Oct. 19, 1943. V. WICKMAN 2,332,035

RETAINING DEVICE

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Fig. 1

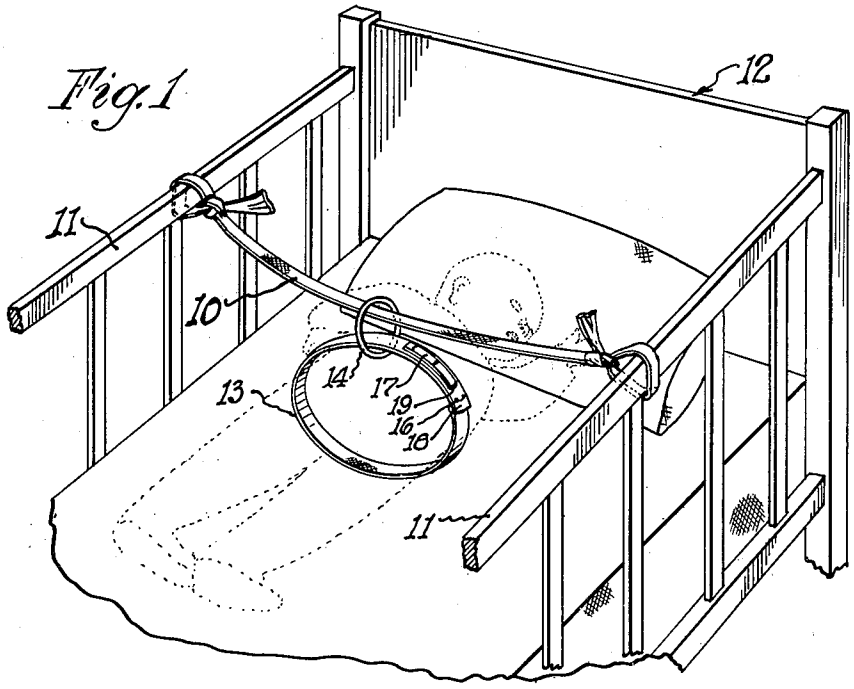


Fig. 2



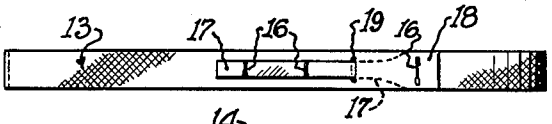


Fig. 3

Fig. 6



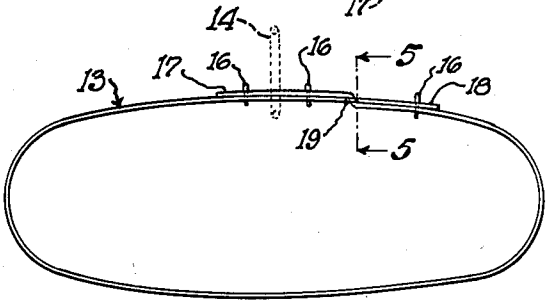


Fig. 4

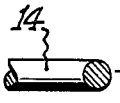


Fig. 7

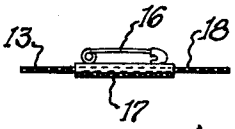
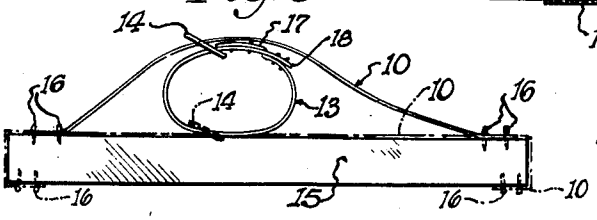


