

A. SKEFFINGTON.
INVALID BED.
APPLICATION FILED AUG. 24, 1911.

1,040,795.

Patented Oct. 8, 1912.

2 SHEETS-SHEET 1.

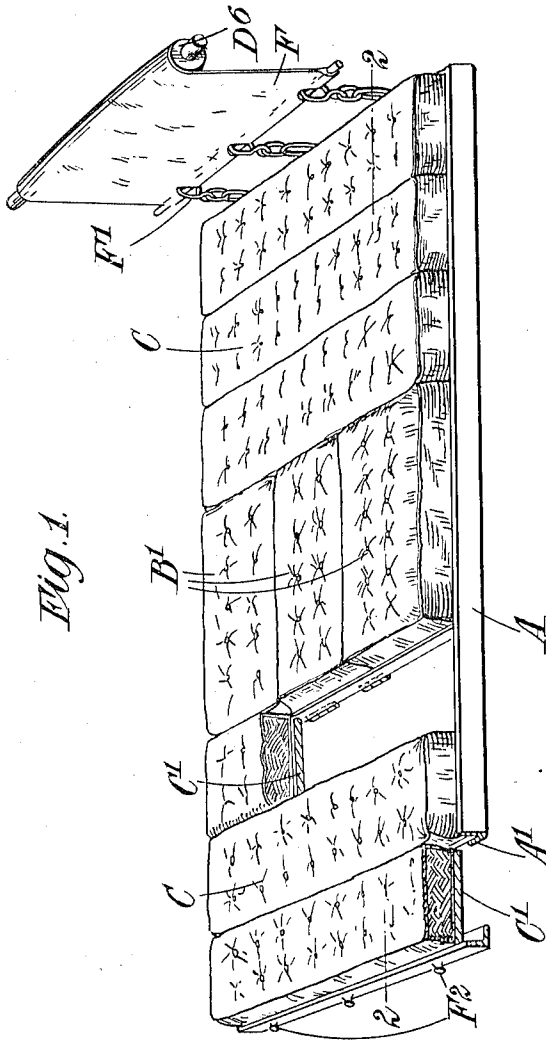


Fig. 1.

