

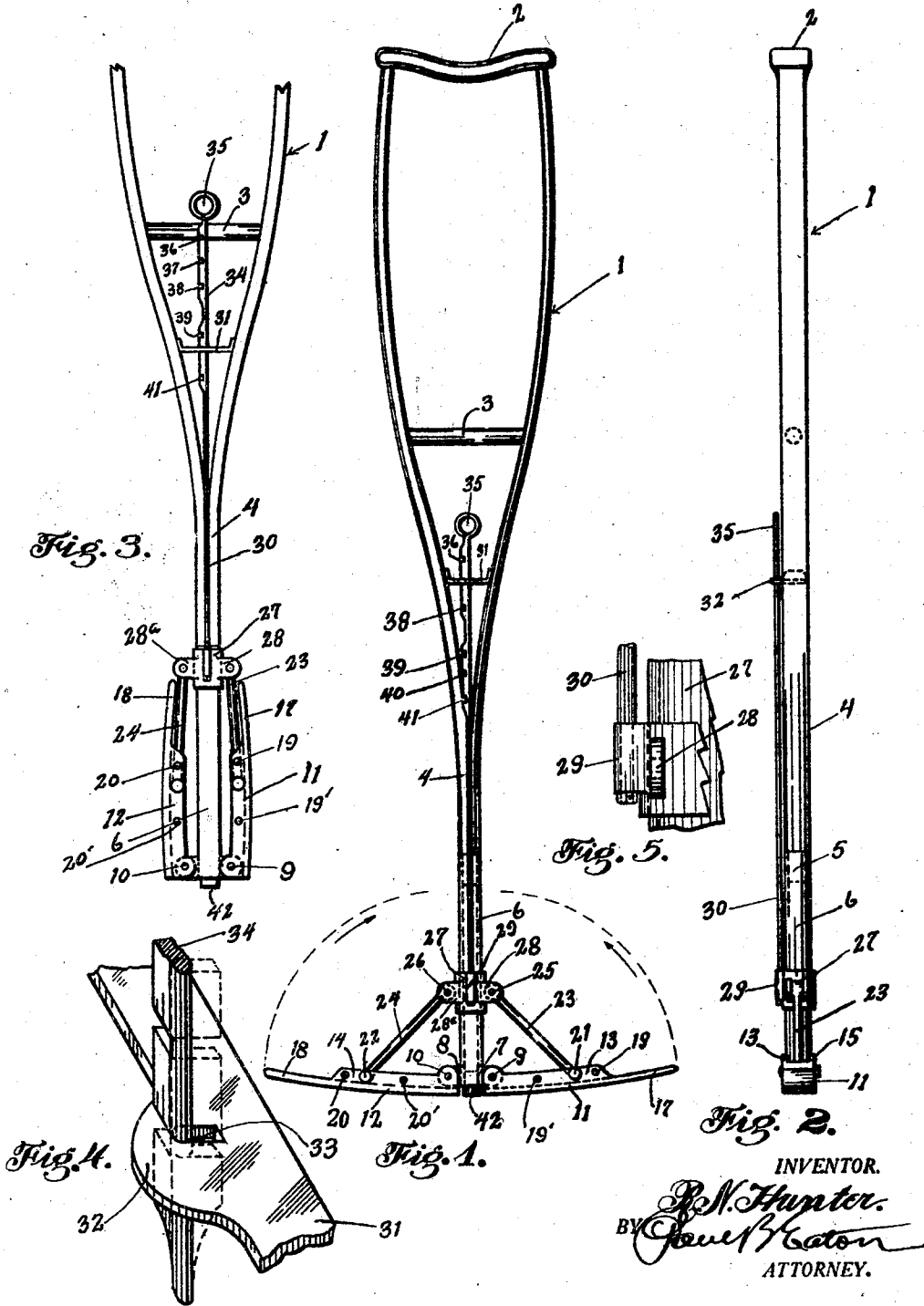
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CRUTCH

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CRUTCH.

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My invention relates to crutches and more especially to providing a crutch having folding rockers on its lower end. I am aware that heretofore rockers have been provided for crutches, but not of the specific folding type set forth in my invention. It is an object of my invention to provide a rocker attachment adapted to be attached to an ordinary crutch, after sawing off the lower portion of said crutch, which can be folded to permit the crutch to be used as an ordinary crutch for ascending stairways and for use in crowded places and auditoriums where the rocker might be inconvenient to use.

Another object of my invention is to provide a crutch with a sectional rocker on its lower end, in combination with a resilient member, such as rubber, with the sections of the rocker capable of being folded upwardly against the shank of the crutch, thus allowing the crutch to be used as an ordinary crutch when desired, and also being capable of being used with the sectional rocker unfolded and in position for use in open spaces, together with means for folding or unfolding the sectional rocker while the head of the crutch is located in the armpits of the user.

Another object of my invention is to provide a rocker attachment for a crutch which may be adjusted to suit the weight of the person using the same.