Fig. 5

Fig. 8



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RETAINING DEVICE

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Fig. 9

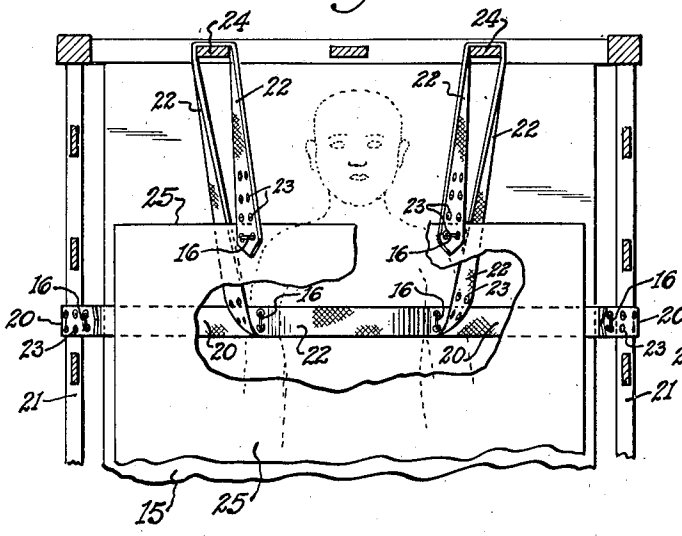


Fig. 11

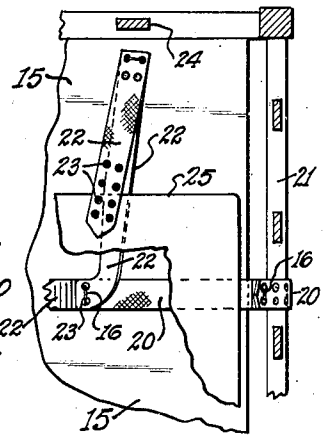


Fig. 10

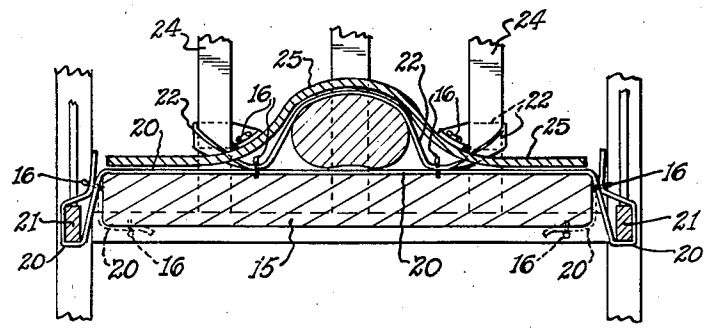
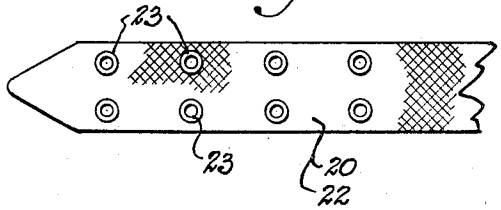


Fig. 12



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,332,035

RETAINING DEVICE

Violet Wickman, Omaha, Nebr.

Application August 20, 1941, Serial No. 407,586

2 Claims. (Cl. 128—134)

This invention relates generally to new and useful improvements in retaining devices and has particular reference to a novel safety device for retaining an infant or young child against accidental fall from a bed or crib.

One of the objects of my invention resides in the provision of a safety retaining device which shall be sanitary, simple in construction, comparatively low in cost of manufacture, and effective to retain the infant or child against accidental fall from a bed or crib in the event the infant rolled on the bed or in the event the child stood up and leaned over the side of the crib. The construction of the parts and their arrangement and interconnection is such that the device will not interfere with the freedom of the body movements in rolling over from one side to the other, or in completely reversing the position of the body as when the child rolls over from repose on its back to a position of repose upon its abdomen.

With the above and other objects in view, which will become readily apparent from the perusal of the attached drawings and specification wherein I show a simple and preferred embodiment of my invention, my invention consists in the novel combination, construction and arrangement of the several members shown in preferred embodiments in the attached drawings, described in the following specification, and particularly defined in the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a view in perspective showing a crib, with parts broken away, and a retaining device embodying my invention applied to opposite sides of the crib;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the flexible securing member;

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the belt member;

Fig. 4 is a side view of the belt member;

Fig. 5 is an enlarged cross-section of the belt member taken on line 5—5 of Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 shows a plan view of the interconnecting member for loosely connecting the belt with the flexible securing or retaining member;

Fig. 7 is an enlarged cross-section of the interconnecting member taken on line 7—7 of Fig. 6;

Fig. 8 is a side view of the retaining device showing same secured to a bed;

Figs. 9, 10, and 11 show respectively a plan view, side view, and modified partial plan view of a modification of my invention; and

Fig. 12 shows an end portion of the belt adapted for use with the construction illustrated in Fig. 9.

My improved retaining device comprises three main parts or members, namely, a securing member 10, a waist band or belt 13, and an interconnecting member 14.

The securing member 10 is preferably made of a strip of flexible rubberized fabric of ribbon-like or tape form. I prefer to use a washable or rubberized fabric for sanitary reasons; however, such securing member 10 may be made of any suitable ribbon or tape or flexible rope which can be tied, as for example, to a pair of opposed side rails 11 of a crib 12, as shown in Fig. 1. A securing member 10 of flexible flat ribbon or tape fabric has the advantage of securance to a bed mattress 15, as shown in Fig. 8, by any suitable securing means such as safety pins 16.

The waist band or belt member 13 is also preferably made of rubberized flat ribbon-like fabric so that it may be readily washed. The belt member 13 may be adjustably secured about the chest portion of the child's body just below the armpits and the ends 17 and 18 of the belt member 13 may be overlapped and secured together in any suitable manner as by buttons, snap fasteners or lacing; however, I have preferred to show the end belt portion 18 as provided with a transverse slit 19 and the end belt portion 17 of slightly narrower width so that same may be passed through the slit 19 into overlapping relation with the end belt portion 18. As shown in the drawings, the overlapping belt end portions 17 and 18 are secured together by safety pins 16.

Before the belt member 13 is applied and adjusted to the child's body the belt member 13 is first passed through the interconnecting member or ring 14 whereupon the belt 13 may then be secured about the child's body.

Having secured the belt member 13 to the child's body, the securing member 10 may then be passed through the metallic ring member 14 and the ends thereof tied to the crib rails 11 or the ends of the securing member 10 may be pinned to a bed or crib mattress with the safety pins 16, as illustrated in Fig. 8.