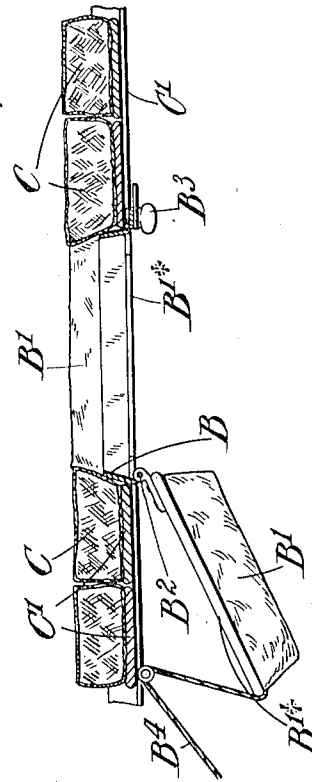


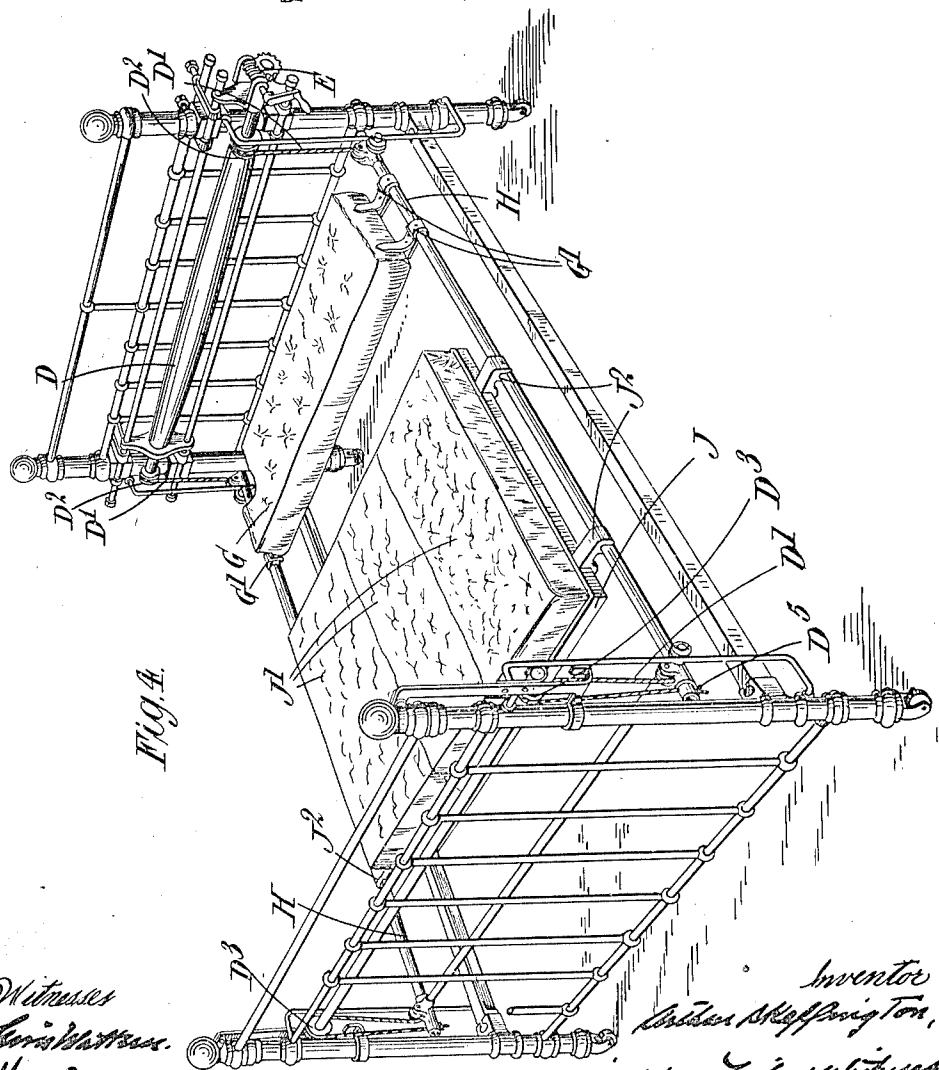
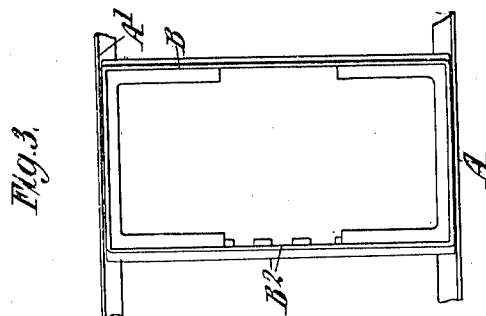
Fig. 2.

Witnesses
Thos. W. H. H. H.
H. W. P. H. H.

Inventor
Arthur Skeffington
Gibbs, H. H. H. H.
His Attorney

1,040,795.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



Witnesses
 Christy W. W.
 H. O. Pinner

Inventor
Charles Skiffington,
By Will Watson, Deed & Witness
His Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ARTHUR SKEFFINGTON, OF LONDON, ENGLAND.

INVALID-BED.

1,040,795.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ARTHUR SKEFFINGTON, a subject of the King of England, residing at Blackheath, London, England, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Invalid-Beds, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improved invalid bed, in which a mattress composed of transverse sections, certain of which sections comprise a series of longitudinal units, is supported by a main frame to permit ready interchange of said several mattress sections and independent lowering of said longitudinal units.

My invention relates further to an improved invalid bed, in which the transverse mattress sections can be lowered from the main frame, and said frame shifted and locked in different positions.

In the accompanying drawings:—Figure 1 is a perspective view of a frame with a sectional mattress constructed according to this invention; Fig. 2 is a fragmentary sectional view on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is a plan of a detail of Fig. 1, and Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing a modified form of the apparatus.

Like letters indicate like parts throughout the drawings.

