May 2, 1944. W. D. REDMOND 2,347,711

STRETCHER FRAME FOR CURTAINS AND THE LIKE

Filed Sept. 29, 1942 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

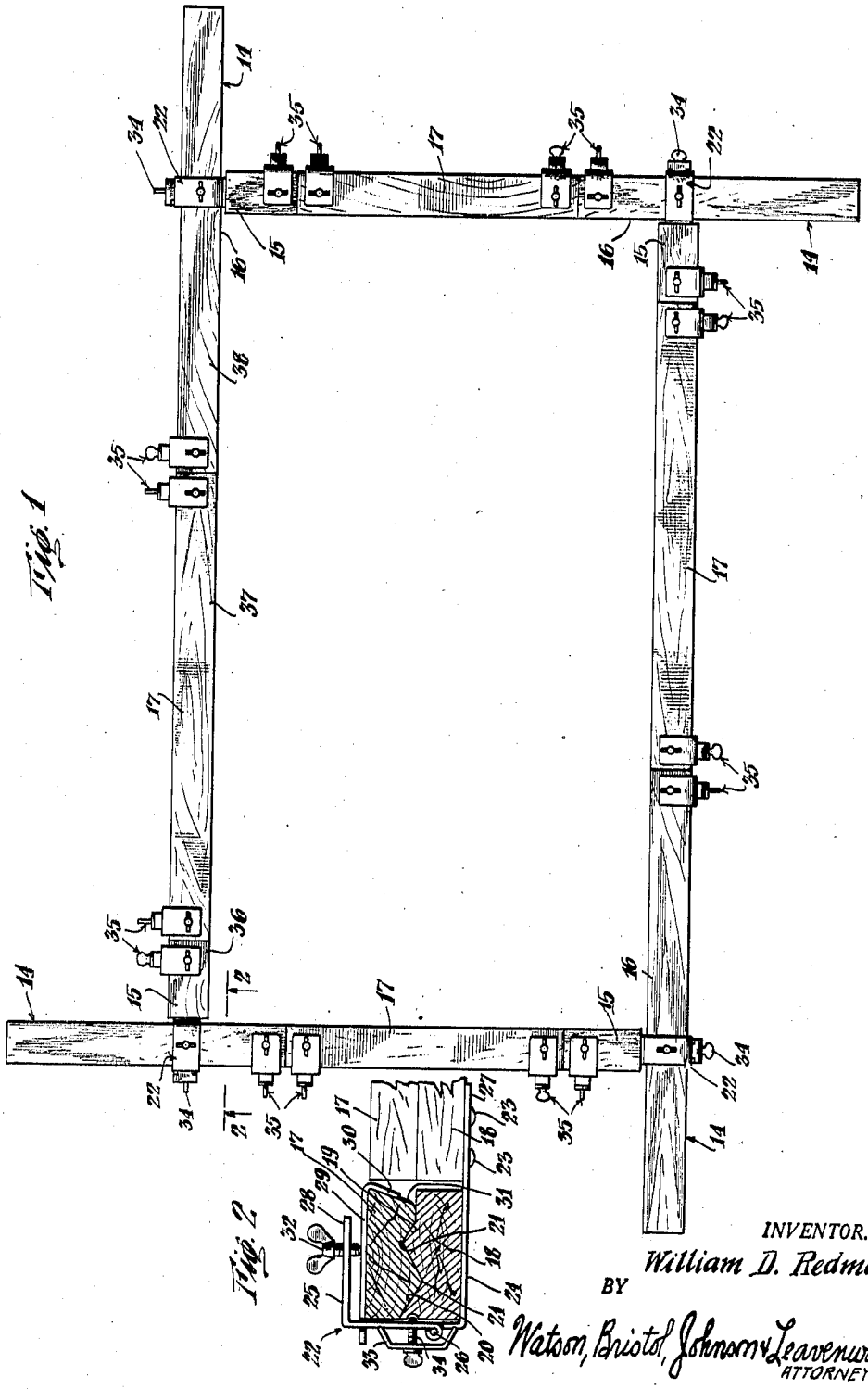

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

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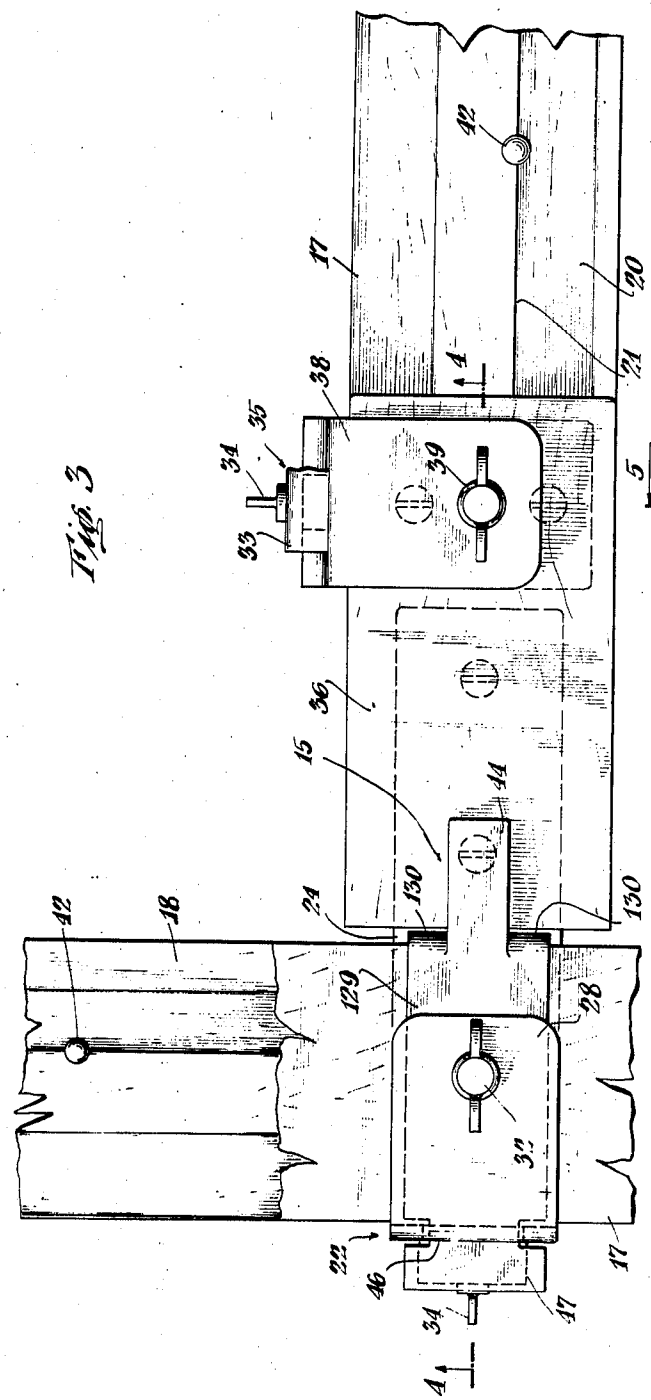

