Feb. 28, 1956 F. B. LEWIS, JR 2,736,131

TOY FOR BEDRIDDEN CHILDREN

Filed Nov. 12, 1954

FIG. 2

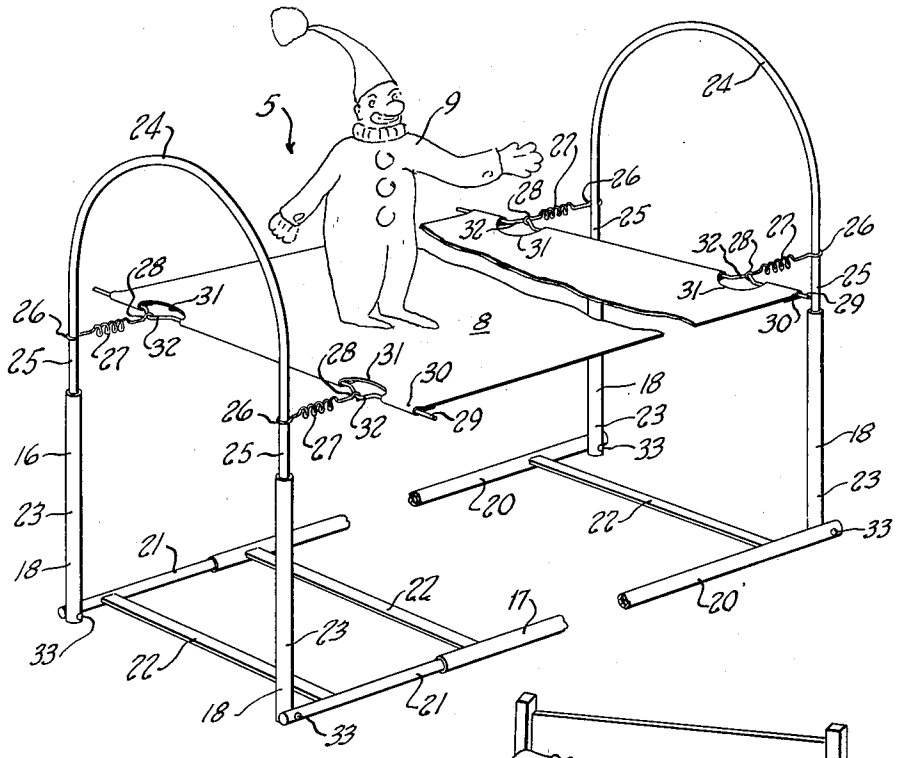
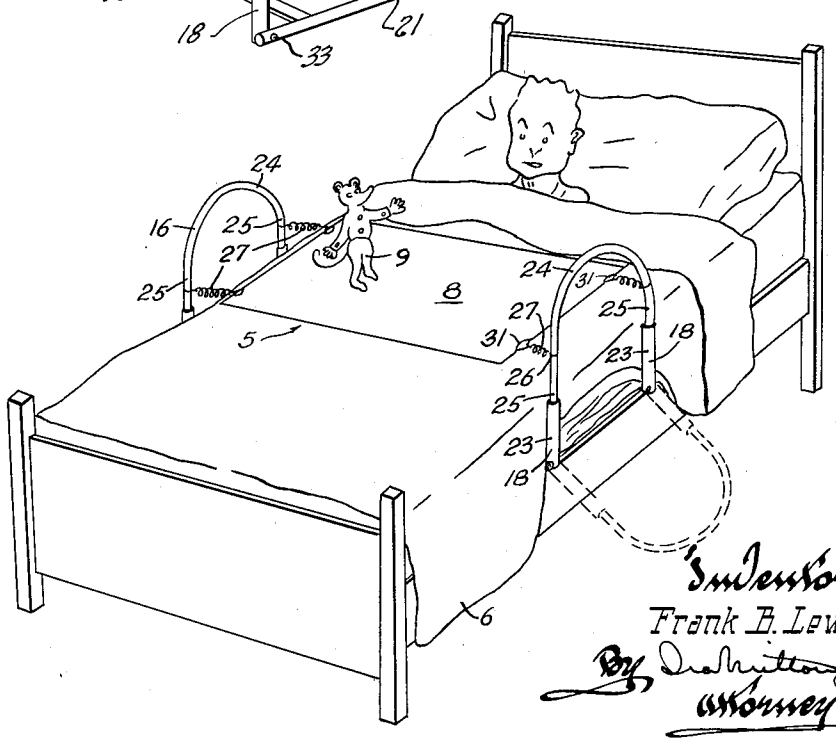


