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ROLLING CRUTCH

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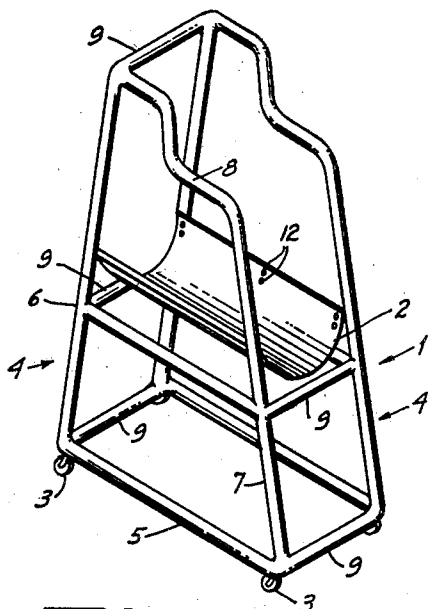


Fig. 1

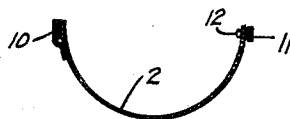


Fig. 4

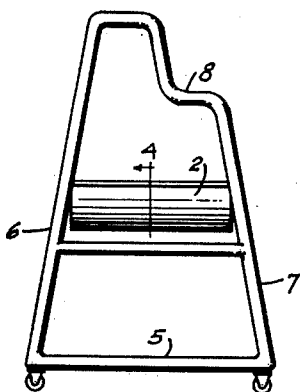


Fig. 2

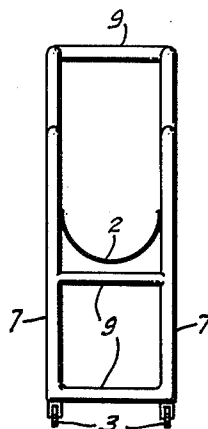


Fig. 3

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ROLLING CRUTCH

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3 Claims. (Cl. 155—22)

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The present invention relates to improvements in a rolling crutch, and its principal object is to provide a rolling knee support for a person having an injured ankle or foot or lower leg, the crutch being arranged in such a manner that the patient may rest one knee on the knee support while propelling himself with the other leg resting on the floor.

In carrying out the invention it is proposed to provide a rolling frame structure having a sling supported therein at approximately knee height and having substantially vertical side frame members so that the patient may conveniently straddle either one of the side frame members, with one foot resting on the floor.

It is further proposed to make the entire structure relatively narrow, with the width of the structure not greatly in excess of the width of the knee so that the knee will automatically center itself with respect to the structure when one leg rests on the floor.

It is further proposed in the present invention to arrange the frame structure in such a manner that it offers a convenient handhold forwardly of the sling at a height convenient for grasping by the patient while his knee is supported on the sling.

It is additionally proposed in the present invention to arrange the side frames in such a manner that the upper portions thereof are substantially below the crotch of a person so as to allow for convenient operation of the rolling crutch.

Further objects and advantages of my invention will appear as the specification proceeds, and the novel features of my invention will be fully defined in the claims attached hereto.

The preferred form of my invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 shows a perspective view of my rolling crutch,

Figure 2, a side view of the same,

Figure 3, a front view of the same, and

Figure 4, a vertical section taken along line 4—4 of Figure 2.

While I have shown only the preferred form of my invention, I wish to have it understood that various changes and modifications may be made within the scope of the claims attached hereto without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Referring to the drawing in detail, my rolling crutch comprises in its principal features a frame structure 1, a sling 2 supported therein, and rollers 3 supporting the frame structure.

The frame structure comprises two vertical

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frames 4 arranged in parallel relation, the two frames being identical in form, and each frame comprising a bottom member 5, a rear post 6, a front post 7, and a top member 8 connecting the front and rear posts. The front and rear posts 6 and 7 are preferably made to incline toward one another so as to provide a relatively long base for the structure.

The two frames are interconnected by means of a number of spacing members 9 which space the frames apart about 10 or 12 inches, the spacing corresponding substantially to the width of a knee and being not greatly in excess thereof.

The sling 2 may be made of canvas or any other suitable flexible material and may be supported within the frame structure in any suitable manner. As shown in the drawing, one side edge may be looped over a bar 10 mounted longitudinally in one of the side frames while the other edge may be buttoned to a second bar 11 mounted in the other side frame, the edge being provided with several rows of button holes 12 to allow the slack of the sling to be adjusted for persons of different heights.

The sling should be supported in the frames approximately midway of the height thereof and should be knee high, that is, spaced from the floor by about 17 inches.

The uppermost spacing member 9 should be of a height for convenient grasping by a person having a knee supported by the sling and may be about 34 or 36 inches above the floor level.

Since the side frames are intended to be straddled by the patient, the upper frame members 8 are suitably curved to present indentations adapted to accommodate the crotch of the patient. While the uppermost spacing member 9 may be approximately crotch high, the upper edges of the side frames should be of somewhat less height to accommodate the crotch of a person straddling either of the side frames.

The manner of using the device will be readily understood from the foregoing description. A person having an injured ankle or foot or lower limb may rest his knee on the sling 2, with his legs straddling one of the side frames, and one foot resting on the floor. When thus positioned he may grasp the uppermost spacing member 9 with his hands and propel himself forward by pushing off against the floor with his uninjured leg.

I claim.

1. A crutch comprising a pair of complementary vertical frames movable over a floor surface, means for spacing the same substantially by the

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width of a person's knee, and a sling supported by the frames substantially at knee height, the spacing means comprising a spacing member connecting the frames above and forwardly of the sling to form a handhold for a person having the knee of one leg resting on the sling, and the rearward upper ends of the frames being higher than the sling and lower than the spacing member to accommodate the crotch of the person when his other leg rests on the floor on the outside of one of the frames.

2. A crutch comprising a rectangular bottom frame movable over a floor surface having relatively long sides and short ends, legs rising from the four corners of the frame, the legs on one side being parallel to the legs of the other side and the legs on each side being inclined toward one another, a sling supported by the legs intermediate the height of the frame, a cross member connecting the legs at one end forwardly of and at an elevation considerably higher than the sling, the legs at the other end extending upwardly to a less elevation above the sling, and side members connecting the upper ends of each pair of side legs and being shaped to present relatively high forward portions connected to the rear legs at the cross member and relatively low rearward portions adapted to accommodate the crotch

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of a person having the knee of one leg resting on the sling and the foot of the other leg resting on on floor outside the base.

3. A crutch comprising a rectangular bottom frame movable over a floor surface approximately twice as long as wide, side frames rising vertically from the sides of the bottom frames and having stepped upper edges presenting relatively high front portions and lower rear portions, a cross-member connecting the upper ends of the front portions, and a sling supported by the side frames at substantially one-half the height of the front portions, with the upper edges of the rear portions disposed intermediate the height of the front portions and the height of the sling.

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