

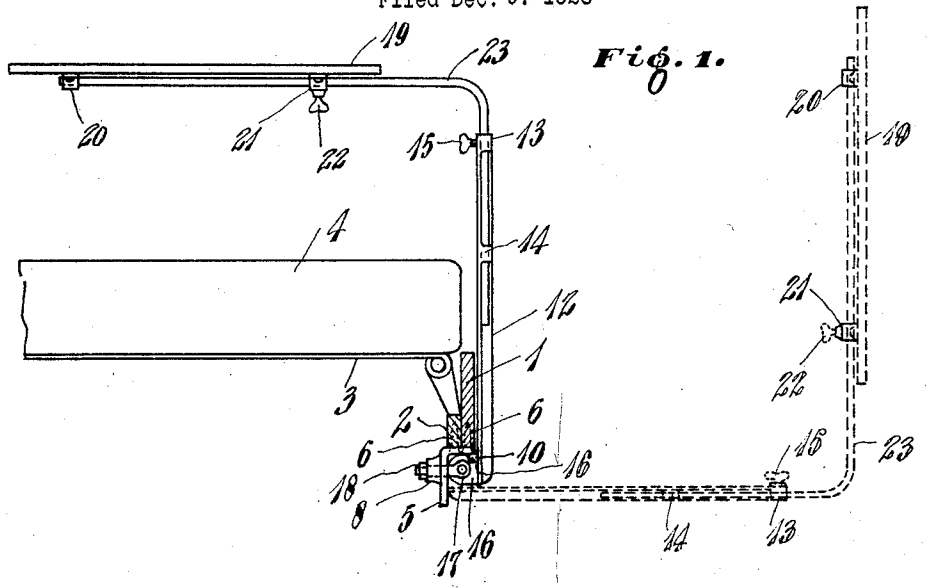
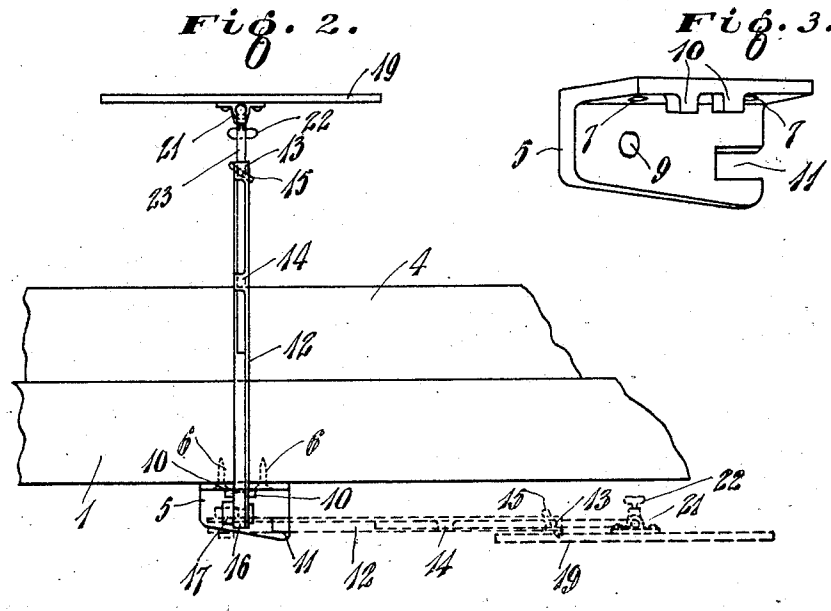
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BED TABLE ATTACHMENT

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## BED TABLE ATTACHMENT.

