April 6, 1948. M. K. ORTON 2,439,370

RETRACTING TYPE THEATER CHAIR

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Fig. 1

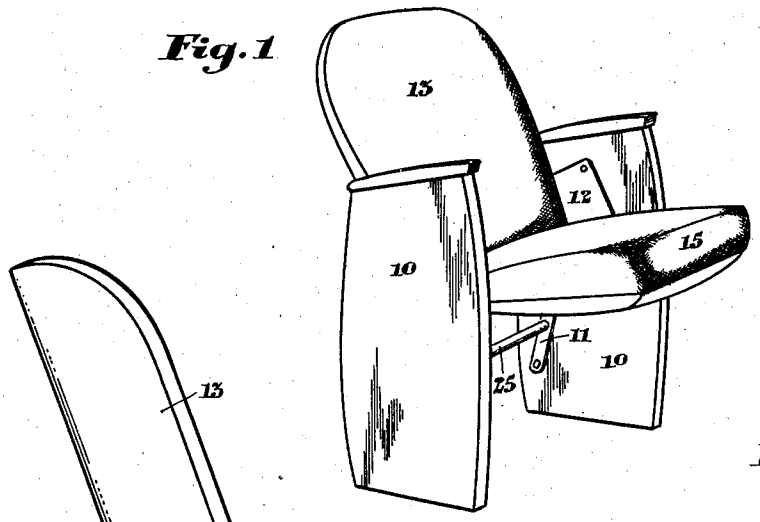
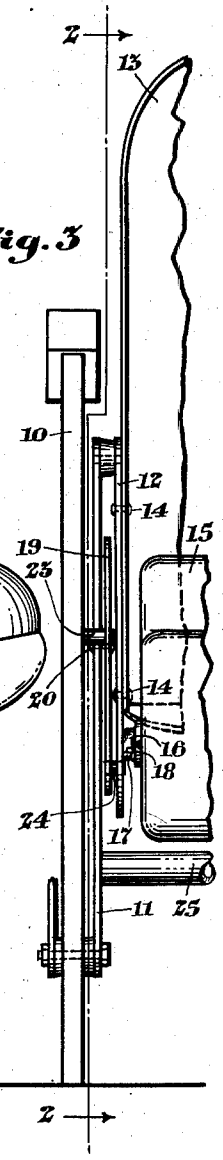


Fig. 2

Fig. 3



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Fig. 4

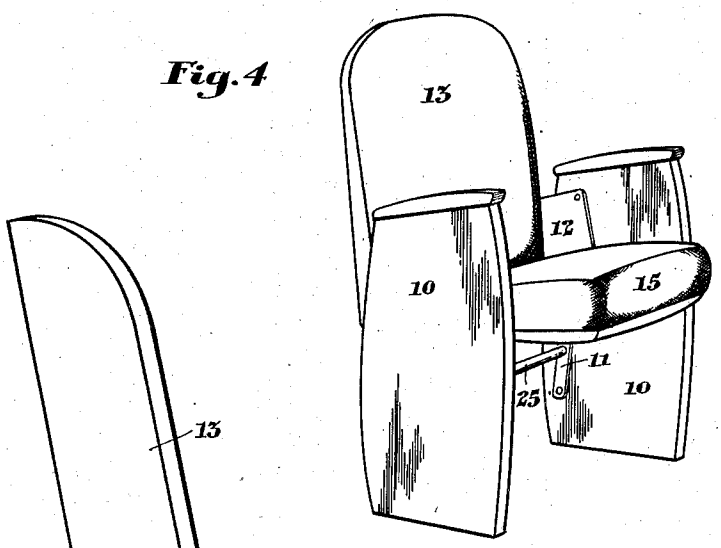
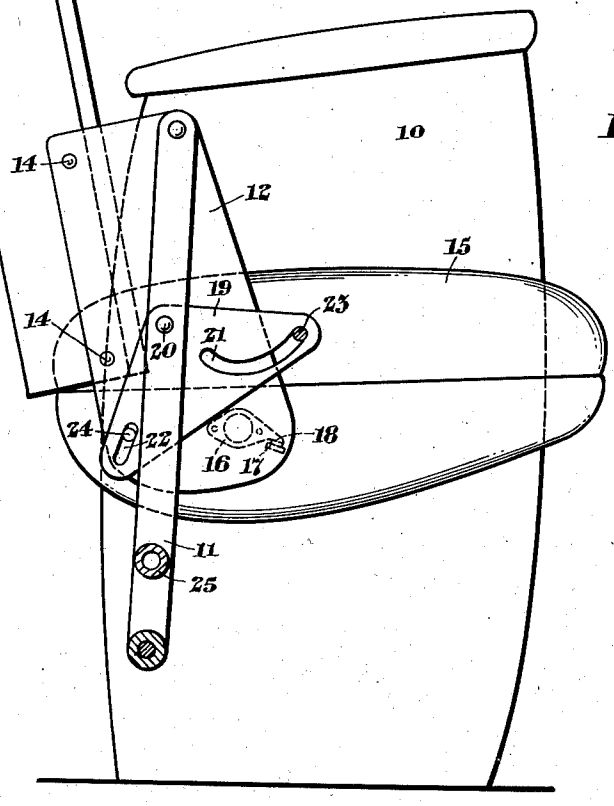


Fig. 5



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RETRACTING TYPE THEATER CHAIR

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Application July 26, 1946, Serial No. 686,326

2 Claims. (Cl. 155—116)

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The present invention relates to chairs and more particularly chairs of the retracting type for installation in theaters, auditoriums and the like.

