Aug. 23, 1955 H. M. BERNER 2,716,045

BEDSIDE CABINET AND TABLE STRUCTURE

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Fig. 1

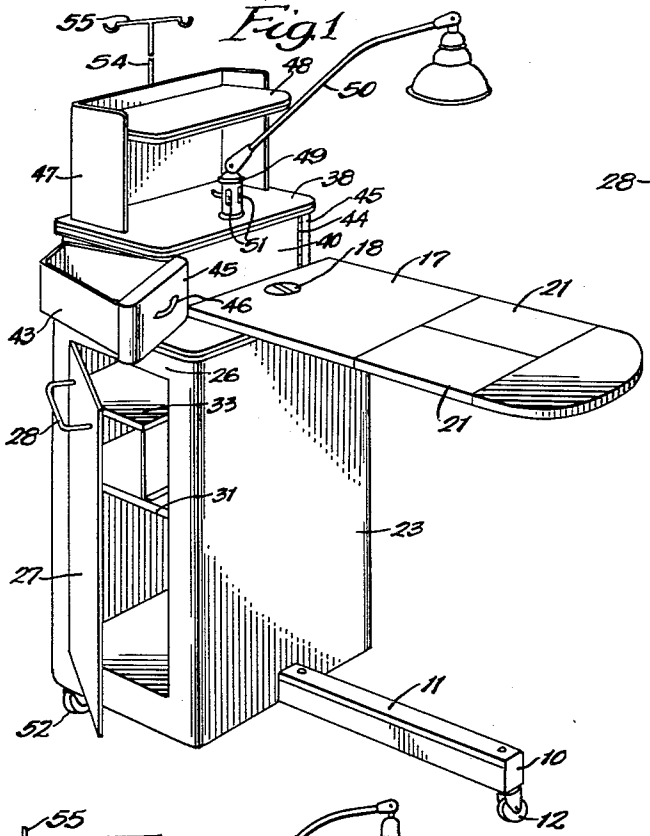


Fig. 2

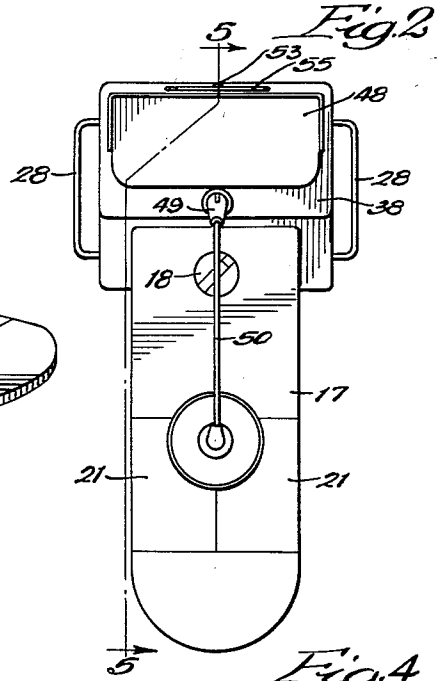


Fig. 3

