

Sept. 2, 1952

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2,608,969

HYPNOSIS ASSISTING DEVICE

Filed July 27, 1950

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1

Fig. 1

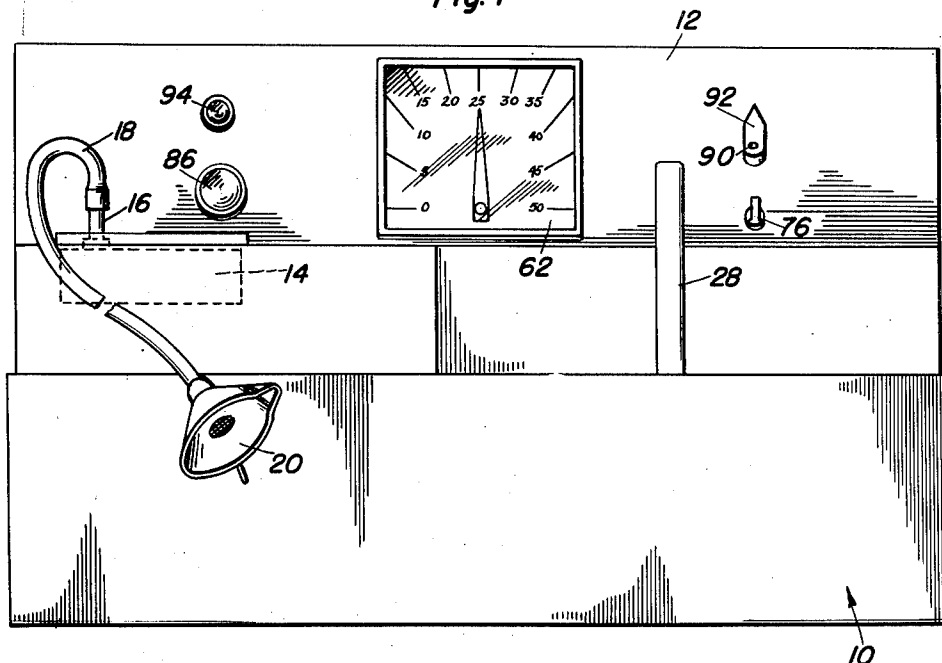
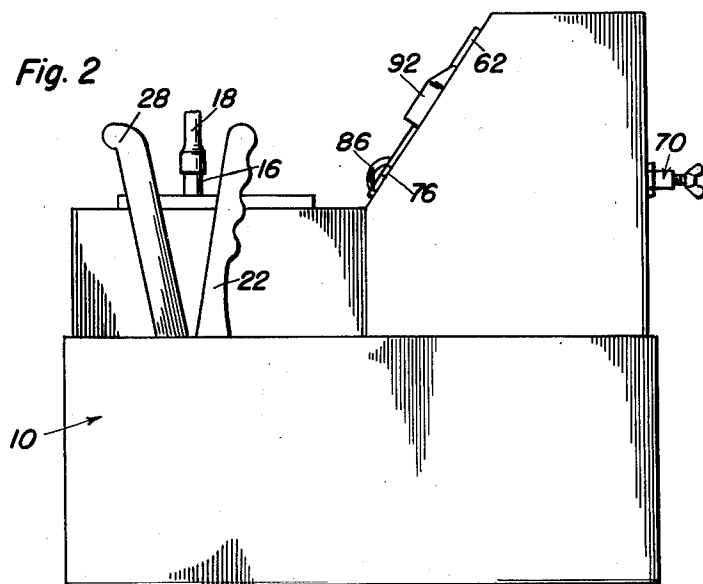


