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P. A. CARLSTEDT
TABLE FOR HOSPITAL BEDS
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Fig. 1.

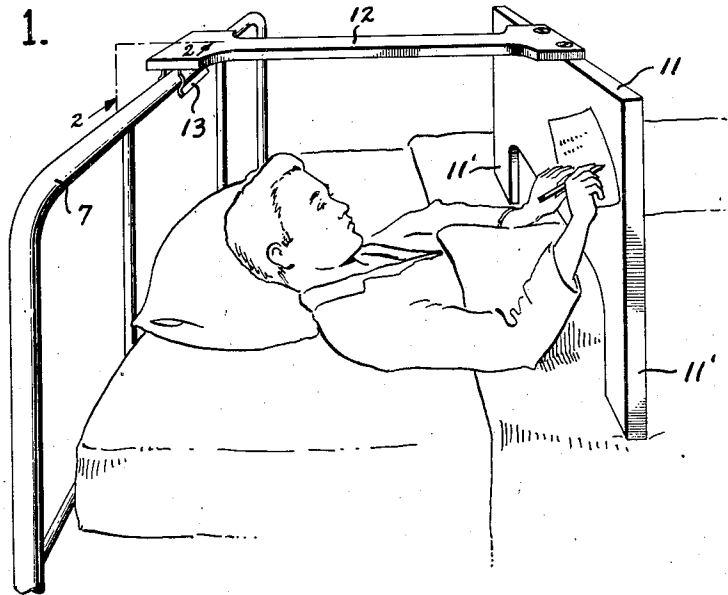


Fig. 2.

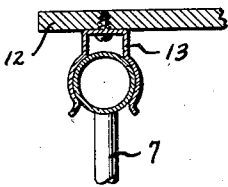


Fig. 4.

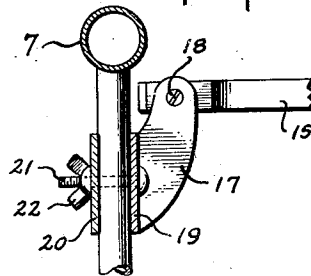
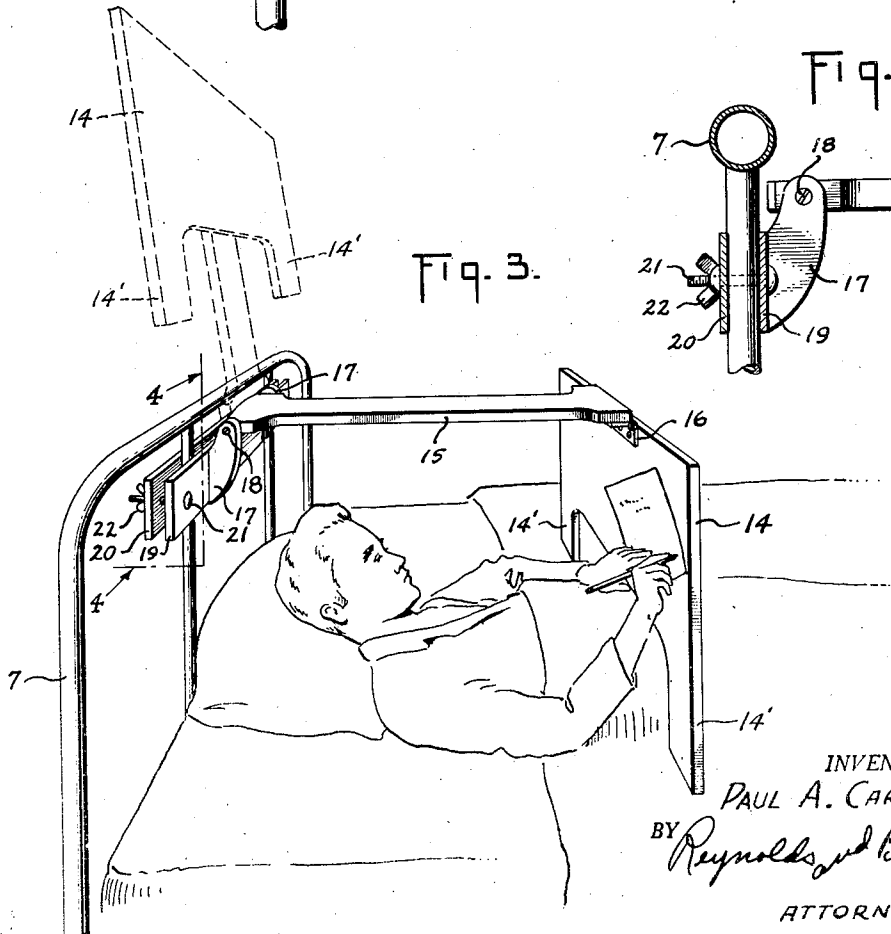


