

1,374,115.

J. F. ROEMER.
TENSION TABLE.
APPLICATION FILED JULY 23, 1918.

Patented Apr. 5, 1921.
3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

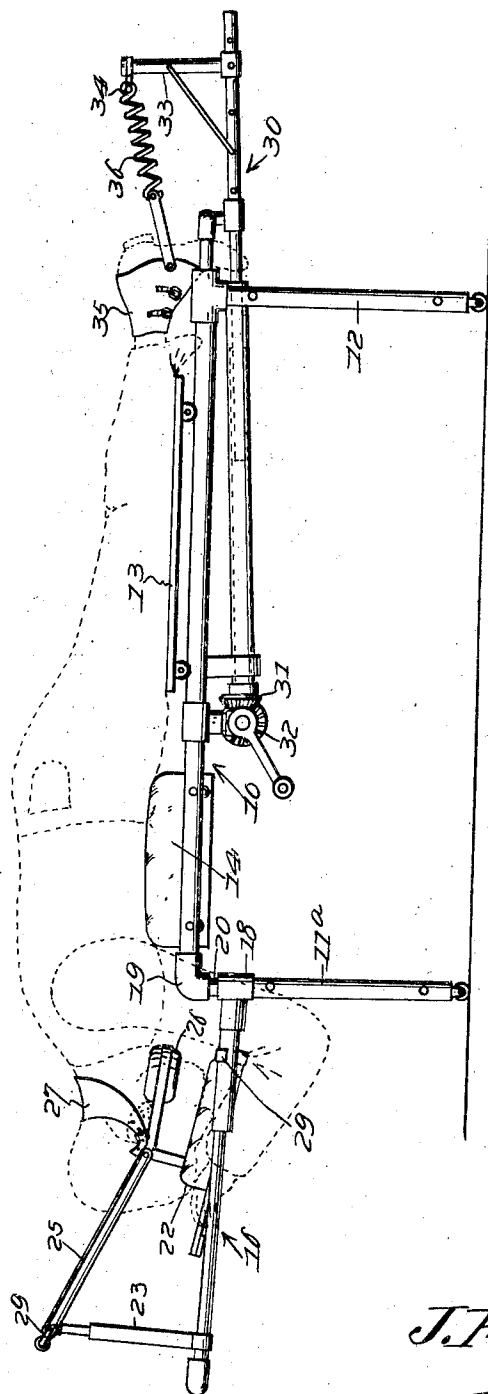


Fig. 1.

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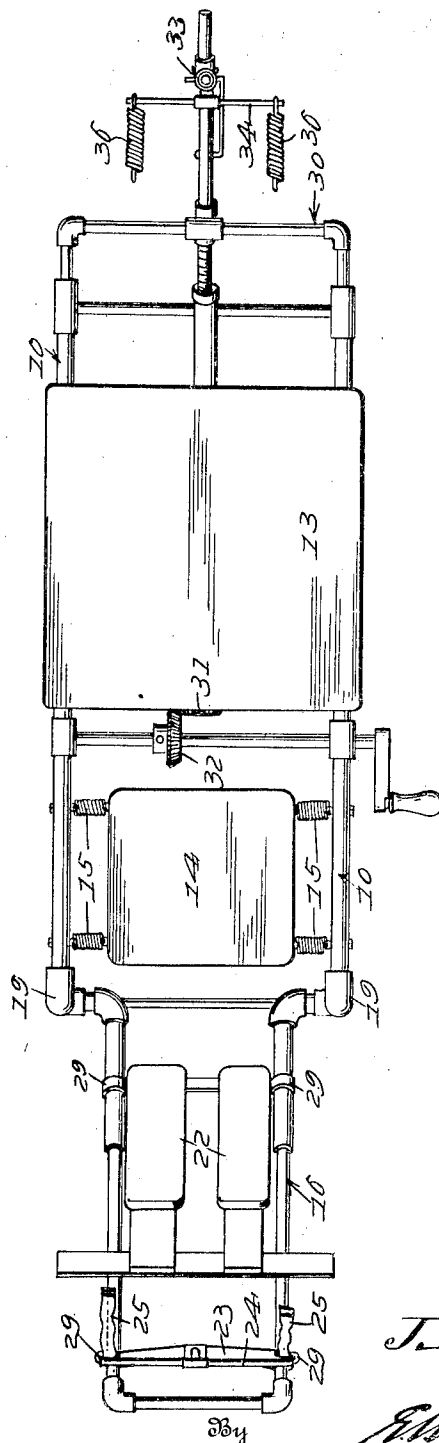
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Fig. 2.



