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OSTEOPATHIC TREATMENT OR ADJUSTMENT DEVICE

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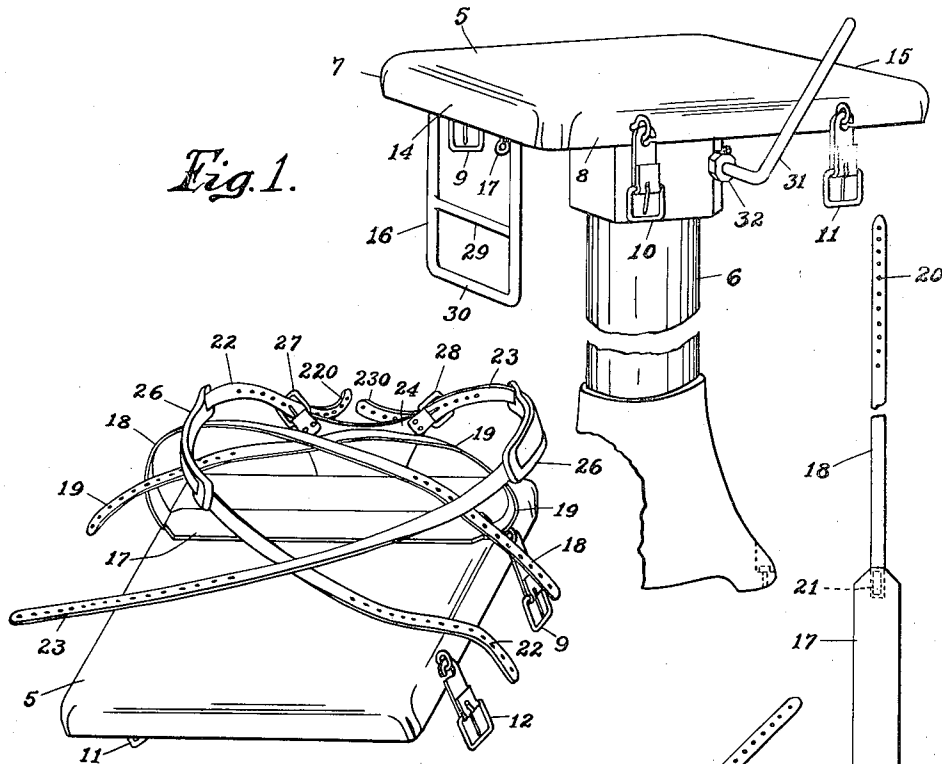


Fig. 1.

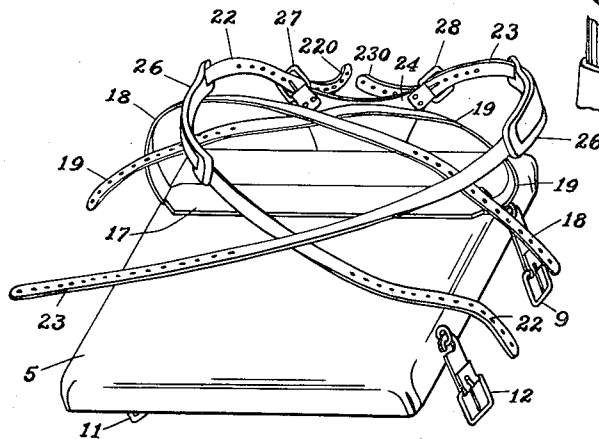


Fig. 2.

