Aug. 12, 1969 R. K. MEYER 3,461,349

CONSOLE

Filed Feb. 19, 1968 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

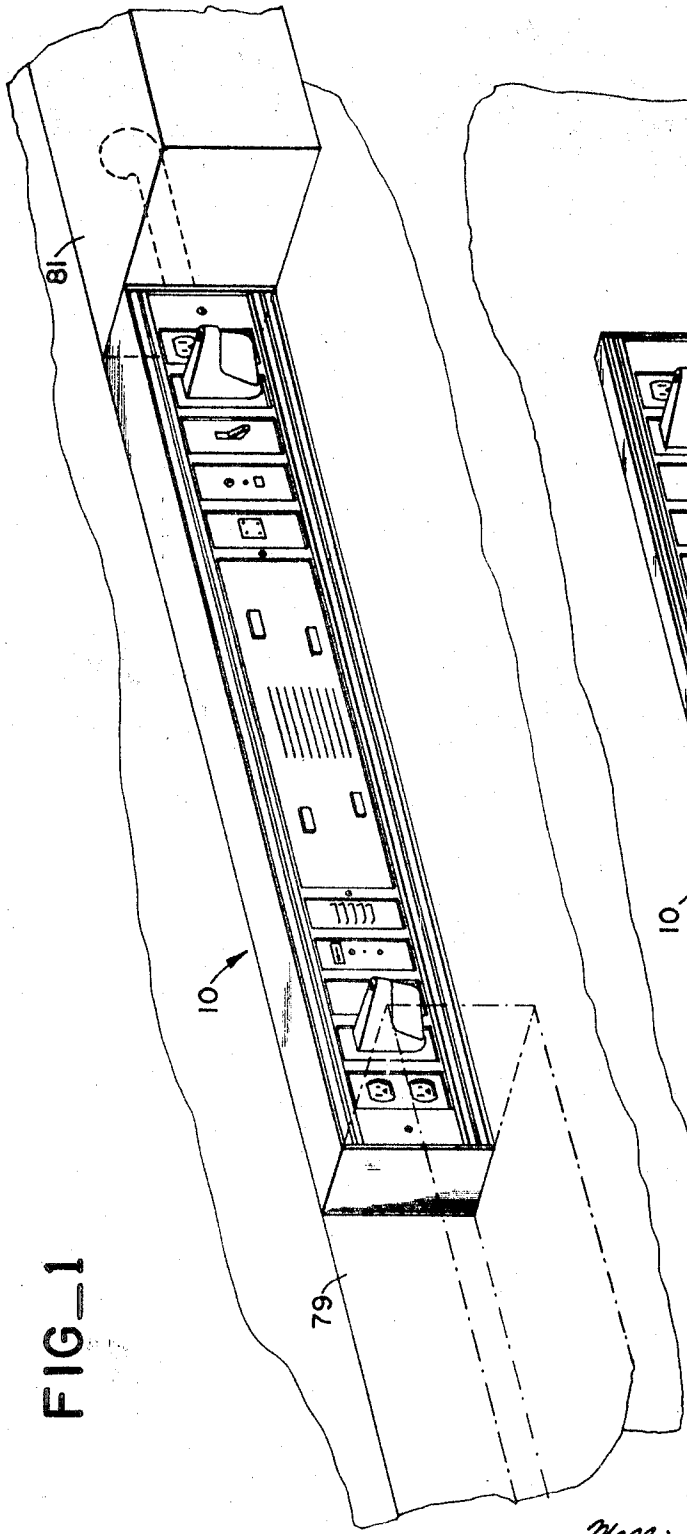


FIG_1

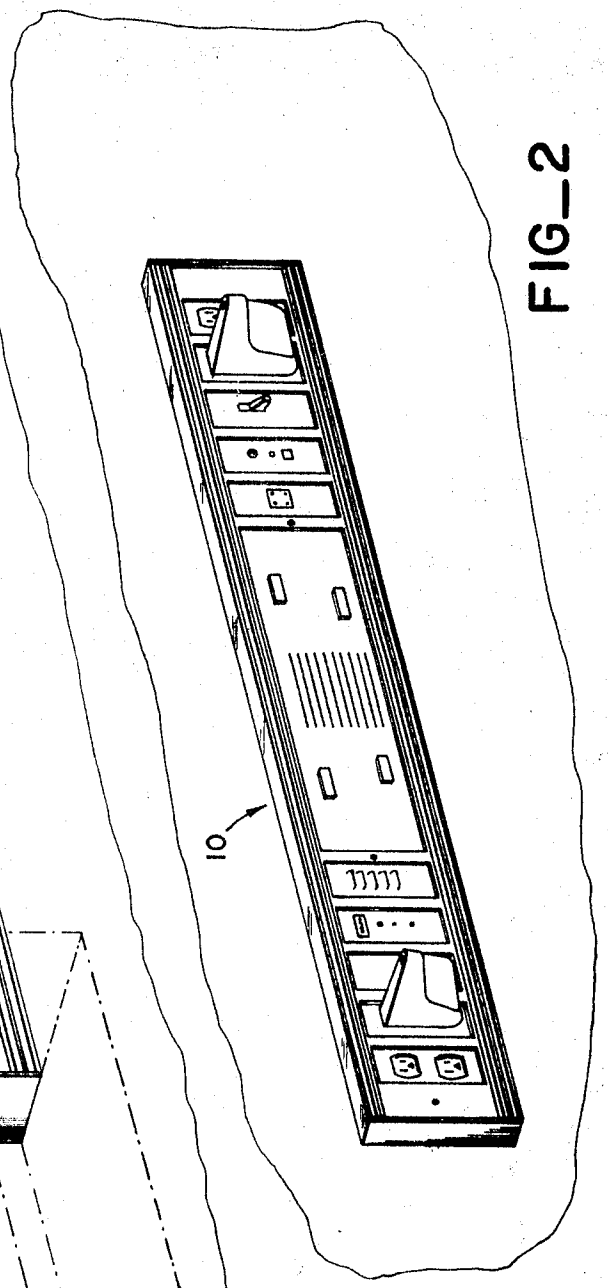