Fig. 3

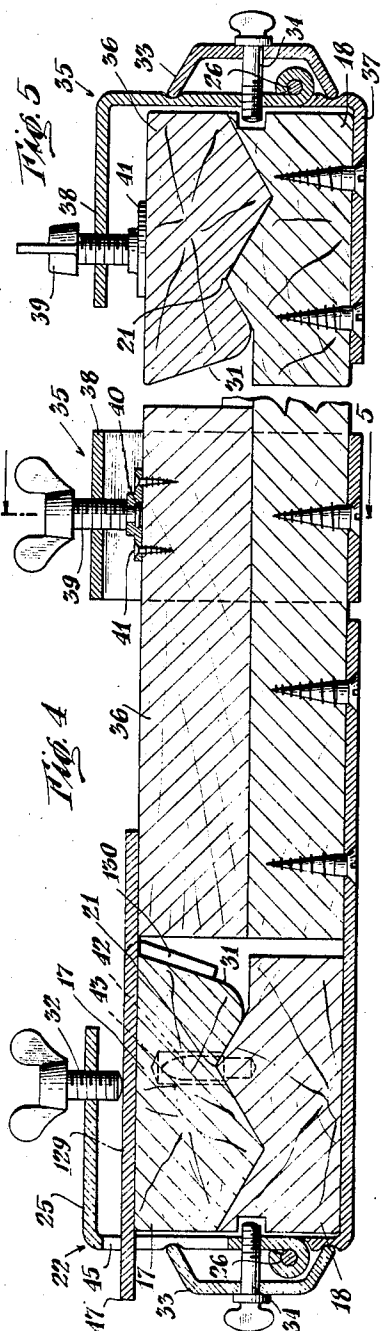

Fig. 5

Fig. 4

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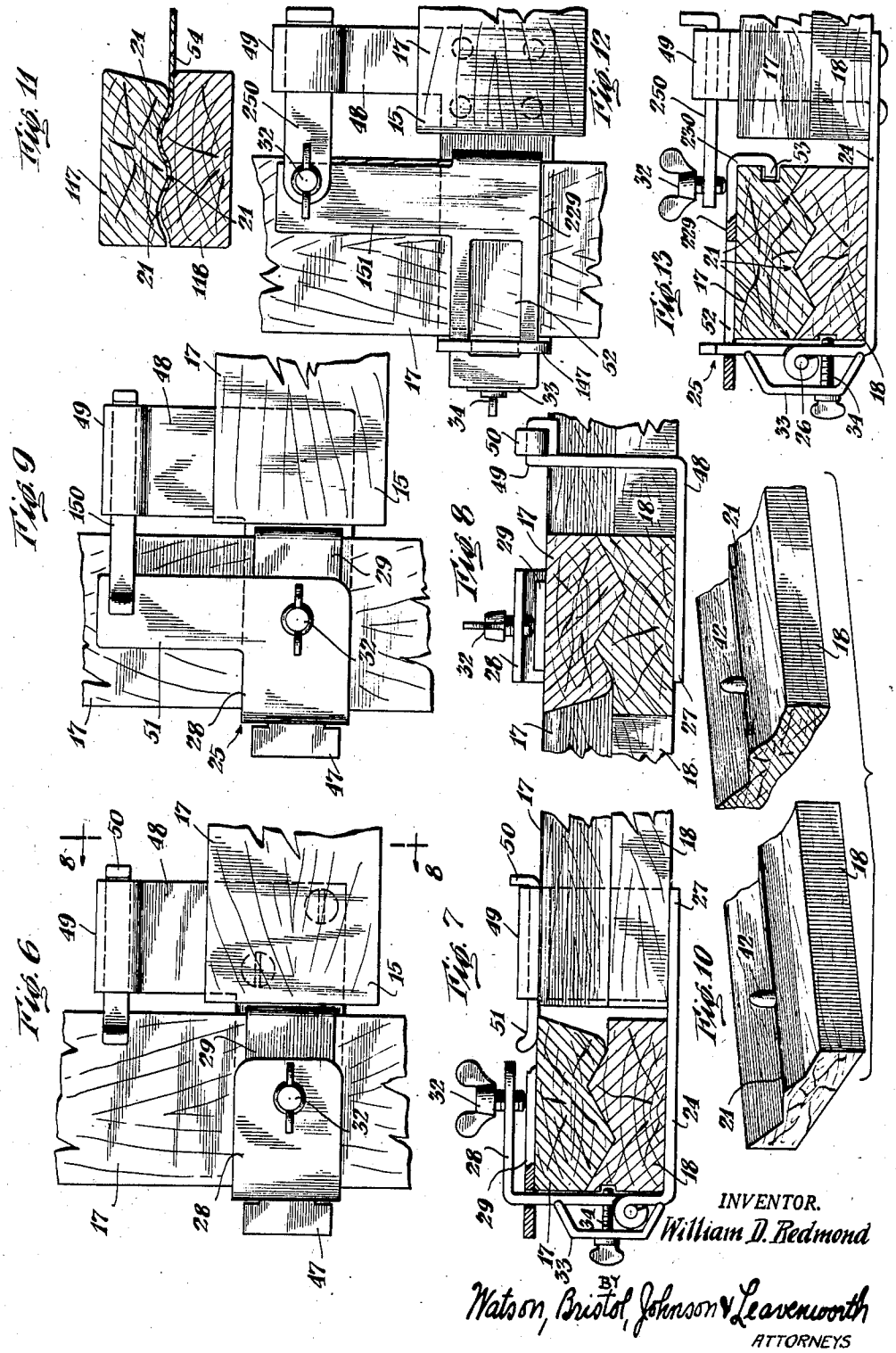

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STRETCHER FRAME FOR CURTAINS AND THE LIKE

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Application September 29, 1942, Serial No. 460,057

20 Claims. (Cl. 45—24.3)

The present invention relates to stretcher frames for curtains and the like and, more particularly, to such stretcher frames adapted for domestic employment.

