2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

J. ALLEN.

Folding Reclining-Chair.

No. 224,319. Patented Feb. 10, 1880.

Fig. 1

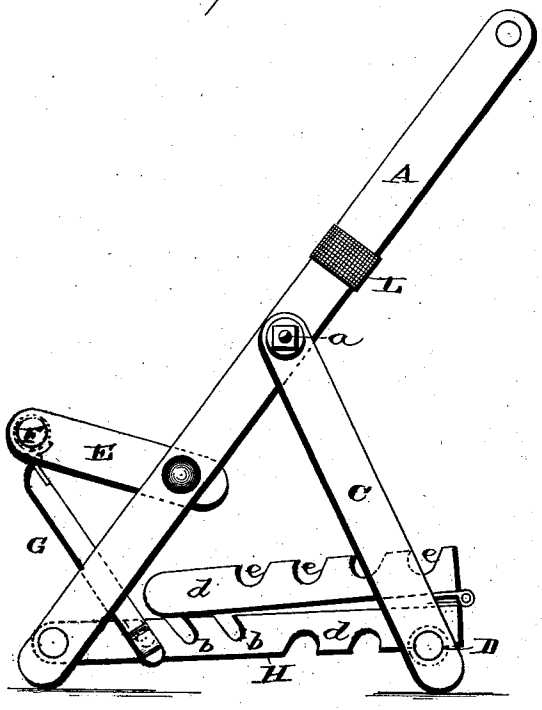


Fig. 2

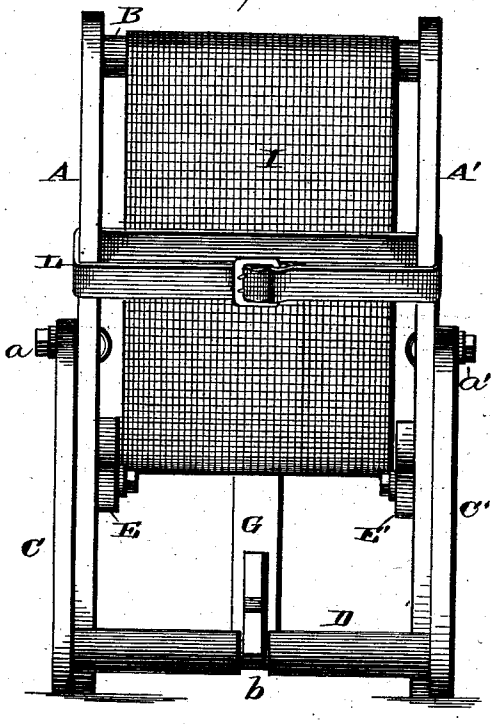
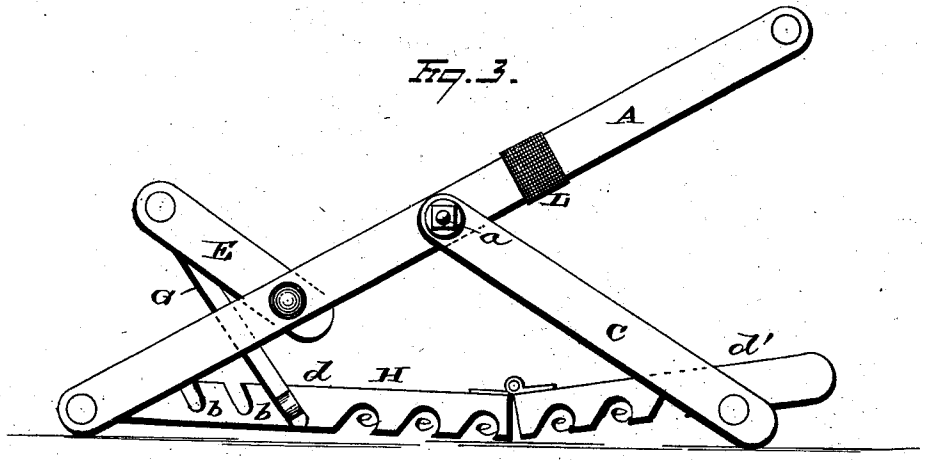


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES

E. F. Nottingham

A. M. Bright

INVENTOR

Joseph Allen.

By H. A. Seymour.

ATTORNEY

N. PETERS, PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHER, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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Fig. 4.

