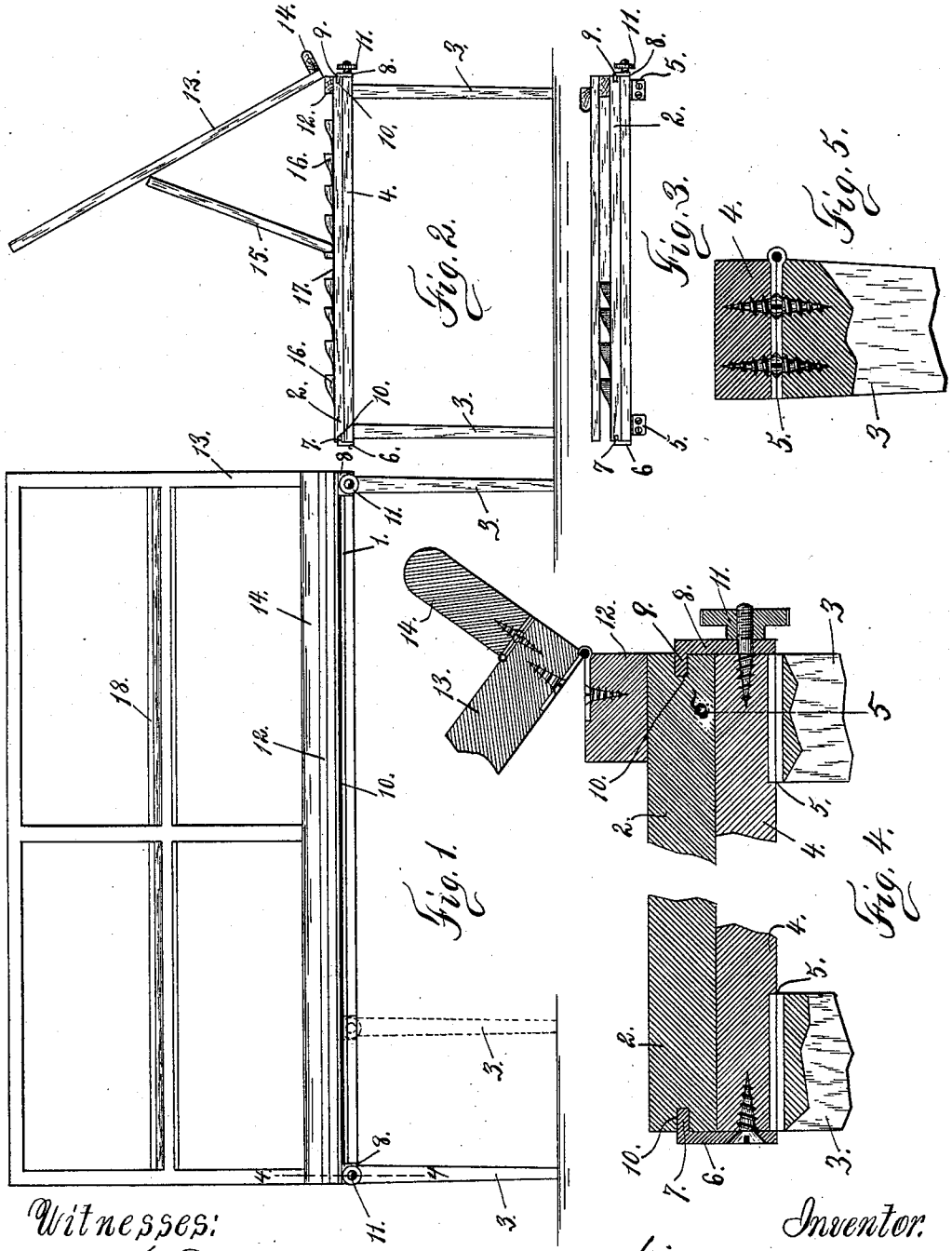
(No Model.)

W. H. HEATH.

BOOK REST.

No. 592,780. Patented Nov. 2, 1897.



Witnesses:
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THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM H. HEATH, OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO KATE ADAMS HEATH, OF SAME PLACE.

BOOK-REST.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 592,780, dated November 2, 1897.

Application filed September 26, 1895. Serial No. 563,724. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. HEATH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Buffalo, in the county of Erie and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Book-Rests; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to improvements in book-rests, and more particularly to a novel form of rest which is adapted to be placed upon a chair or bed over the lap or body of the reader while sitting in the chair or lying or reclining upon the bed in order to bring the book within easy range of the vision without necessitating an uncomfortable or strained position of the body while reading.

