Feb. 9, 1937. H. S. FISHER 2,070,397

ARM SUPPORT

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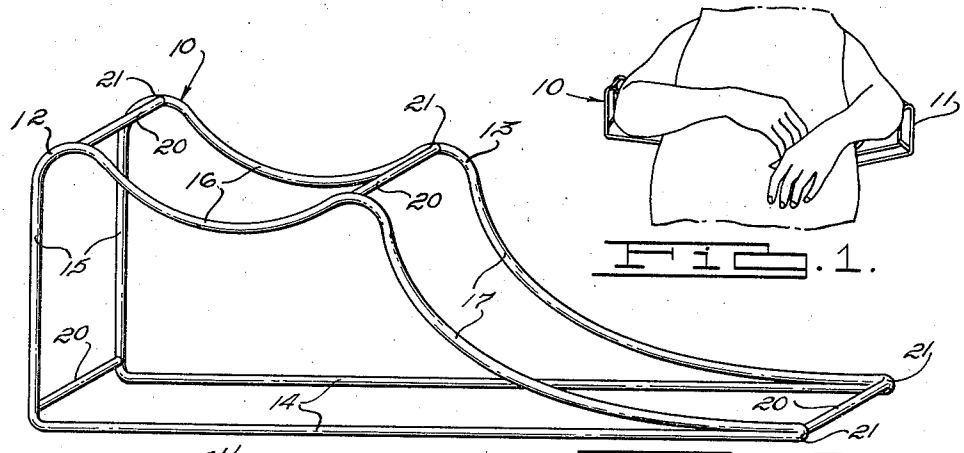


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

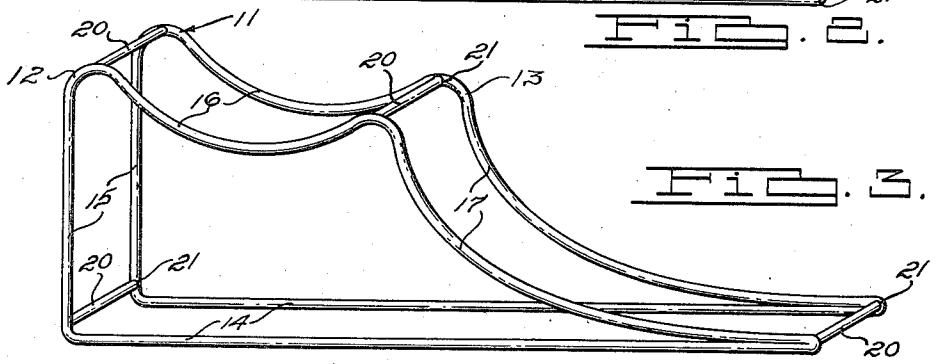


Fig. 3.

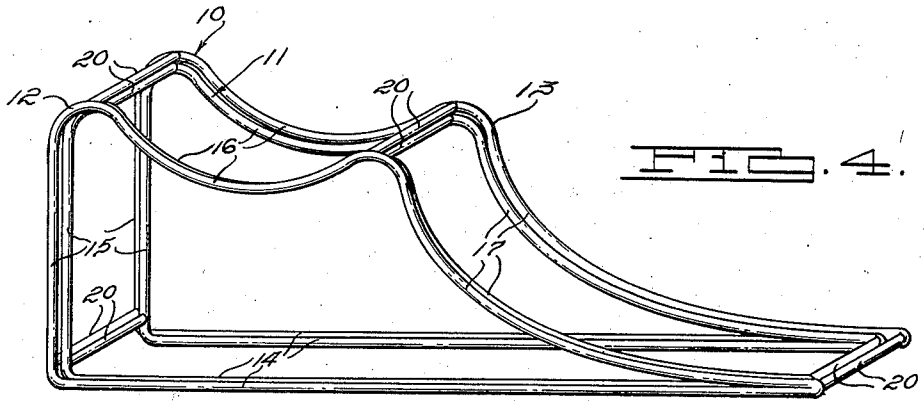


Fig. 4.

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ARM SUPPORT

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2 Claims. (Cl. 27—23)

This invention relates to an arm support for use by undertakers during embalming processes.

The principal object of the invention is to facilitate the positioning of a body prior to embalming so that it will present a comfortable and natural appearance after the embalming process has been completed.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved arm support of light weight, strong, rigid and durable construction and which is economically manufactured.

It is a further object to provide an arm rest having an impervious, smooth and resistant surface enabling the device to be easily cleaned, disinfected and maintained in a strictly sanitary condition.

A still further object is to provide a pair of arm rests so constructed as to nest one within the other.

Other objects, features and advantages will become apparent from the following description and appended claims.

For the purpose of illustrating the genus of the invention, a typical concrete embodiment is shown in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective, showing an application of the invention;

Figs. 2 and 3 are perspectives of one of two arm rests constituting a pair normally employed; and

Fig. 4 is a perspective of the arm rest shown in Figs. 2 and 3 as assembled in nested relation.