Fig. 3.



INVENTOR.
PAUL A. CARLSTEDT
BY *Reynolds and Beach*
ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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TABLE FOR HOSPITAL BEDS

Paul A. Carlstedt, Edmonds, Wash.

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4 Claims. (Cl. 311—27)

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My invention relates to table devices, as used in connection with hospital beds and the like, for the use and convenience of bed-ridden persons for writing, reading, etc.

The principal object of my invention is to provide a suitable and convenient writing table to meet the special need of a patient who, for some reason such as a spinal injury, is unable to be raised up into a sitting position in bed, and who therefore cannot conveniently use some other types of tables.

A further object of my invention is to provide a bed table structure, simple in construction and low in cost, which can be simply and easily attached, without the use of tools, to the head or end frame of a common type of hospital bed, for example, and which can be quickly and easily disposed, either by removing it from the bed entirely or by folding the device into a position projecting above the head frame of the bed, according to the type of construction preferred. By employing the latter and preferred method of operation and construction, a still further object of my invention is to provide a table which, when not in use, can be stored in an out-of-the-way position, while at the same time always being within easy reach of the patient and which can be brought into position for use with ease and speed by the patient.

In general terms a feature of this invention resides in the table structure for attachment to the end frame of a bed and comprising an arm attachable at one end to an end frame of the bed near the top thereof to extend over and generally longitudinally of the bed, and a generally upright table to extend transversely of the bed and having depending spaced leg elements to rest directly on the bed, the other end of said arm and said table, at a location near its top, being interconnected to brace the table in upright position resting on the bed. Preferably both arm connections, that is, the connection thereof to the table and that to the end frame of the bed are made such as to enable swinging of the arm in a vertical plane and folding of such arm and the table together during such swinging. It is to be understood that the term "table" as herein used has reference generally to the table panel itself, defining the working surface. The invention therefore contemplates a table structure, such as that herein described, by which the person lying in bed is presented a generally upright working surface which is stable and conveniently usable.

It is better not to rest the weight of the table on the patient's body. Preferably, therefore, the

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weight of the table is carried by spaced legs projecting downwardly from the table at the side or sides of the patient and supporting the table a suitable and convenient distance above the mattress and the patient's body.

Referring to the drawings, throughout which like reference numerals designate like parts:

Fig. 1 is the perspective view of one form of my invention as applied to a hospital bed and showing the table in use.

Fig. 2 is a section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a second form of my invention, also showing the table in use as applied to a bed, and showing by broken lines a folded or inoperative position of the table.

Fig. 4 is a section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

The bed table structure illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 comprises a table 11 having suitable leg projections 14' which support the table and straddle the body of the patient. The table 11 is kept in a substantially vertical and stable position by the arm 12 which spans between the table 11 and the head frame of the bed. This arm 12 need not necessarily be rigidly attached to the table 11; however it is shown as such. The end of the arm 12 remote from the table 11 is attached to the head frame of the bed 7 by means of a spring clamp 13 which fastens onto the top rail of the head frame of bed as shown in section detail in Fig. 2. This clamp enables the arm to swing vertically.

The bed table as shown in Fig. 1 is intended to be removed from the bed entirely when not in use.

