

Dec. 23, 1952

R. L. NIMMO

2,622,950

CHIROPRACTIC TABLE

Filed April 19, 1947

4 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

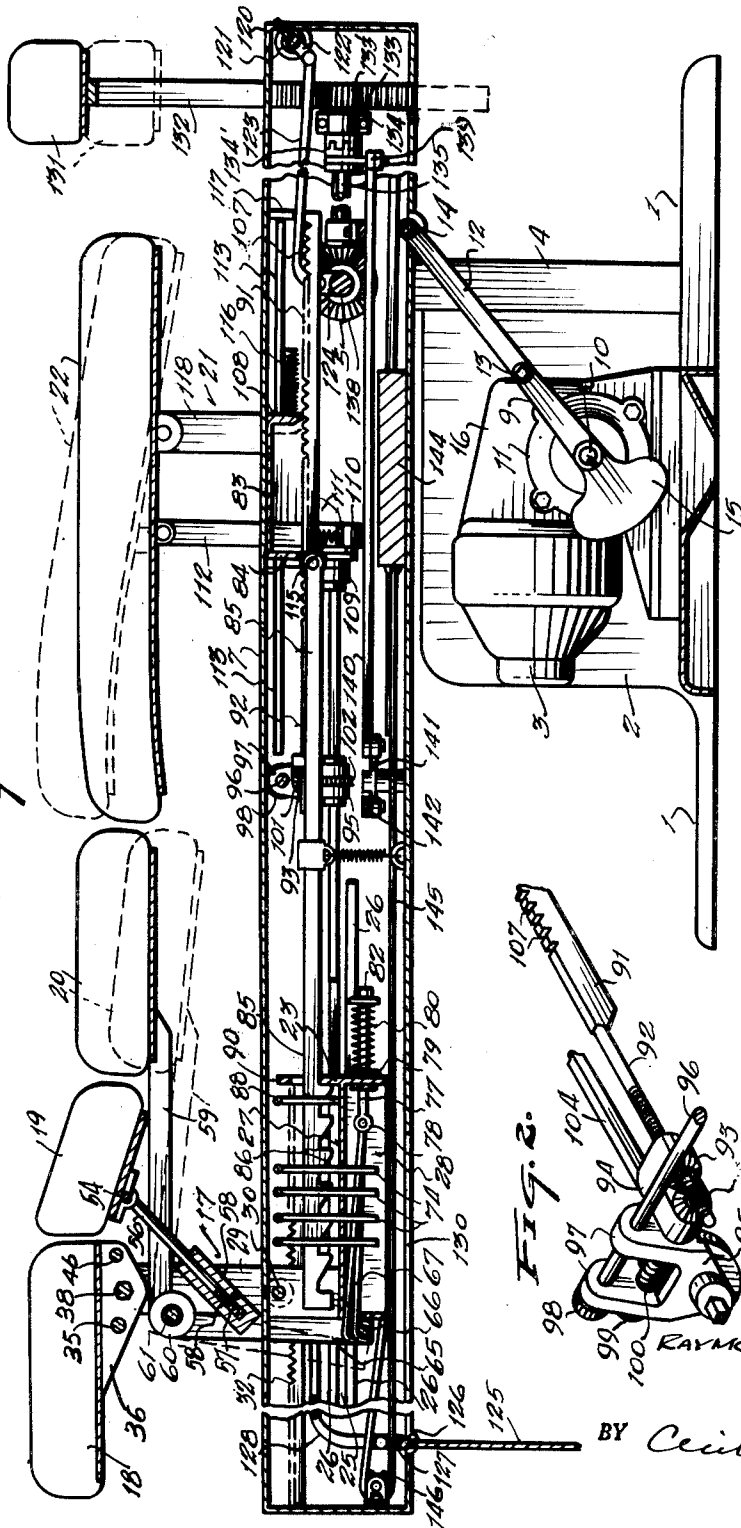
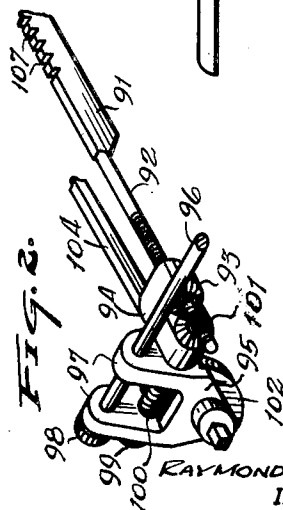


Fig. 2.