Having thus stated some of the objects of my invention, a brief description of the drawings showing a preferred embodiment of my invention will now be given, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my crutch, showing the rockers in open position;

Figure 2 is an elevation of my device, looking at right angles from the view in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a side elevation of a portion of my device, showing the rockers in folded position;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of a portion of the means for adjusting and operating the rockers;

Figure 5 is an elevation, with parts broken away, showing the cuff and rod for adjusting the rockers.

A brief description of the drawings having been given, a detailed description will

now follow in which like reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout the drawings.

The numeral 1 indicates a crutch to which my invention is adapted to be attached, having the head-piece 2, the handle 3 and the shank portion 4. This shank portion has the smaller portion 5 adapted to fit into the hollow pipe or shank extension 6. The shank extension 6 has the portions 7 and 8 projecting from the sides of its lower portion in opposite directions. The projections 7 and 8 have holes therethrough which serve to receive the bolts or rivets 9 and 10 upon which are pivotally mounted the rocker members 11 and 12, by means of the bolts or rivets 9 and 10 piercing holes in the flange portions of the rocker members. The rocker members 11 and 12 have upturned flanges 13, 14, 15 and 16 extending from the base portions of the rockers to a point short of the tip portions 17 and 18 of the rockers. The member 16 is not shown in the drawings, but is the corresponding flange to 14 on the rocker 12.

The flanges 13 and 15 on the rocker 11 have a plurality of holes such as 19 and 19' therein, and the flanges on the rocker 12 have a plurality of holes such as 20 and 20' therein. These holes are adapted to receive bolts or other suitable fastening means 21 and 22, which are also adapted to pierce holes in the lower ends of the members 23 and 24. The upper ends of the members 23 and 24 are pivotally mounted as at 25 and 26 in the cuff member 27 which encircles the shank extension 6, and is slidably mounted thereon. These pivotal connections consist of split projections 28 and 28^a between which the upper ends of the members 23 and 24 are pivotally mounted by means of suitable bolts or nuts 25 and 26, piercing the split projections and the holes in the upper ends of the members 23 and 24.

A projection 29 extends from one side of the cuff member 27 at a point approximately midway of the projections 28 and 28^a, and this projection 29 has a vertical hole there-through for the reception of the lower end of the adjusting rod 30, said lower end of the adjustable rod 30 being secured in any suitable manner, as by having a slight decrease in diameter for the portion entering the vertical hole, with a nut on the lower side of the vertical hole, or the vertical hole

may be threaded to receive threads on the lower end of the adjustable rod 30.

Secured to the crutch below the handle 3 is a perforated cross member 31 which has a projection 32 on its outer edge, and in said projection there is the rectangular perforation 33, adapted to receive the upper flattened portion 34 of the adjustable rod 30. The upper end of the adjustable rod 30 has the eye 35 and below said eye are the notches 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 and 41, these notches serving to permit adjustment of the rockers 11 and 12 as to angularity, and also as to open or folded position, as will be seen from the drawings.

The lower end of the shank portion 6 has secured therein the piece of rubber or other resilient material 42, which bridges the gap between the rockers when they are in open position, as shown in Figure 1, and which serves as a resilient end for the crutch when the same is used with the rockers in folded position, as shown in Figure 3.

The method of operation of my device is as follows:

With the device in open position as shown in Figure 1, and with the members 23 and 24 in the holes in the flanges on the rockers as shown, and with the rod 30 turned as shown in Figure 1, the crutch is ready for use by a person of ordinary weight. When it is desired to fold the crutch so as to permit its use in crowded places or while it is to be used for ascending stairways, the rod 30 is given a quarter turn, as shown by the dotted lines in Figure 4, and the rockers may be folded by an upward pull of the adjustable rod 30. When the rockers are folded the adjustable rod 30 is reversed a quarter turn to its original position, and the crutch appears as shown in Figure 3, with the notch 40 engaging the projection 32.

When the lower ends of the members 23 and 24 are secured in any other set of holes, as in 19 and 20 or in 19' and 20', the other

notches in the upper portion of the rod 30 are used.

For a person of more than ordinary weight the lower ends of the members 23 and 24 may be secured in the holes 19 and 20, and for a person of very light weight the said ends may be secured in the holes 19' and 20', thereby regulating and adjusting the resiliency of the rockers 11 and 12.

It will thus be seen that I have provided a crutch which fills a long felt want in that it eliminates the shock to the armpits and shoulders and at the same time permits the crutch to be used under all conditions.

Having thus described one illustrative embodiment of my invention, I desire it to be understood that although specific terms are employed, they are used in a generic and descriptive sense, and not for purposes of limitation, the scope of the invention being set forth in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A crutch having a folding curved base piece.
2. A crutch having a folding curved base piece adapted to be folded at will.
3. A crutch having a folding rocker member secured to its base portion.
4. A crutch having a segmental base piece, a head piece, means secured to the crutch whereby the base piece may be folded by the user while the headpiece of the crutch remains in the armpits of the user.
5. In a crutch, a hollow shank secured to the base portion, a cuff slidably mounted on said shank, rocker members secured to the lower portion of said shank, members pivoted to the cuff and to the rocker members, means cooperating with said cuff for sliding the cuff and swinging the rocker members on their respective pivots.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have signed this specification, this the 15th day of April, 1926.

ROBERT N. HUNTER.