For purposes of simplicity of structure I prefer to make the interconnecting metallic member 14 of circular shape and, to eliminate sharp or cutting edges, I prefer to make such interconnecting ring of round cross-section as illustrated in Figs. 6 and 7.

I prefer to use a chromium plated metal ring 14 but such interconnecting ring 14 may be made

of any other suitable material such as Bakelite or any other well known hardened plastic material, or such interconnecting member 14 may be made of hardened rubber.

It is also obvious that such interconnecting member 14 may be made of any other suitable shape or form, as for example, oval. The desirable characteristics of such interconnecting member 14 are, free movement of the belt member 13 through such endless ring-like member 14, and free sliding movement of the ring-like member 14 on the retaining and securing member 10.

It will readily be apparent from the illustration in Fig. 1 that the child is not unduly restricted in turning from side to side or from repose on its back to repose upon its abdomen since the belt member 13 is free to slide through the ring 14. Due to the free sliding support of the ring 14 on the retaining member 10, the child's body may, to a limited extent, be shifted bodily longitudinally of the securing member 10.

As above stated, I prefer to pass one end portion of the belt 13 through a slit 19 in the other end portion of the belt so that the terminal edges of both ends of such belt are disposed on the outer face of the belt. This particular overlapping eliminates any possibility of one end of the belt interfering with the free sliding movement of such belt through the ring 14.

Fig. 8 also shows another application or use of my device wherein the securing strip member 10 is positioned transversely of and over the top of the bed 15 and secured to the bottom face of the mattress by pins 16. The securing member 10 is shown in such position by dot and dash lines and the cooperating ring member 14 is shown by broken lines.

Obviously, the ends of the securing member 10 could be securely fastened or tied to the lower side rails of the crib or to the side rails of a bed or bed springs.

Both belt 13 and securing member 10 pass through the ring member 14. It may be noted that in this particular adaptation or use, the ring member 14 is preferably made of a comparatively smaller diameter than for the use shown in Fig. 1 and is made of round or oval shape and from metal of comparatively very small cross-section to obviate any discomfort to the child, and this adaptation will not interfere with the use of any covers which may be applied over the child.

The modification of my invention illustrated in Figs. 9, 10, 11, and 12 consists of a securing member or strip 20 which is adapted to be laid flat across a bed and securely fastened with safety pins 16 to the side rails 21, or same may be pinned to a mattress 15 as shown by broken lines in Fig. 10.

The body securing belt member or strip 22 is then placed over the chest of the child and secured by pins 16 to strip 20. Since both strips 20 and 22 have a plurality of pairs of spaced eyelets 23, these strips can be adjustably secured together to provide for free movement of the child's body between such strips.

After the strip 22 is secured to strip 20 at both sides of the child's body, the ends of strip 22 may then be passed around the vertical slats 24 and pinned to the edge of the cover 25 to retain same over the child's chest. Or, as shown in Fig. 11, the free ends of the securing strip 22 may simply be pinned to the bed and not passed around the slats 24.

It is obvious that instead of pinning the belt member or strip 22 to the strip 20 at the sides of the child's body as shown in Figs. 9 and 10, a pair of oval rings could be substituted instead of the pins 16 whereby the belt member 22 would be slidable, through such oval rings, relatively to the securing member 20.

Fig. 12 shows a typical end portion of the strips 20 and 22 with spaced pairs of eyelets 23; similar eyelets would of course be provided in the intermediate portions of these strips for adjustable securement of same at the sides of the child's body.

This device should be inexpensive and would not only secure the child but would provide means for retaining the cover over the child.

The spaced pairs of eyelets 23 are preferably the well known thin brass eyelets which are applied mechanically as in their well known use as rivets for securing together several sheets of paper.

Various obvious changes may readily occur to those skilled in the art to which this invention relates, upon perusal of the above specifications and attached drawings, hence, I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself to the exact details of construction of the various parts and members illustrated in the drawings which show my invention in preferred embodiments. The invention is defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A retaining device of the character described comprising a flexible retaining strip member having ends adapted to be secured to spaced portions of a bed, a belt member, adapted to pass over the trunk portion of a child's body, having portions adapted to be secured to the head end portion of the bed above the child's head and the ends thereof adapted to be secured to a marginal portion of a cover for the child, and releasable means for adjustably connecting said belt member with said retaining strip member at spaced points of said belt member comprising spaced pairs of eyelets in said belt member and a pair of fasteners adapted to be passed through a pair of selected eyelets and secured to said retaining strip member.

2. A retaining device of the character described comprising a flexible retaining strip member having ends adapted to be secured to spaced portions of a bed, a belt member having a portion which, when the device is in use, is vertically aligned with said retaining strip member, adapted to extend over the trunk portion of a child's body, having portions adapted to be secured to the head-end portion of the bed and the ends thereof adapted to be extended toward the opposite end of the bed and secured to a marginal portion of a cover for the child, and releasable means for adjustably connecting said belt member with said retaining strip member at spaced points of said belt member to permit the child's body to make a complete rotation in the space between the vertically spaced portions of said members.

VIOLET WICKMAN.