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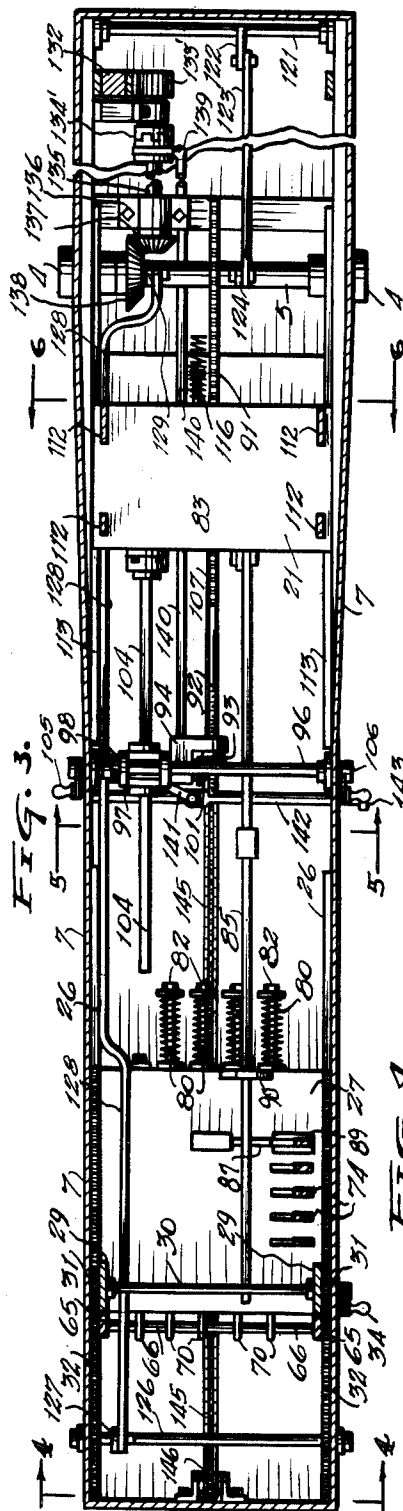
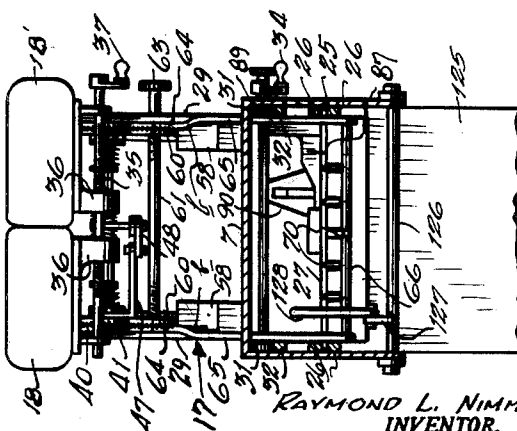


FIG. 3.

FIG. 4.

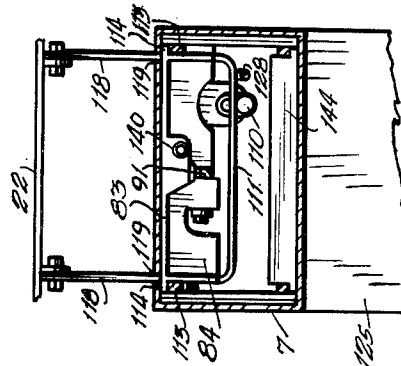


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FIG. 6.



