Dec. 16, 1941. F. B. KRATKY 2,266,370

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Fig. 1.

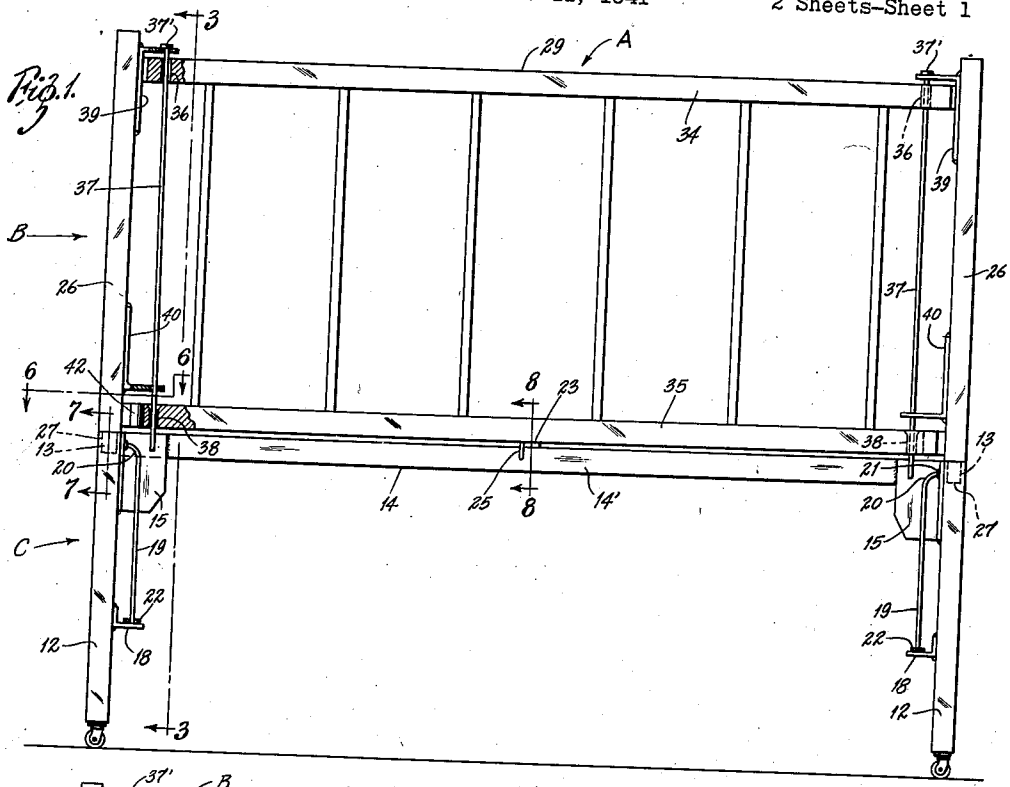


Fig. 2.