In the process of embalming a body, injecting and draining tubes are generally inserted in veins or arteries of the upper arms to drain blood from and inject embalming fluid into the body. As the embalming fluid renders the body somewhat rigid, it is essential that the arms be correctly positioned for drainage prior to injecting the embalming fluid so that the latter will be properly distributed and to correctly arrange the arms so as to present a comfortable and natural appearance after the embalming process has been completed and the body rendered more or less rigid.

Various expedients have been previously employed such as tying the hands or arms together, blocking up the arms, or using devices extending under the entire width of the body. Tying the arms together causes a constriction about the same and transfers their weight to the chest and heart area of the body impeding the flow of fluid through the central distribution point within the body where obstruction to flow of fluid is least desirable and also hinders flow through the arm causing discoloration of the parts of the hands such as the finger tips. When the hands are tied together the distribution of fluid to and from the hands and fingers is impeded effecting the same result and often marks are left by the cord or tape used. Blocking up the arms has the disadvantage of affording such unstable support that the arms or blocking may become easily disarranged due to such causes as tension or vibration of the drainage and injection tubes, etc. The devices adapted to extend under the entire width of the body require handling and disturbing of the body in placing, removing or adjusting such devices, often causing duplication of work previously completed. These devices are generally cumbersome and complicated structures having detachable parts liable to become displaced or lost.

The present invention involves the provision of simple and efficient devices for overcoming the above difficulties and disadvantages.

Referring to the drawing in detail, it will be noted that I have provided a pair of independent arm supports 10 and 11 each of integral construction and adapted to be positioned for correctly supporting the arms without disturbing other parts of the body and without hindering in any way the embalming process. The arm supports 10 and 11, except for the fact that the support 11 is of slightly smaller dimensions in all respects than the support 10, are of the same construction so that a description of one will suffice for both. The arm supports are of skeleton-like formation and preferably each comprises a pair of loops 12 and 13 shaped to provide a base portion 14, an upwardly directed portion 15 extending from one end of the base portion, a downwardly bowed and slightly downwardly inclined arm rest portion 16, and a downwardly inclined and bowed portion 17 connecting the arm rest portion with the other end of the base portion. The loops 12 and 13 are connected by cross members 20 disposed normally with respect to the planes of the loops and welded at the ends thereof to each of the loops as indicated at 21. As viewed in Figs. 2 and 3, the left hand portions of the devices including the left hand sections of the base elements 14, the upwardly extending members 15 and the arm rest members 16 comprise arm support portions while the remainder of each device including the downwardly inclined and downwardly bowed members 17 and the right hand sections of the elements 14 comprises a generally tapered body engaging portion.

The arm supports 10 and 11 are preferably fin-

ished with a baked enamel, japan or varnish or other smooth, impervious and corrosion resistant coating so that they are readily cleaned or disinfected and rendered sanitary.

In use, after the drainage and injection tubes are inserted into the veins or arteries of the upper arms of a body to be embalmed, the arms of the body are lifted and the arm supports 10 and 11 are positioned laterally of the body with the arms resting in the seat members 16 and supported at or just above the elbow. The arms and hands are then arranged in desired position somewhat as indicated in Fig. 1. It will be noted that in this arrangement the forearms and upper arms are generally inclined downwardly from the hand to the shoulder to insure proper drainage. The arms are spaced sufficiently from the sides of the body to present a comfortable and natural appearance. In the average case the portions 17 of the arm supports will be moved laterally inwardly until they just contact the body, in which position the arms disposed within the arm rest portions 16 will assume the arrangement desired. It will be noted, however, that the arm rests 10 and 11 may be moved inwardly or outwardly with respect to each other as conditions demand. The narrow ends of the arm supports may even be overlapped by telescoping the narrow end of the support 11 within the corresponding end of the support 10.

When the arm rests are not in use they may be nested together as indicated in Fig. 4 so as to provide a small, neat, and compact structure.

As many changes could be made in the above construction and many apparently widely different embodiments of this invention could be effected without departing from the scope thereof, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawing shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

What is claimed is:

1. An arm support comprising a plurality of loops of wire each shaped to provide a base portion, an upwardly directed portion, an arm rest portion and a downwardly inclined curved portion, and cross members connected to said loops for maintaining the latter in parallel spaced relation.

2. An arm support for use in embalming a body comprising an integral skeleton-like wire frame including a pair of closed loops each shaped to provide a straight base, an upwardly directed member at one end of said base, a downwardly bowed arm rest inclined slightly in a downward direction from the upper end of said upwardly directed member, and a downwardly bowed and downwardly inclined body-engaging portion connecting said arm support and the other end of said base; and cross members welded to said loops for connecting the latter in parallel spaced relation.

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