Fig. 2



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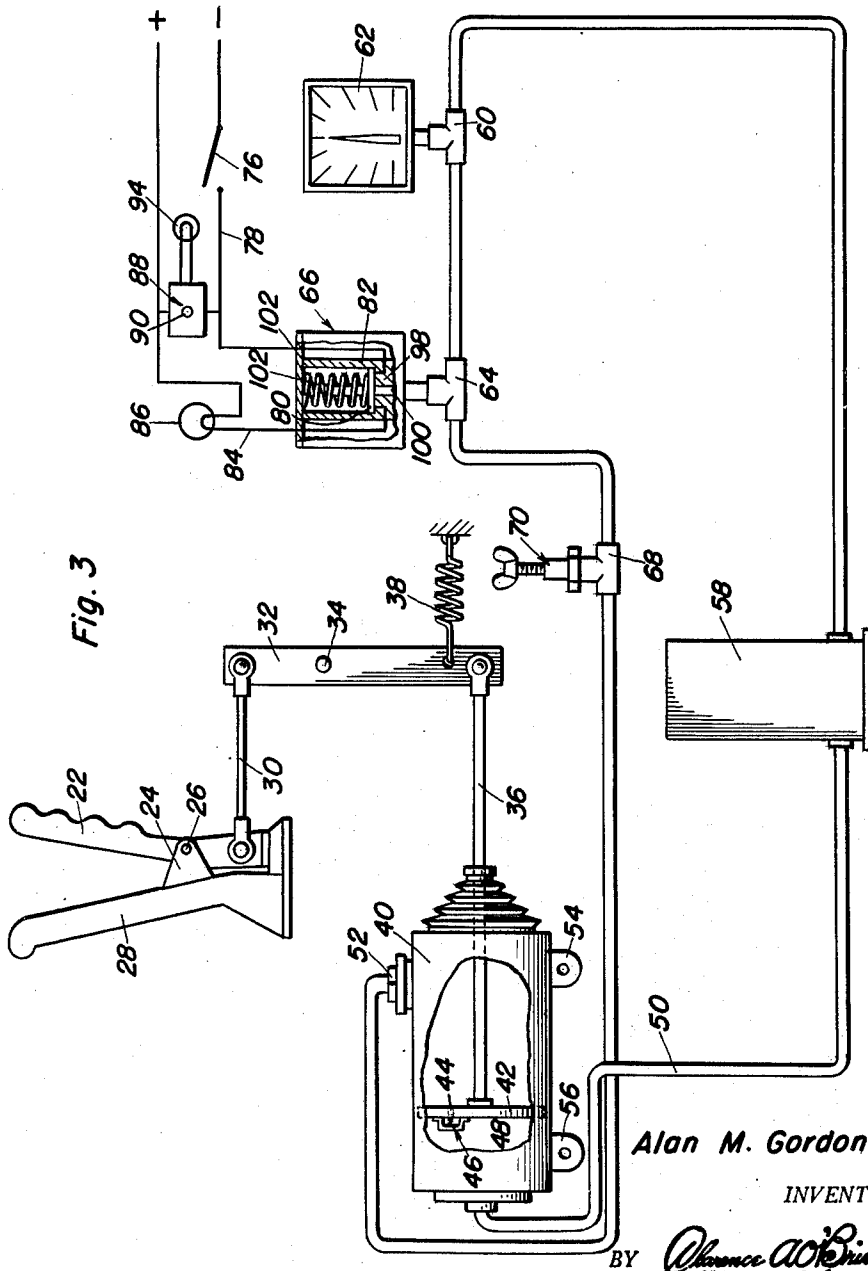
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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## HYPNOSIS ASSISTING DEVICE

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6 Claims. (Cl. 128-1)

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This invention relates to a device to assist in inducing hypnosis by providing the illusion that the operation of an external electrical or mechanical machine will produce sleep.

An object of this invention is to provide a device which may be employed for creating an illusion that a person is becoming sleepy to facilitate hypnosis, said device in one suggested form including a case which has incorporated therein the combination of a metronome, a flasher lamp, a dynamometer, a perfume distributor and a concealed means for relieving pressure of the dynamometer to provide a false reading on a visual gauge for the dynamometer. To this end, the device is to be used by the patient accompanied by oral or written instructions which, if followed, shall bring about a state of hypnosis.

Ancillary objects and features of importance will become apparent in following the description of the illustrated form of the invention.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is an elevational view of the device;

Figure 2 is a side view of the device in Figure 1 and showing the valve to control the efficacy of the dynamometer, said valve being disposed in a place which will not be visible to the patient when actuating the dynamometer; and

Figure 3 is a schematic view of the arrangement of elements in the case.