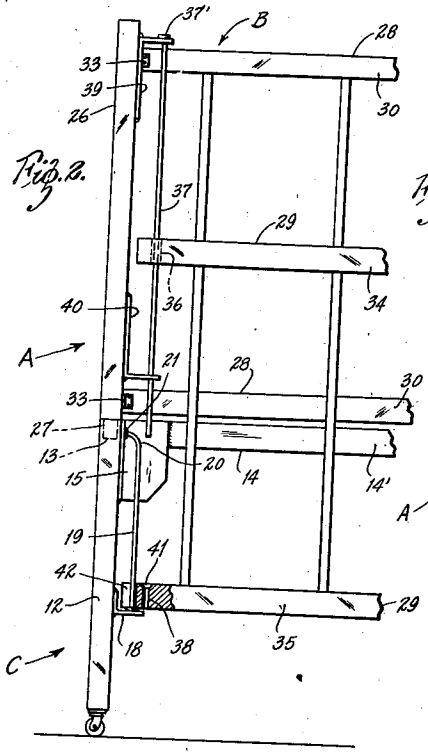
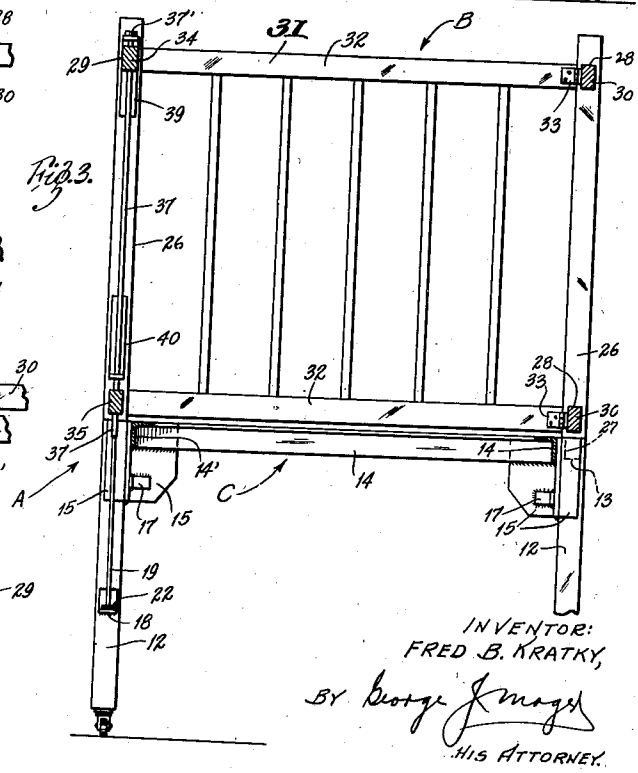


Fig. 3.



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Fig. 4.

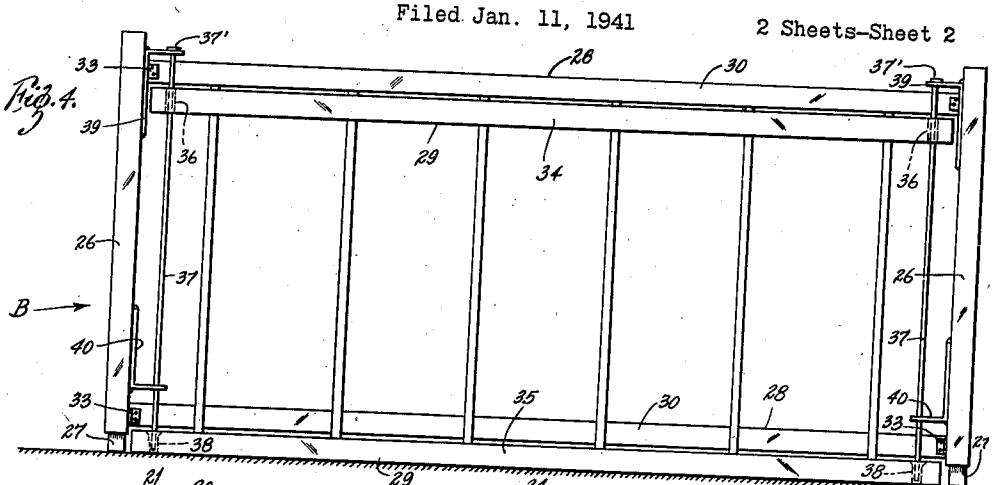


Fig. 5.

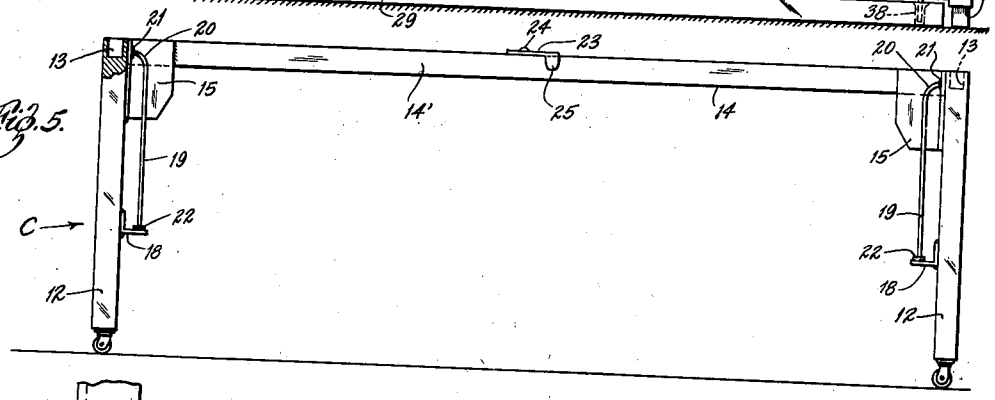


Fig. 6.