FIG. 1



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TOY FOR BEDRIDDEN CHILDREN

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3 Claims. (Cl. 46—32)

This invention relates to toys and refers more particularly to a toy which is especially adapted for entertaining a bedridden child.

It is well known that young children, when confined to bed by illness or injury, are difficult to entertain. Very young children are unable to read, and even those who have learned to read soon become tired of doing so. To prevent the child from becoming bored and fretful it is therefore often necessary for an adult to devote much valuable time to his entertainment.

With this in mind, it is an object of this invention to provide a toy for young children comprising one or more three dimensional figures which can be made to move in a lifelike manner without use of the hands, and which toy is therefore especially well suited for the entertainment of bedridden children.

Another object of this invention resides in the provision of a toy for bedridden children which is adapted for convenient installation on a bed and which, because it comprises realistically movable figures, is able to hold a child's attention and to entertain him for long periods of time.

With the above and other objects in view, which will appear as the description proceeds, this invention resides in the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts substantially as hereinafter described and more particularly defined by the appended claims, it being understood that such changes in the precise embodiment of the herein disclosed invention may be made as come within the scope of the claims.

The accompanying drawings illustrate a complete example of the physical embodiment of the invention constructed according to the best mode so far devised for the practical application of the principles thereof, and in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a toy embodying the principles of this invention shown installed on a bed for the amusement of an occupant of the bed; and

Figure 2 is a perspective view of a toy per se of the type shown in Figure 1.

Referring now to the accompanying drawings, in which like numerals designate like parts throughout the several views, the numeral **5** designates generally the toy of this invention, which is intended to be installed on a bed **6** occupied by a child in such a manner as to enable the child to view the toy from a supine position.

The toy comprises a sheet **8** of supple material such as closely woven fabric or pliable plastic, to which is secured a three dimensional figure **9**. The supple sheet **8** is intended to be supported in such a manner as to be held substantially horizontal but with different parts of the sheet flatwise movable relative to the remainder thereof.

Preferably, the figure is made so that a portion of it is movable with respect to the remainder thereof, so that portions of the figure will flex and move realistically in consequence of motion of the supple sheet on which it is mounted. Obviously a group of figurines could be mounted on the sheet and the several figurines would be set in motion relative to one another as the supple sheet is moved.

The supple sheet **8** is suspended from a frame **16** adapted to be installed on a bed and the frame comprises an elongated base **17** having a pair of upright standards **18** at each end thereof from which standards the sheet **8** is supported.

The base comprises two pairs of telescoping tubular base members **20** and **21** held spaced apart and parallel to one another by crosspieces **22** connecting each pair of tubular base members. The base is thus adapted to fit beneath the mattress on a bed, crosswise thereof, and, by reason of the telescoping relationship of the tubular base members, is lengthwise adjustable to suit the width of the bed with which it is used.

The standards at each end of the frame comprise a pair of tubular standard members **23**, one secured to each of the telescoping base members, and a U-shaped member **24**, the legs **25** of which telescope down into the tubular standard members **23**. To each of the legs of the U-shaped member is attached a securement means **26** by which the sheet **8** is supported from the frame, and because the legs of the U-shaped member are telescopingly adjustable up and down in the tubular standard members, the height of the sheet **8** above the bed is readily adjustable. Each of the securement means **26** may comprise a coiled tension spring **27** secured at one end to a leg of a U-shaped standard member and having a hook **28** at its other end.

