Sept. 17, 1940. E. E. LONGFELLOW 2,215,425

ROLLER ATTACHMENT FOR ROCKING CHAIRS

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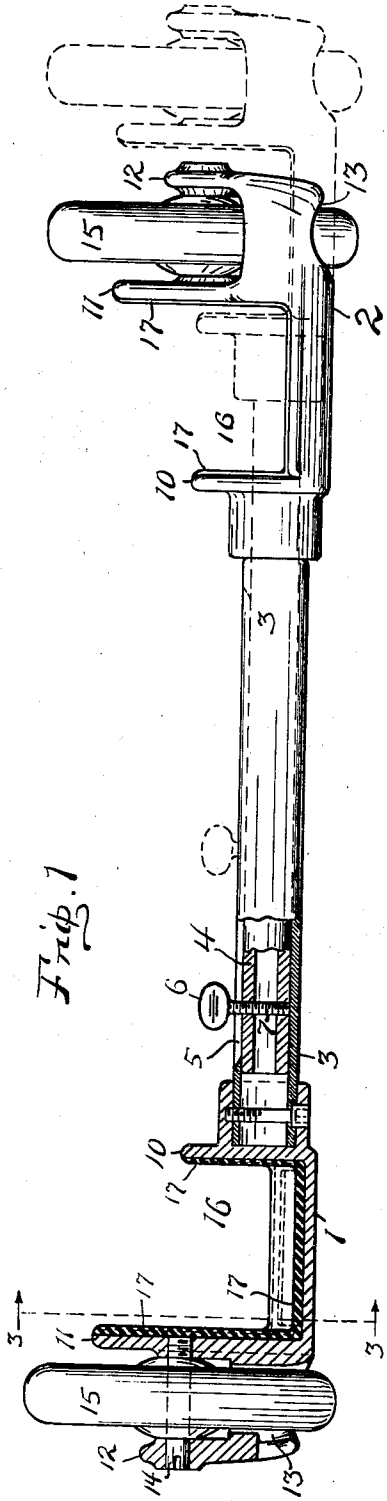


Fig. 1.

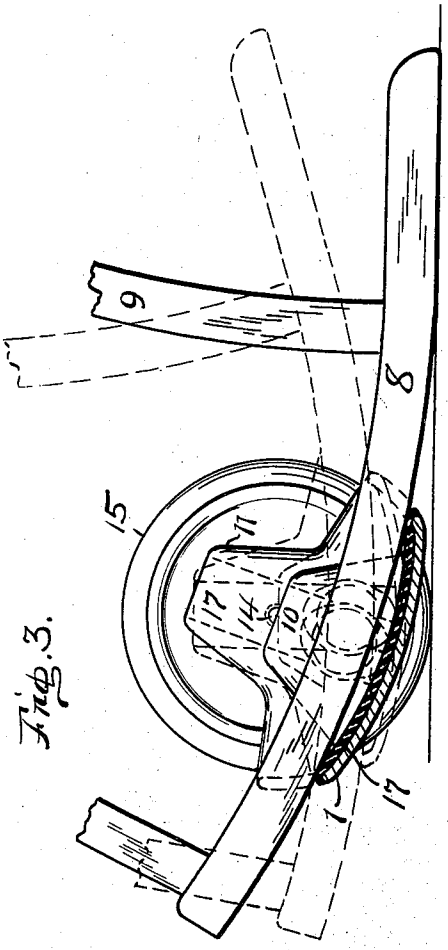


Fig. 3.

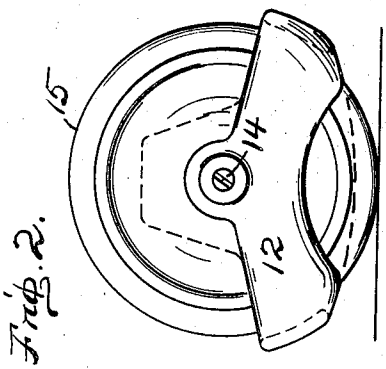


Fig. 2.

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ROLLER ATTACHMENT FOR ROCKING CHAIRS

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2 Claims. (Cl. 280—61)

This invention relates to a roller attachment for rocking chairs, and an object thereof is to provide an adjustable support including wheels and stirrups so constituted as to be readily applied to and removed from a rocking-chair without securing means that ordinarily are resorted to that tend to mar the rocker or other parts of the chair and require the use of tools and more or less mechanical skill when such devices are applied.

Another object of the invention is to provide a roller attachment for rocking-chairs that when applied, the chair is elevated from the floor by the attachment, merely by applying rocking movement to the chair when the attachment is placed into position to receive the weight of the chair with its occupant, and which requires but negligible physical exertion upon the part of the operator.

And a further object of the invention is to provide a roller attachment so constituted, that when applied enables an attendant to maneuver a rocking-chair about upon the floor within an extremely confined area thereof, and move it about generally from one place to another, without discomposure of the occupant.

Other objects and advantages of the invention appear in the following description.

