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BABY HOLDING AND WALKING DEVICE.

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Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

WITNESSES

M. S. Wirtz
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INVENTOR

Philip J. Ritter
By Edward F. Farrell
His Atty.
To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PHILIP T. RITTER, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Louis, in the State of Missouri, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Baby Holding and Walking Devices, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a device for enabling a baby to walk without the aid of a nurse, and has for its object to provide adjustable means for holding the child in an upright position while learning to walk by the use of the device and for holding the child in a sitting posture when not desired to walk. The invention consists in features of novelty, as hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, whereon—

Figure 1 is a top plan of my improved baby holding and walking device, omitting the removable seats and table-forming parts of my invention; Fig. 2, a vertical sectional elevation thereof on line 22 in Fig. 1; Fig. 3, a view corresponding to Fig. 1, broken away, showing another position of the adjustable holders seen therein; Fig. 4, a horizontal section through the framework of the device, broken away, showing one of the removable seats forming part of my invention applied thereto; Fig. 5, a top plan of the device, broken away, omitting the adjustable holders seen in Fig. 1 and showing a removable seat and table forming parts of my invention substituted therefor; Fig. 6, a top plan, to enlarged scale, of one of the adjustable holders fixed to the framework of the device as seen in Fig. 1; Fig. 7, a sectional side elevation thereof on line 77 in Fig. 6, and Fig. 8 an outer end view of the holder as seen from the left of Fig. 7.

Like letters and numerals of reference denote like parts in all the figures.

My improved baby holding and walking device comprises a suitable framework a, which is adapted to travel along a floor, and consists in the present case of a preferably circular top ring 1, of wood or other suitable material, supported at a suitable distance from the floor on legs 2, which are preferably curved (or inclined) outward beyond the top ring 1 and provided at the bottom with suitable casters 3.

Surrounding and fixed to the outsides of the legs 2 at a suitable distance from the top ring 1 is a guard-ring 4, which is concentric with and diametrically larger than the top ring 1, so that if on moving along the floor the framework a collides with a stationary object the top ring 1 is prevented from striking the object by the guard-ring 4.

Around the top ring 1, transversely thereto and at opposite parts thereof, respectively, is a clamp b, which is preferably made in two parts hinged at one side to each other and adapted to be closed together at the opposite side by a screw and nut 5, whereby the clamp b is firmly held to the top ring 1, the interior of the clamp b being circular, as shown.

Projecting downward from the clamp b beneath the ring 1 is a lug 6, through which is adapted to slide longitudinally a rod c, the outer part of the lug 6 at and beyond the opening for the rod c being split and its split portions closed by a screw and nut 8, whereby the rod c is firmly gripped or secured at any desired part of its length within the lug 6.

At one end of the rod c is formed (or fixed) a ball 7, which fits in a socket 8, made in halves and radially adjustable about the ball 7, the upper half of the socket 8 having a shank 9, which is formed at its outer end with lateral flanges 9', and the lower half of the socket 8 having a shank 10, corresponding to and bearing against the shank 9, to which it is fixed in the closed and adjusted position of the socket 8 on the ball 7 by a screw and nut 11.

The top ring 1 of the framework a is preferably circular in cross-section, flattened on its under side, and between this flat surface and the inside circular surface of each clamp b is placed a segmental liner or filler 12, having its arc formed with lateral flanges 12', which overlap the sides of the clamp b, whereby the latter when adjusted along the ring 1 is guided and the proper relative position of its parts maintained, or, if desired, the top ring 1 may be circular throughout in cross-section and the liner 12 dispensed with.

On the shank 9 and flanges 9' of the upper half of each socket 8 is fixed a block or crutch-piece d, having its outer face and top, respectively, concave, the two opposite blocks d being adapted to partially surround and to support the body at and beneath the arm-pits of a child placed in an upright standing position on the floor between the blocks d and within the framework a, whereby the child is upheld or supported without strain.
on the feet and legs, when on taking hold of the ring 1 in front and pushing the device along the floor the child is enabled to walk with ease and safety.

5   By the adjustable features of the ball-and-
    socket joints between the blocks d and rods e, 
    combined with the slidability of the latter 
    through the clamps b, it is evident that the 
    blocks d (assuming them to be initially in the 
    position seen in Figs. 1 and 2) can be moved 
    closer together or farther apart and higher or 
    lower, according to the size of the child, and 
    that also by the adjustability of the clamps b 
    around the top ring 1 of the framework a 
    they can be moved into any desired position 
    along the same—as, for instance, to that 
    shown in Fig. 3, where the clamps b are 
    brought nearer to the front or that part of 
    the ring 1 held by the child in propelling the 
    device—and the blocks d correspondingly ad-
    justed to enable a smaller child to be sup-
    ported than would be the case with the parts 
    located as in Fig. 1.

   Around the blocks d and the child, when in 
    place between them, may be passed a strap 
    13 to prevent the child wriggling therefrom 
    and falling, or the strap 13 may be dispensed 
    with.

   When not used for supporting and aiding 
    the child to walk, the clamps b, rods e, and 
    blocks d are removed from the framework a 
    and a seat e, Fig. 4, substituted for enabling 
    the child to be placed in a sitting posture 
    within the framework a. The seat e consists 
    of a circular, preferably metal, ring 14, hav-
    ing a web or filling of canvas or other suit-
    able material suitably shaped at one side to 
    form an opening 15' therethrough for the legs 
    of the child and having a central opening 16 
    for sanitary purposes, the ring 14 being 
    placed over and held by hooks 17, which are 
    fixed to the inside of the legs 2 of the frame-
    work a and pass through eyelets 18 in the 
    seat e, or in lieu of the seat e a seat e', Fig. 
    5, may be used, in which the central opening 
    16 is omitted and a table f, preferably com-
    bined with the seat e', the table f being re-
    movably held to the top ring 1 by hooks 19 
    or in any other suitable manner.

   By my invention a child is taught to walk 
    automatically and naturally or held in a sit-
    ting posture within the protecting frame-
    work of the device without the constant and 
    laborious surveillance of the parent or nurse.

   What I claim as my invention, and desire 
    to secure by Letters Patent, is—
    1. In a device of the character described, 
       the combination with a suitable framework 
       adapted to travel along a floor, of two oppo-
       site clamps removably fixed to, and adjust-
       able along the said framework, a rod remov-
       ably fixed to, and sidable longitudinally 
       through each of the said clamps, and a block 
       coupled to one end of the said rod and adjust-
       able radially thereto, the said blocks being 
       adapted to partially surround and to support 
       a child in a standing position on the floor be-
       tween the said blocks and within the said 
       framework, substantially as described.

   2. In a device of the character described, 
       the combination with a suitable framework 
       adapted to travel along a floor, of two oppo-
       site clamps removably fixed to, and adjust-
       able along the said framework, and having 
       respectively a lug, a rod removably fixed in, 
       and sidable longitudinally through the said 
       lug, a ball on one end of the rod, a socket en-
       gaged by the said ball and radially adjustable 
       thereto, means for fixing the socket in its ad-
       justed positions respectively, to the said ball, 
       a shank on the socket, and a block fixed to 
       the shank, the said blocks being adapted to 
       partially surround and to support a child in a 
       standing position on the floor between the 
       said blocks and within the said framework, 
       substantially as described.

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Witnesses:

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