So that the hooks **28** will exert an even, uniform tension on the sheet **8**, the two hooks on the standards at each end of the frame are engageable with rods **29** which extend across the sheet in casings **30** at each end of the sheet. Apertures **31** in each casing permit the hooks to engage the rod therein, and each rod is angularly bent, as at **32**, at the points where the hooks engage it to prevent endwise displacement of the rods and thus preclude lateral displacement of the sheet. If desired, the springs **27** may be employed at only one end of the frame, the hooks **28** which support the other end of the sheet being attached directly to the standards; or the springs may be omitted entirely, although their presence insures that the sheet will move in response to the slightest force.

The standards **18** are preferably hingedly connected to the base, as by means of rivets **33** which provide pivotal connections between the outer ends of the telescoping tubular base members and the lower end portions of the tubular standard members. Thus pivoted, the standards may be swung outwardly and downwardly from their upright operative positions to the position shown by broken lines in Figure 1 to facilitate making the bed without the necessity for removing the frame.

With this construction, it will be noted that the tension springs **27** thus cooperate with the sheet **8** to hold the standards in their upright operative positions defined by their engagement with the opposite sides of the mattress on the bed.

The inventon is especially suitable where a child is to be confined to a bed for an extended period of time, since the sheet **8** may be very quickly secured to and detached from the frame and the standards of the frame may be quickly swung down out of the way when access must be had to the bed or patient. The invention has the further advantage that it may be set on a table or on the floor, where a child can actuate it by manually moving the sheet, it being understood that when so used, suitable stops are provided to prevent the springs **27** from swinging the standards toward one another beyond substantially vertical positions. When placed on a bed, the standards are adjusted so that the supple sheet **8**

is directly above the child's knees or hips, so that the toy will be actuated by every movement of his body.

Since no manual manipulation of the toy is necessary, the toy of this invention is especially suitable for handicapped children, encouraging them to make such body motions as they are capable of, so that the toy has a definite therapeutic value.

From the foregoing description, taken together with the accompanying drawings, it will be apparent that this invention provides a toy which is especially suitable for bedridden children, including those who are physically handicapped, which toy will provide hours of entertainment for such children by virtue of its animation and motion but nevertheless need not be manually manipulated by the child.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. A toy comprising: a frame having an elongated base adapted to fit beneath a mattress on a bed and to extend thereacross, and upright standards at the ends of the base adapted to project above the bedclothes on a bed on which the frame is installed, at opposite sides of the bed; a sheet of supple material; cooperating fastening means on said standards of the frame and said sheet of supple material for securing said sheet to the frame with the sheet supported in a substantially horizontal position between said standards and spaced above the base of the frame a substantial distance so as to be supported above the bedclothes on a bed on which the frame is installed, said fastening means holding the sheet in a manner to permit different parts thereof to be moved with respect to said standards; and a three dimensional figure secured to said sheet and projecting up from the upper surface thereof, a portion of said figure being movable with respect to the remainder thereof so that movement of said sheet with respect to the standards creates the effect of animation of said figure by causing motion of said part thereof.

2. The toy set forth in claim 1 wherein said fastening means comprise resilient tensioning elements for yieldingly holding the sheet in a substantially taut condition.

3. A toy comprising: a sheet of supple material; a three dimensional figure secured to said sheet and projecting up from the upper surface thereof so that flatwise motion of different parts of the sheet causes the figure to assume different attitudes to thus create the effect of animation of the figure; and means for supporting the sheet in a substantially horizontal position and in a manner permitting different parts of the sheet to be flatwise movable with respect to the remainder thereof, said means comprising a supporting member attachable to a part of a bed with portions thereof adjacent to each side of the bed, a standard pivotally mounted on each of said portions of the supporting member for swinging movement to and from an upright operative position in which the standard projects above the top of the bed clothes, and detachable connections between the sheet and the standards whereby the sheet holds the standards in upright position but allows the standards to be swung down when the sheet is disconnected therefrom.

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