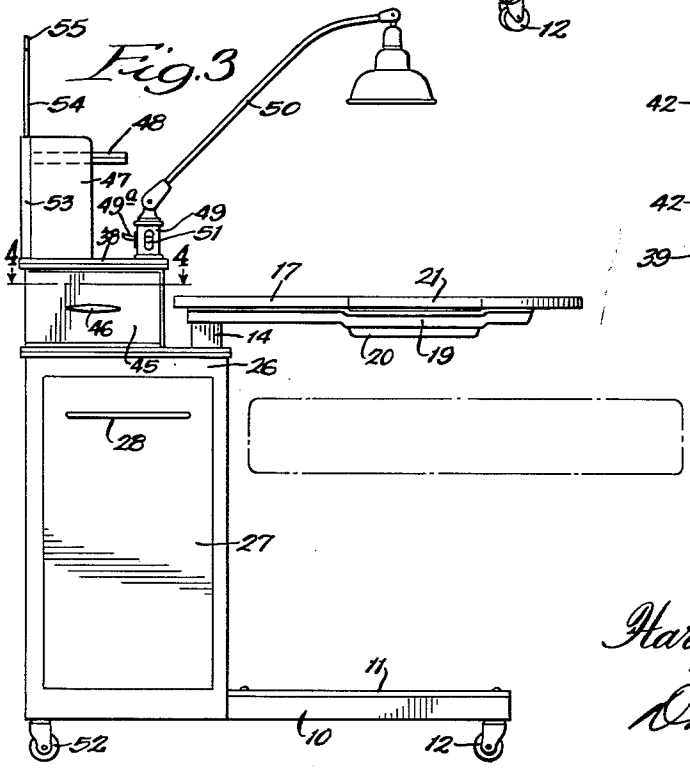
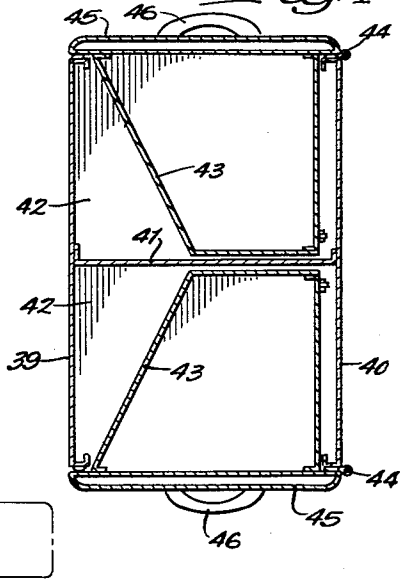


Fig. 4



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Fig. 5

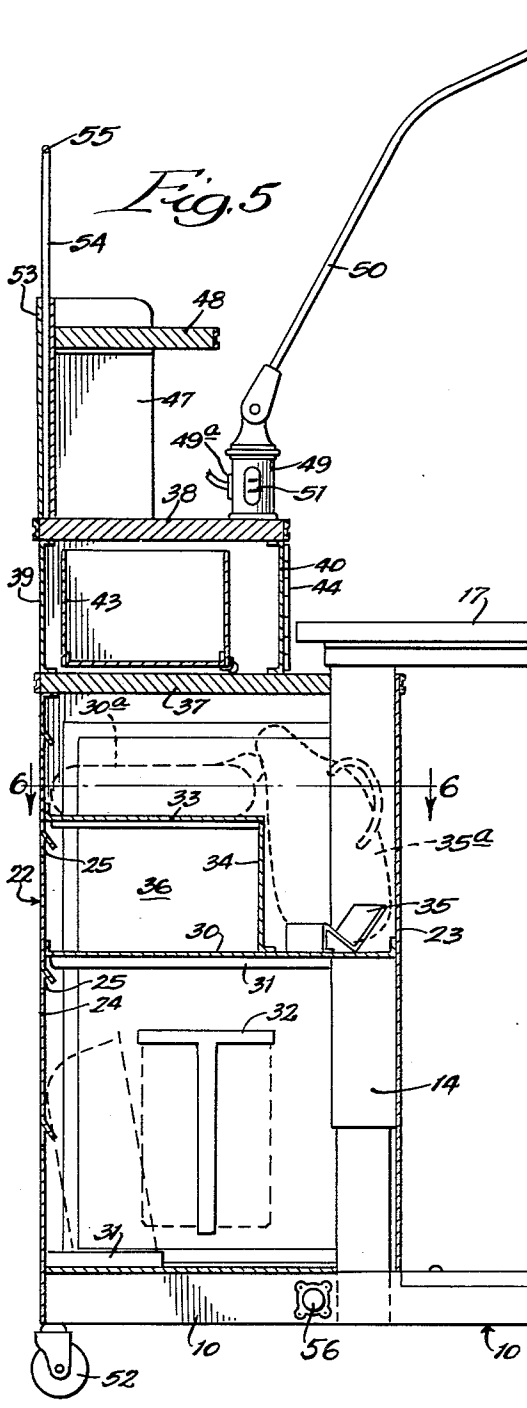
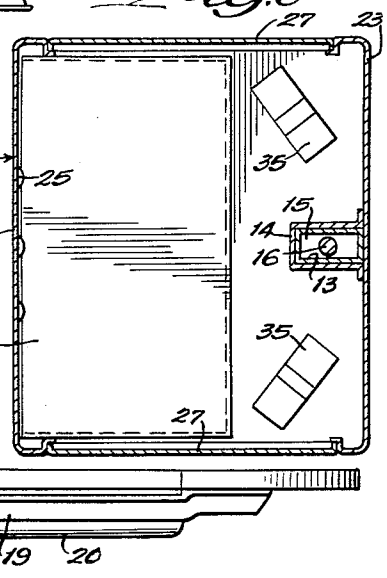