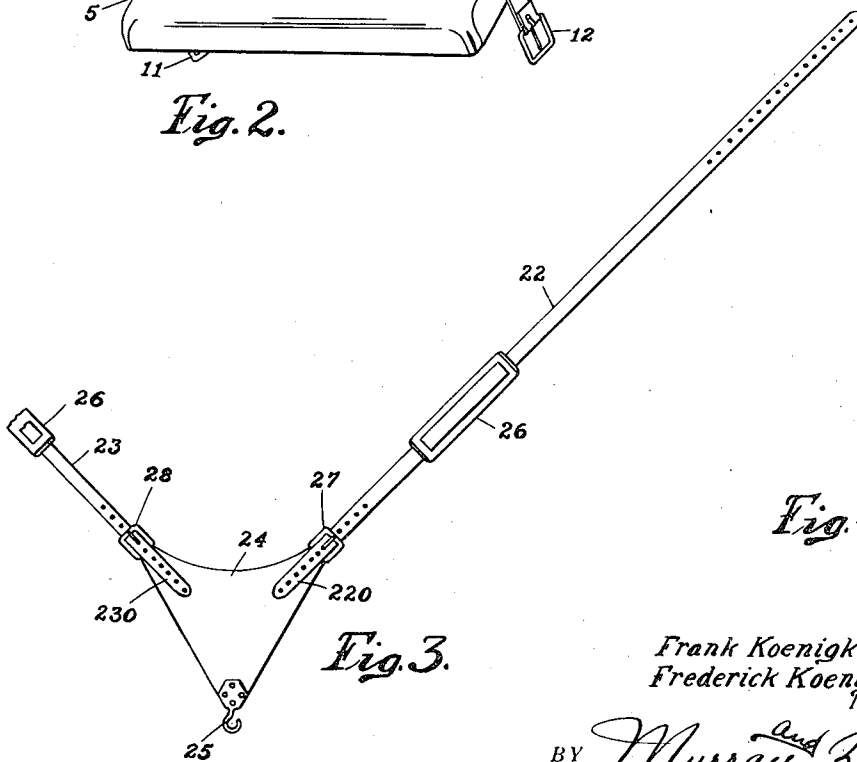


Fig. 3.

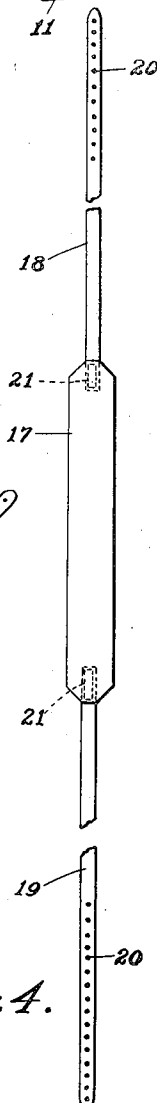


Fig. 4.

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OSTEOPATHIC TREATMENT OR ADJUSTMENT DEVICE

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8 Claims. (Cl. 128—74)

This invention relates to a physician's treatment or adjustment stool.

Objects of the invention are, to provide an improved and highly effective means, comprising not more than three body straps, whereby a patient undergoing treatment may be held more securely in a desired position, upon a seat or table, than has heretofore been possible with the use of a greater number of straps and associated means; to provide a simplified and inexpensive, yet more effective, means for accomplishing the foregoing object; to provide an arrangement of holding means whereby the patient undergoing treatment will be comfortably supported although the lower portion of his body is held more securely than in devices heretofore employed for the same purpose; to provide means in connection with a device of the character under consideration, for contracting centerwardly, rather than spreading, the lower extremities of the innominate bones (tuberischii) and the tissues of the buttocks, it having been discovered that this manner of securing or anchoring greatly facilitates and enhances the treatment administered, and enables the operator to apply his treatment with greater certainty and more specifically to the areas needing treatment or correction, than has been possible heretofore.

The foregoing and other objects are attained by the means described herein and disclosed in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a fragmental perspective view of the improved device, with the various anchoring or securing straps removed.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing the stool or table portion with the straps arranged thereon.

Fig. 3 is a fragmental detail view showing in plan a hip securing strap forming part of the invention.

Fig. 4 is a fragmental plan view of a lower body contracting strap forming a part of the invention.

The device of the invention comprises a rotatable seat or table member 5 for supporting a patient in a sitting position, said seat member being vertically adjustable through the medium of a hydraulic lift apparatus indicated generally by the character 6. The seat has fixed at opposite sides 7 and 8 thereof strap engaging members 9, 10, 11 and 12 which may be in the form of common buckles or structures equivalent thereto. The securing means preferably consist of the four above-mentioned elements each of which is spaced several inches from the front and rear 14 and 15, respectively, of the seat member 5. As

is most clearly indicated in Fig. 1, a form of ladder or foot rest 16, and an anchor member 17 are provided for certain purposes to be set forth hereinafter. The base or pedestal portion 6 is adapted to be securely mounted upon a floor or other supporting surface, so as to impart such rigidity to the structure as is necessary to preclude wobbling or vibration of the device when in use.