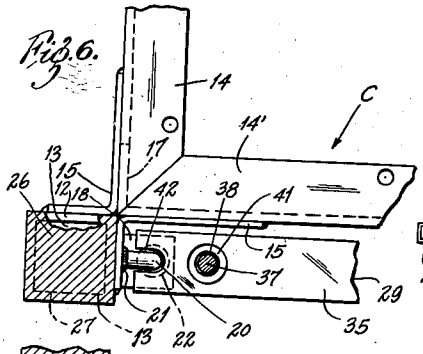


Fig. 9.

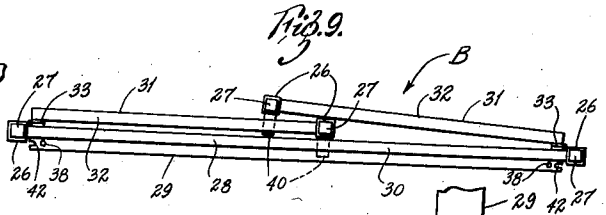


Fig. 8.

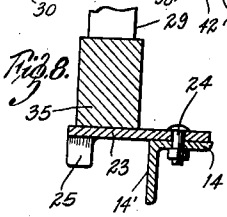


Fig. 7.

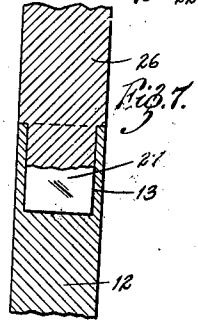


Fig. 10.

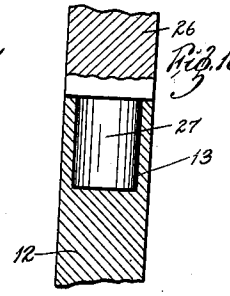
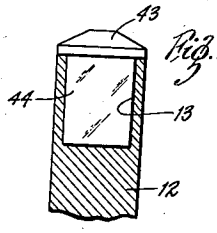


Fig. 11.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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Fred B. Kratky, Lemay, Mo.

Application January 11, 1941, Serial No. 374,041

4 Claims. (Cl. 5—100)

This invention relates generally to improvements in cribs, and particularly to improvements in cribs or baby beds equipped with the popular drop side feature.

Broadly considered, in addition to providing that feature by a novel arrangement, my invention provides other advantages not found in conventional structures.

According to my invention, the crib is made in two separable sections or assemblies, each of them serving an independent purpose, and when associated, serving still another purpose.

The principal feature of the invention therefore, is the arrangement which selectively provides a crib or bed for babies, a play pen or enclosure readily removable therefrom, and a remaining structure suitable, per se, as a bed for children of more mature age.

The invention also includes novel means for selectively maintaining the drop side in an elevated, or in a lowered position, and means whereby any tendency of the parts to bind during such manipulation is eliminated.

Other features and objects will be apparent or pointed out in the following description, and in the drawings, which form a part of this specification.

Similar reference characters designate similar parts throughout the various views of said drawings, in which—

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view of the crib, the drop side thereof being in elevated position;

Fig. 2 is a similar fragmentary view thereof, with the drop side lowered;

Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view taken on the line 3—3 in Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a front elevational view of the play pen section resting on a plane surface;

Fig. 5 is a similar view of the bed section;

Fig. 6 is an enlarged horizontal section taken on the line 6—6 in Fig. 1;

Figs. 7 and 8 are vertical sectional views taken on the lines 7—7 and 8—8 respectively, in Fig. 1;

Fig. 9 is an edge view of the play pen section in folded position, a pair of removable guide rods not being included;

Fig. 10 illustrates another of numerous plug and socket contours contemplated, the view being similar to Fig. 7;

Fig. 11 shows a removable cap or ornament which may be placed in the corner post sockets when the bed section is used independently of the play pen section.