The primary objects of the invention are to provide an improved chair of the retracting type wherein the chair occupant may move rearwardly in a sitting position in order to permit other theater patrons to pass in front of him; to provide such a chair which is of simple construction and which comprises few moving parts; to provide such a chair which may be easily and comfortably retracted and returned to forward position by the chair occupant; and in general to provide a retracting chair which is efficient in operation, reasonably economical in manufacture, and attractive in appearance.

An illustrative embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a retracting chair in its forward position of occupancy;

Figure 2 is a sectional view of the same taken on line 2—2 of Figure 3;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary front elevational view showing the right-hand side of the chair;

Figure 4 is a perspective view similar to Figure 1 and showing the chair in its rearwardly retracted position; and

Figure 5 is a sectional view similar to Figure 2 and showing the parts of the chair in their rearwardly moved positions.

Referring now in detail to these drawings, the retracting chair there shown is mounted upon a frame which comprises spaced, upright standards 10 which may be secured to the floor in any suitable manner and which may if desired be rigidly connected by a suitable cross-tie (not shown). As here shown, the only connections between the standards are the chair parts hereinafter described, and the word "frame" as herein used is intended to include such an arrangement as well as a unitary structure.

The chair proper is mounted for rearwardly retracting and forwardly returning movements on spaced supporting links 11 the lower ends of which are pivotally connected to the standards 10 respectively. Side plates 12 have their upper ends pivotally connected to the upper ends of the supporting links 11 respectively. A chair back 13 has its opposite sides secured as by means of rivets 14 to the rear of the side plates 12, and a chair seat 15 is mounted on the lower ends of the side plates 12 as by means of brackets 16 pivotally connected to the side plates. The seat is thus turnable about a horizontal axis to a raised position for facilitating sweeping and to a lowered position for occupancy, in which latter position the seat is supported by stops 17 on the side plates and lugs 18 on the seat brackets 16 which lugs 18 rest on the stops 17 when the seat is lowered for occupancy.

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Guide members 19 are provided at opposite sides of the chair for guiding the forward and rearward movements of the seat and back. These guide members 19 are here shown as generally triangular in shape and are pivotally connected at 20 to the supporting links 11 respectively. The guide members have pairs of guide slots therein, the upper or forward guide slots 21 being of cammed formation while the lower or rearward slots 22 are straight and relatively short. Pins 23 on the standards 10 extend into the slots 21, and other pins 24 on the side plates 12 extend into the slots 22.

Preferably a cross-tie 25 connects the supporting links 11 to add to the stability of the structure.

In operation, as the chair is retracted by its occupant the guide members 19 effect a turning movement of the side plates 12 and thus of the chair seat and back also, and the back is thus caused to assume a more nearly vertical position in order to minimize the amount of space required in the rear of the chair for retraction. This turning movement is effected by the cammed guide slots 21 in their travel over the fixed pins 23 on the standards. Retracting and forwardly returning movements of the chair are stopped by contact of the ends of the cammed slots 21 with the pins 23.

It will thus be seen that a retracting chair has been provided which is simply constructed of but very few parts, and which is sturdy in construction and quiet and smooth in operation. While but one specific embodiment of the invention has been herein shown and described, it will be understood that many details of construction may be altered or omitted without departing from the spirit of the invention as the same is defined by the following claims.

I claim:

1. In a chair, a frame, spaced supporting links having their lower ends pivotally associated with the frame, side plates having their upper ends pivotally connected to the upper ends of the supporting links, a chair back and a chair seat mounted on said side plates, guide members pivotally connected to the supporting links and having pairs of guide slots therein, pins on the frame extending into one pair of said guide slots, and

pins on the side plates extending into the other pair of said guide slots.

2. In a chair, a frame, spaced supporting links having their lower ends pivotally associated with the frame, side plates having their upper ends pivotally connected to the upper ends of the supporting links, a chair back mounted on said side plates, a chair seat mounted on said side

plates turnably about a horizontal axis, guide members pivotally connected to the supporting links and having pairs of guide slots therein, pins on the frame extending into one pair of said guide slots, and pins on the side plates extending into the other pair of said guide slots.

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