In carrying out this invention, there is provided a casing or housing 10 having various walls and an instrument and gauge panel 12. The case has a well therein with a receptacle 14 disposed in the well. A tube 16 extends from the receptacle and has a flexible tube 18 connected therewith. A mask 20 is disposed at the end of the flexible tube 18 and is adapted to cover at least a portion of the face of an individual whereby aromatic material in the receptacle 14 may be smelled by the individual to be hypnotized. Through this expedient, the hypnotist, in inducing hypnosis, may advise the patient that the ordinary perfume in the receptacle 14 is a sleep-inducing drug.

A handle 22 is mounted for pivotal movement on the bracket 24 by means of a pin 26, the bracket being connected to a stationary handle 28. The stationary handle 28 and the movable handle 22 extend from a platform forming a part of the case 10. A pitman rod 30 is pivoted at one end to the movable handle 22 and at the other end to a lever 32. This lever is pivoted by the pin 34 to a part of the case on the interior thereof. A piston rod 36 is pivoted to the lower end of the lever 32 and a resilient means to oppose the operation of the piston rod and the lever 34, and hence the movable handle 22 is

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connected to the lever 32. This resilient means consists of a spring 38 which is attached at one end to the lever 32 and at the other end to a stationary part of the case 10. Accordingly, the operation of the movable handle 32 causes the piston rod 36 to move inwardly and outwardly of the cylinder 40. This cylinder accommodates a piston or piston head 42 which is fixed to the piston rod 36.

A passage or port 44 is provided in the piston and a spring-loaded ball check valve 46 is operative in connection with the port 44. The ball check valve in itself is conventional including a cage 48 with a spring reacting thereon, the spring pressing against a ball which seats in the port 44. The cylinder 40, its piston and the check valve assembly of the piston constitute a dynamometer.

A pressure line or conduit 50 is attached at one end to the cylinder and at the other end to a central opening in the filler plug 52 for the cylinder 40. It will be noted that the filler plug is on one side of the piston head 42, while the discharge end of the cylinder accommodates the pressure line 50.

In mechanical operation, the handle 22 is pivotally operated, thereby pushing the piston head 42 inwardly of the cylinder 40, which is stationarily mounted by the brackets 54 and 55 in the case 10. At this time, the piston check valve 46 is closed, thereby pressing fluid under pressure into the line 50 through the discharge end of the cylinder 40. The fluid under pressure passes through a surge chamber 58 and through a coupling 60 which has a visual pressure gauge 62 connected therewith. The fluid also passes through another coupling 64 having a pressure operated switch 66 connected therewith. Then, the fluid under pressure passes through a coupling 68 which has a manually operative valve 70 connected therewith. The line 50 then returns to the filler plug 52.

A switch 76 is disposed on the panel 12 and is adapted to open and close an electrical circuit. A conductor 78 extends from the switch 76 and passes into the switch 66 to be engaged by the contact 80. This contact is disposed in a cylinder 82 of electrically insulating material, forming a part of the pressure operated switch 66. An electrical conductor 84 also extends from the switch 66 and is also adapted to be contacted by the switch plate or contact 80. A lamp 86 is disposed on the panel 12 and is in the conductor 84. Extending across the lines 78 and 84 is a metronome 88 of conventional description. This metronome has a control rod 90 extending therefrom, to which is attached a metronome con-

trol button 92. This button is disposed on the control panel 12 for regulation of the frequency of the metronome 88. A lamp 94 is operatively connected with the metronome for operation at the same frequency as the sound section thereof.

The contact 80 is of the plunger type. It rests upon an abutment 98 formed in the electrically insulating material cylinder 82 at the lower end thereof. A passage 100 in the body of the switch 66 opens into the coupling 64 whereby pressure in the line 50 causes the contact 80 to be lifted against the opposing force of the spring 102 which seats upon the contact 80 at one end and which reacts upon the closure 102 of the switch 66 at the other end.

In operation, the patient is seated in front of the case 10. The operator turns the switch 76 to such position as to close the circuit including the lines 78 and 84. This causes the signal light or lamp 86 to become operative. At the same time, the metronome 88 becomes operative to cause a sound in a predetermined frequency and to cause the lamp 94 to be operated at the same frequency. The manual control 92 for the metronome is set by the operator.

