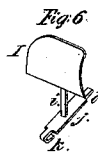
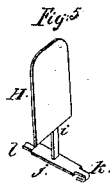
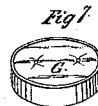
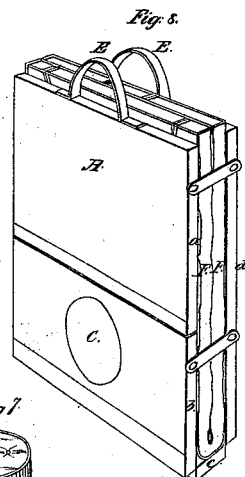
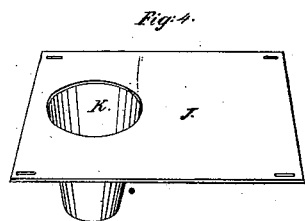
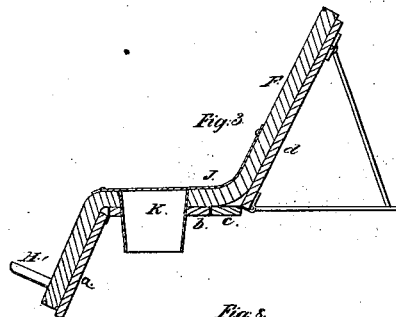
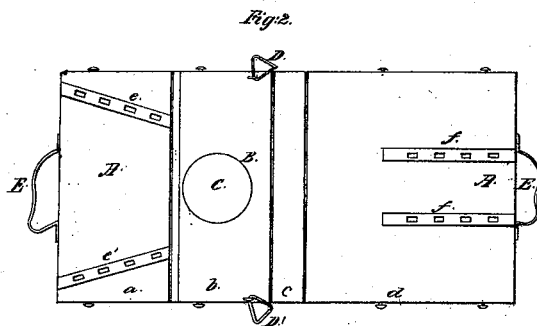
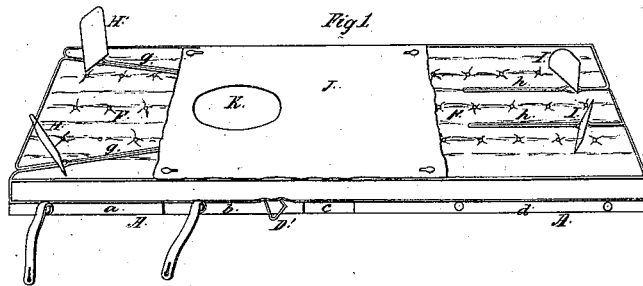


*R. H. Mathews,*  
*Invalid Bedstead,*  
*No. 46,569.* *Patented Feb. 28, 1865.*



Witnesses:  
*J. A. Dingle*  
*C. Huntington*

Inventor:  
*Rodney H. Mathews*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RODNEY H. MATHEWS, OF PAINESVILLE, OHIO.

## IMPROVEMENT IN INVALID-BEDS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **46,569**, dated February 28, 1865.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, RODNEY H. MATHEWS, of Painesville, in the county of Lake and State of Ohio, have invented a new and Improved Sick-Bed and Accouching Frame of Portable Construction; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings of the same, and making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of my said sick-bed and accouching-frame; Fig. 2, a plan view of the same; Fig. 3, a sectional view showing the same set up and supported so as to form a chair; Fig. 4, a sleeved apron of water-proof fabric used in connection with the said bed. Figs. 5 and 6 are enlarged views of one each of the pairs of adjustable foot and shoulder blocks, also used in connection with said frame, as shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 7 is a cushion which fits into and closes the aperture in the mattress of said sick-bed. Fig. 8 represents the said frame folded up and strapped, showing its portable character.

The letters of reference marked thereon indicate similar parts in all the figures.

The object of this invention is to provide medical practitioners, nurses, and others having care of the sick with a bed or couch which is so constructed that it can be easily and readily made available as a sick-bed, couch, or chair, combining the essential qualities of ease, comfort, and cleanliness to the patient and convenience on the part of the nurse or attendant, and which, in the case of parturient patients, is readily converted into an accouching bed or frame, its constructive parts being such as to materially aid the patient at the time of labor.

The portable arrangement of this improved sick-bed is such that the practitioner is enabled to carry it with him in his attendance on his patients, and to put the same into use by laying it on a common bedstead or any article that will sustain it.

This bed, when folded up and strapped, is very compact and takes but little room, which feature, in connection with its sanitary benefits, as will be explained, renders it peculiarly adapted for the use of army and navy hospitals, permanent, temporary, or traveling, being easily packed and handled for transportation.