A general object of the present invention is the provision of such stretcher frames which are simple in construction, readily and economically manufactured and which can be easily and efficiently manipulated and employed to stretch wet curtains and the like for drying without requiring tedious and often dangerous mounting of curtain edges on a multitude of metal pins.

A more specific object of the invention is the provision of such stretcher frames which have the side members formed of front and back clamping strips to clamp curtain edges therebetween and with the side members symmetrically arranged with respect to each other with each having one end opposed to the inside edge of the preceding side member for adjusting movement therealong whereby curtain material will be stretched substantially in a common flat plane which, for convenience, will hereinafter be referred to as "single plane stretching."

Another object of the invention is the provision in such a single plane stretcher of corner clamp members each carried by an opposed end of a frame side member and slidably receiving the preceding frame side member, front and back clamping strips of which are effectively and alternately hinged or swung and clamped together thereby.

A further object of the invention is the provision in such curtain stretchers of such corner clamp members so arranged as to cause a front strip slidably received with complementary back strip thereby to be hinged or swung with a top hinge section of the clamp member.

Still another object of the invention is the provision of simple and effective manipulative means whereby when such corner clamp members are to be operated to clamp together front and back strips of a frame side member hinging action is desirably prevented.

Still further objects of the invention are the provisions of other features in such stretcher frames making for efficient use thereof which comprise providing such front and back strips of frame side members with complementary faces preferably provided with longitudinally extending transversely spaced-apart ridges the surfaces of which are obliquely arranged whereby secure anchorage of curtain edges is had and tendency to form extremely sharp creases or folds therein may be avoided; corner clamp members of such construction as to be effectively utilizable in applying clamping action to a front strip of a succeeding frame side member as a front strip of the preceding frame side member is clamped into position thereby; holding means adapted at least temporarily to hold a curtain edge in desired position as it is manually stretched into location between clamping strips; sectioning of one or more front clamping strips of frame side members to permit easy progressive stretching and clamping of curtain edges; and others which will appear as the following description progresses.

Other objects of the invention will in part be obvious and will in part appear hereinafter.

The invention accordingly comprises the features of construction, combination of elements and arrangement of parts, which will be exemplified in the construction hereinafter set forth and the scope of the invention will be indicated in the claims.

For a fuller understanding of the nature and objects of the invention, reference should be had to the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of an embodiment of the stretcher frame for curtains and the like of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged detailed sectional view taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a top plan view with parts broken away of a corner construction of another embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 4 is an elevational sectional view taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a sectional view taken on line 5—5 of Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a top plan view with parts broken away of another modification of the corner construction of the present invention;

Fig. 7 is a side elevational view with parts in section and broken away of the structure shown in Fig. 6;

Fig. 8 is a sectional elevational view taken on line 8—8 of Fig. 6;

Fig. 9 is a view similar to Fig. 6 showing an additional modification of corner construction of the present invention;

Fig. 10 is an elevational perspective view with parts broken away of a back strip of a frame side member of an embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 11 is an elevational sectional view of a further modified form of front and back strips of a frame side member of the present invention show-

ing them in cooperative positions clamping the edge of a curtain or the like therebetween;

Fig. 12 is a view similar to Figs. 6 and 9 showing a still further modified form of corner structure; and

Fig. 13 is a view similar to Fig. 7 of the structure shown in Fig. 12.

Prior to the present invention curtain stretchers of the type adapted for domestic use have commonly been featured by wood frame side members in the faces of which rows of closely spaced sharp upstanding steel pins have been anchored. These have always been a hazard to the safety of the user and at the present time it is extremely difficult if not virtually impossible for curtain stretcher manufacturers to obtain such pins. Many of the marketed curtain stretchers have located frame side members in different planes causing curtain distortion when used, or attempted to avoid such distortions by highly inadequate constructions.

These and other difficulties of the prior art are efficiently eliminated or alleviated by the present invention which in its generic aspect comprises a plurality of side members arranged in symmetrical order with respect to each other and with each having one end opposed to the inside edge of the preceding member for adjusting movement thereabout whereby their faces substantially lie in common planes, each side member being formed of front and back clamping strips having complementary faces adapted for clamping curtain material therebetween, and clamp members hinging the front and back clamping strips together along their outside edges with each clamp member fastened to the opposing end of the back strip of the succeeding side member and having hinged sections between which the front and back clamping strips of the preceding side member are slidably received and by which the latter are hinged together. Other more specific meritorious features thereof will appear in the following description taken in connection with the drawings wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout.

In Fig. 1 is shown a top plan view of an embodiment of a stretcher frame for curtains and the like of the present invention. It comprises four side members 14—14 formed of suitable material, preferably shaped from wood, but these may be molded from suitable molding material if desired. These members 14—14 are arranged in symmetrical order with respect to each other and with each having one end 15 opposed to the inside edge 16 of the preceding member as the stretcher frame is viewed progressively in a clockwise direction. Each side member 14 is formed of a front strip 17 and a back strip 18 which have respectively complementary faces 19 and 20 preferably provided with longitudinally extending transversely spaced-apart ridges 21—21, the surfaces of which are obliquely arranged whereby secure anchorage of curtain edges may be had and tendency to form extremely sharp creases or folds in the latter may be avoided.

At the opposing end 15 of each side frame member 14 a clamp member 22 is located and securely fastened to the back clamping strip 18 of the opposed end 15 by rivets 23—23, screws or the like. Each clamp member 22 is adapted slidably to receive the preceding frame side member and front and back clamping strips 17 and 18 thereof for adjusting movement of the opposing end 15 of the succeeding frame side member 14 along the inside edge of the preceding side member and so that front and back faces of all of the frame side members substantially lie in common planes for single plane stretching of curtains and the like.

As shown in Fig. 2 each corner clamp member 22, the elements of which may be formed of any suitable relatively rigid material, preferably metal, comprises a bottom hinge section 24 and a top hinge section 25 hinged together at a hinge point 26. The bottom hinge section 24 extends down from the hinge point 26 along the outside edge of the slidably received back strip 18 and then substantially at right angle thereto across beneath that back strip and is elongated at 27 to extend beneath the opposed end of the back strip 18 of the succeeding side member and fastened thereto such as by rivets 23—23. The top hinge section 25 in accordance with the embodiment shown in Figs. 1 and 2 may comprise a hinge plate which extends upwardly from the hinge point 26 along the outside edge of the slidably received front strip 17 to a point spaced appreciably above the front face of the latter and is then turned substantially at right angles to provide a portion 28 extending over at least a portion of the top or front face of the clamping strip 17. To this portion 28 of the top hinge section 25 is mounted a suitable clamping member or plate 29 which as shown in more detail in subsequent figures may be accomplished by receiving a reduced neck portion thereof in a vertical slot in the first described portion of the top hinge section 25.

