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2,669,732

GUARD FOR BEDS

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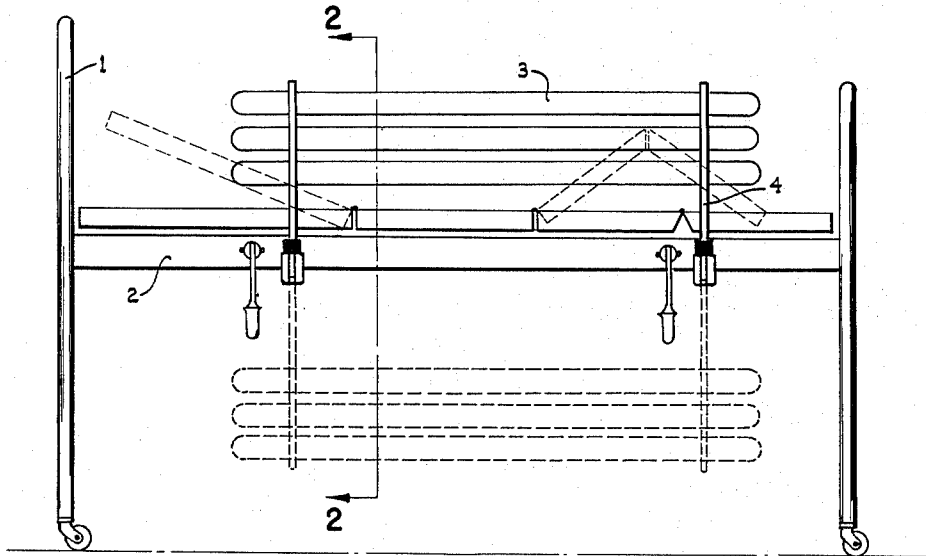


FIG. 1.

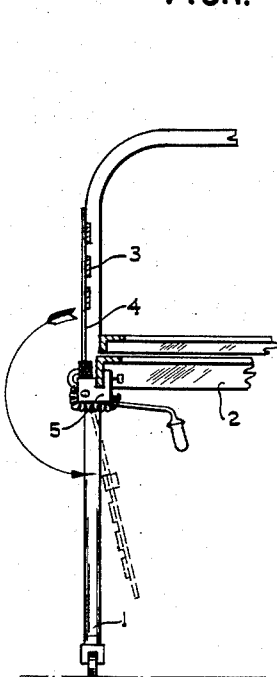


FIG. 2

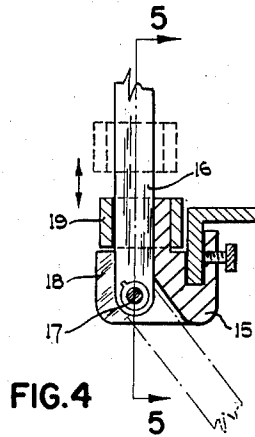


FIG. 4

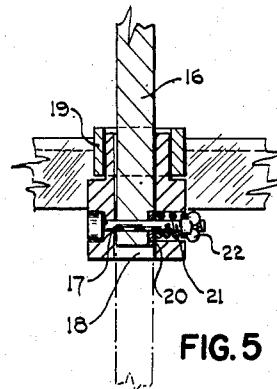


FIG. 5

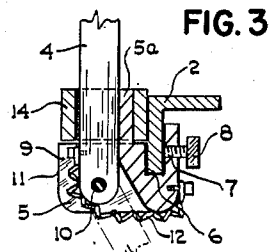


FIG. 3

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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GUARD FOR BEDS

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3 Claims. (Cl. 5—331)

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This invention relates to improvements in a guard for a bed and appertains particularly to a guard rail or fence suitable for mounting on a hospital bed to prevent a patient from falling therefrom and that may be easily moved out of operative or guarding position to allow an attendant to care for the patient.

An object of the invention is to provide such a guard that may be readily mounted on the frame of beds of the type now commonly used in hospitals, institutions and sick rooms.

A further object of the invention is to provide a bed guard that may be dropped into an inoperative position where it will be out of the way, offering no interference to the nurse or attendant caring for the needs of the bed patient.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of a bed guard of the nature and for the purpose described that is characterized by structural simplicity, durability and low cost of production, whereby the same is rendered commercially desirable.

To the accomplishment of these and related objects as shall become apparent as the description proceeds, the invention resides in the construction, combination and arrangement of parts as shall be hereinafter more fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and pointed out in the claims hereunto appended.

The invention will be best understood and can be more clearly described when reference is had to the drawings forming a part of this disclosure wherein like characters indicate like parts throughout the several views.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a high hospital bed equipped with a preferred form of guard;

Figure 2 is a vertical, transverse section through the near side of the bed and guard, as taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is an enlarged vertical sectional detail of the guard-attaching bracket;

Figure 4 is a similar sectional detail of a slightly modified form of bracket; and

Figure 5 is a vertical section of the modified form of bracket, at right angles to that shown in Figure 4, and as taken on section line 5—5 of said Figure 4.