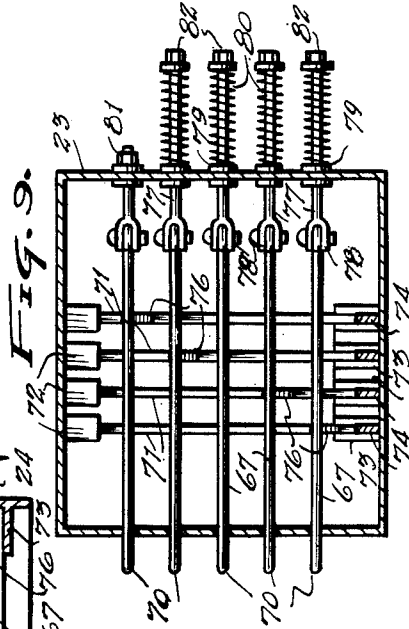
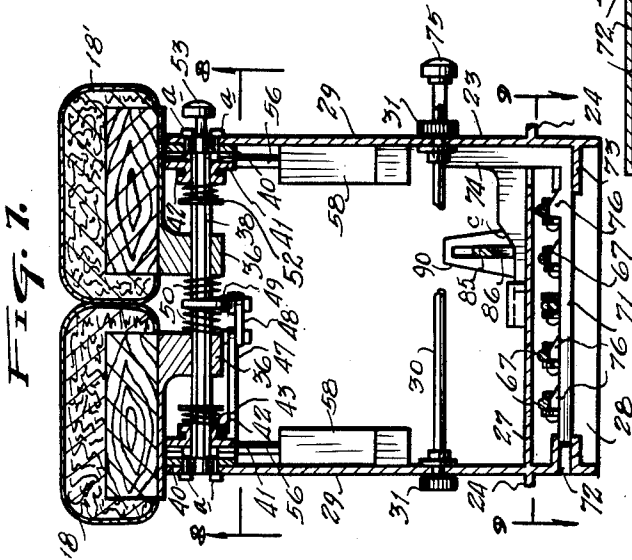
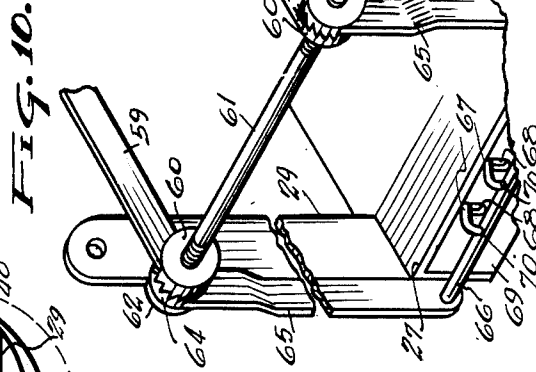
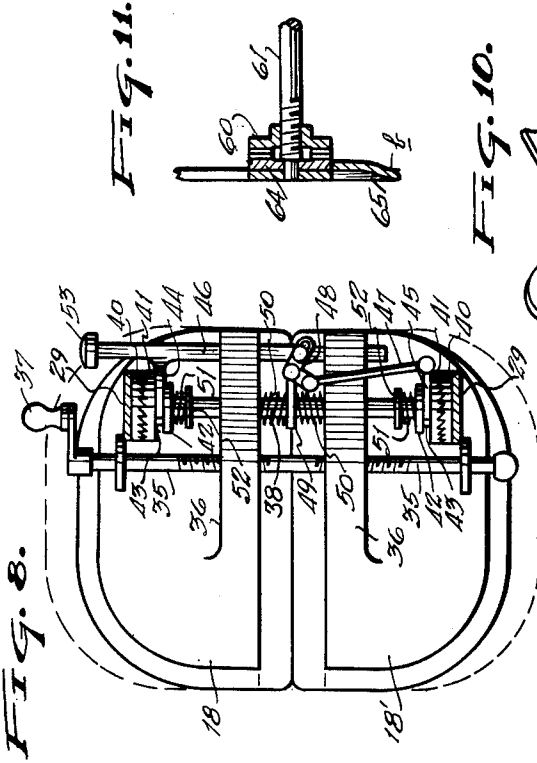
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Fig. 14.

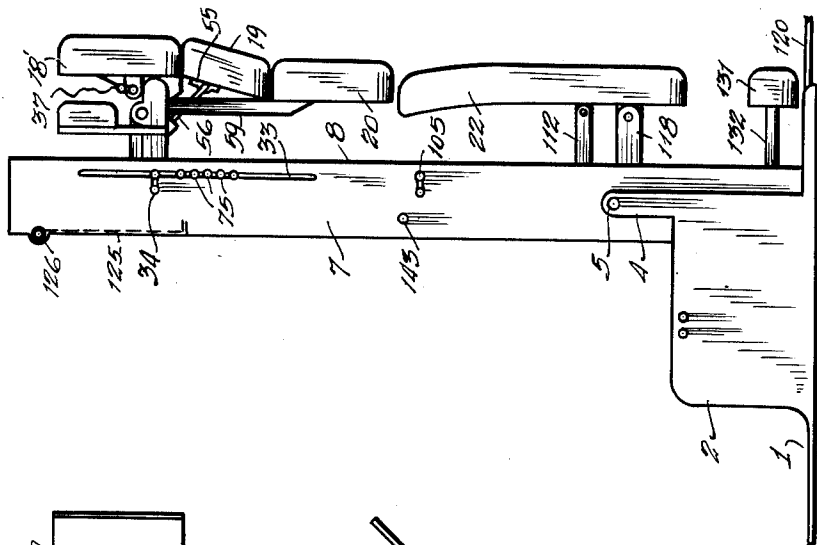
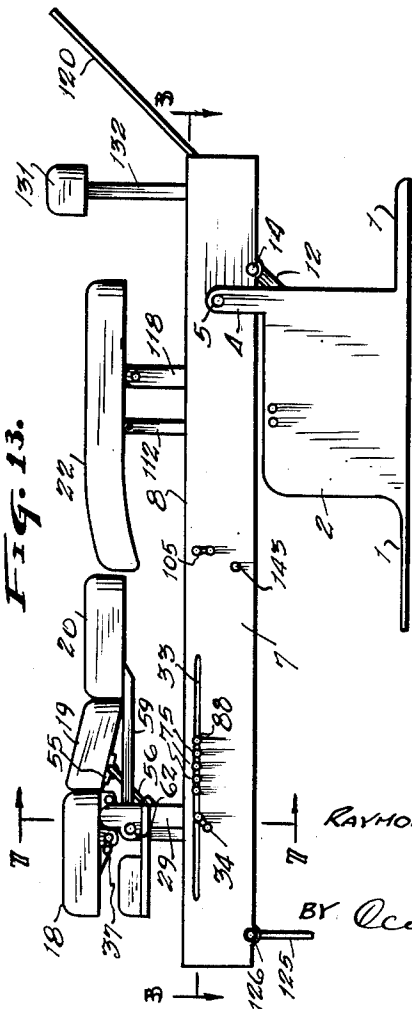


Fig. 12.