FIG_2

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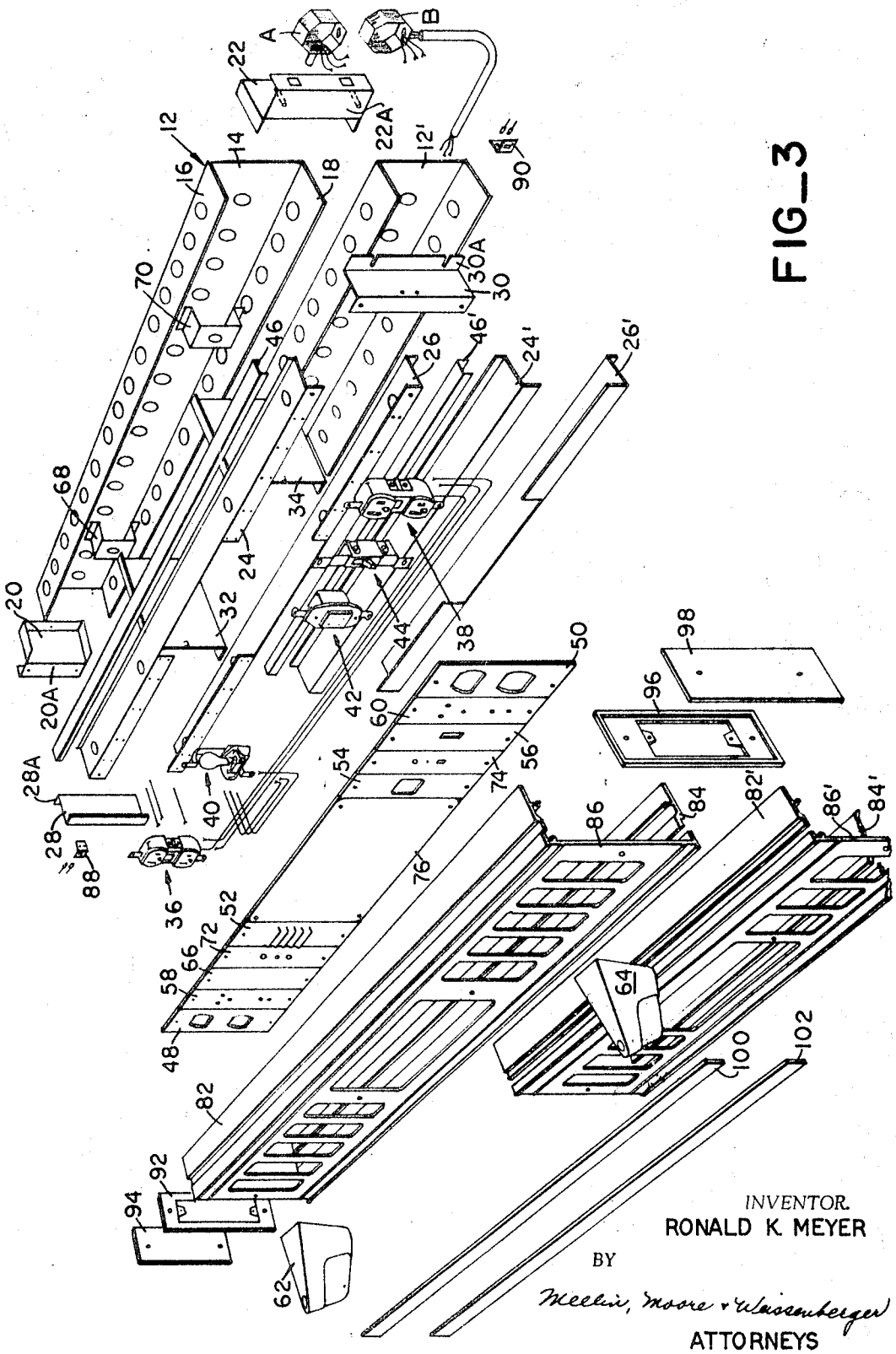