The clamping plate 29 of the top hinge section 25 has the edge portion 30 thereof which is located farthest from the hinge point 26 turned downwardly and inwardly to provide an engaging lip adapted slidably to engage with an obliquely arranged inside face 31 on the front clamping strip 17 and to cause the latter to be swung therewith as the top hinge section 25 is hinged outwardly about the hinge point 26 for reception of a curtain edge between the front and back clamping strips 17 and 18. A clamping screw 32 is threadably mounted through the portion 28 of the hinge section 25 with the end thereof adapted to bear against the top of the clamping plate 29 so as to apply force thereto.

In order to clamp the edge of a curtain or the like between the front and back clamping strips 17 and 18 they are to be swung apart about the hinge point 26 and the edge of the curtain is then placed therebetween after which the front clamping strip 17 is swung with the hinge section 25 down toward the back clamping strip 18. Thereafter hinging movement of the top hinge section 25 is to be prevented so that proper clamping action between the front and back clamping strips 17 and 18 may be had. This, in accordance with the embodiment shown in Figs. 1 and 2 may be accomplished by a rigid member 33 and a screw 34. The rigid member 33 may be in the form of an elongated plate of metal or other suitable rigid material having the ends thereof turned inwardly with one adapted to engage against the outside face of that portion of the top hinge section lying adjacent the outside edge of the top clamping strip 17, the other inturned edge of the member 33 being adapted to engage against the outside face of that portion of the bottom hinge section 24 lying adjacent the outside edge of the back clamping strip 18. The screw 34 is suitably threaded through a portion of one of these two hinge sections and is headed as shown so that the rigid member 33 may be drawn up tightly into the position bridging across the hinge point 26 thereby preventing outward hinging movement of the top hinge section 25 relative to the bottom

hinge section 24. It will be understood that the screw 34 may be suitably threadably mounted in either the top hinge section or the bottom hinge section and that the hinge point 26 may be located more nearly adjacent the complementary clamping faces of the front and back clamping strips 17 and 18 than is shown in Fig. 2, the structure shown in Fig. 2 being proposed only by way of example and since the location of the hinge point 26 below the complementary clamping faces 19 and 20 provides for ready formation in the hinged portion of the top hinge section 25 of a sufficiently elongated slot to receive the headed end of the clamping plate 29. Such a modified form of construction is proposed in Fig. 13. In order to permit hinging of the top hinge section 25 about the hinge point 26 relative to the bottom hinge section 24, it is only necessary to loosen the screw 34 to permit the rigid member 33 to be turned to a horizontal position.

In Fig. 1 the front clamping strips 17—17 are shown made in sections and side clamping means 35—35 are shown provided along the frame side members 14—14. However, this is not essential to certain stretching operations of the stretcher frame of the present invention and may be provided if desired for reasons hereinafter indicated. Assuming that the front clamping strips 17—17 are not sectioned and the clamping means 35—35 are omitted, the operation of the stretcher frame shown in Figs. 1 and 2 may be as follows. With the rigid members 33—33 mounted on the corner clamp members 22—22 turned transversely to permit hinging of the top sections 25—25 relative to the bottom hinge sections 24—24, the front clamping strips 17—17 may be swung outwardly away from the back clamping strips 18—18 and the edges of the curtain or the like placed thereinbetween. The front clamping strips 17—17 then may be swung manually toward the back clamping strips 18—18 to engage therebetween the edges of the curtain. It will be seen that the front clamping strips 17—17 will be carried to swing with the clamping plates 29—29 by means of the engaging lips 30—30 as the top hinge sections 25—25 are swung. The rigid members 33—33 may then be turned to bridge across the hinge points 26—26 and the screws 34—34 tightened to prevent further hinging action of the top hinge sections 25—25. Thereafter with the hinge sections of the corner clamps 22—22 held against hinging movement by the members 33—33 slight clamping action may be applied by clamping screws 32—32 causing curtain edges to be held between the ridged and grooved complementary faces of the front and back clamping strips 17 and 18. Then stretching may be accomplished by sliding each opposed end 15 of a frame side member 14 along the inside edge 16 of the preceding frame side member until the curtain or the like is drawn into the desired stretching condition and the clamping screws 32—32 then tightened up to hold the structure in the so-adjusted position.

Although it will be understood that due to the longitudinal ridging of the front and back clamping strips 17 and 18 with slight clamping force applied thereto there is less tendency for curtain edges to be withdrawn thereacross and from between the clamping strips than there is for movement of curtain material longitudinally of the frame side members, that is in the direction of the ridges 21—21, proper stretching on such a frame may be more readily assured by, as previously indicated, sectioning one or more of the front clamping strips 17—17 and adding holding means thereto. The front clamping strip 17 of any one of the frame side members 14 may be provided with say a relatively short section 36 adjacent the opposing end 15 thereof and this short section 36 as shown in Figs. 4 and 5 may be hinged to the bottom strip 18 by clamping means 35 which may comprise a bottom hinge section 37 suitably fastened to the back clamping strip 18 and a top hinge section 38 having a portion extending above the front face of the clamping strip 36. This hinged clamping device may be provided with suitable means to prevent hinging as in the case of corner clamp members 22—22, such as rigid member 33 and screw 34. Section 36 of the front clamping strip 17 may be brought into clamping position by a clamping screw 39 suitably threaded in the overlying portion of the top hinge section 38. The section 36 may be caused to swing with the top hinge section by heading the end 40 thereof on the opposite side of a clamping plate 41 suitably fastened to the top of the section 36. Obviously a similar function may be obtained by other means such as by using a clamping plate similar to 29 of the corner clamp member 22 or hinge section 38 may be extended and provided with an engaging lip to cause the section 36 to swing therewith.

The so-sectioned front clamping strip 17 may be further sectioned to provide additional sections such as 37 and 38 suitably hinged to the back clamping strip by similar clamping means 35—35. One or more of such sections may be provided, as desired, but it will be understood that as such sectioning is increased in distance from the opposing end 15 of the frame side member 14 the permitted adjusting movement of the opposed end 15 of the succeeding frame side member is increasingly limited which, however, may not be undesirable in certain stretcher frames adapted for certain service.