The patient then grasps the movable and stationary handles 22 and 28, respectively, and exerts a squeezing pressure. This causes the piston 42 to move inwardly and presses fluid under pressure through the line 50 including the accumulator or surge chamber 58, the gauge and the coupling 64. When the pressure in the line exceeds eight or ten pounds, the pressure-responsive switch 66 becomes operative, that is, the contact 80 is lifted against the opposing force of the spring 102. This opens the circuit of the lamp 86, causing it to become inoperative.

At the discretion of the operator, the valve 70 which is remote from the vision of the patient, is actuated causing fluid to be released from the line 50 upstream of the valve 70, to be returned to the cylinder 40 on the side of the piston opposite from the work surface. This loss of fluid will cause the pressure to drop in the line 50 so that the patient is then required to apply more pressure on the handles 22 and 28 so as to hold a previously designated pressure reading on the gauge 62. As the movable portion of the handle moves through its arc, it stretches the spring 38, which, as it stretches, produces a greater resistance to operation. Accordingly, as the handle 22 is moved through its arc, the resistance that the spring 38 provides varies from zero to an amount which the patient cannot maintain.

After a time, the patient arrives at a point where he can no longer maintain the predetermined reading on the pressure gauge and the pressure in the line drops below the eight or ten pounds required to keep the pressure switch 66 in such position as to render the lamp 86 inoperative. At this time, the lamp 86 will again become illuminated.

The illusion created is that the patient has become tired and sleepy. Therefore, after a short time the hypnotist may convince the patient that he is actually relaxing so as to induce hypnotism more readily.

After the patient removes his hand from the movable and fixed handles 22 and 28, the spring 38 returns the movable handle 22 to an initial starting position. It also causes the piston rod 38 to be pulled outwardly from the cylinder 42. At this time the fluid on the non-working side of the piston head 42 returns through the check valve for further use in the system.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A device to assist in inducing hypnosis comprising a case, a fluid operated dynamometer disposed in said case, a handle connected with said dynamometer to operate said dynamometer, a fluid flow control device connected with said dynamometer for controlling the difficulty of actuation of said handle whereby an illusion of failing strength of the operator of the handle may be obtained.

2. A device to assist in inducing hypnosis comprising a case, a dynamometer disposed in said case, a handle connected with said dynamometer to operate said dynamometer, means connected with said dynamometer for controlling the difficulty of actuation of said handle whereby an illusion of failing strength of the operator of the handle may be obtained, a visual indicator operatively connected with said means, and a lamp responsive to the operation of said means.

3. A device to assist in inducing hypnosis comprising a case, a dynamometer disposed in said case, a handle connected with said dynamometer to operate said dynamometer, said dynamometer including a cylinder with a piston therein, a fluid pressure line connected at both of its ends to said cylinder and having a manually operative valve therein to relieve the pressure in said pressure line, and a visual pressure gauge in said pressure line.

4. A device to assist in inducing hypnosis comprising a case, a dynamometer disposed in said case, a handle connected with said dynamometer to operate said dynamometer, said dynamometer including a cylinder with a piston therein, a fluid pressure line connected at its ends to said cylinder and having a manually operative valve therein to relieve the pressure in said pressure line, a visual pressure gauge in said pressure line, a lamp, a switch electrically connected with said lamp to control the operation of said lamp, and means responsive to the pressure in the line for actuating said switch.

5. In a device to assist in inducing hypnosis, a case having a dynamometer therein, said dynamometer comprising a cylinder with a piston therein, a piston rod extending from said piston and through one end of said cylinder, a pressure line extending from said cylinder and having a pressure gauge therein, a valve in said pressure line upstream of said pressure gauge, said line being connected to said cylinder, the connections of said line being on both sides of said piston, means connected to said piston rod for actuating said piston, and means resiliently opposing the operation of said last-mentioned means.

6. The combination of claim 5 and a lamp carried by said case, a switch for said lamp and connected to said pressure line for actuation in response to an amount of pressure in said line, and said switch being arranged to retain said lamp operative until a predetermined pressure is created in said line.

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