FIG_3

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CONSOLE

Filed Feb. 19, 1968 3 Sheets-Sheet 3

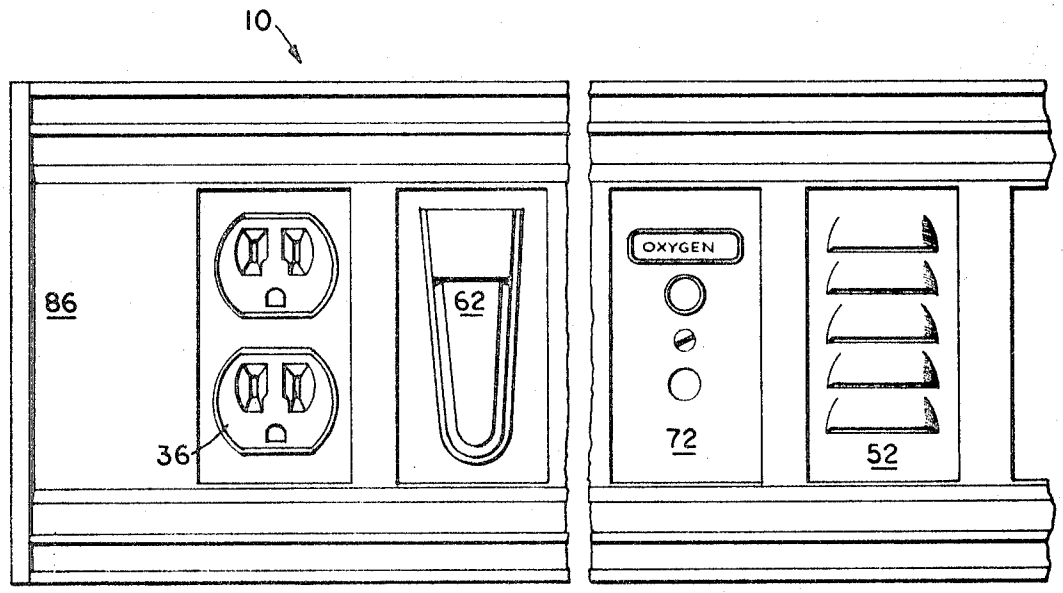


FIG_4

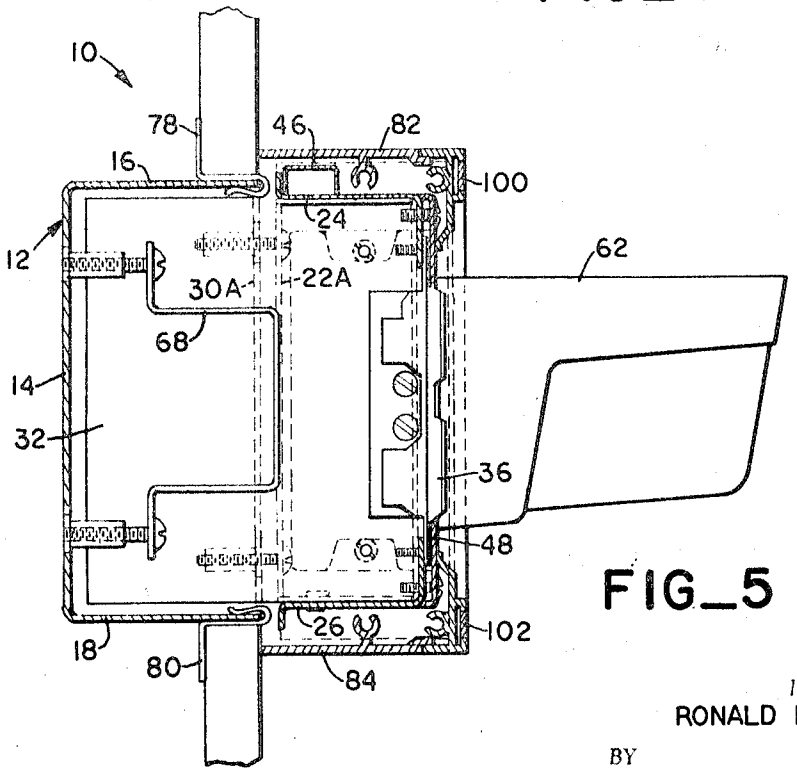


FIG_5

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United States Patent Office 3,461,349 Patented Aug. 12, 1969

3,461,349

CONSOLE

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Filed Feb. 19, 1968, Ser. No. 706,524
Int. Cl. H02b 1/10
U.S. Cl. 317—120 6 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A console holds a number of fixtures, such as receptacles, switches, oxygen outlets, and the like, which is made up of a U-shaped base member with a pair of end plates attached thereto, a pair of rails disposed along the base member, each fixture being adapted to be attached to the pair of rails, braces fixed from one rail to the other, the pair of rails being held relative to the base plate, a plurality of fixture plates each adapted to attach over a fixture to the pair of rails, and a front plate adapted to be held relative to the pair of rails, the fixtures being exposed through apertures in the fixture plates and front plate.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a console, and most particularly to a console for use in a hospital room, which provides a number of various outlets for use in conjunction with hospital requirements.

In normal room construction, outlets such as electrical wall outlets are generally spaced about the room so that what is desired from the outlet may be obtained from various points about the room. It has been found that this manner of spacing such outlets is not adaptable for use in a hospital room; but, rather, it is advantageous to group all the outlets in a single area near the patient's bed, so that either the patient or any of the hospital staff may make convenient use of them. A console which groups these outlets is, therefore, generally used in modern hospital rooms.