The main frame A may be of angle iron of L shaped cross-section, the foot of the L being turned inward to form a horizontal ledge A¹ as shown at the left-hand end of Fig. 1 where part is broken away to illustrate it and in plan in Fig. 3. The frame may lie on a bedstead or be otherwise supported as found convenient. Free to slide on the ledge A¹ is an auxiliary frame B which may be similarly constructed of angle iron. The frame B in the drawing is shown in the middle position on the frame A and on each side of it are transverse mattress sections C. These may be supported by boards C¹ bridged across the open space between the longitudinal members of the frame A and resting on the ledge A¹. The auxiliary transverse frame B carries a transverse mattress section comprising a series of independent longitudinal units B¹ supported by longitudinally-extending boards B^{1*}. One of said boards is shown hinged to the transverse frame B at B² for downward swing; a suitable latch B³ being provided on said frame for locking said board in position.

With the frame a lifting apparatus (Fig. 4) is illustrated as applied to a bedstead and comprises a roller D mounted in bearings on each end of the bed and operated by worm gearing E. The roller is normally employed for operating a long sheet and the frame is lifted by cables D¹ secured to pulleys D² fast on the roller spindle. The cables traverse the length of the frame and pass over loose pulleys D³ at the other end of the bedstead being guided by intermediate pulleys D⁴ and secured to the mattress supporting frame at D⁵. Instead of this, however, the roller itself may be employed for lifting by attaching a short portion of sheeting F to the roller D⁶, its free end being connected to the frame by chain or other fastenings F¹. A second roller would then be employed at the opposite end of the bedstead and a short sheet portion similar to the portion F used to connect the roller at that end of the bedstead with the corresponding end of the mattress frame; thus by operating the two rollers the whole frame with the sectional mattress and the patient thereon can be lifted. Stud F² are shown at the left-hand end of the frame, Fig. 1, to receive the chain connections to the sheet. In the known form of apparatus the rollers are for operating a long sheet and thus by using sheet portions F to lift the frame, only one kind of connection need be employed for the roller so that any person can readily connect these two sheet portions for lifting the frame.

The operation of this apparatus is as follows:—The mattress sections are so arranged that a patient who perhaps has some spinal complaint necessitating constant dressing of the back, can be so placed that one of the independent longitudinal mattress units will be positioned opposite the part requiring dressing. The requisite adjustment of the portion can be effected by putting a greater or smaller number of undivided sections at one end of the frame than the other and moving the sub-divided section accordingly toward the shoulders or the lumbar region of the patient. Such longitudinal mattress section can then be dropped at any time by releasing the catch and allowing it to swing back upon its hinge as shown in Fig. 2. Before releasing the section the frame conveniently is raised to such a height that the attendant can effect the necessary dressing without inconvenience. A cord B⁴ may

be provided to hold the unit well back after it has been opened.

To avoid jamming, the ends, and also the sides if desired, of the movable portion B¹ may be beveled off so that the top surface is narrower than the bottom and the adjacent portions of the surrounding sections may be correspondingly undercut or oppositely beveled as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

10 The swinging longitudinal mattress unit is preferably secured to its supporting board so that it does not come adrift when the board is moved. The board may be hinged at one side instead of one end.

15 In a modified form of this invention shown in Fig. 4, the transverse mattress section G is supported in a well known manner by bands or straps G¹ which are fixed by buckle fastenings to the longitudinal members of a frame H. Thus by unfastening the buckled ends from one longitudinal member the section can be dropped, swinging about the other member, or by unbuckling both ends the section can be removed.

25 In this figure the auxiliary frame J for the longitudinal mattress units J¹ is carried by hangers J² that rest on the longitudinal members of the frame H and can be slid along the same or lifted therefrom.

30 What I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. In an invalid bed, the combination of a sectional mattress, a main frame support-

ing the sections of the mattress, a frame slidable on the main frame and carrying sections of the mattress whose divisions are parallel with the longitudinal axis of the bed, and means for lowering one of these sections without disturbing any other section.

2. In an invalid bed the combination of a sectional mattress, a main frame supporting the sections of the mattress, a frame carrying sections of the mattress whose divisions are parallel with the longitudinal axis of the bed, and slidable on the main frame to be interchangeable in position with other sections of the mattress.

3. In an invalid bed the combination of a sectional mattress, a main frame supporting the sections of the mattress, a frame slidable on the main frame and carrying sections of the mattress whose divisions are parallel with the longitudinal axis of the bed, a hinged support on said slidable frame for one of said sections whereby the latter can be swung downward, and means for holding it normally up in position.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ARTHUR SKEFFINGTON.

Witnesses:

HAROLD H. SIMMONS,
A. M. HAYWARD.