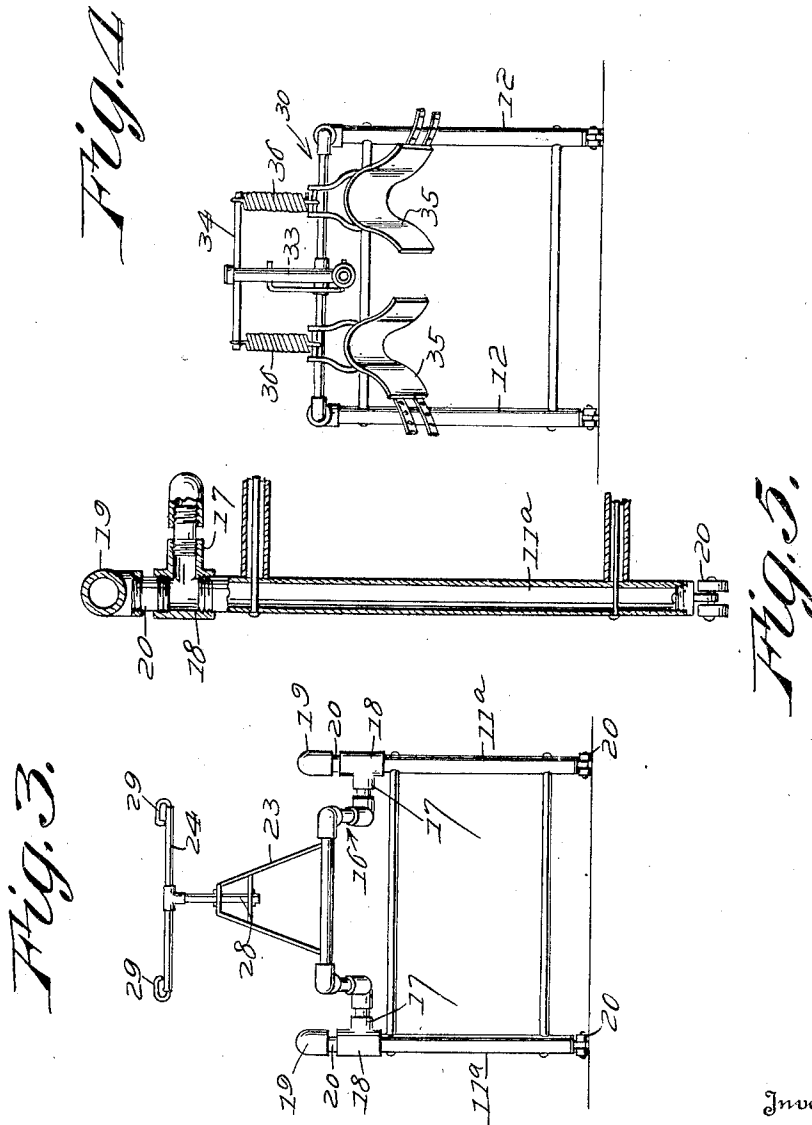
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TENSION-TABLE.

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Specification of Letters Patent.

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Application filed July 23, 1918. Serial No. 246,272.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JACOB F. ROEMER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Waukegan, in the county of Lake and State of Illinois, have invented new and useful Improvements in Tension-Tables, of which the following is a specification.

The object of the invention is to provide a surgical apparatus of the traction or tension table type designed for use in chiropractic treatment for the relaxation of muscles, the stretching of ligaments, the separation of vertebrae, the increase in flexibility of articulation, the relief of irritation or impingement of nerves, the relief of the compression of blood vessels and intervertebral disks, the increase in blood supply to the spinal cord, the adjustment of irregular vertebrae, and for assisting in the correction of scoliosis, kyphosis and lordosis, together with such general specific effects as may result therefrom, including stimulation from increased blood supply to the spinal centers by the effect on the viscera supplied by the nerves emanating from those centers, as well as general muscular relaxation, sedation and stimulation.

The invention consists in the provision of an apparatus suitable for supporting the human form and applying thereto in the proper and judicious directions, such tensile stresses as may result in the physical reliefs and readjustments as are required for the purpose indicated, and to that end in a construction, combination and relation of parts fully described hereinafter and particularly set forth in the appended claims.

In the drawings illustrating a preferred embodiment of the invention:

Figure 1 is a side view of the table with the parts adjusted for use, a human form being illustrated in dotted lines in a proper position thereon,

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the same,

Fig. 3 is a head end view,

Fig. 4 is a foot end view showing the boots in a pendant or inoperative position,

Fig. 5 is a detail sectional view showing the construction of one of the head end legs or supports and its attachment to the main frame and head frame.