Naturally, it is desirable that a console which groups such outlets be simple in both construction and maintenance, attractively styled and easily mounted in a wall.

Furthermore, certain commercial outlets (such as oxygen outlets) vary in dimensions from manufacturer to manufacturer, and it is highly desirable that a console be able to utilize any of the variously sized outlets without any substantial alterations thereto.

It is therefore an object of this invention to provide a console which groups outlets for convenient use in a hospital room.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a console which is simple in both construction and maintenance, and is attractively styled.

It is a still further object of this invention to provide a console which may receive variously sized outlets without substantial alteration to the console itself.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Broadly stated, the console for holding a plurality of fixtures comprises a substantially U-shaped elongated base member having a back portion and upper and lower flange portions, and a pair of end plates fixed to the base member. A pair of rails are disposed parallel to the the upper and lower flange portions, each fixture being adapted to attach to the pair of rails. Included are a pair of braces each joined to and interconnecting corresponding ends of the pair of rails. Means are included for holding the pair of rails relative to the base plate. Also included are a plurality of fixture plates each being adapted to attach over a fixture to the pair of rails and expose a fixture. A front plate is adapted to be held relative to the pair of rails and expose the plurality of fixtures.

Other objects of this invention will become apparent in view of the following detailed description and the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the drawings forming a part of this invention and in which like parts are identified by like reference numerals throughout the same,

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the console set in a wall;

FIG. 2 is a view the same as FIG. 1 but with the console set in a different position in the wall;

FIG. 3 is an exploded view of the components of the console of FIGS. 1 and 2;

FIG. 4 is a front elevation of the console of FIGS. 1–3.

FIG. 5 is a sectional view taken along the line 5—5 of FIG. 4.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to FIGS. 1–5, a console, generally designated as **10**, is shown. The console **10** is made up of a U-shaped base member **12** having a back portion **14** and upper and lower flange portions **16** and **18**, respectively. A pair of end plates **20**, **22** are fixed to the base member **12**. A pair of rails **24**, **26** are disposed parallel to the upper and lower flange portions **16** and **18** and are braced by braces **28**, **30** which join to and interconnect the corresponding ends of the rails **24**, **26**. Rails **24**, **26** are also braced by braces **32**, **34**, each joined to and interconnecting the rails **24**, **26** intermediate the ends of each rail.

As best seen in FIG. 3, brace **28** and end plate **20** have surface portions **28A** and **20A** respectively which extend from the main bodies thereof and are parallel to each other. Similarly, brace **30** and end plate **22** have extended parallel surface portions **30A**, **22A** respectively. The surface portions **28A**, **30A** each have a pair of slots therein into which captive screws (not shown) are placed. These screws are adapted to be received by standoff nuts (not shown) fixed to the surface portions **20A**, **22A**. The rails **24**, **26**, along with braces **28**, **30**, **32**, **34**, are thus movable relative to the base member **12** by merely rotating the captive screws. A plurality of fixtures (such as receptacles **36**, **38**, light **40**, telephone jack **42**, switch **44**) are included, each fixture being adapted to attach to the pair of rails **24**, **26**. A channel **46** is fixed to the upper rail **24** and holds the necessary wiring for the fixtures. These wires may be led in in either (A) an in-line manner or (B) a staggered manner.

Attached to the pair of rails **24**, **26** over the receptacles **36**, **38** are a pair of fixture plates **48**, **50** which expose the receptacles **36**, **38**, respectively. Similarly, fixture plates **52**, **54** and **56** are adapated to fit to rails **24**, **26** and expose light **40**, telephone jack **42**, and switch **44**. Fixture plates **58**, **60** fit to rails **24**, **26** and are adapted to receive arm brackets **62**, **64**, respectively. In this embodiment fixture plate **66** is shown as a blank, but, of course, it could be similar to any of the others disclosed.