Fig. 13.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CHIROPRACTIC TABLE

Raymond L. Nimmo, Fort Worth, Tex.

Application April 19, 1947, Serial No. 742,590

4 Claims. (Cl. 311-7)

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This invention relates to chiropractic equipment, or supporting devices for the human body and its appurtenances during the administration of chiropractic adjustments, and it has particular reference to an automatic chiropractic table by the use of which anatomical adjustments can be performed by persons skilled in the science conventionally designated as chiropractics, and its principal object resides in the provision of an adjusting table in which is embodied a multiplicity of unique features by which the operator can effect the proper arrangement of the body, by the manipulation of certain adjusting devices, whereby to perform the necessary or desired adjustments along the spinal column of the patient, or to effect the relaxation of muscular tension, and other functions of the science, which can best be performed when the subject or patient is in such reclined and relaxed position.

Another object of the invention resides in the provision of a chiropractic adjusting table which is capable of both vertical and horizontal positions, conventionally referred to professionally as a "hylo" table, operated by an electric motor and comprising a compact and simple structure requiring a relatively small space for its use and operation, yet providing adequate facilities in the performance of the functions of one skilled in the art of chiropractic science, the invention possessing such salient features of construction as to render it capable of true vertical and horizontal positioning, as well as variable positions between the vertical and horizontal, if desirable, thus affording an effective medium by which chiropractic patients can be handled easily and with a minimum of effort yet with the least inconvenience to the subject.

A still further object of the invention resides in the provision of independently adjustable body-supporting cushions arranged along the table and capable of being positioned in such a manner as to properly support the patient in relaxed position and to contact portions of the body while affording the patient the maximum of comfort during the administration of the chiropractic treatments, the said adjustments being so arranged as to be capable of performance while the patient is reclining upon the table, and which adjustments may be found desirable after the patient has assumed his or her position thereon.

Broadly, the invention contemplates the provision of an automatically adjustable table, for use in the application of chiropractic science, which is simple and compact in design and eco-

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nomical in construction, as well as attractive in appearance, and seeks to afford a medium whereby chiropractic adjustments can be performed with greater ease and efficiency than is found conventionally possible with equipment currently available to practitioners of the science.

While the foregoing objects are paramount, other and lesser objects will become manifest as the description proceeds, taken in connection with the appended drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 illustrates the invention in longitudinal section, showing the motor operating the table to vertical and horizontal positions, and illustrating, in dotted lines, the variable positions of the body-supporting cushions.

Figure 2 is a fragmentary perspective illustration of the adjusting mechanism for the rear cushion carriage.

Figure 3 is a lateral sectional illustration taken on lines 3-3 of Figure 13, showing portions of the several adjustments embodied in the invention and illustrating the principal axis thereof.

Figure 4 illustrates a transverse sectional view taken on lines 4-4 of Figure 3 showing the adjustable tensioning devices for the abdominal support and illustrating the adjustment for the head support, illustrated in detail in Figures 7 and 8.

Figure 5 is a transverse cross-sectional view of the adjusting mechanism for the rear carriage cushion, taken on lines 5-5 of Figure 3, and as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 6 is a fragmentary transverse sectional view, taken on lines 6-6 of Figure 3, illustrating the rear view of the adjusting mechanism for the rear carriage cushion.

Figure 7 depicts a transverse cross-sectional illustration through the head piece on lines 7-7 of Figure 13, showing the variable adjustments therefor, the said head piece being illustrated in Figure 4 in greater detail, and illustrating the adjustable tensioning adjustment for the abdominal support illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 8 is an inverted plan view of the head-support showing the adjusting mechanism therefor by which the sectional members are moved outwardly, as illustrated in dotted lines, the said view being taken on lines 8-8 of Figure 7.

Figure 9 is a plan view of the tensioning adjustment for the abdominal support, showing the housing in partial cross-section on lines 9-9 of Figure 7.

Figure 10 fragmentarily illustrates, in perspective, the dual ratchet arrangement for adjusting the abdominal support.

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Figure 11 illustrates, in fragmentary cross-section, one of the ratchet assemblies by which the vertical adjustment of the head pieces or the abdominal support is effected.

Figure 12 is a plan view of the invention when arranged in horizontal position, shown in Figure 13, illustrating the adjusted positions of the supporting cushion in dotted lines.

Figure 13 is a side elevational view of the invention arranged in horizontal or operative position, and

Figure 14 is a side elevational view of the invention showing same in vertical or inoperative position.

The invention accordingly comprises a base 1 which has vertical flanges 2 providing a partial housing for a motor 3 supported on the base 1 for operating the invention in a manner which will be presently described. The flanges 2 have vertically extended members 4 which function as bearing supports for the stationary axis or pivot 5 upon which a frame 6 is mounted.