Means are provided for anchoring or securing the pelvis, buttocks, hips and upper part of the patient's limbs or thighs in a substantially rigid or fixed position upon the table member, so that the physician or operator may apply corrective manipulations or movements to the patient's spine, ribs, and torso above the pelvic bones (innominates and sacrum). Said anchoring means is of such a character as will permit the operator to swing that part of the patient's body which is above the pelvis, in various ways and in such a manner that will tend to restore normal function or movement in the various articulations of the spinal vertebrae, ribs, lumbo-sacral and sacro-iliac joints and other parts of the body above the hip region. Said means includes a body contracting strap comprising a seat portion 17 and strap members 18 and 19 which extend from opposite ends of the seat portion so as to constitute, in effect, an elongated individual securing means such as is illustrated in Fig. 4. The outer ends of each strap portion 18 and 19 may be provided with a series of openings 20 adapted to cooperate with the securing means or buckles 9 and 10 which are disposed at the rearward side portions of the seat member. The opposite end of each strap is stitched, riveted, or otherwise secured to the ends of the intermediate portion 17, as is indicated at 21. It will be understood, of course, that the strap ends which bear the openings 20 may be made imperforate when buckle members not requiring strap perforations are employed. It is to be observed that the body contracting strap 17—18—19 is put to use by placing it atop the seat and at a location slightly rearwardly of the rearmost buckle members 9 and 10, whereupon the patient is seated directly upon the portion 17 in such a manner that the lower portions of the innominate bones (tuberischii) rest upon the strap portion 17. The strap members 18 and 19 thereupon are brought up and around the patient's hips and across the thighs, and are crossed over to the opposite sides and securely fastened or buckled. The free end of strap 18 is held by rearmost buckle 9 and the free end of the strap 19 is held by the opposite rearmost buckle 10. It will be seen, then, that

the action of this strap is to bring pressure upon the lower extremities of the innominate bones (tuberischii) to compress the tissues of the buttocks and draw the upper parts of the patient's limbs snugly together, rather than to exert a purely downward pressure thereon that would tend to spread the flesh of the buttocks outwardly toward the seat edges. By pulling up on either strap 18 or 19, the operator may dispose the lower portion of the torso in any position he may deem desirable for performance of the contemplated treatment or adjustment.

It has been discovered that the foregoing manner of securing or anchoring greatly facilitates and enhances the treatment administered, and enables the operator to apply his treatment with greater certainty and more specifically to the areas needing treatment or correction than has been possible heretofore.

In association with the member 17—18—19, there is utilized a second strapping device which consists essentially of the anchoring straps 22 and 23 each of which has connection with a substantially triangular back support or intermediate connecting member 24 that has a hook 25 or other suitable fastening device disposed at one vertex thereof for engagement with the fastening member or eyelet 17 supported by the end face of the seat member 5 (Fig. 1). The member 17 preferably is located at or near the rear edge of the seat substantially midway between the sides 7 and 8 thereof. By hooking the members 25 and 17 together, the connecting member 24 may be disposed, relative to the seat portion 5 in the manner illustrated in Fig. 2. The strap members 22 and 23 are adapted to secure the buttocks firmly down upon the stool or seat, particularly the sacrum and the innominates, and at each side of the patient the straps extend up and around the lower portion of the patient's body beneath the rim of the upper crest of the ilium, on each side. For purposes of definition, the crest of the ilium may be stated as being the upper part of the innominate bone. The straps are then extended or crossed over the patient's lap or thighs and may be secured in the buckles or fastening means 11 and 12 at the front portion of the seat in accordance with the illustration of Fig. 2. In this manner, the back and sides of the pelvic girdle are securely positioned or fixed, thereby preventing undue movements of the parts when movements or manipulations are carried out, by the operator on the parts of the patient's body above the pelvis. To provide for maximum comfort of the patient, suitable soft pads 26 may be applied to the straps 22 and 23 in the region of the hip bones, and as indicated in the drawings, said pads may be slidable along their respective straps.

The fact is not to be overlooked, that the rear ends 220 and 230 of the straps 22 and 23, respectively, are adjustable relative to the connecting member 24. This adjustment enables the operator to pull up on the straps at either the forward or rearward end, thus enabling him to fix his patient's body in the most advantageous position for reception of the particular treatment the patient's body requires. Although said adjustment at the location 24 is illustrated as consisting of buckles 27 and 28 at adjacent apices of the triangular member 24, it is to be understood that other forms of strap holders may be employed, if desired. It is to be understood further that this invention contemplates extension of the straps 18 and 19 forwardly to the foremost buckles 11 and 12, and engagement of the free

ends of the straps 23 and 22 with the rearmost buckles 10 and 9, respectively. The first described method of securing, however, is deemed preferable.

