Feb. 23, 1965 M. G. S. RYAN 3,170,665

EASY DRINKER DEVICE

Filed Feb. 1, 1963 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

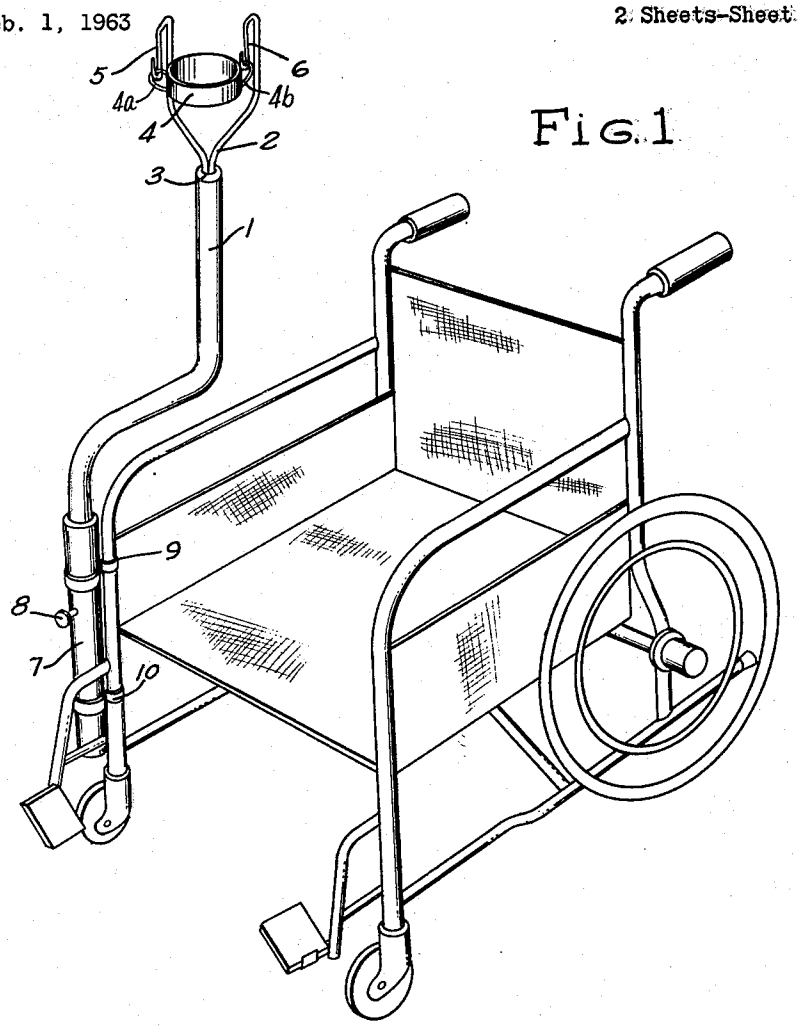


Fig. 1

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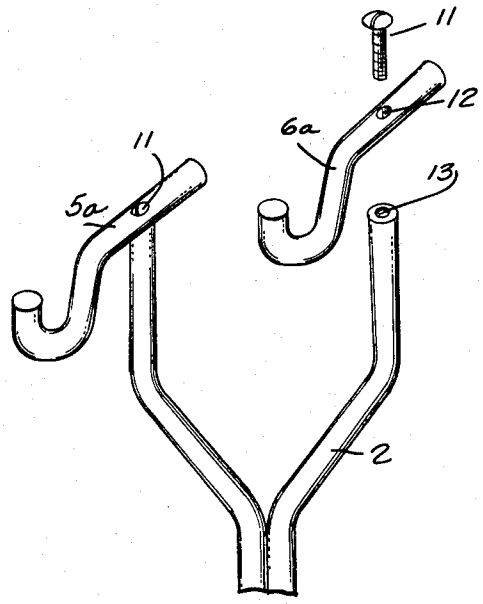


FIG. 3

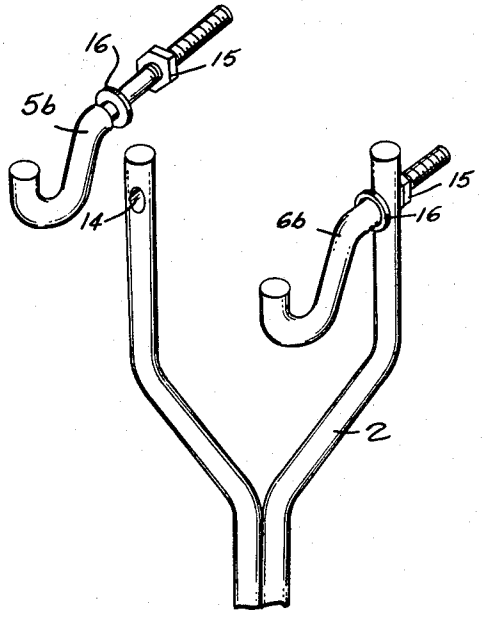


FIG. 2

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United States Patent Office

3,170,665
Patented Feb. 23, 1965

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3,170,665

EASY DRINKER DEVICE

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Filed Feb. 1, 1963, Ser. No. 256,222
1 Claim. (Cl. 248—311)
(Granted under Title 35, U.S. Code (1952), sec. 266)

The invention described herein may be manufactured and used by or for the Government for governmental purposes without the payment to me of any royalty thereon.