The apparatus illustrated in the drawings consists essentially of a main, preferably rectangular frame 10 provided with head and foot end legs or supports 11 and 12

which may be suitably connected and braced, all being constructed, as illustrated, of tubular elements. This frame supports a leg rest 13 and a chest or body rest 14, the latter preferably being spring supported as shown at 15 to afford a yielding contact with the body of the patient. Extended beyond the head end of the main frame is a head frame 16, also of tubular construction and of U-shape with its side arms or members engaged in sockets 17 which are formed in T-shape coupling members 18 of the head end legs or support. Said coupling members may, as shown, be connected with the L-couplings 19 at the head ends of the side bars of the main frame by means of plugs 20 and the body portions of the supports or legs as shown at 11^a are in turn connected with the socket members 18 and may be provided with casters 21 to facilitate movement of the structure from place to place.

Mounted upon the head frame is a head rest 22, and also rising from said frame is a standard 23 supporting an adjustable cross head or bar 24 from which extends the flexible elements 25 of a mask or head engaging member consisting, for example, of the chin rest 26 and the head strap 27. The cross head or bar 24 may be provided, as shown, with a stem 28 adjustably fitted in the standard 23 to permit of variation in the horizontal plane of said cross head or bar. Also the head rest 22 may, as shown, be provided with clips 29 engaging the side bars of the head frame so that its position may be varied longitudinally to suit the patient.

At the other end the apparatus is provided with a foot extension 30 consisting, as shown, of a rod suitably mounted for longitudinal adjustment and adapted to be extended or retracted by gearing 31 actuated by a crank arm 32, said foot extension carrying a standard 33 with a cross head 34 with the arms of which are connected boots 35 adapted to be stretched or otherwise properly secured to the feet or ankles of the patient. Also preferably the connections between the boots and the cross head include tension springs 36 by which a yielding strain is applied through the connections to the feet of the patient in a direction longitudinally of the legs while the movement of the body on the supporting frame is prevented

by the head harness and connections including the mask or head engaging means and its supports.

In practice, the patient may be disposed upon the table as indicated in Fig. 1 of the drawings, or as may be required to suit the conditions which are to be relieved or the treatment which is to be applied, the legs being supported in a comfortable relaxed position, while the body is supported either under the chest or lower relatively to the torso by means of the preferably cushioned rest 14—the head in turn being disposed upon the head rest 22 which may, as shown, be divided so as to receive the face of the patient without interfering with the ordinary and normal operation of the respiratory organs.

Obviously any desired degree of tension may be applied longitudinally or axially of the body of the patient by a greater or less adjustment of the tensioning devices including the foot engaging elements, the foot extension and the described operating means, and such tension may be maintained for the required length of time or increased or diminished from time to time as the treatment of the patient may require, supplemented as will be readily understood, by massaging, the application of heat or other tempering means, (forming no essential part of this particular apparatus) and designed to supplement the extension or stretch effected in order that the desired results may be secured.

It is deemed unnecessary to specify more at length the purposes and possibilities of chiropractic or osteopathic treatment which may be conducted in connection with an apparatus such as above described, it being sufficient to emphasize the desirability of applying the traction or tension more or less gradually and to avoid excessive or over treatment because of the exhaustion to the patient resulting therefrom and the possi-

bility of producing excessive relaxation and flexibility of the spine, and to further emphasize the desirability of so positioning the patient upon the apparatus as to provide for the unimpeded circulation of the blood so that the veins may readily empty. It may be added that traction or tension under the conditions described is intended to correct spinal lesions and as an aid in other spinal treatments, to produce sedation and general relaxation, to stimulate visceral activity, any functional diseases and any hypochondriasis and other nervous disorders.

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for the purpose indicated having a main body supporting frame, body receiving rests carried thereby, a head frame supported by the main frame and carrying a head rest, a head harness carried by said head frame, a foot extension having a threaded shank, a rotatably mounted tubular member carried by the main frame and into whose one end the said shank threads, a crank handle, operative connections between the crank handle and the tubular member, whereby the latter is rotated and the foot extension moved in a direction toward or away from the head frame, and a foot harness carried by the said foot extension.

2. An apparatus for the purpose indicated having a main body supporting frame, body receiving rests carried thereby, a head frame supported by the main frame and carrying a head rest, a head harness carried by the head frame, a foot extension having a threaded shank, a rotatably mounted tubular member carried by the main frame and surrounding and threadingly engaging the said shank, and a foot harness carried by the said foot extension.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JACOB F. ROEMER.