The axis 5 is arranged transversely through the frame 6 and is spaced from one end to permit the frame to assume the vertical position shown in Figure 14. The frame 6 embraces all of the operative parts of the invention, as manifest in Figures 1 to 6, inclusive, and is enclosed by a housing 7. The enclosed assembly will be hereafter referred to as a table 8 for clarity.

The table 8 is operated from horizontal to vertical positions, shown in Figures 13 and 14, and contrariwise, by the motor 3 through arms 9, keyed to the ends of stub shafts 10 of the gear reduction boxes 11, and connecting links 12 which are hingedly secured by pins 13 to the outer ends of the arms 9, the opposite ends of the links 12 being pivoted on a shaft 14 extending across the back of the table 8, as shown in Figure 1. The arms 9 have opposing counter-weights 15 affording smoother operation of the assembly.

The motor 3 is preferably arranged on the base 1 so that its shaft is parallel to the longitudinal axis of the table 8 and, through a suitable worm and gear assembly arranged in a housing 16, rotates the shafts 10 through the gear reduction assemblies 11. It is expedient to provide the latter to accomplish the relatively slow movement of the table 8, in operation, which is desirable.

The supporting members for the patient's body are arranged upon carriages slidably supported in the frame 6 on the front of the table 8 so that the carriages can be adjusted relative to each other longitudinally of the table 8.

The carriage 17, forwardly of the table 8 supports the head-rest members 18 and 18', the chest support 19, and the abdominal support 20, while the carriage 21, rearwardly of the table 8, carries the thigh or lower-body support 22, as illustrated in Figure 1.

The carriage 17, a front end view of which is shown in Figure 4, and a transverse sectional view being illustrated in Figure 7, comprises a frame 23 which is rectangular in shape and has integral ribs 24 formed along each side adapted to be slidably arranged in grooves 25 defined between spaced bars 26 secured longitudinally along the inner side walls of the housing 7, as apparent in Figures 4 and 7, and by which the assembly is supported in the frame 6.

The carriage frame 23, the rectangular form of which is shown in Figure 9, has a horizontally arranged partition 27 forming an open housing 28 therebeneath in which a part of the adjusting mechanism for the abdominal support

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29 is enclosed and which will be described presently. Vertical standards 29 are integrally formed with the frame 23 and extend upwardly therefrom on each side providing spaced supports for the paired sections 18 and 18' of the head rest, and the adjusting mechanism therefor, as shown in Figures 7 and 8.

The carriage 17 is moved longitudinally of the frame 6 by the manual rotation of a shaft 30 arranged transversely of the frame 23 and journaled in each of the standards 29 and having a pinion 31 at each end engageable with rack bars 32 secured to the inner side walls of the housing 7 and arranged longitudinally thereof, as apparent in Figures 1, 3, 4 and 7. One end of the shaft 30 extends through a slot 33 in a wall of the housing 7 and is adapted to move therealong as it is manually rotated by a crank 34 attached to its extended end, as shown in Figures 3, 4 and 13.

The head rest 18-18' is adjustable to cause the paired sections to move relative to each other in opposite directions laterally and provide a gap or space therebetween of variable proportions. As will become manifest, the patient, when occupying the table, is properly lying face down, the sides of his face bearing upon the opposing sides of the cushioned members 18-18' while his face is extended into the space therebetween.

The spacing adjustment of the members 18-18' is accomplished by the rotation of a right- and left-hand threaded rod or shaft 35 arranged in threaded bores through integral flanges 36 formed on the bottom of each of the members 18-18', as apparent in Figures 4, 7 and 8, and rotatable by a crank 37 on one end. The members 18-18' move in opposite directions, sliding along a polygonal shaft 38 which is arranged through polygonal apertures through the flanges 36 of the head rest members 18-18', and journaled for rotation at each end in the upper ends of the standards 29. The shaft 38 thus actually supports the members 18-18' and provides a limited rotative adjustment therefor to permit the same to be tilted forwardly to various positions as desired to effect the desired positions of the patient's head.

At each end of the shaft 38 is a jaw coupling, each comprising, in part, a stationary disk-like member 40, rigidly secured by rivets *a*, or the like, to the upper-end of each of the standards 29 and providing bearings for the ends of the shaft 38. The opposing inner faces of the members 40 are formed with radial serrations having their inclinations in one direction to permit a rotative ratchet action of the companion members 41 whose operative faces are formed with complementary radial serrations and have polygonal axial bores adapting them to slidable mountings on the shaft 38. Each of the members 41 are formed with integral flanges 42 spaced from the members 40 to define grooves 43 to accommodate disengaging forks 44 and 45, the former being integral with a polygonal plunger 46 arranged through polygonal apertures in the flanges 36 and parallel to the shafts 35 and 38, previously described.

