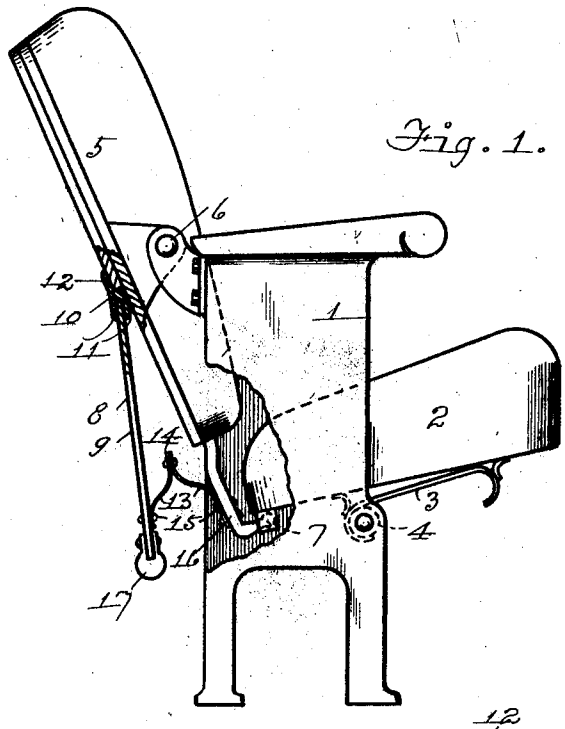
Aug. 25, 1931. R. K. MERRILL 1,820,754

CUSHIONING SHIELD FOR RETRACTABLE SEATS

Filed Aug. 20, 1930

Fig. 1.



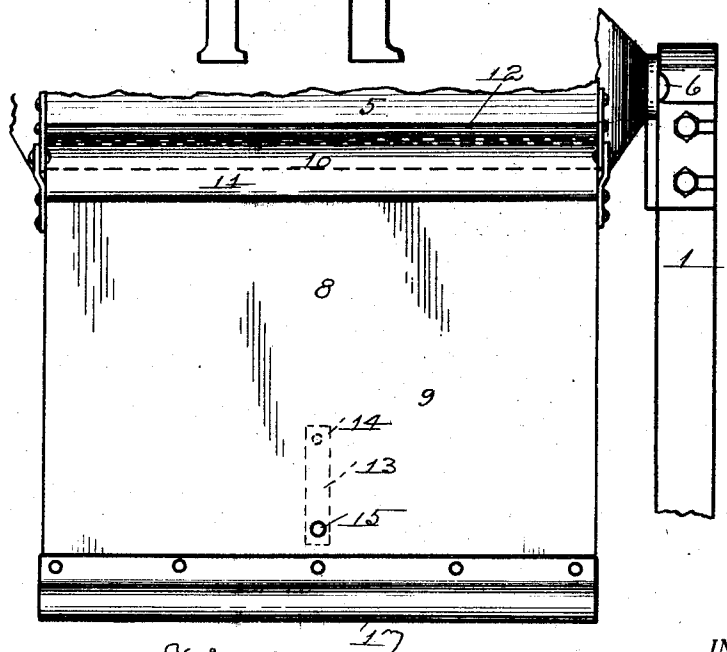


Fig. 2.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CUSHIONING SHIELD FOR RETRACTABLE SEATS

Application filed August 20, 1930. Serial No. 476,514.

The present invention relates to shields for retractible seats; and its object is to provide a simple, effective and cushioning means for preventing injury resulting from the retracting movement of the seats and backs of theatre chairs and the like.

This object is attained by, and the invention finds preferable embodiments in, the chair structure particularly described in the body of this specification and illustrated by the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is an elevational side view of a chair for theatres and the like; and

Figure 2 is an elevational rear view of portions thereof.

In these drawings is illustrated a chair (such as are installed in moving-picture theatres and the like) having upright side frames 1 spaced apart, a seat 2 movable forwardly-rearwardly on the frames (the seat's track 3 travelling on rollers 4 on the frames) and a back 5 between the frames and mounted thereon at 6 swingably about a horizontal axis, said back being pivotally connected at 7 to the seat.

To prevent injury to persons passing between rows of such seats or seated in a row behind, resulting from the retractile or rearward movement of the seats and lower part of the backs, these chairs are provided with a shield or guard designated generally 8 and comprising a sufficiently rigid plate 9 (of sheet metal or the like) at the rear of the chair.

This plate extends downwardly behind the lower part of the chair back 5 and the rear edge of the seat 2 and is connected, swingably about a horizontal axis, to the rear of the chair back 5, as by the flexible hinge member 10 having parallel flanges 11 secured to the opposite sides of the plate adjacent its upper edge, and having also an upwardly extending flange 12 secured to the rear of the chair back. A spring urges the lower part of the plate 9 rearwardly from the seat and the lower part of the chair back, and is preferably formed of two spring leaves 13 connected at one end 14 and secured at their other ends 15 to the inner side of the plate and a part 16 carried by the chair back.

It will be seen that, if the seat and lower part of the back be moved rearwardly, carrying the shield plate 9 therewith, the impact of the plate on a person behind the chair will be cushioned by the resulting compression of the spring 13 and thereby rendered harmless. A resilient strip 17 may be secured to the lower edge of the plate to further cushion such impact.

The invention being intended to be pointed out in the claims, is not to be limited to or by details of construction of the particular embodiment thereof illustrated by the drawings or hereinbefore described.

What is claimed is:

1. In combination with a chair having spaced side frames, and a seat movable forwardly-rearwardly thereon, a cushioning shield for the rearward movement of the seat comprising: a plate hingedly connected adjacent its upper edge with the frames and extending behind the seat; and a spring mounted on one of the hingedly connected parts urging the plate rearwardly from the seat.

2. In combination with a chair having spaced side frames, a seat movable forwardly-rearwardly thereon and a back swingably mounted on the frames and pivotally connected to the seat, a cushioning shield for the rearward movement of the seat comprising: a plate hingedly connected adjacent its upper edge with the back and extending behind the seat and back; and a spring mounted on one of the hingedly connected parts urging the plate rearwardly from the seat and back.

3. In combination with a chair having spaced side frames, a seat movable forwardly-rearwardly thereon and a back swingably mounted on the frames and pivotally con-

nected to the seat, a cushioning shield for the rearward movement of the seat comprising: a plate hingedly connected adjacent its upper edge on the back and extending behind the seat and back; and a spring mounted on one of the hingedly connected parts urging the plate rearwardly from the seat and back and comprising a pair of spring leaves connected at one end.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand at Grand Rapids, this 14th day of August, 1930.

RALPH K. MERRILL.