Further aid to the user in stretching curtain edges at the time the latter are placed between clamping strips of frame side members may be attained by the provision of holding means such as pins or hook devices. Such means are shown in Figs. 3 and 4 and may comprise a few pins 42—42, which, if desired, may be made of non-metallic material, fixed in the bottom strips 18—18 preferably upstanding from a ridge 21 and each adapted to be received in a socket 43 in the front clamping strip 17. Thus by placing such a pin say near the opposed end 15, the user may hook the curtain edge thereover and then stretch it to a point along the back clamping strip 18 where another such pin is located and thereafter swing the front clamping strip 17 into position. Such holding means may also augment the sectioning of the front clamping strip 17 so that first a curtain edge near a corner may be engaged over such a pin 42 near the opposing end 15. The curtain edge then may be stretched by hand and the front clamping strip section 36 brought into clamping position. That curtain edge may then be further stretched to another such pin located below the succeeding section 37 and the procedure repeated, and in like manner the third front clamping strip section 38 may be brought into clamping position over an additional portion of stretched curtain edge. As previously indicated this procedure may be reserved for the last of the frame side members to be clamped upon a curtain edge with one or more of the other frame side members including full length front clamping strips 17—17 if desired.

As shown in Figs. 3 and 4 clamping force may

be applied to the front clamping strip 17 or section 36 thereof at the opposing end 15 by providing the clamping plate beneath the clamping screw 32 with an extension 44. This may be accomplished in a simple manner by providing a clamping plate 129 at the remote end with three fingers 44, 130 and 130, with the latter two bent downwardly and inwardly to slide along the oblique face 31 of the preceding front clamping strip 17 and with the finger 44 extending to engage the top surface of the succeeding front clamping strip. In Figs. 3 and 4 also is indicated an elongated slot 45 in the top hinge section 25 adapted slidably to receive a neck 46 on the clamping plate 129 formed by opposed notches in the sides thereof to provide a head 47 adapted to extend beyond the hinge section 25 and retain the clamping plate 129 in position after it has been angularly positioned to permit the head 47 to pass cornerwise through the slot 45 and then turned slidably to receive a front clamping strip 17.

In a structure similar to that shown in Fig. 1, wherein any one frame side member 14 is provided with a full length front clamping strip 17 without being sectioned and, if desired, without clamping means 35—35 being associated therewith, tendency for the front clamping strip 17 to pop out of position when clamping screw 32 is tightened down may be avoided by structure such as that shown in Figs. 6, 7 and 8. The elongated end 27 of the bottom hinge section 24 may be made integral with a transverse plate 48 which, as shown in Fig. 8, may be bent upwardly at a point offset from the outside edge of the opposing end 15 of the succeeding frame side member a sufficient distance to permit the front clamping strip 17 thereof to be swung upwardly. The transverse plate 48 may terminate at the end adjacent the plane of the front face of the preceding frame side member in a loop or sleeve 49 reciprocatively to receive a slide 50 the nose of which is adapted to be slid forward to engage the top surface of the front clamping strip 17 after the latter has been swung down into clamping position and thereafter the clamping screw 32 may be tightened down as desired without fear of the clamping strips popping apart. Obviously the offset plate 48 need not be made integral with the bottom hinge section 24 but may be made as a separate piece and fastened or secured in any suitable manner to the back clamping strip 18 at the opposing end 15.

Another form of structure which is adapted to be used in lieu of the rigid member 33 and screw 34 is shown in Fig. 9 wherein the portion 28 of the top hinge section 25 is provided, preferably integrally, with an extension 51 to be engaged by the nose of a slide 150 similar to the slide 50 shown in Fig. 6 and supported in a similar manner by off-set plate 48.

An alternative corner clamp structure is shown in Figs. 12 and 13 wherein the top hinge section 25 comprises a top clamping plate 229 provided with an elongated slot 52 through which is received a cross-head 147 formed on the top hinge section. The clamping plate 229 has the remote edge thereof at 230 bent downwardly and then inwardly at 53 to form an engaging lip adapted slidably to be received in a groove in the inside edge of the front clamping strip 17 for a purpose similar to the provision of the engaging lip 30 in the embodiment shown in Fig. 2. In this modification the clamping screw 32 is mounted relative to the back clamping strip 18 at the opposing end 15 rather than upon top hinge section 25 and this is accomplished by mounting on offset plate 48 a slide 250 in which is threadably mounted clamping screw 32 adapted when the slide is in its extended position as shown in Figs. 12 and 13 to engage and apply clamping force down upon the clamping plate 229, preferably by engagement with an extension 151 thereof. It will be noted from Figs. 12 and 13 that the loop or sleeve 49 of the offset plate 48 is located a distance away from the preceding frame side member 14 as to permit the slide 250 to be retracted a distance sufficient for the clamping screw 32 and the nose of the slide 250 to be cleared by the clamping plate 229 when swung with the front clamping strip 17 away from the back clamping strip 18.

As seen in Fig. 13 the front and back clamping strips 17 and 18 may be provided with a greater number of complementary longitudinal ridges 21—21 and intervening grooves if desired which may increase the gripping action and, by virtue of their multiplicity, decrease depths of the intervening grooves producing less apparent creases in curtain material. Further as shown in Fig. 11 tendency to production of creases in curtain edges may be reduced by rounding the edges of the ridges 21 and the complementary grooves to provide a wavy or sinusoidal transverse clamping surface on each of the front and back clamping strips 17 and 18. The manner in which such so-formed complementary clamping faces avoid tendency to sharp creases in an edge 54 of curtain material is depicted in Fig. 11. In all such structures, however, surface of the longitudinally extending ridges 21—21 are arranged obliquely as has been shown so that efficient clamping and holding action is attained as distinguished from the precarious holding power of a flat clamping surface.

From the above it will be apparent that the stretcher frame of the present invention while avoiding the use of a multitude of steel pins effectively provides for support of curtains and the like in a single plane and by virtue of the fact that the side members thereof are adjustable relative to each other single plane stretching can be accomplished in an efficient manner. This feature of adjustability is of great importance and merit in the stretching and drying of curtains.

It will thus be seen that the objects set forth above among others are attained in an efficient manner and since certain changes may be made in the above construction and different embodiments of the invention could be made without departing from the scope thereof, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawings shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

It is also to be understood that the following claims are intended to cover all of the generic and specific features of the invention herein described, and all statements of the scope of the invention which, as a matter of language, might be said to fall therebetween.