An illustrative embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of a preferred form of the invention, a portion thereof being in section;

Fig. 2 is an outer end view of the device shown in Fig. 1; and

Fig. 3 is a transverse section of Fig. 1 on the line 3—3 thereof, a fragmentary part of the rocking chair being included in the view.

The illustrative embodiment of the invention consists of a frame having two stirrup castings 1 and 2 that are adjustably connected together, preferably by telescoping tubes 3 and 4 that are secured firmly in connection respectively with the corresponding castings. The tube 4 has in its top an elongated slot 5 through which loosely extends a clamp-screw 6, the shank 7 of which is threaded in the tube 4, so that when the screw is tightened, its lower end bears against the lower inner wall of the tube 3, thus to hold the telescoping tubes from having relative axial movement. The screw 6 also, by extending through the slot 5, prevents relative angular movement of the tubes, and when the screw is loosened axial sliding movement of the inner tube 4 in the outer tube is permitted, and thus by adjustment of the tubes, the stirrup castings are spaced apart from each other selectively at points as required so as to receive the rockers 8 of a rocking-chair 9 between the inner and outer flanges 10 and 11 of the corresponding castings. Each of said castings has integral with its outer stirrup flange 11 a bracket 12, the lower part of which is bifurcated to provide an opening 13 therein, said bracket constituting a guard for the corresponding outer end of the frame and the wheel therein.

Upon a stationary axle-shaft 14 in each stirrup casting is journaled a wheel 15, preferably rubber-tired, and with the lower portion thereof extending through the opening 13 in the bracket a sufficient distance that the frame when in operating position is sustained by the wheels in a plane suitably spaced above the floor to permit free travel thereover. The ends of the shafts 14 extend respectively into the corresponding outer stirrup flanges 11 and guard-brackets 12, and thus each of said shafts receive support at both ends in the corresponding stirrup castings while the wheels are disposed upon said shafts between the supported ends thereof. In this manner bending of said shafts when the frame is loaded by the chair and its occupant is circumvented.

A feature of the invention is that the lower portions of the stirrup castings as well as the telescopic tubular connections adjustably connecting the castings are disposed in planes lower than the axle-shafts 14 for the wheels, so that the frame normally is pendant from the axes of said shafts. In this respect the mounting of the frame is underhung whereby the gaps 16 between the inner and outer flanges 10 and 11 of the stirrups are always openly exposed upwardly in proper position to receive the chair rockers.

Each stirrup preferably is padded with a cushion 17 formed of rubber, felt or the like, and is disposed so as to over-lie the upper face of the bottom portion of the stirrup and the adjacent faces of the flanges 10 and 11, thus to circumvent marring of the chair rockers when the device is applied thereto.

Operation

In use, the rocking chair is rocked either forwardly or backwardly, and while thus tilted the attachment is moved in under the chair so the rockers enter the gaps in the stirrups through the open tops thereof. The chair is then rocked in the opposite direction onto the stirrups, whereupon the chair with its occupant is elevated bodily from the floor and balanced on the frame

while supported by the wheels. Thus positioned upon the attachment, the chair is readily movable in all directions over the floor requiring only slight physical exertion upon the part of the attendant. The attachment is readily removed from operating connection with the chair merely by tilting the chair forwardly or backwardly so that the rockers of the chair bear upon the floor, whereupon the attachment is easily rolled from beneath the chair and out of the way, thus leaving the chair resting with its rockers on the floor. The forward and rear edges of the stirrups extend to points beyond the outer perimeters of the wheels so that when swung upon the axes of the wheels in either direction to receive the rockers of the chair the lowermost edges of the stirrups then project a substantial distance beneath the rockers or have contact with the floor. In this manner rocking of the chair into balance position onto the stirrups is greatly facilitated and without thrusting the attachment out of rocker-receiving position during the transfer of the weight of the chair from the floor onto the stirrups.

The telescopic tubular connection between the rocker castings, and the clamp-screw for holding the tubing in adjusted positions, afford convenient application of the attachment to chairs having rockers that are spaced different distances apart.

Variations from the particular construction above disclosed may readily be made by exercise of engineering skill without departure from the spirit or scope of the invention, and the following claims are intended to be inclusive of such variations.

What I claim is:

1. A roller attachment for rocking-chairs consisting of a pair of wheels axially alined, axle-shafts for said wheels, an underhung frame pendantly connected with respect to said axle-shafts, said frame having a stirrup member adjacent the inner end of each wheel and including an adjustable connection arranged between said members to permit selective spacing apart of said members toward or from each other, and a bracket on the outer end of each of said members constituting a wheel-guard disposed adjacent the outer end of the corresponding wheel and having an opening in its bottom through which the lower portion of the corresponding wheel protrudes so that when the frame is in operative position it is held out of contact with the floor while said wheels rest thereon.

2. A roller attachment for rocking chairs, said attachment consisting of a frame provided at its ends with open top stirrup members and supporting wheels therefor, said members having forwardly and backwardly projecting extensions that project beyond the outer perimeters of said wheels thus to facilitate engagement of said members with the bottoms of the rockers of a chair while the chair is rocked off balance and when said chair is subsequently rocked into balanced position thereon.

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