Fig. 6



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BEDSIDE CABINET AND TABLE STRUCTURE

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Application October 10, 1951, Serial No. 250,720

5 Claims. (Cl. 312—281)

This invention relates to a bedside cabinet and table structure. The invention is particularly useful in a hospital, etc., where it is desired to bring a bedside table over the bed of the patient while at the same time providing a cabinet containing an adjustable reading lamp, the structure providing three pieces of furniture in one combination, together with shelves and hinged drawers, making it possible for the patient to serve himself while saving nurses' time, etc.

An object of the invention is to provide a structure in which a cabinet and table structure are provided for ready movement upon a floor to bring the table over the bed and the cabinet and the lamp into various desired positions with respect to the bed. A further object is to provide a single beam support whereby the table may be adjustably carried upon the beam while at the same time providing a support for the cabinet thereon and providing also a free beam portion adapted to be moved under the bed when the table is placed over the bed. Yet another object is to provide a cabinet and bedside table structure wherein the broad front face of the cabinet is brought into engagement with the side of the bed as a means for stabilizing the table extending above the bed. A still further object is to provide a cabinet and bedside table structure wherein the telescoping tubes for vertically adjusting and supporting the table are housed within the cabinet and carried by a central beam upon which the cabinet also rests. A still further object is to provide a cabinet structure in combination with a bedside table wherein various utensils, vessels and other things needed by the patient are brought within ready reach of the patient while at the same time providing supports for flowers, radio, and other electrical instruments, and in which drawers for the patient's belongings, etc., are provided and made readily accessible to the patient. Other specific objects and advantages will appear as the specification proceeds.

The invention is shown in an illustrative embodiment by the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a cabinet and bedside table structure embodying my invention; Fig. 2, a top plan view; Fig. 3, a side view in elevation; Fig. 4, a transverse sectional view on an enlarged scale, the section being taken as indicated at line 4—4 of Fig. 3; Fig. 5, an enlarged sectional view, the section being taken as indicated at line 5—5 of Fig. 2; and Fig. 6, a transverse sectional view, the section being taken at lines 6—6 of Fig. 5.

In the illustration given, **10** designates a longitudinal beam which forms the support for the cabinet table-lifting means, etc. which will be hereinafter described. The beam **10** has a forwardly projecting free portion **10***a*, adapted to extend under the bed, and this portion may be covered by a stainless steel cover **11**. The forward end of the beam portion **10***a* is provided with a caster **12** or other anti-friction or roller means.

Supported upon the beam **10** at a point a little rear of the center, is a fixed tube **13** upon which is mounted a slideable tube **14**. The fixed tube **13**, near its upper end, is provided with a nut **15** secured by welding or other means to the fixed tube **13**, as shown more clearly in Fig. 6. Within the nut **15** is threadably supported a screw **16** which is provided with a non-threaded portion rotatably mounted in the table **17**. The screw **16** may be provided at its top with a handle **18** for rotating the screw. Such structure is shown in greater detail in my co-pending application, Serial No. 56,032, filed October 22, 1948, now Patent Number 2,628,147, issued February 10, 1953.