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My invention relates to tables used in conjunction with beds or the like, for invalids' use, or the use of others who may desire the use of a table while lying in the bed, as for eating, reading, writing or the like. An object of my invention is to provide a very simple, compact and inexpensive device of this character, in which, by attaching it to the bed, the cumbersome floor support is eliminated, and, by making the device suitably foldable, it may be brought into position over the bed for use or brought into position under the bed when not to be used. Another object is to make the device readily detachable from the bed, and so as to be readily folded or disassembled for storage. Further objects are to have the device readily adjustable, as to height and inclination of the table or tray, to have it to lock in position for use or in its out-of-the-way position without any special attention from the user, and, by having the structure of a simple nature and readily swung into various positions, to permit the device to be kept clean with little labor, as well as to present no obstruction to the making up and cleaning of the bed on which it is installed. Other objects will appear in the course of the following description.

I attain these objects by the device illustrated, for example, in the accompanying drawing, in which—

Fig. 1 is a partial end elevation of a bed with my invention applied thereto, the device being shown by dotted lines in partially folded position;

Fig. 2 is a partial side elevation of the same, the device being shown by dotted lines in a further folded position and

Fig. 3 is a detail perspective view of the bracket.

The bed is represented only by one of its rails 1 with its inner slat-supporting strip 2, along with a conventional representation of a set of springs 3 and a mattress 4 supported thereon; it being understood that I have chosen for purpose of the present example, a wooden bed, in which the rail 1 and strip 2 are of wood.

My table attachment comprises a bracket 5 of L-shaped cross-section (Fig. 3) of which

the upper horizontal member is attached to the lower edge of the rail 1 and strip 2 by screws 6 passing up through openings 7 in this member. The vertical member extends 55 down at the inner edge of the upper member, and has a boss 8 through which is an opening 9, near its left hand end. Near the middle of the front edge of the upper member two lugs 10 extend down; and in the 60 right hand end of the vertical member is a recess 11 somewhat below the level of the opening 9.

The standard 12 is of angle-bar cross-section, with two bosses 13 and 14 within 65 the angle of cross-section, one at the top end and the other some distance down therefrom; these bosses having vertically aligned openings, and the upper boss having a set screw 15 tapped into its opening from the 70 side of the standard over next to the bed. On the lower end of this standard 12 an ear 16 extends inward and is pivoted to the eye of an eye bolt 17 that is journaled in the opening 9 of the bracket 5. These parts are 75 so proportioned and located that when the standard is upright the upper edge of the ear 16 fits tightly between the lugs 10 of the bracket, but when the standard is swung down to a horizontal position, as permitted 80 by the I bolt 17 turning in the opening 9, and swung in under the bed, transversely thereof, as permitted by its pivotal connection with the I bolt, the part of the standard adjacent to the upper edge of its ear 16 en- 85 gages tightly in the recess 11 of the bracket. The I bolt 17 is held in place by a nut 18 screwed onto a reduced rear extension of the bolt, behind the bearing boss of the bracket. The nut 18 thus locks against the shoulder 90 thus formed on the bolt, but permits the bolt to turn easily in the opening 9.

The table top or tray 19 has fixed on its lower surface two clips 20 and 21, the latter having a set screw 22 tapped into it. The 95 rod 23, bent into L shape has one member through the clips 20 and 21 and the other member inserted down through the bosses 13 and 14 of the standard 12. By means of the set screw 15, this rod may be clamped 100 at various heights in the standard 12, and by means of the set screw 22 the table top or

tray 19 may be clamped at various inclinations around the horizontal member of the rod 23.

Thus, when the standard 12 is vertical the top or tray 19 is held over the bed as shown by the full lines in Figs. 1 and 2; the weight of the latter pulling the standard 12 over toward the bed and the more firmly engaging the upper edge of the ear 16 between the lugs 10, which prevent the standard and tray from falling sidewise, longitudinally of the bed. Also, by fitting tightly between these lugs 10, these parts are held so as not to shake or be accidentally thrown out away from the bed.