The opposite fork 45 is hingedly connected to the end of a link 47 whose opposite end is pivoted to a bell crank 48 having a toggle association with the plunger 46. The bell crank 48 is pivoted, at its bend, to a plate 49 arranged on the shaft 38 intermediate the flanges 36 and is yieldably retained by coil springs 50 on each side,

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bearing at their opposite ends, against the flanges 36, as apparent in Figures 4, 7 and 8. Thus, to raise the forward ends of the head-rest members 18—18' it is necessary only to raise them to the desired position against the ratchet action of the jaw couplings, the members 41 being tensioned by coil springs 51 arranged about the shaft 38 and bearing against stationary washers 52 thereon, and thus are yieldable with respect to the stationary jaw members 40.

In order to lower the forward ends of the members 18—18', however, the plunger 46 must be urged inwardly, by pressure upon the head 53 thereof, to move the sliding jaw members 41 away from their companion stationary members 40 against the tension of the springs 51 while pressure is applied to the head support members 18—18' to lower them to the desired position. Obviously, the operation of the plunger 46 inwardly will actuate the forks 44 and 45 by the bell crank and linkage assembly previously described.

The chest support 19 is mounted on a rod 54 arranged transversely of the table 8 and through brackets 55 secured to the underside of the support 19, as apparent in Figures 1, 13 and 14. The ends of the rod 54 are connected to the upper ends of standards 56 positioned at an angle downwardly and forwardly of the assembly, their lower ends extending into wells 57 formed in supporting blocks 58 rigidly secured to the inner sides of the standards 23, as shown in Figures 1 and 7, and inclined so that the standards 56 have a sliding, piston-like action therein against springs 56' in the bottoms of the wells 57. A cushioning action of the chest support 19 is the result of the mounting arrangement just described.

Rearwardly of the chest support 19 is an abdominal support 20 which has its bearing on the ends of rearwardly projecting arms 59 whose forward ends have sections 60 of a pair of jaw couplings rigidly attached thereto. The members 60 are similar to the disk-like members 40 or 41, of the head support assembly, and have their engaging faces formed with radial serrations whose inclinations are in one direction, as apparent in Figures 10 and 11.

The members 60 are axially bored and threaded, right- and left-hand, and are threadedly applied to a shaft 61 whose ends are journaled in ears 62 formed on the standards 29, as in Figures 1 and 10. A knurled knob 63 is provided on one end of the shaft 61 for rotating the same and is shown in Figure 4. By turning the knob 63 the members 60 are moved toward each other so that their serrated faces will become disengaged from the corresponding radially serrated faces of complementary members 64 rigidly secured to the upper ends of spaced arms 65 which extend downwardly, with slight outward offset bends *b*, and are connected at their opposite ends with a rod 66 extending therebetween.

In Figure 9 is illustrated, in plan, a tensioning or holding assembly for the abdominal support 20 whereby the same can be properly tensioned when the desired adjustment is accomplished. In the assembly there are a plurality of spaced and parallel arranged rods 67 whose free ends extend through vertical slots 68, in the depending flange 69 of the open housing 28 in the bottom of the frame 23, and turn downwardly forming hooks 70 which are adapted to se-

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lectively overreach and restrain the rod 66 in the manner shown in Figures 4 and 10.

All of the rods 67 normally lie across a plurality of spaced bars 71 which are slidably supported in guides 72 and 73 on each side of the frame 23, as illustrated in Figure 9, and each of the bars 71 is formed with a vertical lever 74, on the right side of the table 8, as one stands behind the head rests, by which they can be longitudinally operated in the guides 72 and 73 by plungers 75 extending through the slot 33 in the wall of the housing 7.

Each bar 71 has a cam 76 formed on its upper edge capable of engaging one of the rods 67, when each is moved longitudinally, to raise the same and free the rod 66. It is contemplated, however, that the bars 71 will be positioned, in operation, so that all but one of the rods 67 are in raised position and thus only one being engaged with the rod 66, as in Figures 4 and 7.

Each rod 67 is hingedly connected, at its opposite end, with plunger rods 77 having clevises 78 thereon and operatively arranged through sleeves 79 in the rear member of the frame 23. All except one of the rods 67 are slidably arranged in the sleeves 79 and have compression springs 80 arranged thereon so that a tension is exerted when pressure is applied to the abdominal support 20.

The single rod 67 having no spring 80 is rigidly secured in the frame 23 by a nut 81 and, when it engages the rod 66 the abdomen support 20 is also rigid and unyielding. Each of the springs 80 can be adjusted to increase or decrease tension by nuts 82 threaded on the ends of the plunger rods 77. The abdominal support 20 may be capable of a limited downward movement, as indicated in dotted lines in Figure 1, when pressure is applied thereto, due to the cushioning action of the springs 80. Higher adjustment of the member 20 may be accomplished by simply raising up on the same against the ratchet action of the members 60—64, the outward tension of the arms 59, which flex inwardly, serving to retain the members 60—64 in engagement to normally hold the arms 59 in rigid association with the arms 65, as in Figure 10.

