ends of the spring overlapping the same hold them in contact with the under side of the board. The advantages of a table constructed in accordance with the above description will be readily understood and appreciated.

Modifications in details may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention or sacrificing any of its advantages. I propose to make the tables of various sizes, some adapted for children's beds and cribs.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is—

An invalid-table comprising the board having the flange at the rear and two ends with its front side curved and provided with a flange, legs hinged to the under side thereof near opposite ends and formed with central openings having offsets, and a spring-strip secured to the under side of said board with its ends beveled and extended in the direction of the length of the board to engage the legs and hold them in their closed position and to automatically enter said offset as the legs are extended, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

FLORENCE E. ASPER.

Witnesses:

C. R. J. MCINTURFF,

E. D. ALLEN.