March 19, 1957 S. F. WELSH 2,785,731

SAFETY FOOT WALKER

Filed May 18, 1954

Fig. 1.

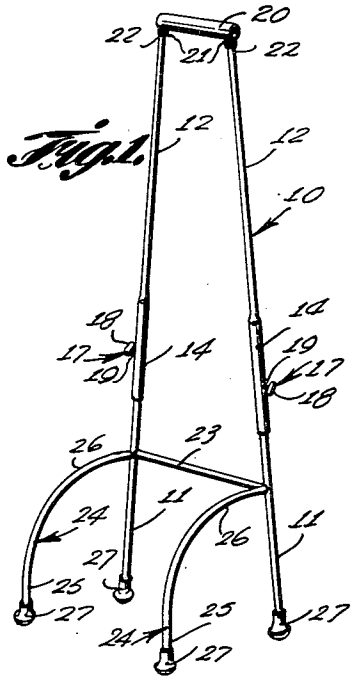


Fig. 5.

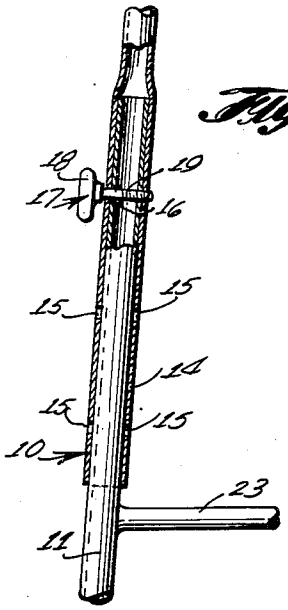


Fig. 2.

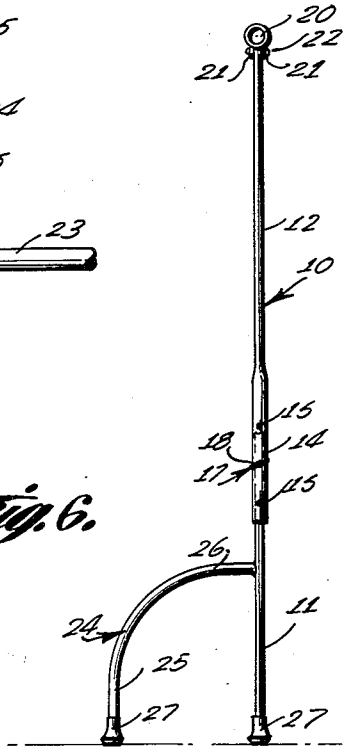


Fig. 3.

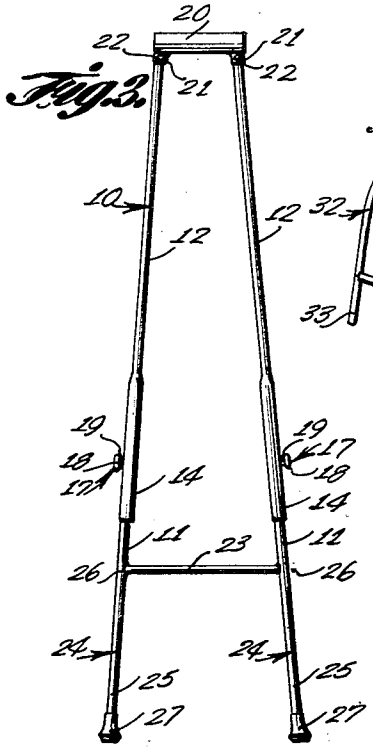


Fig. 6.

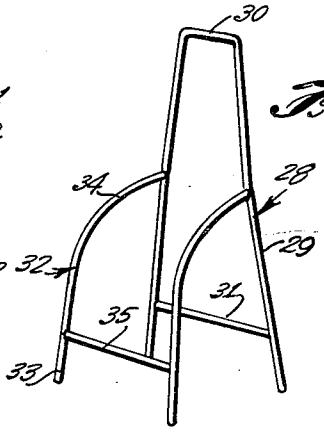
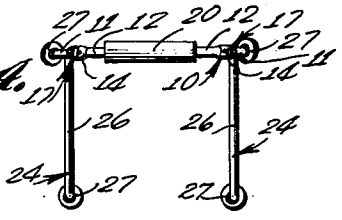


Fig. 4.



INVENTOR.

Sharp F. Welsh

BY Victor J. Evans & Co.

ATTORNEYS

United States Patent Office 2,785,731 Patented Mar. 19, 1957

2,785,731

SAFETY FOOT WALKER

Sharp F. Welsh, Okmulgee, Okla.

Application May 18, 1954, Serial No. 430,594

1 Claim. (Cl. 155—22)

This invention relates to a support, and more particularly to a support for helping or aiding a human being to walk.

The object of the invention is to provide a support member especially for use by persons who have been injured or crippled whereby the support member of the present invention will facilitate or permit such persons to move about more easily.

Another object of the invention is to provide a support member that can be made of lightweight material and wherein in one form of the invention the elevation or height of the support member can be adjusted to adapt the device to persons of various height or size, the support member including a four point lower end whereby a sturdy support is provided.

A further object of the invention is to provide a support member that is extremely simple and inexpensive to manufacture.

Other objects and advantages will be apparent during the course of the following description.