With sick and bed-ridden patients, there is the ever present danger of their falling out of bed and, as hospital beds are usually high to facilitate attending to the needs of the sick one, the injury sustained in such a fall is not infrequently serious. The restlessness of the patient and the hardness of the mattress may be contributing factors.

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Permanent guards are in the way, interfering with the nurse's duties, and make it difficult for the patient to get into and out of bed; removable guards are inconvenient, heavy and clumsy. The most satisfactory guard is the hingedly mounted type shown herein, that is readily mounted on a usual type hospital bed and may be removed therefrom when not wanted. In use, it is securely held in upright, operative position, easily and instantly released or unlocked, and is then swung down into inoperative position—not just hanging down vertically at the side of the bed, but—swung angularly under the bed, out of the way, where it is not interfering with the knees of the attendant, who may want to stand closely against the side of the bed if the patient is to be moved or lifted.

In the preferred embodiment of the invention illustrated in Figures 1, 2 and 3, the guard is seen applied to a usual type hospital bed 1, being actually attached to the side rail 2. The guard itself has one or more horizontal bars or slats 3 supported by a spaced pair of parallel posts 4 that are normally in upright or vertical position; though the guard may be supported in an outwardly inclining angle if desired.

A spaced pair of mounting brackets 5, for the guard posts 4, have each a deep groove 6 in which a flange of the bed rail 2 can seat, one wall of the groove having a threaded bore 7 through which a wing screw 8 extends to clamp the bracket securely on the bed frame. The major part of the bracket 5 projects laterally, from the outside of the bed rail and exposes a vertical slot 9 for the full height of the bracket for the accommodation of the lower end of the post 4 which is hingedly mounted by its lower end on a transverse pin 10 carried by the side walls 11 of the slot; the lower end of the slot 9, behind the post, it will be seen widens rearwardly to allow the post 4 when hinged downwardly to swing beyond a vertical hanging position into an angular position under the bed 1. Indeed to swing the guard into such an inoperative angular, under-the-bed position, a retractile coil spring 12 is stretched from the front of the lower end of the post 4 to the rear of the bracket 5, passing under the bottom of the post.

To normally hold the guard in operative, upright position, an exteriorly knurled locking ring 14, loosely encircling and freely slidable on the post 4 telescopes over the upper end 5a of the bracket, which is of reduced size and of annular form though bifurcated by the aforesaid vertical slot 9.

In the modified form of mounting bracket 15,

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shown in Figures 4 and 5, the guard post 16 is similarly pivoted on a transverse pin 17 in the vertical slot 18 and normally held in upright operative position by the lock ring 19. Instead of a retractile spring to draw the released, down swung, guard under the bed, however, I have provided a friction washer 20 pressed by spring 21 coiled about the pin 17 by a tension adjusting wing nut 22 threaded on the pin; whereby the guard, when swung downwardly through more than 180 degrees from its initial upstanding vertical position, into an angularly declining position under the bed, is frictionally held in such out-of-the-way position.

From the foregoing description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, it will be manifest that a guard for a bed is provided that will fulfil all the necessary requirements of such a device, but as many changes could be made in the above description and many apparently widely different embodiments of the invention may be constructed within the scope of the appended claims, without departing from the spirit or scope thereof, it is intended that all matters contained in the said accompanying specification and drawings shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limitative or restrictive sense.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A guard for a bed comprising a spaced pair of demountable brackets each with a deep, bed rail-receiving groove on its upper side near the rear and a vertical slot in the front for the full height thereof; an upwardly rising, normally vertical guard including a pair of parallel posts hingedly connected one in each of said brackets of a width to fit between the sides of the bracket slot and a thickness less than sufficient to reach to the front thereof, said guard being swingable downwardly through more than 180 degrees; and

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a releasable post lock for each of said brackets freely slidable on the respective post and having a telescoping fit over the upper end of the bracket which is of reduced size.

2. A guard for a bed comprising a pair of laterally projecting brackets for removable clamping on the side rail of a bed in spaced relation; a guard comprising a pair of parallel posts one hinged in each of said brackets; a releasable post-locking means for each bracket and its hingedly carried post; and a spring member connecting one of the guard posts and its bracket whereby said guard is held at an angular position to the vertical when swung downwards through more than 180 degrees.

3. A guard for a bed comprising a pair of laterally projecting brackets for removable clamping on the side rail of a bed in spaced relation; a guard comprising a pair of parallel posts one hinged in each of said brackets; a releasable post-locking means for each bracket and its hingedly carried post; and a retractile spring stretched between the front of each of said posts and the rear of the bracket supporting the same, said spring passing under the hinged end of the post; said guard being normally held in upright operative position by said locking means and being swingable downwardly when said means are released through more than 180 degrees into inoperative position.

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