(No Model.)

A. E. LANE.

GUARD FOR INFANTS.

No. 402,334. Patented Apr. 30, 1889.

Fig. 1.

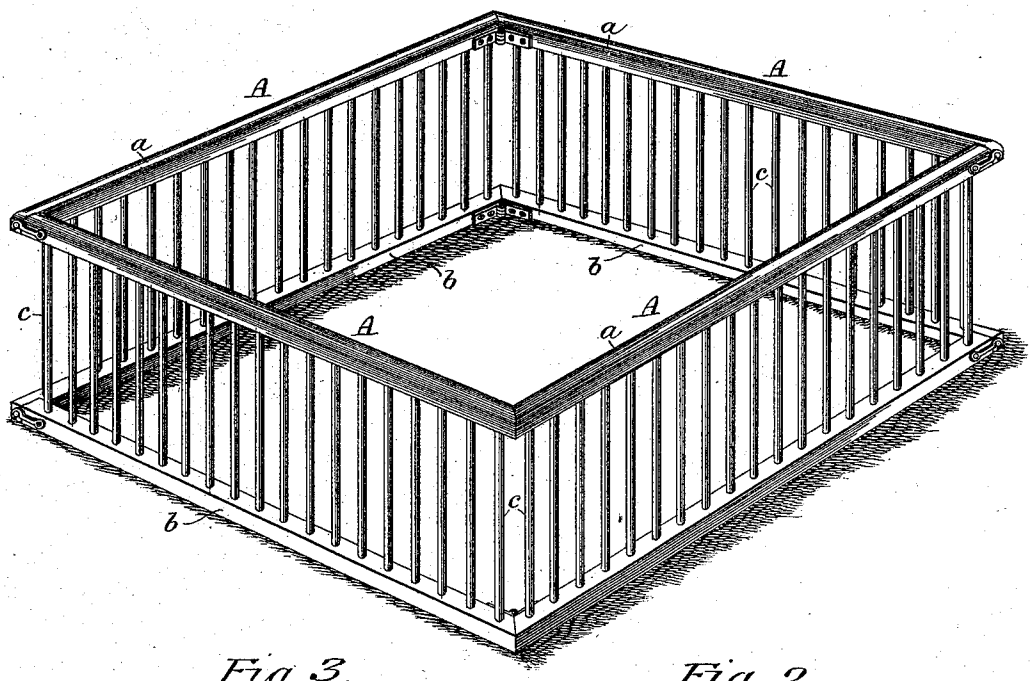


Fig. 3.

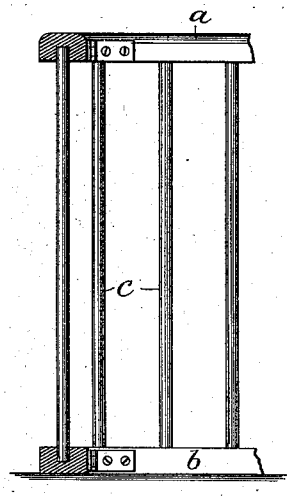


Fig. 2

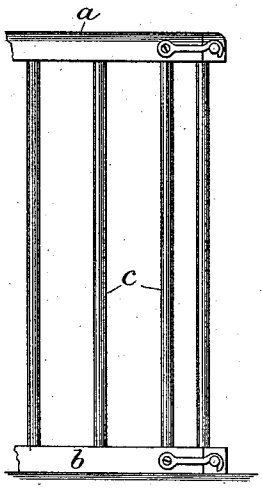


Fig. 5.

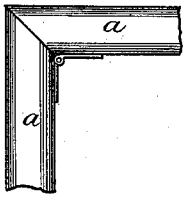
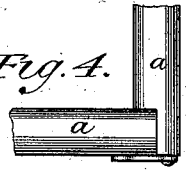


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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GUARD FOR INFANTS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 402,334, dated April 30, 1889.