The invention relates generally to improvements in rehabilitation devices for incapacitated patients.

The invention relates more specifically to improvements in rehabilitation devices for patients being incapacitated as to use of their arms and hands for drinking from a receptacle.

Formerly, such patients depended upon the assistance of an attendant to give them a drink. This new device, after short use in most cases, enables the patient to be self sustaining as to drinking fluids, relieving the attendant for more urgent hospital duties, giving the patient greater confiidence in his ability to rehabilitate himself.

It is a primary object of this invention to provide a rehabilitation device for enabling patients with incapacitated arms and hands to drink fluids without the help of an attendant.

Further objects of the invention will become apparent as the description proceeds, and the features of novelty will be pointed out with particularity in the course of the following description and in the appending claims.

FIG. 1 discloses an embodiment of the invention assembled and secured to a wheel chair as shown;

FIG. 2 discloses a modification of joining the hook members to the Y-member of FIG. 1; and

FIG. 3 discloses another modification of joining the hook members to the Y-member of FIG. 1.

In the drawings like reference numerals designate like parts.

Referring to FIG. 1, the invention consists of an offset swivelled hollow rod support means **1**, a Y-shaped rod member **2** having a bearing means **3** or secured in fixed position to the upper end of member **1**. The Y-shaped member may be fabricated from stiff wire or tubular stock. The upper portion of Y-member **2** supports, by hooks **5** and **6**, a cup or container **4** having handles **4***a* and **4***b*. The lower end of member **1** is adjustably, rotatably and reciprocably received by socket member **7** which is secured by any suitable means such as clamp members **9** and **10** attached to a wheel chair as shown or a table, if desired. Adjustable screw means **8**, or other suitable means, permits member **1** to be properly adjusted for height and in radial position for use by a patient.

The easy drinker device may be used during a meal with an auxiliary food tray (not shown) or during other desired periods of the day to suit the needs of the patient.

In use a patient sits in the wheel chair or at a table and member **1** is swung into a desired position and adjusted for height by member **8** so that fluid container **4** is positioned before a patient's mouth such that the patient may obtain a drink without the use of his hands or assistance from an attendant. After a meal or other desired period the container **4** may be released by member **8** and positioned out of the way of the patient or, if desired, the device may be disassembled by loosening screw means **8** and

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removing completely members **1**, **2**, **3**, **4**, **5** and **6** from the wheel chair or table. One of the points of novelty of the device lies in the unique combined gravity action and reaction of the Y-member **2** in cooperation with hook members **5** and **6** holding container **4** so as to permit a patient to manipulate effectively and efficiently the tilting of floating supported container **4** with his mouth and lips to permit drinking by the patient without the help of an attendant.

Hooks **5***b* and **6***b* in FIG. 2 are each rigidly secured to Y-member **2** by passing the threaded portion through bore **14** up to washer **16**, which acts as a stop, and tightening the nut **15**.

FIG. 3 discloses another means of attaching hook members **5***a* and **6***a* to Y-member **2** by means of bolts **11** passing through bores **12** and being received in threaded portion **13**. Thus hook members **5***a* and **6***a* may be rigidly secured to Y-member **2** in a variety of positions in a horizontal plane relative to the axis of the prongs of the Y-member **2**.

It is to be understood, that this invention is not necessarily limited to the components and arrangements described, but that various modifications, changes and substitutions may be made therein without departing from the scope and intent of the invention as defined by the specification and claim appended hereto.

I claim:

A device for use to enable an incapacitated person to drink from a container without assistance comprising a tubular support member having a substantially horizontal intermediate offset portion and terminating in a vertical lower end and vertical upper end which provides means to position a container before a patient's mouth and freely swing the container away, a lower socket member having clamp members attached thereto and receiving the vertical lower end of said support member for rotation therein, a Y-shaped member received in said vertical upper end, and plural hook means for supporting a container connected to each upper portion of said Y-member, adjusting means coacting with said lower end of said tubular support member to position a container before a patient's mouth enabling him to drink unassisted.

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