Referring to Fig. 3 I show a second form of my invention wherein a table 14, having one or more legs 14', is pivotally attached to an arm 15 by some such means as a hinge 16. The arm 15 is also pivotally connected to the head frame of the bed. In this figure this is accomplished by attaching the arm 15 to the spaced lugs 17 by means of the bolt 18. These lugs 17 are, in turn, integrally mounted on a bracket or cross-piece 19 which in turn is bolted to the head frame of the bed 7 by suitable means and which, as is shown here, may consist of another cross-piece member 20 placed on the opposite side of the head frame and bolted in position directly opposite to the outer cross-piece bracket 19 by means of bolts 21 which are inserted through apertures in said cross-pieces. Preferably at least two bolts 21, provided with the wingnuts 22, are used to firmly clamp the bracket parts to the frame of the bed. This is shown in greater detail in Fig. 4.

It should now be plainly evident that the table can be swung upwardly and folded into a posi-

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tion shown by broken lines in Fig. 3 where it may lean against a wall behind the head of the bed, or else can be brought to a stop position by the arm 15 striking the horizontal bar member on the top of the frame of the bed.

It should be pointed out here that an overhead folding table, such as that just described, could use to advantage as a pivotal attachment between the arm member 15 and the bed frame, a clamp device or devices very similar to the clamp means 13 shown in Fig. 2, if such clamp means is properly located with reference to the vertical bars in the head frame of the bed, so as not to strike these vertical bars when the table is being folded to its overhead position.

While I have shown only three particular embodiments of my invention, I do not wish to limit myself to the exact forms shown, since the particular constructions shown and described are intended as illustrative rather than delimitive.

Obviously changes in the precise embodiment of the invention herein disclosed may be made within the scope of what is claimed without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What I claim is as follows:

1. A table structure for attachment to a bed, comprising an arm attachable at one end to an end member of the bed near the top of such member to extend therefrom over and generally longitudinally of the bed, and a generally upright table to extend transversely of the bed and having depending spaced legs arranged to rest directly on the bed's mattress astraddle the bed's occupant and carry substantially the full weight of the table, the other end of said arm and said table, at a location near its top, being interconnected to brace said table in upright position resting on the bed, against tilting longitudinally of the bed.

2. A table structure for attachment to a bed, comprising a table, a table-supporting arm swingably attachable at one end to an end frame of a bed for swinging vertically, said arm in its operative position extending over and generally longitudinally of the bed and being swingably connected at its opposite end to an upper portion of said table to brace the same longitudinally of the bed, while disposed in generally upright position with its foot portion resting directly on and frictionally engaging the bed to carry at least a portion of the weight of the table and hold the same against swinging relative to the arm.

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3. A table structure adapted for attachment to a bed, comprising mounting means adapted for securement to an end frame of the bed, an arm pivotally attached at one end to said mounting means so that it can be swung on its pivot to a vertical inoperative position above said end of the bed, or down to extend over and lengthwise of the bed in operative position, a vertically disposed table pivotally attached at its upper portion to the other end of said arm so that it can be swung upwardly to a position alongside of said arm, and a pair of spaced legs projecting from said table and adapted to be stood upon the bed at opposite sides of a person lying therein.

4. A table structure adapted for attachment to a bed, comprising a table, a table-supporting arm swingably attachable at one end to the head frame of a bed, for swinging vertically, and swingably and supportingly attached at its other end to said table in the vicinity of its upper edge portion, to support said table in generally upright position over the bed's mattress and overlying the bed's occupant, said table having depending legs resting upon the mattress astraddle the occupant and by their engagement of such mattress preventing the table swinging relative to said arm, and said arm preventing the table tilting relative to the bed, said table and arm being adapted to fold together into substantially parallel relationship and swing upwardly over said head frame, the over-all length of said table and legs below the point of connection with said arm, and with respect to the length of said arm, being such as to locate such legs heightwise in the vicinity of the connection of the arm and bed, with the parts swung upwardly, and thereby within easy reach of the occupant.

PAUL A. CARLSTEDT.

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