The crib, generally indicated A, includes an upper section, or play pen assembly B, and a lower section, or bed assembly C. Conventional casters are provided for the four corner posts 12 of said lower section C. Formed in the upper end of each post 12, is a socket or recess 13, which may be square as shown particularly in Fig. 7, or round as shown in Fig. 10, or of other configuration.

A conventional angle iron frame 14, adapted to support the usual wire fabric spring, (not shown), has its four corners connected to the posts 12 by pairs of angle plates 15, each having one leg welded or otherwise secured to the frame 14, and another welded or otherwise secured to a post 12, as best shown in Fig. 6. By this arrangement, the frame and corner posts form a rigid framework or substructure, mobile as a unit. An angle strip 17 preferably is welded to the inner faces of adjacent plates 15, to further reinforce the corner constructions, which thus far described, are common to each of the four corner posts.

The two forward posts as viewed in Figs. 1, 2, and 5, that is the posts 12 adjacent the drop side, are further provided with means for guiding the drop side during the lowering thereof and for supporting it in its lowered position.

Permanently secured, as by welding or otherwise at a predetermined point on each of said forward posts, is an angular bracket member 18. Supported thereby, and secured thereto, is a cylindrical rod 19, extending vertically upwardly to a point near the top of section C, where it is rounded as at 20, and welded or otherwise secured to a plate 15, as indicated at 21. An annular element 22 of rubber or the like, may surround the rod and rest upon the horizontal component of bracket 18, for a purpose to be described.

Means to maintain the drop side in an elevated position when desired, are provided intermediate the front posts 12, including a supporting member or plate 23, pivotally mounted as at 24 on the front rail 14' of frame 14, adjacent the drop side. An integral depending finger-piece 25 facilitates manipulation of the plate 23 about its pivot. The operative position of the device is illustrated particularly in Figs. 1 and 8. In the inoperative position (Fig. 5), the plate is swung inwardly until the finger-piece 25 rests against the vertical portion of frame member 14'.

The upper section B includes four corner posts 26, of the same cross-sectional configuration as the posts 12. Depending from each and preferably integral therewith, is a reduced portion or plug 27, adapted to slidably fit a socket 13. Obviously, the exterior of the plug, and the interior of the socket correspond in shape.

The side 28 opposite the drop side 29, includes top and bottom rails 30, permanently fixed at their ends to the rear corner posts 26. The end members 31 each include top and bottom rails 32. Instead of being permanently mounted however, said ends have a hinged connection as indicated at 33 with the rigid rear side 28. By this arrangement, said side and ends may be folded, as illustrated in Fig. 9.

The drop side 29 includes a top rail 34 and a bottom rail 35. As shown in the drawings, a vertical aperture 36 is provided in the rail 34 near each end thereof, such aperture being of slightly larger diameter than that of a vertical guide rod 37, which passes therethrough and through an alined aperture 38, formed near each end of the rail 35.

The guide rods 37 have heads 37' whereby they are supported at their upper ends in brackets 39 secured to the forward corner posts 26. Other brackets 40, secured to said posts, serve to maintain the rods in a stable position. As shown particularly in Fig. 1, the brackets 39 and 40 have openings in their horizontal components in alinement with apertures 36 and 38. To facilitate entry of the lower extremity of the guide rods 37 into the apertures 38, when raising the drop side, said apertures are enlarged at their upper ends, as indicated at 41, (Fig. 2).

The guide rods 37 are readily removable when it is desired to fold the pen as in Fig. 9. If desired, a few threads may be formed on each rod immediately below the head 37', to engage internal threads in the holes of each bracket 39, obviating withdrawal of the rod by a child while the crib is in use.

For cooperation with the guide rods 19 of the lower section C, the bottom rail 35 of the drop side has a more or less semicircular groove 42 formed in each of its ends, as best shown in Fig. 1, 2, and 6.

