



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## CRIB GUARD

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4 Claims. (Cl. 5—331)

1

The present invention relates to protective devices for use in connection with cribs for children, and has particular reference to a guard mechanism adapted for installation adjacent crib railings to act as a barrier preventing the escape of the child from the crib, and at the same time providing an amusement device adapted to occupy the attention of the child.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a simply and inexpensively constructed guard mechanism for installation adjacent one or more top rails of a crib, to prevent a child from climbing over the sides of the crib.

A further object is to provide a guard mechanism for use in connection with children's cribs, which is safe to use, with regard to both the installation mechanism and operation of the device.

A further object is to provide a guard device for use with children's cribs which may be installed and removed from the crib without changing the crib structure, or marring the crib rails.

A further object is to provide a crib guard mechanism which prevents the escape of a child from the crib by providing a rolling surface adjacent the top rails of the crib, incapable of supporting the weight of the child.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following detailed description thereof taken in connection with the drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a conventional type of crib, with the safety device of the invention installed along one guard rail;

Figure 2 is an enlarged view of the roller mounting;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the roller fittings;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of a clamp mechanism adapted to be secured removably to the guard rail of the crib to receive the roller mounting; and

Figure 5 is a cross-sectional view thereof in position on the crib guard rail.

In its broadest application, the invention embodies a safety device for installation on the guard rail of a conventional type crib, comprising clamp means detachably mounted on the guard rail, a bracket supported on the clamp means, a roller member to be mounted inside the crib guard rail, and a pair of arms associated with the brackets supporting the roller for free rotation.

2

there is shown a common type of crib referred to with the numeral 10, embodying a floor section 11, and two opposed end sections 12 joined by protective side members 13 to form the crib enclosure. The side members 13 may be of any desired type, embodying a top rail 14 serving as a guard rail to prevent the escape of a child from the crib. As the child grows, there is always the first attempt to climb over the sides 13, which can result in serious injury to the child from the resulting fall.

It is contemplated that the guard device of the invention may be purchased as a unit with the crib, or for later installation on one or all of the four sides of the crib, as desired, the installation of a single unit being shown in the drawings for purposes of simplicity of description.

The guard device includes a roller member 15 formed of wood, metal, resilient material, or any other suitable material, adapted to be mounted inwardly of and spaced from each guard rail 14, or along the upper edge of the end pieces 12 if it is desired to provide all around protection. The roller 15 may be marked with suitable indicia 15a as shown, to provide for the amusement of the child as by rotation of the roller to bring different indicia to view.

The roller 15 may be mounted on the guard rail 14 by means which may be detached to effect removal of the entire unit without altering the guard rail by use of nails or other projecting devices providing a possible source of injury, the said means also permitting of temporary removal of the roller 15, without disturbing the mountings. This is accomplished by means of a U-shaped clamp 16 adapted to be fitted to and positioned over the guard rail 14 and positively secured by means of a set screw 17, which may be provided with a flat head 18 adapted to rest adjacent the guard rail without damaging the surface or finish of the guard rail. The outer wall 19 of the clamp is provided with a bracket 20, which preferably may be formed by a stamping operation, cutting and forming the wall 19 to provide two opposed arms 21 defining a slot 22 therebetween, and having portions 23 normal to the plane of the wall 19 offsetting the arms 21 from the wall to permit insertion of a member to be secured. This type of bracket is easily constructed with a minimum of expense. However, it will be apparent that the bracket 20 may be formed as a member separate from the wall 19, and welded or otherwise secured thereto.

Referring now to the drawings, in Figure 1 The roller 15 is supported on either end, by

3

roller supports 24. Each support 24 comprises an arcuate member which terminates at one end with roller supporting mechanism 26 to be described, and at the other end with a flat horizontal portion 27, from which depends a vertical member 28 adapted to be inserted in the bracket 20. The member 28 is slotted at 29 whereby upon insertion in the bracket 20, the set screw 17 may be received in the slot 29. The engagement of the set screw 17 in the slot 29 minimizes lateral movement of the vertical members 28 relative to the bracket 20, when weight is placed upon the roller 15. The horizontal member 27 is formed to rest flush with the flat top of the U-shaped clamp 16 when in position, supporting and strengthening the roller support-bracket assembly.

The roller mounting mechanism 26 has a head 30 apertured to receive a bearing 31 mounted for prerotation relative to the head 30. The end of the roller 15 is apertured as at 32 to receive the shaft 33 of the bearing 31 whereby the roller 15 and the bearing 31 are mounted for mutual rotation.

In operation, the roller 15 and associated support mechanism assembled therewith, is mounted in the brackets 20. The roller 15 preferably is spaced sufficiently from the top guard rail 14 to eliminate the possibility of the child catching its hand or arm between the guard rail of the roller in a wedging action. Due to the length of the roller support 24, there is some spring action when the full weight of the child is put on the roller, whereby damage to the roller mechanism and the guard rail 14 is minimized. It will be observed that any weight placed upon the roller 15 will be subjected to a rolling action, making it impossible to gain sufficient purchase or leverage on the roller to permit the child to escape from the crib. The effectiveness of the device as a guard mechanism is enhanced by the provision of amusing indicia on the roller which attract and engage the attention of the child, upon approach to the guard rail 14.

While the invention has been described with reference to specific structure disclosed in the drawings, it is intended that the invention be limited only as defined in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A guard mechanism for use in connection with a child's crib constructed with enclosing walls and having top guard rails to prevent a child from climbing over the walls of the crib, comprising a pair of clamps, arms supported by the clamps extending inwardly thereof, and a roller mechanism rotatably supported by the arms and spaced from said clamps, said clamps being adapted to be secured to the top guard rail of a wall of the crib with the said arms extending inwardly of the wall of the crib and into the crib enclosure and with said roller spaced inwardly of the crib guard rail.

4

2. A portable guard mechanism for use in connection with a crib having a guard rail to prevent the escape of a child from the crib by climbing over the guard rail, comprising a pair of clamps adapted to be detachably secured to the guard rail of a crib, a bracket formed on each clamp, a pair of roller supporting arms having ends for insertion in the brackets, and a roller supported by the other ends of the arms for free rotation relative to the arms.

3. A portable guard device for use in combination with a child's crib having enclosing guard rails to prevent the child from escaping from the crib, comprising a pair of clamps each including spaced vertical walls joined by a horizontal top member to form a U-shaped device adapted to be fitted over a guard rail of the crib, a bracket on each clamp, a roller, a pair of arms supporting the roller, each arm having a flat horizontal strip portion spaced away from the roller supporting end and a vertical strip portion depending from the end of each horizontal strip portion and adapted to be inserted into one of said brackets to mount each arm on a clamp, the flat horizontal strip portion resting flush with and being supported by the top member of the clamp when the roller supporting arm is in home position in the bracket.

4. A portable guard device for use in combination with child's crib having enclosing guard rails to prevent the child from escaping from the crib, comprising a pair of clamps each including spaced vertical walls joined by a horizontal top member to form a U-shaped device adapted to be fitted over a guard rail of the crib, brackets on the clamps, a roller, a pair of arms supporting the roller, a flat horizontal strip forming a part of each arm away from the roller supporting end, a vertical strip depending from the end of each flat strip and adapted to be inserted in the bracket to mount each arm on a clamp, a set screw adapted to secure the clamp to the guard rail, each of said vertical strips having a slot adapted to straddle the shank of the set screw thereby being held against lateral movement relative to the bracket.

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