With that end in view my invention consists of the special construction hereinafter described in detail.

I will now minutely describe the manner in which I have carried out my invention and then claim what I believe to be novel.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a front elevation of my improved book-rest ready for use. Fig. 2 is an end elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a view showing the book-rest collapsed. Fig. 4 is an enlarged partial vertical section of Fig. 1, taken in the line 4 4; and Fig. 5 is a similar vertical section of Fig. 4, taken in the line 5 5.

Referring to the drawings, it will be seen that the frame is composed of side pieces 1 and end pieces 2, the side pieces being longer, making the frame rectangular in shape.

The frame is provided with two legs 3 3 at each end, which are hinged to the outer ends of two cross-bars 4 4, which correspond in length with the end pieces 2 2 of the frame, the hinges shown at 5 in Figs. 3, 4, and 5 being arranged to permit the legs to swing inwardly. At one end of each of the cross-bars 4 4 is permanently secured the metal plate 6, having the inwardly-extending flange 7, and at the opposite ends of these cross-bars 4 4 are adjustably secured similar metal plates 8 with flanges 9. The flanges 7 and 9 of the plates 6 and 8 at each end of the frame are adapted to ride in the grooves 10, extending centrally along the outer side edges of the frame. The adjusting-screws 11 serve to loosen the plates 8 and permit the cross-bars 4 4 and attached legs 3 3 to be moved inwardly along the frame, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1, in order to adapt the legs to rest within the arms of chairs of varying widths. The screws 11 clamp the legs in any determined position. Clamping-screws may be used at both ends of the cross-bars 4 4, if desired, or any other means for adjusting the position of the legs can be employed without departing from the spirit of my invention, I having simply shown the present construction as being possibly the simplest and least expensive.

To a cleat 12, extending along the top of one of the side pieces 1, is hinged the book-rest 13, being provided along its lower outside edge with the hinged rail 14, against which the lower edge of the book rests when in position.

A brace 15, extending the length of the frame, is hinged to the rest, its lower free ends being adapted for adjustable engagement with the notches 16 along the upper edges of the end pieces 2 2. This construction permits the rest 13 to be placed and held at any desired angle.

When not in use, my improved book-rest can be collapsed into a small compass, as shown in Fig. 3. The recesses 17 are formed in the end pieces 2 for the reception of the cross-bar 18 when the device is collapsed, the rest 13 and brace 15 lying close against the top of the frame and the legs being swung inwardly close against the bottom of the frame.

With my improved rest constructed as above described a reader is permitted to place the book in a convenient and easy position while sitting in a chair or resting upon a bed in a comfortable posture.

It is apparent that the legs could be rigidly secured to the cross-bars instead of being hinged as shown.

I am aware that book-rests have been attached to the arms of chairs in various ways, but these involve special constructions of

chairs and almost invariably necessitate the tiresome turning of the head or body, or both. While my improved book-rest is obviously adapted for use with chairs of any and all descriptions and permits the reader to sit or lie in an unrestrained position, and, after reading, the rest can be collapsed into small compass and put away until again required.

I claim—

1. A book-rest consisting of the frame having the side pieces 1, 1, the end pieces 2, 2, the hinged legs 3, 3, adapted to collapse inwardly, the adjustable book-rest 13 hinged to the frame and provided with the hinged rail 14 for holding the book upon the rest, and the brace 15 hinged to the book-rest 13 and adapted for adjustable engagement with the notches 16 upon the upper edges of the end pieces 2, 2, all combined and operating substantially as stated.

2. A book-rest consisting of the frame having the side pieces 1, 1, provided with the outer longitudinal grooves 10, 10, the end pieces 2, 2, the cross-bars 4, 4, the legs 3, 3 hinged to the outer ends of the cross-bars 4, 4, and adapted to collapse inwardly, the flanged metal plates 6, 7, rigidly secured to the cross-bars 4, 4, and in sliding engagement with one of the grooves 10, and the flanged metal plates 8, 9, with their tightening-screws 11 for loose and tight engagement with the cross-bars 4, 4, and for sliding engagement with the opposite groove 10, the adjustable book-rest 13 hinged to the frame and provided with the hinged rail 14 for holding the book upon the rest and the brace 15 hinged to the book-rest 13 and adapted for adjustable engagement with the notches 16 upon the upper edges of the side pieces 2, 2, all combined and operating substantially as stated.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WILLIAM H. HEATH.

Witnesses:
W. T. MILLER,
S. J. HARRIS.