W. W. LUMMUS.

HEADBOARDS FOR BEDSTEADS.

No. 195,296. Patented Sept. 18, 1877.

Fig 1.

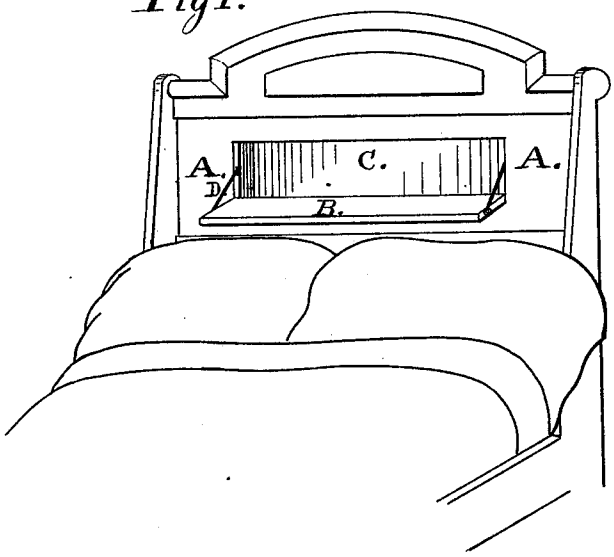


Fig 2.

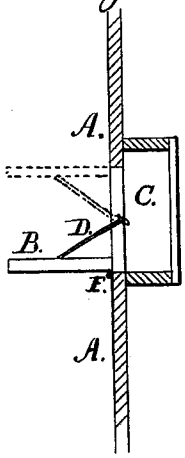


Fig 3.

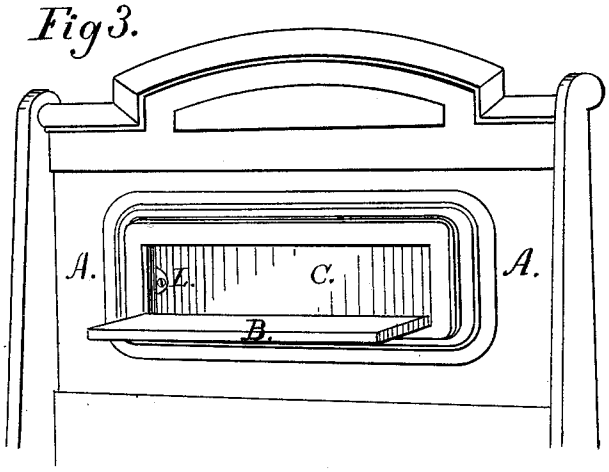
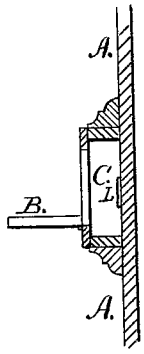


Fig 4.



Witnesses;

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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IMPROVEMENT IN HEAD-BOARDS FOR BEDSTEADS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **195,296**, dated September 18, 1877; application filed May 24, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM W. LUMMUS, of the city of Lynn, county of Essex, and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Head-Boards of Beds, which improvement is fully set forth in the following specification and accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the head-board of a bed arranged with said improvement in one form. Fig. 2 is a vertical section of the same. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a head-board arranged with said improvement in a manner different from that of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a vertical section of Fig. 3.

The object of my invention is to furnish a convenience for invalids and others by constructing in or attaching to the head-boards of beds a small shallow closet, with a let-down front, which front, when so let down, opens the closet and forms a shelf at the head of the bed, and at a convenient height for the patient or occupant of the bed to reach.

This invention is found to be practically very useful in furnishing a convenient receptacle for medicines, bandages, napkins, nursing-bottles, &c., and is especially useful for hospitals and asylums, and for mothers with nursing babes. The shelf is also useful as providing a lamp and book shelf where often most desired.

In the practical application of my invention to the manufacture of bedsteads, I design the head-board with such arrangement of paneling that one of the panels may be of proper shape and height to constitute the aforesaid let-down shelf, being hung with hinges or dowels at the lower edge, as shown at F, Fig. 2, on the drawings. I sometimes construct this panel so that its hinges and catch are concealed from view, in order that when not required for use it may have the appearance of an ordinary panel.

In some cases, where space will not admit the closet at the back of the head-board, I omit the closet and apply the let-down shelf or panel alone to the head-board, either disguised as a common panel or simply hinged upon the head-board.

I make the closet in the form of a shallow tray or case, and apply it to the back of the head-board, as shown at C, Figs. 1 and 2. The shelf or panel B, when let down, is suspended in a horizontal position by the wires or bands D D.

I also make, for application to beds already made, a similar combination of shelf and closet, (shown in Figs. 3 and 4,) in which the head-board forms the back of the closet, and the whole is attached to the front of the head-board by the metallic lugs L, or by any other convenient means.

I sometimes hinge the shelf upon its upper edge to open upward, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2, instead of downward, as above described, in which case it is supported, when in use, by adjustable brackets or braces, instead of being suspended by the metallic bands. In this form an advantage is sometimes gained by admitting the use of a broader shelf and the placing of the closet lower and within easier reach.

In my invention I claim no novelty in panel-shelves nor panel-closets, but believe the application of such conveniences to the head-boards of beds to be both new and very useful.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. The head-board A, having a recess, C, provided with a door, B, opening toward the bed, substantially as described.

2. The head-board A, provided with an adjustable board, B, arranged to open to form a shelf, or to fold against said head-board to present the appearance of a panel, substantially as shown.

3. The head-board A, provided with the centrally-located recess C and door B, adapted to be opened to form a shelf, supported by braces D, substantially as described.

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Witnesses:
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