The ladder or step device 16, which depends downwardly from the rear portion of the seat member, includes a plurality of rungs or steps 29 and 30, which enable the operator to rest his foot while applying his knee to the spine in specific areas. The application of the knee to these areas establishes points of local fixation in the spine and other areas of the patient's body, leaving both hands of the operator free for manipulating the spine and torso. The vertical adjustment of the seat or supporting member 5 is of considerable value, as it enables the operator to secure the proper height which enables him to apply his leverages and corrective movements more advantageously, and more specifically to the areas needing treatment or correction. As stated before, the vertical adjustment of the column or pedestal 6 may be effected by means of an hydraulic lift or any other well known expedient. The handle 31 may be utilized to actuate a clamping nut 32 for clamping the seat member against rotation upon the column 6 when the device is in use.

What is claimed is:

1. A treatment or adjustment device for supporting the human body in predetermined positions, comprising in combination a table member having sides and front and rear portions, securing means located at the rearward region of each side, and a body contracting strap having an intermediate portion, upon which the patient is placed in a sitting position, said strap being disposed upon the table transversely thereof adjacent to the rear portion of the table member, said strap including free end portions of sufficient length to be engaged and held by said securing means at the rearward region of the sides.

2. A treatment or adjustment device for supporting the human body in predetermined positions, comprising in combination a table member having sides and front and rear portions, securing means located at opposite sides of the table member, a body contracting strap, having an intermediate portion, upon which the patient is placed in a sitting position, said strap being disposed upon and atop the table transversely thereof from one side portion to the other, said strap including free end portions of sufficient length to be crossed upon one another over the patient's thighs and engaged and held by the opposed securing means, and hip-engaging strap lengths each adapted for fixation at the forward and rearward portions of the table member and crossing one another forwardly of the body contracting strap.

3. A treatment or adjustment stool for supporting the human body in predetermined positions, comprising in combination a table member upon which a patient may be placed in a sitting position, means substantially encircling the human body and adjustable to exert a contractive pressure upon the tuberischii or lower extremities of the innominate bones, which results in compressing the tissues of the buttocks to draw snugly together the upper parts of the patient's limbs, said means comprising a longitudinal strap having a middle section upon which the patient sits, and means exerting a downward force upon the hips and thighs of the patient.

4. A treatment or adjustment stool having in combination a vertically adjustable seat member

having front, rear, and side edges, a multi-stepped ladder depending from the seat member in the region of the rear edge thereof, strap fasteners supported by the seat member adjacent to the side edges, and a member adapted for fixation at the rear of the seat member and including a sheet having straps diverging therefrom at substantially ninety degrees angularity.

5. A treatment or adjustment device for supporting the human body in predetermined positions, comprising in combination a table member having sides and front and rear portions, a body encircling and contracting strap having an intermediate portion upon which the patient is placed in a sitting position, said strap being disposed transversely of the table member from one side to the other, said body encircling strap including free end portions of sufficient length to be crossed upon one another over the patient's thighs, means for adjustably fixing each free end portion of the strap relative to the patient's body, hip-engaging strap lengths arranged each to pass over one hip and the opposite thigh, in crossed relationship, and adjusting means including anchor members for varying the tension of the hip-engaging strap lengths at both ends of each strap length.

6. A treatment or adjustment means for supporting the human body in a predetermined position for treatment or adjustment, said means comprising a body-supporting seat, and a body-encircling strap having a middle portion upon which the patient may sit, means for tightening the strap about the lower part of the torso entirely below the hips of the patient to exert a contractive force upon the body along a line below the hips and transversely of the thighs, and a pair of straps secured to the seat, one strap being positioned to contact one hip and the opposite thigh

of the patient and the other strap being positioned to contact the other hip and the thigh opposite thereto, and means for securing said pair of straps relative to the seat and for tightening said straps in the above stated positions.

7. A treatment or adjustment means for supporting the human body in a predetermined position for treatment or adjustment, said means comprising a body-supporting seat, a body-encircling strap having ends, and an intermediate portion, the intermediate portion being placed below the buttocks transversely thereof and entirely below the hips of the patient, means for tightening said strap to exert a contractive force upon the body along a line encircling the thighs and lying in a substantially vertical plane when the patient is seated upon the intermediate portion of the longitudinal strap, and means for independently anchoring the hip and middle-thigh regions at opposite sides of the body-supporting seat.

8. A treatment or adjustment means for supporting the human body in a predetermined position for treatment or adjustment, said means comprising a body-supporting seat, a body-encircling strap having long ends, an intermediate portion on the strap adapted to be placed upon the seat transversely thereof for contacting the buttocks of a patient seated upon the seat, and means for securing the strap ends at opposite sides of the seat in a tightened condition after disposition of said ends over and entirely across both thighs in opposite directions, to render the thigh region completely encircled by the longitudinal strap.

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