BABY BASKET STAND AND ROCKING DEVICE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 5—109)

This invention relates to a baby basket stand and rocking device.

The invention consists of a stand having a platform for supporting a baby basket or other unit which is to be oscillated, said stand being provided with legs which will accommodate oscillation in a lateral horizontal plane but not in a longitudinal horizontal plane at right angles thereto, and with a weight which is driven in a horizontal circular path. The legs provide an essentially simple but highly effective means for converting the circular motion of the weight into a lateral oscillation of the stand, which is readily variable as to the rate and extent of oscillation.

The invention provides means for changing the load applied to motor 18 through shaft 24 and forcing it to speed up or slow down to a new equilibrium speed. The latter means of adjustment will affect not only the speed of rotation but also the magnitude of the oscillation imparted to stand 9 by rotation of the weight. When the chain is shortened the oscillations become more frequent, but decrease in magnitude.

The legs are made of relatively thin sheets of resilient material such as %" hardboard, having only moderate resistance to flexing in a plane at right angles to their surfaces. They are attached to the sides of top frame 9 by wood screws 30, or other conventional fastening devices, so that the plane of the surface of leg 15 extends longitudinally of the upper frame 9, and are so shaped that they incline longitudinally downwardly and outwardly, to give further longitudinal stability. As best shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, the outside edges of side members 10 of top frame 9 are inclined laterally downwardly and outwardly so that attached legs 15 also incline slightly laterally downwardly and outwardly to give the upper support frame 9 lateral stability when motor 18 is not in operation, despite the lateral resilience of legs 15. This lateral support must not be so great that it prevents lateral oscillation of the frame on the legs under the influence of weight 27 revolving about shaft 24.

The angles at which legs 15 are placed, their resilience, the speed of motor 18, and the mass of top weight 27, are chosen to overcome the stabilizing forces due to the lateral inclination of legs 15 only when motor 18 is in operation, and to impart a lateral oscillation of the desired period and magnitude to stand 9, in view of the mass to be placed on stand 9, such as baby basket 31. Rotation of weight 27 is not able to impart a longitudinal oscillation to stand 9 because of the width of legs 15 and their greater inclination in the longitudinal plane than in the lateral plane. Accordingly, baby basket 31 will oscillate laterally at a controllable speed in a simple but effective manner.

It will, of course, be appreciated that other rotating devices could be used to supply power to rotate the weight and to regulate the speed of the oscillation produced thereby, for instance a spring motor equipped with a speed regulating escapement or with a flyball governor could be substituted for motor 18. A rheostat could also be incorporated in switch 21 for motor 18, but chain 28 is the preferred speed control.

It will be seen that applicant has provided an extremely simple but effective device for rocking a baby which converts the revolution of a weight to a lateral rocking motion of the upper platform portion of a stand for a baby basket by means of the construction and inclination of the flexible legs of the stand, and regulates the speed thereof by varying the length of the support for the weight and the mass of the weight.

The working parts of my device may be covered, if desired, but this is not essential. It may also prove desirable to cover the weight with a soft cover to prevent accidents to children.

The word "platform" as used herein refers to a structure extending in a generally horizontal plane which is capable of supporting a baby basket or the like, regardless of whether the platform is closed or open in construction.

We claim:

1. A stand for a baby basket comprising a rigid upper horizontal platform, a plurality of laterally resilient longitudinally rigid supports for said platform, a weight, and
means attached to said platform for revolving said weight in a horizontal plane, flexible weight-supporting means between said weight and said means for revolving said weight, said weight-supporting means being adjustable in length, each of said plurality of supports comprising a sheet of material which is laterally thin and resilient and is longitudinally wide and nonflexible.

2. The device of claim 1 in which each said sheet of material is inclined downwardly and outwardly from said platform in both the lateral and the longitudinal planes, said inclination being greater in the longitudinal plane.

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