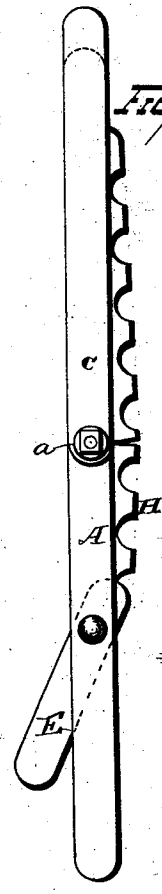
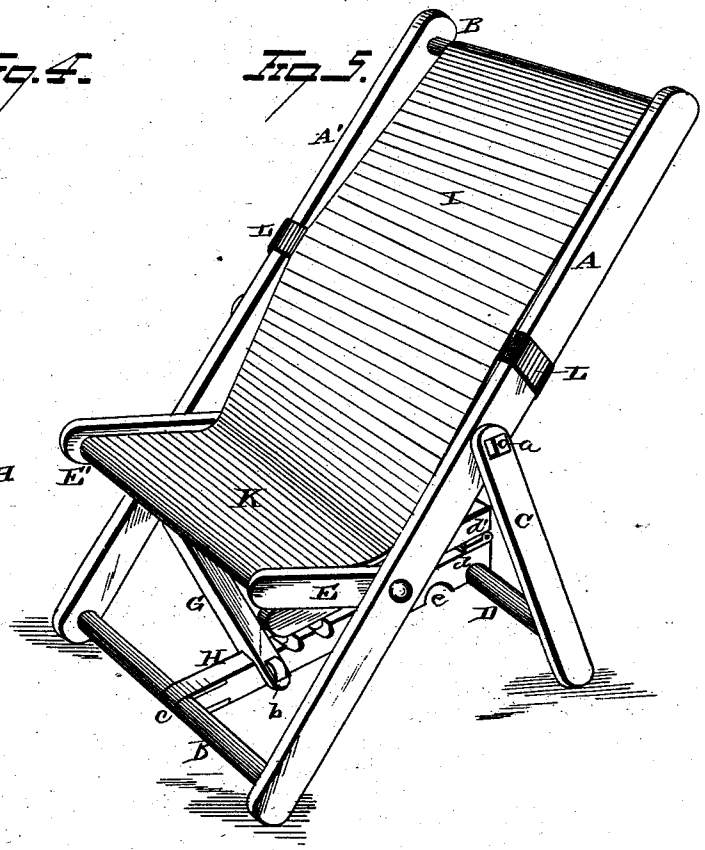


Fig. 5.



WITNESSES
E. J. Nottingham
A. M. Bright

INVENTOR
Joseph Allen.
By H. A. Fitzmorr.
ATTORNEY

N. PETERS, PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHER, WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH ALLEN, OF PALMYRA, NEW YORK.

FOLDING RECLINING-CHAIR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 224,319, dated February 10, 1880.

Application filed September 30, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH ALLEN, of Palmyra, in the county of Wayne and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Folding Reclining-Chairs; 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 pertains to make and use it, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in folding reclining-chairs, the object being to provide a chair of such construction and relative arrangement of parts that the chair back and seat may be adjusted to any desired angle of inclination to serve either as an upright or reclining chair; and to this end my invention consists in the several details of construction and combinations of parts, as will hereinafter be explained, and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved chair, the parts being adjusted so that the back and seat will be at the relative angle of the inclination of ordinary easy-chairs. Fig. 2 is a rear view of the chair adjusted as represented in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the chair, the parts being adjusted to constitute a reclining-chair. Fig. 4 is a side view of the chair when the parts are folded together. Fig. 5 is a view, in perspective, of the improved chair.

A A′ represent the side frame-pieces of the chair, the opposite ends of which are connected by the cross-bars B B′. C C′ are braces, the upper ends of which are pivoted to side pieces, A A′, by means of bolts *a a′*, while the lower ends of the braces are connected by a transverse brace, D.

The seat-frame of the chair consists of the side pieces E E′, which latter are pivoted at their rear ends to the inner sides of side frames A A′, while their forward ends are connected by a cross-round, F. To the under side of cross-round F is hinged an adjustable brace, G, the lower end of which engages in any one of the series of notches *b* formed in the upper edge of the hinged connecting-brace H. The forward end of the hinged or folded brace H is provided with a metal strap, *c*, which encircles the lower cross round or bar, B′, whereby the rear and free end of the brace H may be freely moved in a vertical direction. Brace H is composed of one, two, or more hinged sections, *d d′*, the lower edges of each of which are provided with notches *e*, which are adapted to engage within an annular groove, *f*, formed in the central portion of the cross bar or brace D.

The back I and seat K are formed of a continuous piece of cloth or suitable flexible material, the upper end of which is secured in any desired manner to the cross bar or round B, which connects the upper ends of side frames A A′, and the lower end is attached to the cross-round F.