The carriage 21, on which the support 22 is mounted, comprises a plate 83 which has a depending flange 84 in front to which is pivotally connected a bar 85 which extends forwardly of the table 8 and is formed with a series of serrations or notches 86 toward its free end, the inclinations of which are directed forwardly, as in Figure 1, the said notches 86 being engageable by a cam, or movable stop 87 which is slidably operated transversely of the table 8 by a plunger 88 extending through the slot 33 on the left side of the table, as shown in Figures 3, 4, 7 and 13. The stop 87 is formed with an angular surface *c* which engages the bar 85 and obviously expedites the movement of the stop 87. The plunger 88 is formed with the stop 87 by a vertically arranged integral arm 89. The bar 85 operates in a guide member 90 rising vertically from the frame 23.

The carriage 21 is moved longitudinally of the table 8 by a rack bar 91 which has a round threaded portion 92 upon which is threaded a bevelled pinion 93 rotatably secured to an L-shaped bracket 94 which is pivotally connected to the bearing hanger casting 95, illustrated in perspective in Figure 2, and shown in Figures 1,

3 and 5. The casting is substantially U-shaped and has a shaft 95 journaled through its upwardly projecting legs 97 and arranged transversely of the table 3.

Near one end of the shaft 95 is a pinion 93 thereon which is meshed with another pinion 99 therebeneath on the end of a worm 100 having its bearings in the legs 97 of the casting 95; and opposite the pinion 99, extends through the L-shaped bracket 94, by which the latter is pivotally supported, and has a bevelled pinion 101 thereon meshing with the pinion 93.

The worm 100 is in mesh with a worm gear 102 on a transverse axis in the lower portion 103 of the casting 95 and has a polygonal shaft 104 slidably arranged through its polygonal axial bore whereby, when either of the cranks 105 or 106 on each end of the shaft 96 is turned, the polygonal shaft 104 is rotated and, by reason of the rotation of the pinion 93 which is threadedly associated with the threaded portion 92 of the rack bar 91, the carriage 21 is moved forward, the teeth 107 of the bar 91 being engageable by a depending flange 108 on the rear of the carriage 21, as illustrated in Figure 1.

The shaft 104 is rotatably journaled near one end in a hanger 109 attached to the flange 84 in front of the carriage 21 and has a crank or cam 110 on its extremity which, when rotated, engages the horizontal member 111 of the substantially U-shaped frame member 112 supporting the cushion 22 and raises the latter, according to the degree of rotation, in the manner shown in dotted lines in Figure 1.

The frame 21 is slidably supported in the housing 7 on bars 113 by flanges 114 on each side of the plate 33, shown more in detail in Figure 6, by which grooves are defined between their upper edges and the top of the housing 7. The teeth 107 of the bar 91 do not engage the flange member 108, however, until the bar 91 is raised by the cam 110 when the latter engages the horizontal member 111, the spring 115, shown in Figure 1, providing a yieldable connection between the bar 91 and the frame member 112.

By turning either of the cranks 105 or 106 the frame 21 can be moved upward in front and forward, as indicated in dotted lines in Figure 1, and thus prevent "dragging" the fore part of the patient's body backwards when it is desirable to raise or adjust the position of the lower part of the body.

The longitudinal movement of the carriages 17 and 21 with respect to each other is accomplished by the operation of the crank 34 operating the pinions 31 along the rack bars 32; an adjustable connection between the carriages 17 and 21 being had through the notched bar 85. When the carriages are connected by the bar 85, however, both move forwardly on the table 8 in the same manner. The dotted lines in Figure 12 indicate the variable relationship that can be accomplished by the adjustments described.

A bumper spring 116 is secured to the back of the flange 108 on the rear of the carriage 21 to absorb the shock when the latter is released while the table 8 is in a vertical position. The spring 116 is designed to strike against a stop 117 secured to the underside of the top of the housing 7.

The rear portion of the cushion 22 is supported on a pair of standards 118 and is pivoted to their upper ends. These standards are rigidly secured to the plate 33 and, like the front members 112, operate in slots 119 in the top and along each

side of the table 3. The cushion 22 is also pivotally attached to the upper ends of the standards 112.

A tread stand 120 is attached to the rear end of the table 8 and is adapted to assume a horizontal position, transverse to the longitudinal plane of the table 8 when the latter is in vertical position, shown in Figure 14. As the table 8 assumes the horizontal position shown in Figure 13, however, the stand 120 is moved to an angular position of about 45 degrees.

The stand is attached to a shaft 121 across the rear of the table 8, as shown in Figures 1 and 3, to which is secured a lever 122 having a link 123 pivoted thereto and connected, at its opposite end, to another lever 124 on the main axial shaft 5 which, as previously stated, is stationary. The movement of the table 8 will automatically adjust the stand 120 to its desired positions.

A supporting leg or apron 125 is arranged on the forward end of the table 8 and is pivoted on the ends of a shaft 126 arranged transversely through the bottom of the housing 7, as shown in Figures 1 and 4, adapting the apron 125 to assume a vertical position to support the front end of the table 8 in its horizontal position. The shaft 126 has a lever 127 fixed rigidly thereon to which is pivotally connected a rod 128 which extends rearwardly through the housing 7 and is pivotally attached to another lever 129 on the shaft 5. The member 125 thus is automatically raised or lowered, as the table 8 is moved, folding into an opening 130 in the bottom of the housing 7, as depicted in Figure 1.