To bring the device out of the way, under the bed, the tray and standard 12 are swung laterally outward to about the position indicated by the dotted lines in Fig. 1; hinging on the pivotal connection with the eye bolt 17. This brings the ear 16 out from between the lugs 10, and the device now may be swung downward lengthwise of the bed, hinging by the turning of the eye bolt 17 in the bracket opening 9. Before this downward swinging, however, the tray 19 is turned on the rod 23, which now is vertical, until this tray is at right angles to the length of the bed. Then when the parts are swung down as just mentioned, this tray will be horizontal; these positions of the parts being indicated by the dotted lines in Fig. 2. The disposition of the device is completed now by swinging the standard 12 again on its pivotal connection with the eye bolt 17 until the standard extends transversely under the bed, and, engaging in the recess 11 of the bracket 5 is held from dropping down as would be permitted by the turning of the eye bolt 17 in the opening 9. The standard thus supports the rod 23 and tray 19 in horizontal position under the bed; the tray being inverted and under the rod.

It will be seen that it is necessary to disturb only one adjustment of the device, that of the tray set screw 22, in putting it out of the way under the bed; all other movements being permitted by virtue of the construction of the bracket, eye bolt and standard, and the locking of the parts in either position being effected by the same means without special attention of the user. On account of the inward extension of the ear 16 from the standard, to pivot in under the bed rail, the device is entirely in past the outer surface of the bed rail when put away, so as not to interfere with making up the bed nor present an unsightly appearance. The flexibility of the device as a whole makes it easy to keep it as well as the bed parts clean, and when under the bed the device is far enough up from the floor readily to admit a suction cleaner or the like for cleaning the floor under the bed. The entire device may be removed

from the bed by removing the screws 6; but it is more convenient merely to remove the nut 18 and withdraw the eye bolt 17 along with the standard and supported parts, leaving the bracket 5 screwed to the bed rail. Various beds may be provided with brackets 5, and the device may thus conveniently be applied to any one of the beds. When taken from a bed, it may be stored in a small space if the tray 19 is turned into the same plane as the standard 12; and for packing, the rod 23 may be disconnected from the tray 19 and standard 12 and laid around a corner of the tray; the standard and bracket 5, attached thereto, being laid alongside the tray and rod. Thus the device may be packed snugly in a flat box or package, and may be assembled very easily by an unskilled person, upon a slight amount of instruction. Likewise as to the attachment of the device to the bed, merely involving the insertion of two rather large wood screws. To attach the device to metal beds, bolts may be substituted, with holes formed in the metal rail of the bed; or the bracket may be made with a suitable clamp to engage the metal rail.

Such modifications as the above, as well as others, may occur in practice, and therefore I do not wish to be understood as being limited to the precise disclosure herein, but what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a bed table attachment, a table element, a standard to which said table element is connected, a bracket of L-shaped cross-section to be attached to the lower edge of a bed rail by one member of its cross-section which is horizontal, with the other member vertical and in from the outer edge of the rail, an eye bolt turning in said vertical member on an axis at right angles to the rail, said standard having an ear extended inward and pivoted to said eye bolt, and said standard extending upward past the outer side of the rail, means on said bracket horizontal member between which said ear engages when said standard extends upward as aforesaid, and means on said bracket vertical member between which said standard engages when swung down into a horizontal plane by turning of said eye bolt, and inward on said plane by turning of said standard on said eye bolt.

2. In a device of the character described, a bracket of L-shaped cross-section, having an upper horizontal member with means for attachment of said bracket upwardly to an object and with downwardly opening means near the free edge of said upper member, and having a vertical member with a journal opening near one end and outwardly opening means near the opposite end of said vertical member, an eye bolt journaled in said journal opening, and a standard hav-

ing an opening near one end for admitting a supported object lengthwise of the standard, and having an offset ear near its opposite end, pivoted to said eye bolt.

5 3. In a bed table attachment, a table element, a bracket to be attached to a lower part of a bed, a member turning on said bracket on an axis substantially transverse to the bed, and a standard connected to

said table element and turning on said mem- 10  
ber on an axis at right angles to the aforementioned axis, said bracket having surfaces one of which is engaged by said standard for holding said standard upright alongside the bed and the other of which is engaged by 15  
said standard to hold said standard in a lowered position under the bed.

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