As best shown in FIGS. 3 and 5, brackets **68**, **70** are mounted to the back portion **14** of the U-shaped member **12** by means of captive screws. These brackets **68**, **70** are adapted to have attached thereto any of a variety of oxygen-vacuum outlets supplied by manufacturers thereof, and face plates **72**, **74** are adapted to fit thereover. The brackets **68**, **70**, being mounted by captive screws, are adjustable toward and away from the back portion **14**, and thus the face plates **72**, **74** are adjustable to be flush with the fixture plates, allowing for variations in dimen-

sions of the oxygen-vacuum outlets. Fitted to the pair of rails **24, 26** is a nurse call face plate **76**, which may be any one of a variety of manufactures.

In this embodiment, the base member **12** is held to the wall by clips **78, 80**, and the base member **12** and end plates **20, 22** are plastered into the wall. The depth of the base member **12** in the wall when this plastering takes place determines whether the console will protrude substantially from the wall (FIG. 1) or be relatively flush with the wall (FIG. 2). Light fixtures **79, 81** may be used in conjunction with the console **10**, as shown in FIG. 1.

A cover formed by upper and lower plates **82, 84** and front plate **86** is adapted to fit over the plurality of fixture plates and face plates and expose them. The front plate **86** is held relative to the rails **24, 26** by means of screws threaded to the pair of intermediate rail braces **32, 34** and a pair of small brackets **88, 90** fixed to the rail and braces **28, 30**, respectively. End plates **92, 94, 96, 98** are fitted to the ends of the upper and lower plates **82, 84** and front plate **86**. Decorative veneer strips **100, 102** may be added to the front plate **86**.

A variation of this embodiment of the console is also shown in FIG. 3. The base member **12'**, rails **24', 26'**, channel **46'**, upper and lower plates **82', 84'**, and front plate **86** are shorter than those of the previous embodiment and brackets **32, 34** are eliminated. This console is for use when a lesser number of fixtures is desired.

It will be seen that herein is provided a console which groups outlets for convenient use in a hospital room, the receptacles, nurse call, telephone jacks and the like being positioned together near a patient's bed. The console is simple in both construction and maintenance and is attractively styled. Furthermore, the console is capable of receiving variously sized outlets by means of a simple adjustment.

Although a preferred embodiment of the invention has been described and illustrated, various changes may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention, or the attached claims, and it is to be understood that such changes are contemplated.

I claim:

1. A console for holding a plurality of fixtures, comprising:

(a) a substantially U-shaped elongated base member having a back portion and upper and lower flange portions;

(b) a pair of end plates fixed to the base member;

(c) a pair of rails disposed parallel to the upper and lower flange portions, each fixture being adapted to attach to the pair of rails;

(d) a pair of braces each joined to and interconnecting corresponding ends of the pair of rails;

(e) means for holding the pair of rails relative to the base plate;

(f) a plurality of fixture plates each being adapated to attach over a fixture to the pair of rails and expose a fixture; and

(g) a front plate adapated to be held relative to the pair of rails and expose the plurality of fixtures.

2. A console according to claim **1**, wherein is included a pair of braces each joined to and interconnecting the rails intermediate the ends of each rail.

3. A console according to claim **2**, wherein the pair of rails is adjustably held relative to the base plate.

4. A console according to claim **3**, wherein the first plate is held relative to the pair of rails by means of screws threaded to the pair of rail end braces and the pair of intermediate braces.

5. A console according to claim **4**, wherein is included at least one support mounted to the back portion of the base member and adjustable along a line toward and away from the back portions thereof.

6. A console according to claim **5**, wherein the base member and end plates fixed thereto are plastered to the wall on which the console is to be mounted.

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U.S. Cl. X.R.

174—48; 240—73