A leg rest 131, comprising a cushion supported upon the upper end of a racked standard 132, is arranged on the rear end of the table 8 and is adapted to be adjusted to various heights and automatically raised to operative position by the action of the table 8. The standard 132 is preferably arranged on one side of the table 8, the cushion 131 extending laterally from its upper end and across the table 8.

An operating mechanism for the rest 131 comprises a shaft 133 arranged in a bearing 134, supported in the housing 7, and a pinion 133' on the end of the shaft 133 meshed with the teeth of the standard 132. The shaft 133 is rotated through a clutch 134' by a shaft 135 supported in a bearing 136 and having a bevelled pinion 137, on its opposite end, which is engaged by a bevelled gear 138 on the axial shaft 5 of the assembly, as shown in Figures 1 and 3.

The clutch is operable by a fork 139 and a rod 140 connected to a bell crank 141. A lever 142 is connected to the opposite side of the bell crank 141 and extends through the wall of the housing 7 and has a knob 143 thereon. Thus, if it is desirable that the rest 131 not be raised when the table 8 is lowered, it is only necessary to disengage the clutch 134.

A counter-balance weight 144 is arranged in a slide in the bottom of the housing 7 and is supported on a chain 145 connected, at its opposite end, to the front carriage 17. The chain 145 is operated over a sprocket or pulley 146 secured in the end of the housing 7. The weight 144 serves to counter-balance the weight of the carriages 17 and 21 when the table 8 is in a vertical position.

Manifestly, the structure herein shown and described is capable of considerable changes in modifications from time to time, by persons skilled in the art, without departing from the

spirit of the invention or the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. In a chiropractic adjusting table having an enclosed frame and a base member pivotally supporting said frame, and a motor on said base adapted to raise the said frame to a vertical position, in combination, a head, chest and abdominal support adjustably arranged forwardly of said frame, a carriage supporting said supports and adjustable longitudinally of said frame, a thigh support arranged rearwardly of said frame and in operative relation to the said first named support, the said support being arranged on the outer ends of a pair of arms pivotally connected to the carriage supporting the same and adjustable on an arc with respect to said carriage and vertically with respect to said head and chest supports, a toothed bar having connection with said thigh support carriage for adjusting the latter forwardly and rearwardly of said frame, means operated from the side of said frame for tilting the said thigh support on its said carriage, a leg support arranged at the base of said frame and having means for automatically raising and lowering the same when said frame is raised and lowered, and variable tensioned means for supporting said abdominal support in operative positions.

2. In an automatic chiropractic adjusting table capable of vertical and horizontal positions, and having a base, and a frame pivotally attached near one end to said base, a motor supported on said base and having an operative connection with said frame to raise and lower same on its said pivot, in combination, a body supporting carriage adjustably arranged forwardly of said frame when in horizontal position, head, chest and abdominal supports carried by said carriage, the said head and abdominal supports being independently adjustable on said carriage, ratchet means for adjusting said abdominal support to various tilted positions with respect to the said head and chest supports, a thigh support arranged rearwardly of said frame and having a carriage adjustable longitudinally of said frame and to variable tilted positions, eccentric means operated from the side of said frame for actuating the said thigh support to different tilted positions and move the same longitudinally of said frame, and a leg rest arranged at the base of said frame and connected thereto whereby to provide automatic vertical adjustment with respect to said

frame as the latter is operated to vertical and horizontal positions.

3. In an automatically operated chiropractic adjusting table having a base member and a frame pivotally supported near one end of said base member, and a motor arranged in said base having an operative connection with said frame and capable of operating same on its said pivot, in combination, a head, chest and abdominal cushion supporting carriage arranged forwardly of said frame and adjustable longitudinally thereof, a body supporting carriage spaced rearwardly from said first named carriage and adjustable on said frame, adjustable tensioning means for said abdominal cushion comprising a plurality of tensioned bars in said frame, means on said first named carriage for adjusting said head cushion, and means externally of said frame for manually performing each of said adjustments independently.

4. In an automatically operated chiropractic table adapted for vertical and horizontal positions, and having a base member and a frame member pivoted near one end to said base member, and a body supporting carriage adjustably arranged rearwardly of said frame, in combination, a head, chest and abdominal supporting carriage arranged forwardly of said frame and longitudinally adjustable thereon, said head support having a dual arrangement of cushions adapted for lateral spaced adjustment in a horizontal plane, adjustable tensioning means for said abdominal support, the said means comprising a plurality of notched bars, means in said frame providing for spaced longitudinal relationship of said carriages, a foot rest arranged in the rear of said frame adapted to be automatically adjusted as said table is operated from vertical to horizontal positions, and means in said frame providing for the independent manual adjustment of each of said carriages and supports.

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