The table **17** may be equipped with a supporting member **19** for receiving a vanity pan **20**, and above the pan may be supported hinged covers **21** hinged at their inner ends so that they may be tilted up centrally from either side. Such a structure is shown in my said co-pending application, Serial No. 56,032, now Patent Number 2,628,147.

Mounted upon the rear portion of the beam **10** is the cabinet **22**. The cabinet is provided with a broad front wall **23** adapted to lie against the side of a bed to stabilize the structure when the table **17** is being supported in front of the patient and over the bed. The rear wall **24** of the cabinet may be, if desired, provided with ventilation apertures **25**. Each side wall **26** is preferably provided with a large hinged door **27** having on its outer side a towel-rack **28**. Within the cabinet **22** is provided a large compartment accessible from either side. Any suitable partitions within the compartment may be employed. Partition **30** provides therebelow a large compartment with low rack **31** for supporting a vanity pan (drawn in dotted lines). The inside of each door **27** is equipped with a bag support **32** adapted to support an open bag (shown in dotted lines) for receiving papers, bandages, and waste material. Above the partition **30** is a short partition wall **33** which is secured to the rear wall **22** and at its forward end to a vertical wall **34** and is adapted to receive a bedpan **30***a* (shown in dotted lines). On the portion of partition **30** which extends forwardly of wall **34** and on each side of the cabinet is mounted a support **35** adapted to receive a urinal **35***a* (shown in dotted lines). Within the compartment **36** formed by the walls **33** and **34** and the partition **31**, may be placed toilet paper, emesis basins, soap dishes, etc.

The top of the cabinet **22** may be formed of a relatively heavy board **37** formed of plastic, resin, metal, or any suitable material. I prefer also to support above the top **37** a shelf member **38** and to enclose the space between members **37** and **38** by a casing consisting of the rear wall **39** and the front wall **40**. I provide a partition wall **41** therebetween, as shown more clearly in Fig. 4. Within each of the compartments **42** thus formed, I provide a drawer **43** which is supported by a hinge **44** upon the front wall **40**. Each of the drawers is preferably provided with a closure **45** for the space **42** thus provided, and the closure has a handle **46**. The drawer **43** on each side of the cabinet is thus readily available for receiving the personal articles of the patient, such as jewelry, wallet, spectacles, etc., all within easy reach of the patient. With the drawer structure shown, the entire width of the drawer is made available and accessible when the drawer is swung forwardly, as shown more clearly in Fig. 1.

Upon the shelf **38** is mounted a stand **47** for receiving a radio, flower vase, etc.

I prefer to support upon the shelf **38** a light base **49**, upon which is mounted a lamp shade and an adjustable lamp support **50** equipped with an on-and-off switch. The arm **50** and lamp shade are adjustable so that patients may adjust to suit their vision, etc. The base **49** is also preferably equipped with sockets **51** for receiving connections for radio and electrical appliances such as electric razors, etc. The base **49** also carries a light switch **49***a* which controls a night light **56** under the bottom of the cabinet **22**.

It will be understood that the cabinet may be modified in structure depending upon the needs for supporting

utensils, etc., and the type of structures which are to be supported. The doors **27** may be held in closed position by permanently magnetized contacts or latches (not shown), and may carry soap dishes, etc.

With the structure shown, it will be noted that the single beam **10** extends centrally through the cabinet **22** and forwardly of the cabinet, and provides thus the main support for the cabinet. The forward end of the beam **10** is supported by the caster **12**, while the rear corners of the cabinet **22** are provided with casters **52**. At the same time, the centrally-positioned beam **10** provides a support for the bedside table **17**.

Operation

In the operation of the structure described, the bedside cabinet and table may be moved to either side of the bed and the table raised to bring it over the bed with the runner or forward end portion of the beam under the bed. The reading lamp may then be adjusted for reading and the cabinet placed to a position where the patient will have access to the adjacent drawers and compartment space. The drawers **43** extend deeply within the compartment **42** but are readily made accessible and actually made visible through their area by swinging the drawer **43** forwardly, as illustrated in Fig. 1.