An adjustable supporting-band, L, is secured to the side frames, A A′, the ends of the band being connected by a buckle or other suitable device for regulating the tension of the band. This supporting-band may be adjusted toward or away from the seat, according to the wish of the occupant, and may serve to support the back in an easy and healthful position.

In Fig. 1 the seat is arranged to support the occupant at the ordinary inclination when sitting in an easy position, and when so adjusted the pivoted section *d* of the connecting-brace H is engaged with the cross-bar D.

The back of the chair can be secured at any desired inclination by means of the series of notches in the section *h*, any one of which notches may be engaged with the cross-bar; also, the inclination of the chair-seat may be varied by placing the lower end of the brace, which is hinged thereto, in the notches in the upper edge of hinged section *d*.

When the chair is arranged in any of the several adjustments herein indicated the outer section, *d′*, of the sectional hinged brace H is folded over beneath the chair, and thus does not occupy any unnecessary space.

When it is desired to transform the chair into a reclining-chair, section *d* of the connecting-brace H is raised, thereby disengaging the notch in its lower edge from the cross-bar D. The lower ends of the braces C C′ are then moved rearwardly, and the hinged section *d′* of brace H unfolded and one of the notches in its lower edge engaged with the cross-bar

D. The lower end of the hinged chair-seat brace is also moved rearwardly and engaged with one of the notches in the upper edge of section *d* of the connecting-brace H. The several parts will then be in the position illustrated in Fig. 3 and the lower edge of the connecting-brace resting upon the floor, so that it becomes practically impossible to break or injure the connecting-brace H by reason of the weight of the occupant on the hinged chair-seat brace, as the entire strain on the brace is thus relieved.

When the chair is in the inclined position illustrated in Fig. 3 the adjustable supporting-band L may be moved in any desired adjustment to support the head or shoulders of the occupant.

The chair may be folded up into small compass for storage or transportation, as illustrated in Fig. 4, the hinged braces folding against the outer sides of side frames, C C′, the chair-seat frame-pieces folding between frame-pieces A A′ and the hinged folding braces H folding against the seat and back.

A chair constructed in accordance with my invention is of small initial cost and does not require costly machinery in its manufacture. The side frames and braces are pivoted to each other by ordinary carriage-bolts. The relative arrangement of parts of the chair is such that I secure maximum durability and strength by the employment of material of light weight, and also enable the chair to be adjusted to varying inclinations to suit the occupant, and in any of the various adjustments of the chair its parts are thoroughly braced and supported.

In many constructions of reclining-chairs the base projects rearwardly such a distance that it is quite objectionable, for the reason that it occupies so much space that it is constantly in the way of persons walking about the room wherein the chair is placed.

My improved chair, when adjusted in an upright position, occupies but little space, as the lower horizontal brace is made in sections and is folded out of the way beneath the chair.

While chairs embodying my improvement may be made plain and cheap in construction, they are susceptible of high ornamentation, as the frame-pieces may be carved and different portions thereof upholstered, if desired.

It is evident that slight changes may be made in details of construction and arrangement of parts without departing from the spirit of my invention, and hence I would have it understood that I do not limit myself to the exact construction shown and described; but,

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

1. In a reclining-chair, the combination, with the chair-seat side pieces, pivoted at their rear ends to the side frame-pieces of the chair, and a continuous chair back and seat made of flexible material, of a notched brace having its forward end pivoted to the cross-round connecting the lower ends of the side frame-pieces of the chair, and a brace hinged at its upper end to the under side of the front cross-round of the chair-seat, the lower end of said brace being adapted to engage in the notches in the upper edge of the notched brace, substantially as set forth.

2. In a reclining-chair, the combination, with the side frame pieces of the chair and pivoted braces, of a folding or sectional notched brace, hinged or pivoted at its forward end to the lower cross round or bar of the side frame-pieces, and its rear end adapted to be folded beneath the chair, substantially as set forth.

3. In a reclining-chair, the combination, with the side frame-pieces of the chair and pivoted rear braces and pivoted seat-frame, of a hinged brace, hinged or pivoted to the lower cross-round of the side frame-pieces of the chair and provided with notches on its upper and lower edges, and a hinged brace connected with the under side of the pivoted seat, substantially as set forth.

4. In a reclining-chair, the combination, with a continuous chair back and seat made of flexible material, of an adjustable band or belt attached to the side frame-pieces of the chair, the opposite ends of said band or belt being provided with a buckle for regulating the tension of said adjustable band, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand.

JOSEPH ALLEN.

Witnesses:
B. C. TIFFANY,
C. Z. CULVER.