Having described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A stretcher frame for curtains and the like comprising, in combination, a plurality of side members arranged in symmetrical order with respect to each other and with each having one end opposed to the inside edge of the preceding member for adjusting movement therealong whereby their faces substantially lie in common planes,

each side member being formed of front and back clamping strips having complementary faces adapted for clamping curtain material therebetween, clamp members hinging said front and back clamping strips together along their outside edges with each clamp member fastened to the opposing end of the back strip of the succeeding side member and having hinged sections between which the front and back clamping strips of the preceding side member are slidably received and by which the latter are hinged together, and means to cause said hinged sections of said clamp members to apply clamping force to said front and back strips to clamp the latter together.

2. A stretcher frame for curtains and the like comprising, in combination, a plurality of side members arranged in symmetrical order with respect to each other and with each having one end opposed to the inside edge of the preceding member for adjusting movement therealong whereby their faces substantially lie in common planes, each side member being formed of front and back clamping strips having complementary faces adapted for clamping curtain material therebetween, clamp members hinging said front and back clamping strips together along their outside edges with each clamp member fastened to the opposing end of the back strip of the succeeding side member and having hinged sections between which the front and back clamping strips of the preceding side member are slidably received and by which the latter are hinged together, one of said hinged sections being elongated to extend down from a hinge point along the outside edge of the slidably received back strip then across beneath that strip and to beneath the opposed end of the back strip of the succeeding side member and fastened thereto, the other of said hinged sections extending up from the hinge point along the outside edge of the slidably received front strip and having a portion extending over at least a portion of the top of the latter strip and interfitted therewith for relative sliding movement while providing for conjoint swinging movement thereof, and means to cause said hinged sections of said clamp members to apply clamping force to said front and back strips to clamp the latter together.

3. A stretcher frame for curtains and the like comprising, in combination, a plurality of side members arranged in symmetrical order with respect to each other and with each having one end opposed to the inside edge of the preceding member for adjusting movement therealong whereby their faces substantially lie in common planes, each side member being formed of front and back clamping strips having complementary faces adapted for clamping curtain material therebetween, clamp members hinging said front and back clamping strips together along their outside edges with each clamp member fastened to the opposing end of the back strip of the succeeding side member and having hinged sections between which the front and back clamping strips of the preceding side member are slidably received and by which the latter are hinged together, and means selectively to prevent hinging movement of said clamp members when said front and back strips are to be clamped together thereby.

4. A stretcher frame for curtains and the like comprising, in combination, a plurality of side members arranged in symmetrical order with respect to each other and with each having one end opposed to the inside edge of the preceding member for adjusting movement therealong whereby their faces substantially lie in common planes, each side member being formed of front and back clamping strips having complementary faces adapted for clamping curtain material therebetween, clamp members hinging said front and back clamping strips together along their outside edges with each clamp member fastened to the opposing end of the back strip of the succeeding side member and having hinged sections between which the front and back clamping strips of the preceding side member are slidably received and by which the latter are hinged together, and means mounted on the opposing end of the back strip of each of the succeeding side members selectively to be operated to prevent hinging movement of said clamp members when said front and back strips are to be clamped together thereby.

5. A stretcher frame for curtains and the like comprising, in combination, a plurality of side members arranged in symmetrical order with respect to each other and with each having one end opposed to the inside edge of the preceding member for adjusting movement therealong whereby their faces substantially lie in common planes, each side member being formed of front and back clamping strips having complementary faces adapted for clamping curtain material therebetween, clamp members hinging said front and back clamping strips together along their outside edges with each clamp member fastened to the opposing end of the back strip of the succeeding side member and having hinged sections between which the front and back clamping strips of the preceding side member are slidably received and by which the latter are hinged together, and means mounted on said clamp members selectively to be operated to prevent hinging movement of said clamp members when said front and back strips are to be clamped together thereby.

6. A stretcher frame for curtains and the like comprising, in combination, a plurality of side members arranged in symmetrical order with respect to each other and with each having one end opposed to the inside edge of the preceding member for adjusting movement therealong whereby their faces substantially lie in common planes, each side member being formed of front and back clamping strips having complementary faces adapted for clamping curtain material therebetween, clamp members hinging said front and back clamping strips together along their outside edges with each clamp member fastened to the opposing end of the back strip of the succeeding side member, each clamp member having sections hinged together at a hinge point and between which the front and back clamping strips of the preceding side member are slidably received and by which the latter are hinged together, and a plurality of rigid members each of sufficient length to bridge across the hinge point from one hinge section to the other of a clamp member with each rigid member pivoted by a clamping screw to one of the sections of one of said clamp members whereby when the latter are to clamp said front and back strips together said rigid members may be manipulated to positions bridging across the hinge points preventing hinging movement of the sections of said clamp members.

7. A stretcher frame for curtains and the like comprising, in combination, a plurality of side

members arranged in symmetrical order with respect to each other and with each having one end opposed to the inside edge of the preceding member for adjusting movement therealong whereby their faces substantially lie in common planes, each side member being formed of front and back clamping strips having complementary faces adapted for clamping curtain material therebetween, clamp members hinging said front and back clamping strips together along their outside edges with each clamp member fastened to the opposing end of the back strip of the succeeding side member and having hinged sections between which the front and back clamping strips of the preceding side member are slidably received and by which the latter are hinged together, one of said hinged sections being elongated to extend down from a hinge point along the outside edge of the slidably received back strip then across beneath that strip and to beneath the opposed end of the back strip of the succeeding side member and fastened thereto, the other of said hinged sections extending up from the hinge point along the outside edge of the slidably received front strip and having a portion extending over at least a portion of the top of the latter strip and interfitted therewith for relative sliding movement while providing for conjoint swinging movement thereof, and means selectively to prevent hinging movement of said clamp members when said front and back strips are to be clamped together thereby.

8. A stretcher frame for curtains and the like comprising, in combination, a plurality of side members arranged in symmetrical order with respect to each other and with each having one end opposed to the inside edge of the preceding member for adjusting movement therealong whereby their faces substantially lie in common planes, each side member being formed of front and back clamping strips having complementary faces adapted for clamping curtain material therebetween, clamp members hinging said front and back clamping strips together along their outside edges with each clamp member fastened to the opposing end of the back strip of the succeeding side member and having hinged sections between which the front and back clamping strips of the preceding side member are slidably received and by which the latter are hinged together, one of said hinged sections being elongated to extend down from a hinge point along the outside edge of the slidably received back strip then across beneath that strip and to beneath the opposed end of the back strip of the succeeding side member and fastened thereto, the other of said hinged sections extending up from the hinge point along the outside edge of the slidably received front strip and having a portion extending over at least a portion of the top of the latter strip and interfitted therewith for relative sliding movement while providing for conjoint swinging movement thereof, and means mounted on the opposing end of the back strip of each of the succeeding side members selectively to be operated to prevent hinging movement of said clamp members when said front and back strips are to be clamped together thereby.