The telescoping members **13** and **14** are housed within the cabinet and are thus kept free of dust, etc. that may be within the room. By suspending the cabinet upon the beam **10** and supporting the table-carrying members **13** and **14** thereon, a sturdy structure is provided through the utilization of the single beam member which is readily maneuverable by the caster or rollers thereon and on the cabinet.

By rotating handle **18**, the table may be raised to any desired position, as, for example, to a position aligned or above the partition **38**, and at such position is at a very convenient location for a patient who is sitting up in bed. At this position, the swing drawers **43** may be moved forwardly under the table **17** so that the patient will have the drawer with the articles therein adjacent the table **17**.

The area provided ahead of the cabinet wall **34** and above partition **30** provides vertical space ample for receiving the urinal which may be supported upon the bracket **35**, one of which is preferably provided for each side of the cabinet. The washbasin is conveniently supported in vertical position upon the bracket or rack **31** mounted on the floor of the cabinet. In the lower compartment a door **27** is utilized for carrying a bag support **32**, the bag being maintained in open position by the support for receiving waste tissues, bandages, etc., and the bag being removable with such waste material for burning, etc.

With the foregoing structure, the table and cabinet may be used on either side of a bed or employed to serve patients in oppositely-disposed beds.

By reason of the three-point support, it is easy to wheel the cabinet from one side of the room to the other and to bring the table over the bed from either side. At the same time, the vertically movable table may be adjusted to rest upon the top **37**, or vertically raised to a position well above the top **38** and, in the latter position, the table provides substantially a continuation of the top **38**.

I prefer to equip the back of the cabinet with a slot or tube **53** providing a socket for receiving the shank of a bottle-supporting rod **54**. The rod is provided at its top with a cross-arm **55** adapted to receive the bail of an inverted bottle or the like from which parenteral fluids are being dispensed.

While in the foregoing specification, I have set forth a specific structure in considerable detail for the purpose of illustrating an embodiment of the invention, it will be understood that such details of structure may be varied widely by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of my invention.

I claim:

1. In a structure of the character described, an elongated support beam equipped intermediate the ends thereof with an upwardly-extending support member, said support member being adapted to support a table extending laterally therefrom in substantially parallel relation with said beam and toward one end thereof, a cabinet carried on said beam and rigidly secured thereto and extending substantially from adjacent said support member to the end opposite said one end of said beam, and floor supports carried by said beam and cabinet and being adapted to be received upon a floor for supporting said structure.

2. The structure of claim 1 in which said support member is rigidly secured to said beam at approximately the midpoint thereof whereby said beam provides a relatively long free end portion extending under a table supported by said support member.

3. The structure of claim 2 in which said support member extends upwardly through said cabinet adjacent the forward wall thereof.

4. In a structure of the character described, an elongated support beam disposed in substantially a horizontal plane and being equipped intermediate the ends thereof with a support member extending upwardly therefrom in substantially a vertical plane, said support member being tubular and adapted to adjustably support a table extending laterally therefrom in substantially parallel relation with said beam and toward one end thereof, said support extending upwardly from said beam at approximately the midpoint thereof, a cabinet carried on said beam and rigidly secured thereto and enclosing said support and extending therefrom along said beam to the end opposite said one end of the beam, and casters, one of which is carried by said beam and the others being carried by said cabinet and all being adapted to be received upon a floor, there being three casters in all whereby a three-point support for said structure is provided.

5. In a bedside cabinet structure adapted for use in hospitals, an elongated support beam adapted to be disposed in a generally horizontal plane, a generally vertical support member secured to said beam intermediate the ends thereof and extending upwardly therefrom, said support member being adapted to provide an adjustable mounting for a table disposed in a horizontal plane in spaced relation above a free end portion of said beam, a door equipped cabinet providing compartments therein and being rigidly secured to said beam in covering relation over the other end portion thereof, said cabinet being constructed and arranged so that said support member extends upwardly therethrough, and floor supports carried by said beam and cabinet, at least one of said floor supports being mounted adjacent the free end portion of said beam.

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