Application filed December 7, 1888. Serial No. 292,916. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ARTHUR E. LANE, of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Guards for Infants; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to a portable guard or inclosure for babies by which they may be placed in any room or part of a room and prevented from reaching the fire or other part of or object in the room which they might harm or from which they might be harmed, while at the same time affording the child ample room for play.

The invention consists, essentially, in a rail so constructed as to form a complete inclosure of suitable size to allow a babe to freely play upon the floor within the same, and of suitable height to confine it.

It further consists in making the rail with joints or connections at the angles, by which it may be folded together, so as to occupy small space when out of use.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a baby-guard embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of one corner thereof, showing the detachable ends of two of the sections. Fig. 3 is a side elevation, partly in section, showing the hinged ends of two of the sections. Figs. 4 and 5 are respectively plan views of Figs. 2 and 3.

Referring to the drawings, A A are sections of a railing, each section being desirably about four, five, or six feet long, and in the neighborhood of twenty inches high. Each section A is shown of open-work, and is composed of a wooden top rail, *a*, and a bottom rail, *b*, joined by vertical slats or spindles *c*, set at a suitable distance apart to allow them to be separately seized by the child to assist it in rising from a sitting to a standing position. Of course the slats will serve the same purpose if made horizontal, and open wire-work instead of wood will equally afford a hold for the child's hands; also, as shown in the drawings, the railing is connected in pairs of sections hinged together, adapted to be spread apart far enough to form a right angle, the ends of the rails A and B being provided with oblique faces which come in contact, so as to hold the sections at right angles with each other when the same are spread apart. The free ends of the sections in one pair are detachably connected with the corresponding ends of the other pair by hooks or other appropriate fastening devices. This enables the railing to be taken down and folded into two parts, which are light enough to be easily taken from one room to another and set up for use.

Desirably the bottom rail, *b*, rests directly upon the floor, for the reason that it will then prevent the child's playthings from being pushed outside the inclosure; but a variation from this or from other details of construction as shown in the drawings will not constitute a departure from my invention.

It has been found that an inclosure of the character described not only gives a child ample room for play and exercise from creeping, but that it also greatly assists in the physical development of the child by affording in the rail an object which it may seize and a ready means by which it may raise itself to an upright position and aid itself in its efforts to walk. Besides these advantages it manifestly furnishes perfect security against personal injury, as well as a protection to articles of furniture, and in these particulars it affords most valuable relief and aid to those having care of the child.

A great advantage is obtained by making the railing of four sections hinged together in pairs, for the reason that this construction enables the railings to be unfolded and set up within the space not materially larger than the area inclosed by the railing, while at the same time each half of the railing is of a size and weight enabling it to be conveniently handled. It will be readily seen that if all four sections of the railing were permanently hinged together, not only would the structure be too heavy for convenient handling for persons about a house, but the folding and unfolding of the hinged parts could only be accomplished in a space much larger than that occupied by the railing when in position for use. The railing connected as herein described and claimed can be easily erected in such space as will commonly be afforded within a room without moving or shifting the

furniture therein, while in case all the sections of the railing were permanently hinged together a much larger space would be required in which to swing the sections about their hinged connections in bringing the railing into rectangular form, so that not only would the shifting of the furniture in rooms of ordinary size be required in the use of such construction, but in some apartments the size of the same and the disposition of the furniture therein would make it impossible to unfold the railing without holding the same upright, or other difficult or troublesome manipulation.

I claim as my invention—

The portable baby-guard described, consisting of a railing forming a complete inclosure and composed of four sections hinged together in pairs, each pair consisting of two sections connected with each other by hinged joints and provided with oblique abutting faces by which the sections are held at right angles with each other, and having locking devices on their outer ends for detachably securing the pairs of sections together, whereby the railing may be separated into two parts and folded into a small compass for convenience in storing and transportation, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ARTHUR E. LANE.

Witnesses:
TAYLOR E. BROWN,
M. E. DAYTON.