In the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this application, and in which like numerals are used to designate like parts throughout the same:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the support member, constructed according to the present invention.

Figure 2 is a side elevational view of the support member.

Figure 3 is a front elevational view of the support member.

Figure 4 is a top plan view of the support member.

Figure 5 is a fragmentary sectional view illustrating certain constructional details of the device.

Figure 6 is a perspective view of a modified support member.

Referring in detail to the drawings, the numeral **10** designates one of the support members which can be made of any suitable material such as lightweight metal tubing. The support member **10** includes a pair of posts **11** that are arranged angularly with respect to each other, and there is further provided a standard **12** for coaction with each of the posts **11**. Each of the standards **12** is provided with an enlarged hollow socket **14** on its lower end which slidably engages the upper end of the post **11**. A means is provided for maintaining the standards **12** immobile in their adjusted positions on the posts **11**, and this means comprises a plurality of apertures or openings **15** which are arranged in the socket **14**. The apertures **15** are mounted for movement into and out of registry with a pair of diametrically opposed apertures or openings **16** in the upper end of each post **11**. A suitable securing element **17** which may be a bolt extends through the registering apertures **15** and **16**, and the bolt **17** includes a finger engaging portion **18** and a shank **19** that is threaded for engagement with the threaded apertures **15** or **16**.

There is further provided a handle or handgrip **20** which extends between the upper ends of the standards **12**, and the handle **20** is provided on its undersurface

with a plurality of apertured ears **21** which are arranged in pairs. Pins such as those indicated by the numeral **22** in Figure 3, extend through the ears **21** and through the upper ends of the standards **12** for connecting the handle **20** to the standards.

Extending between the pair of posts **11** and secured thereto in any suitable manner is a horizontally disposed brace **23**. There is further provided a pair of similar legs **24**, and each of the legs **24** includes a lower straight portion **25** and an upper curved portion **26**, the upper curved portions **26** being secured to the posts **11** in any suitable manner, as for example by welding. A resilient cup **27** is mounted on the lower end of each of the legs **24** and on the end of each of the posts **11**, and the resilient cups **27** provide a cushion for the support member as well as adding stability since they prevent the device from slipping around accidentally.

Referring to Figure 6 of the drawings there is shown a modified support member which is indicated generally by the numeral **28**, and the support member **28** is not adjustable. The support member **28** includes a pair of posts **29** which are arranged angularly with respect to each other, and a handgrip or handle **30** is mounted on the upper ends of the posts **29**. A brace **31** extends between the posts **29** and is secured thereto, and there is further provided a pair of legs **32**. Each of the legs **32** includes a lower straight portion **33** and an upper curved portion **34** which is secured to the post **29**. A horizontally disposed brace **35** extends between the straight portions **33** of the legs **32**.

From the foregoing it is apparent that there has been provided a support member which is especially suitable or useful for persons who require an aid to walk about or move about. Thus, many persons are afflicted with crippling injuries or diseases such as polio, whereby the loss of one or both limbs results and with the support member of the present invention a person can grip the handle **20** or the handle **30** so as to be provided with a firm support. The standards **12** can be adjusted on the posts **11** whereby the support member **10** can be used comfortably and efficiently, and the pair of legs **24** cooperate with the lower ends of the posts **11** to provide a sturdy support. Also, the device is light in weight so that is can be readily moved about as the person moves along whereby the device of the present invention will function in a manner similar to a crutch or cane.

The support member **28** shown in Figure 6 can be used in the same manner as the previously described support member **10**, except that the support member **28** is not adjustable as to height.

The device of the present invention will enable a person such as a person who has been injured or crippled, to walk safely. Thus, in the event a person suffers a stroke which leaves him or her without the use of his or her legs, the support member of the present invention will permit the person to take beneficial exercises since these support members will permit the person to walk safely. The rubber cups or caps **27** provide a cushioning effect and also increase the safety with which the device can be used. The support members **10** or **28** can be used in pairs and the four point support provides a stable and safe support for persons with leg, hip or back infirmities in their walking exercises, and the devices can be used singly or in pairs.

What is claimed is:

In a support member, a pair of posts arranged in angular relationship with respect to each other whereby the upper ends of said posts are closer together than the lower ends thereof, said pair of posts being of the same size, a standard having an enlarged socket at its lower end for telescopically receiving the upper end of said post, there being a plurality of spaced apart registering apertures in

said socket and post, a securing element extending through said registering apertures and including an enlarged finger engaging portion on an end thereof, a horizontally disposed handle extending between the upper ends of said standards and secured thereto, a plurality of apertured ears depending from said handle and arranged in pairs, securing elements connecting the upper ends of said standards to said ears, a pair of legs each having lower straight portions arranged in spaced apart relation with respect to said posts, said pair of legs being of the same size, the upper portions of said legs being curved and being secured to said posts, and a horizontally disposed brace extending between said posts and secured thereto, said brace being positioned below said sockets, said brace

lying in the same plane as the tops of said legs, said brace being longer than said handle, the lower ends of said legs lying in the same plane as the bottom of said post, and resilient cups mounted on the lower end of said legs and posts.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

2,518,763	DuBois	Aug. 15, 1950
2,626,652	Steigler	Jan. 27, 1953

FOREIGN PATENTS

432,432	Italy	Mar. 20, 1948