The drawings illustrate, and the description thus far refers to a metal construction. Obviously many of the parts may be made of wood, in which event screws or similar fastening means would be employed instead of welding. Also, the plugs could be formed on the lower structure, with the sockets on the upper.

The features of the invention should now be apparent, but a brief resume of them follows.

With the upper section mounted on the lower, a sturdy, safe, mobile crib for babies is provided. In lowering the drop side, smooth operation is insured by the rounded portions 20 of the guide rods 19 entering into cooperation with the grooves 42, which embrace said rods before the apertures 38 of rail 35 leave the lower extremities of rods 37. By this arrangement, any tendency of the parts to bind is minimized. The bumper members 22 eliminate noise.

When section B is set up as a play pen, it is noted that the lower extremity of each rod 37 ends slightly above that of each plug extension 27, and that the drop side is therefore self-supporting.

As illustrated in Fig. 5, substructure C, per se, provides a suitable bed for a child beyond the play pen age. When so used, an ornamental cap or the like 43, provided with a plug portion 44 similar to plug 27, may be inserted in each socket 13, as shown in Fig. 11.

Obviously, various changes could be made in the construction without departing from the spirit of the invention, and I do not desire to be limited to the precise details shown and described.

I claim:

1. A crib assemblage including a lower or base structure and an upper or play pen structure removably supported thereon, the play pen structure including spaced corner posts, a pair of ends, and a pair of sides, one of the latter being a drop side having an upper and a lower rail, apertures in each of said rails adapted to engage separate guide means mounted on two of said corner posts adjacent the drop side, and the base structure including a frame and similarly spaced corner posts, two of the latter adjacent said drop side having separate means thereon adapted to be engaged by grooves formed in the extremities of the lower rail of the drop side to guide the same while being lowered or elevated, means also on said last-named two posts adapted to support the drop side in its lowered position, and means on the frame portion of the base structure adapted to support the drop side in its elevated position.

2. In a crib assemblage having a lower or base structure, and an upper or play pen structure removably mounted thereon, one side of said upper or play pen structure constituting a drop side construction including a vertically slidable framework having a top and a bottom rail in spaced relation, alined apertures formed in said rails near each end thereof, a vertical guide rod passing through each alined pair of apertures, means on the upper structure for supporting and maintaining said rods in position, and a vertical groove formed in each extremity of the bottom rail for cooperation with a second pair of vertical guide rods mounted on and supported by said lower structure.

3. A crib assembly having cooperatively a substructure and a superstructure, the substructure including four corner posts and side and end rails secured to the posts and adapted to support a bed bottom, the superstructure including four corner posts and a pair of side walls and a pair of ends hinged to one of said sides in such a manner as to form when extended a rectangular pen, with the four corner posts spaced correspondingly with the posts on the substructure, telescoping means on the upper ends of the posts of the substructure and on the lower ends of the superstructure, arranged and adapted whereby the superstructure as a whole may be attached to and detached from the substructure at will, a pair of vertical guide brackets mounted on two corner posts of the substructure, and a pair of vertical guide rods mounted on two corresponding corner posts of the superstructure, apertures formed in the upper and lower rails of one side wall of the superstructure for engaging said vertical guide rods, and grooves formed in the extremities of the lower rail of said side wall for engaging the guide brackets on the substructure.

4. A crib assembly having cooperatively a substructure and a superstructure, the substructure including four corner posts and side and end rails secured to the posts and adapted to support a bed bottom, the superstructure including four corner posts, a pair of sides and a pair of ends secured to the last named posts in such manner as to form a rectangular pen with the corner posts spaced correspondingly with the posts on the substructure, one of said sides being adapted for dropping, and having spaced top and bottom rails, telescoping means on the upper ends of the posts of the substructure and the

lower ends of the superstructure, arranged and adapted whereby the superstructure as a whole may be attached to and detached from the substructure, a pair of vertical guide rods supported by two posts on the superstructure and passing through holes near the ends of said spaced rails, and a pair of vertical guide brackets on two posts of the substructure engaging in grooves on the ends of said bottom rail when said drop side is lowered, the brackets being positioned to engage said grooves while the bottom rail is still engaging said rods.

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