9. A stretcher frame for curtains and the like comprising, in combination, a plurality of side members arranged in symmetrical order with respect to each other and with each having one end opposed to the inside edge of the preceding member for adjusting movement therealong whereby their faces substantially lie in common planes, each side member being formed of front and back clamping strips having complementary faces adapted for clamping curtain material therebetween, clamp members hinging said front and back clamping strips together along their outside edges with each clamp member fastened to the opposing end of the back strip of the succeeding side member and having hinged sections between which the front and back clamping strips of the preceding side member are slidably received and by which the latter are hinged together, one of said hinged sections being elongated to extend down from a hinge point along the outside edge of the slidably received back strip then across beneath that strip and to beneath the opposed end of the back strip of the succeeding side member and fastened thereto, the other of said hinged sections extending up from the hinge point along the outside edge of the slidably received front strip and having a portion extending over at least a portion of the top of the latter strip and interfitted therewith for relative sliding movement while providing for conjoint swinging movement thereof, means mounted on the opposing end of the back strip of each of the succeeding side members and offset therefrom to permit free swinging movement of the complementary front strip, means on the top hinged section of the clamp member adjacent thereto, and means manipulable to engage with both said means to prevent hinging movement of said clamp member when front and back strips are to be clamped together thereby.

10. A stretcher frame for curtains and the like comprising, in combination, a plurality of side members arranged in symmetrical order with respect to each other and with each having one end opposed to the inside edge of the preceding member for adjusting movement therealong whereby their faces substantially lie in common planes, each side member being formed of front and back clamping strips having complementary faces adapted for clamping curtain material therebetween, clamp members hinging said front and back clamping strips together along their outside edges with each clamp member fastened to the opposing end of the back strip of the succeeding side member and having hinged sections between which the front and back clamping strips of the preceding side member are slidably received and by which the latter are hinged together, one of said hinged sections being elongated to extend down from a hinge point along the outside edge of the slidably received back strip then across beneath that strip and to beneath the opposed end of the back strip of the succeeding side member and fastened thereto, the other of said hinged sections extending up from the hinge point along the outside edge of the slidably received front strip and having a portion extending over at least a portion of the top of the latter strip and interfitted therewith with for relative sliding movement while providing for conjoint swinging movement thereof, and means mounted on the opposing end of the back strip of each of the succeeding side members to be moved to a position engaging above a portion of the upper hinged section of the clamp member adjacent thereto to prevent hinging movement of said clamp member when said front and back strips are to be clamped together thereby.

11. A stretcher frame for curtains and the like

comprising, in combination, a plurality of side members arranged in symmetrical order with respect to each other and with each having one end opposed to the inside edge of the preceding member for adjusting movement therealong whereby their faces substantially lie in common planes, each side member being formed of front and back clamping strips having complementary faces adapted for clamping curtain material therebetween, clamp members hinging said front and back clamping strips together along their outside edges with each clamp member fastened to the opposing end of the back strip of the succeeding side member and having hinged sections between which the front and back clamping strips of the preceding side member are slidably received and by which the latter are hinged together, one of said hinged sections being elongated to extend down from a hinge point along the outside edge of the slidably received back strip then across beneath that strip and to beneath the opposed end of the back strip of the succeeding side member and fastened thereto, the other of said hinged sections extending up from the hinge point along the outside edge of the slidably received front strip and having a portion extending over at least a portion of the top of the latter strip and interfitted therewith for relative sliding movement while providing for conjoint swinging movement thereof, and means mounted on said clamp members selectively to be operated to prevent hinging movement of said clamp members when said front and back strips are to be clamped together thereby.

12. A stretcher frame for curtains and the like comprising, in combination, a plurality of side members arranged in symmetrical order with respect to each other and with each having one end opposed to the inside edge of the preceding member for adjusting movement therealong whereby their faces substantially lie in common planes, each side member being formed of front and back clamping strips having complementary faces adapted for clamping curtain material therebetween, clamp members hinging said front and back clamping strips together along their outside edges with each clamp member fastened to the opposing end of the back strip of the succeeding side member and having hinged sections between which the front and back clamping strips of the preceding side member are slidably received and by which the latter are hinged together, one of said hinged sections being elongated to extend down from a hinge point along the outside edge of the slidably received back strip then across beneath that strip and to beneath the opposed end of the back strip of the succeeding side member and fastened thereto, the other of said hinged sections extending up from the hinge point along the outside edge of the slidably received front strip and having a portion extending over at least a portion of the top of the latter strip and interfitted therewith for relative sliding movement while providing for conjoint swinging movement thereof, and a plurality of rigid members each of sufficient length to bridge across the hinge point from one hinge section to the other of a clamp member with each rigid member pivoted by a clamping screw to one of the sections of one of said clamp members whereby when the latter are to clamp said front and back strips together said rigid members may be manipulated to positions bridging across the hinge points preventing hinging movement of the sections of said clamp members.

13. A stretcher frame for curtains and the like comprising, in combination, a plurality of side members arranged in symmetrical order with respect to each other and with each having one end opposed to the inside edge of the preceding member for adjusting movement therealong whereby their faces substantially lie in common planes, each side member being formed of front and back clamping strips having complementary faces comprising a plurality of longitudinally extending transversely spaced-apart ridges the surfaces of which are obliquely arranged and adapted for clamping curtain material therebetween, clamp members hinging said front and back clamping strips together along their outside edges with each clamp member fastened to the opposing end of the back strip of the succeeding side member and having hinged sections between which the front and back clamping strips of the preceding side member are slidably received and by which the latter are hinged together, and means to cause said hinged sections of said clamp members to apply clamping force to said front and back strips to clamp the latter together.

14. A stretcher frame for curtains and the like comprising, in combination, a plurality of side members arranged in symmetrical order with respect to each other and with each having one end opposed to the inside edge of the preceding member for adjusting movement therealong whereby their faces substantially lie in common planes, each side member being formed of front and back clamping strips having complementary faces adapted for clamping curtain material therebetween, the front strip of at least one side member being sectioned to permit separate and progressive clamping of portions of an edge of a curtain or the like as it is stretched into position, means hinging the front strip sections to their cooperating back strip and to provide for separate clamping thereof, clamp members hinging at least one of said front strip sections and its cooperating back clamping strip and other front and back clamping strips together along their outside edges with each clamp member fastened to the opposing end of the back strip of the succeeding side member and having hinged sections between which the front and back clamping strips of the succeeding side member are slidably received and by which the latter are hinged together, and means to cause said hinged sections of said clamp members to apply clamping force to said front and back strips to clamp the latter together.