The following is a description of its construction and operation: A, Fig. 1, is a frame of board. It consists of four solid parts, *a b c d*, the several parts being joined by strips of leather, cloth, or other suitable material. In the portion *b* of said frame is an aperture, B, Fig. 2, which is closed by a disk or cover, C. In the portions *a* and *d* are secured racks or slotted plates *e e'* and *f f'*, and are located as seen in the figure. D and D' is a pair of handles, of triangular shape, secured at the sides of the part *b* of the said frame A. E E are handles of leather secured to the end edges of the frame, as shown. The said frame is overlaid by a thin or sufficiently thick mattress, F, Fig. 1, which mattress may be of one entire piece, or it may be jointed to conform with the joints of the said frame. In the said mattress is an aperture corresponding with that of B of the frame A, which aperture is filled, when it is required to be so, by the cushion G, Fig. 7. *g g'* and *h h'* are longitudinal slits constructed in the said mattress, and correspond in line with the slotted plates *e e'* and *f f'*, Fig. 2. These slits allow the foot and shoulder blocks H H' and I I', Fig. 1, to slide freely while adjusting either set to the requirements of the patient. The said foot and shoulder blocks consist of padded surfaces of wood, each having a shank, *i*, secured into a plate, *j*, the said plates being provided with hooks *k* and tongues *l*, for adjusting and securing them in the slots of the said plates *e e'* and *f f'*. The mattress immediately around the aperture, as well as the sides thereof, is kept from being soiled by the patient by the use of the apron J, Fig. 1, which is provided with a sleeve, K, as seen in the Fig. 4. This sleeved apron is of water-proof fabric, and is kept in its place on the mattress by fastenings at the corners, as shown.

The bed when not in use is folded up, and is kept together by the straps fastened on the sides of the frame. The narrow portion *c* of the frame allows the mattress to be doubled up, and it also serves as a bottom to protect the mattress from injury. This portable form is fully shown in Fig. 8.

The above-described bed or frame can be laid on bedsteads of common construction. If a slatted bedstead, a slat is removed to make space for the aperture B; if on a corded one,

the cords can be spread apart and temporarily fastened by strings for the like purpose.

The mode of operation is simply to place the bed or frame on the bedstead or other article adapted to receive and sustain it. The sleeved apron is then secured in its place. Should the patient require to be raised at the head, a prop for this purpose is secured to the under side of the section *d* of the said frame, as shown in Fig. 3. When the patient desires to use the aperture, the cushion and disk are removed and the sleeve of the apron adjusted therein. In cases of frequent or constant use of said aperture, the cushion and disk can be kept out as long as necessity demands; or, if the weather is warm, it will serve to ventilate the mattress by keeping the said aperture open.

The main object of the sleeved apron is to allow the evacuations or other offensive matter from the patient to be removed by passing it through the aperture of the mattress into the vessel placed below it when the patient is in a recumbent or other posture, and thus preventing its soiling or adhering to any part of the mattress.

It will be seen by reference to the Fig. 3, that the above-described sick bed or frame can be converted into the form of a chair by shifting it, with the patient thereon, toward the edge or side of the bedstead on which it lies, so as to allow the legs of the patient to hang down, the feet resting on the foot-blocks *H H'* or on a board placed temporarily across them, the said frame in this form still resting on the bedstead. The handles *D D'* will afford every facility in moving and turning the frame with its burden without touching the patient. This is obviously a convenient way of easing the patient without removal from the bed.

This improved sick-bed is especially adapted to the use and convenience of the hospitals of the army and navy, as independent of its portable feature its sanitary property will render it of great benefit to sick and wounded men, especially in those often-recurring cases requiring the vigilant and constant attention of the nurse to keep the patient and bed clean after evacuations or deposit of offensive matter.

Its construction also admits the patient to be carried from one locality to another, and of being shifted in position without handling or touching the patient.

When the above-described frame is used for accouching purposes the sleeved apron allows the placenta or after-birth and fluid contents to be easily removed and drained into the proper vessel placed beneath the aperture of the mattress without soiling it or the bed-clothes. The foot blocks before described, in conjunction with the shoulder-blocks *I I'* and, as occasion requires, with the handles *D D'*, will enable the patient to use her physical strength at the proper moment of labor. These means will also dispense with the attendance of the extra help usually called in on such occasions.

Having described and explained the construction, operation, and adaptation of my invention, what I claim therein as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The sleeved apron *J*, of water-proof fabric, constructed and used as described, and for the purpose set forth.
2. The frame *A*, jointed as described, and consisting of four sections or parts, *a, b, c*, and *d*, the said sections being rigid transversely, but yielding at the joints longitudinally, as and for the purpose specified.
3. The foot-blocks *H H'* and shoulder-blocks *I I'*, constructed as described, or any equivalent construction, in combination with the slotted plates *e e'* and *f f'*, or their equivalents, for adjusting and securing them therein, as and for the purpose set forth.
4. The use and employment of the triangular handles *D* and *D'*, as herein explained, and for the purpose specified.
5. As a new and improved article of manufacture, the described portable sick-bed and accouching-frame, constructed and arranged as stated, and for the purposes set forth.

RODNEY H. MATHEWS.

Witnesses:

J. F. SINGLE,  
E. HUNTINGTON.