15. A stretcher frame for curtains and the like comprising, in combination, a plurality of side members arranged in symmetrical order with respect to each other and with each having one end opposed to the inside edge of the preceding member for adjusting movement therealong whereby their faces substantially lie in common planes, each side member being formed of front and back clamping strips having complementary faces adapted for clamping curtain material therebetween, holding means between front and back strips for engagement by an edge of a curtain or the like to aid in stretching the same while being placed therebetween to be clamped in stretched position, clamp members hinging said front and back clamping strips together along their outside edges with each clamp member fastened to the opposing end of the back strip of

the succeeding side member and having hinged sections between which the front and back clamping strips of the preceding side member are slidably received and by which the latter are hinged together, and means to cause said hinged sections of said clamp members to apply clamping force to said front and back strips to clamp the latter together.

16. A stretcher frame for curtains and the like comprising, in combination, a plurality of side members arranged in symmetrical order with respect to each other and with each having one end opposed to the inside edge of the preceding member for adjusting movement therealong whereby their faces substantially lie in common planes, each side member being formed of front and back clamping strips having complementary faces adapted for clamping curtain material therebetween, the front strip of at least one side member being sectioned to permit separate and progressive clamping of portions of an edge of a curtain or the like as it is stretched into position, means hinging the strip sections together and to provide for separate clamping thereof, holding means between front and back strips for engagement by an edge of a curtain or the like to aid in stretching the same while being placed therebetween to be clamped in stretched position, clamp members hinging said front and back clamping strips together along their outside edges with each clamp member fastened to the opposing end of the back strip of the succeeding side member and having hinged sections between which the front and back clamping strips of the preceding side member are slidably received and by which the latter are hinged together, and means to cause said hinged sections of said clamp members to apply clamping force to said front and back strips to clamp the latter together.

17. In a stretcher frame for curtains and the like, a corner clamp member comprising, in combination, a bottom section and a top section hinged together for relative swinging movement, said bottom section extending downwardly from the hinge point to provide a portion to slide along the outside edge of a frame side member and then substantially at right angles to that portion to provide a second portion to slide along the back face of such side member and terminating in an end portion adapted to be fastened to the back of an end of a succeeding frame side member, said top section extending upwardly from the hinge point to provide a portion to slide along the outside edge of such side member and then substantially at right angles to that portion to provide a second portion to overlie the front face of such side member, a clamping screw threadably mounted in the overlying portion of said top section, a plate mounted relative to said screw and said overlying portion to engage the front face of such side member and apply clamping force thereon toward the second-mentioned portion of said bottom section and having the edge thereof farthest from the hinge point turned to provide an engaging lip adapted slidably to engage with a portion of such side member to cause at least that portion to be swung therewith, and means selectively to limit relative swinging movement of said top and bottom sections for applying clamping force to such side member therebetween.

18. In a stretcher frame for curtains and the like, a corner clamp member comprising, in combination, a bottom section and a top section hinged together for relative swinging movement, said bottom section extending downwardly from the hinge point to provide a portion to slide along the outside edge of a frame side member and then substantially at right angles to that portion to provide a second portion to slide along the back face of such side member and terminating in an end portion adapted to be fastened to the back of an end of a succeeding frame side member, said top section extending upwardly from the hinge point to provide a portion to slide along the outside edge of such side member and then substantially at right angles to that portion to provide a second portion to overlie the front face of such side member, a clamping screw threadably mounted in the overlying portion of said top section, a plate mounted relative to said screw and said overlying portion to engage the front face of such side member and apply clamping force thereon toward the second-mentioned portion of said bottom section and having the edge thereof farthest from the hinge point turned downwardly at a point located a distance from the first-mentioned portion of said top section at least equal to the width of the front face of such side member and back toward the hinge point to provide an engaging lip adapted slidably to engage beyond the inside edge of such side member and cause at least a portion of the latter to be swung therewith, and means selectively to limit relative swinging movement of said top and bottom sections for applying clamping force to such side member therebetween.

19. In a stretcher frame for curtains and the like, a corner clamp member comprising, in combination, a bottom section and a top section hinged together for relative swinging movement, said bottom section extending downwardly from the hinged point to provide a portion to slide along the outside edge of a frame side member and then substantially at right angles to that portion to provide a second portion to slide along the back face of such side member and terminating in an end portion adapted to be fastened to the back of an end of a succeeding frame side member, said top section extending upwardly from the hinge point to provide a portion to slide along the outside edge of such side member and then substantially at right angles to that portion to provide a second portion to overlie the front face of such side member, a clamping screw threadably mounted in the overlying portion of said top section, a plate-mounted relative to said screw and said overlying portion to engage the front face of such side member and apply clamping force thereon toward the second-mentioned portion of said bottom section and having the edge thereof farthest from the hinge point turned to provide an engaging lip adapted slidably to engage with a portion of such side member to cause at least that portion to be swung therewith, and a rigid member pivoted by a clamping screw to one of said first-mentioned portions of said hinge sections so as to bridge across the hinge point and engage both said portions when manipulated to a position preventing outward hinging movement of said top hinge section relative to said bottom hinge section.

20. In a stretcher frame for curtains and the like, a corner clamp member comprising, in combination, a bottom section and a top section hinged together for relative swinging movement, said bottom section extending downwardly from the hinge point to provide a portion to slide along the outside edge of a frame side member and then substantially at right angles to that portion to

provide a second portion to slide along the back face of such side member and terminating in an end portion adapted to be fastened to the back of an end of a succeeding frame side member, said top section extending upwardly from the hinge point to provide a portion to slide along the outside edge of such side member and then substantially at right angles to that portion to provide a second portion to overlie the front face of such side member, a clamping screw threadably mounted in the overlying portion of said top section, a plate mounted relative to said screw and said overlying portion to engage the front face of such side member and apply clamping force thereon toward the second-mentioned portion of said bottom section and having at least one portion of the edge thereof farthest from the hinge point turned downwardly at a point located a distance from the first-mentioned portion of said top section at least equal to the width of the front face of such side member and back toward the hinge point to provide an engaging lip adapted slidably to engage beyond the inside edge of such side member and cause at least a portion of the latter to be swung therewith, said plate having an extension adapted for cooperation with a portion of such succeeding frame side member, and means selectively to limit relative swinging movement of said top and bottom sections for applying clamping force to such side member therebetween.

WILLIAM D. REDMOND.