No. 648,916. Patented May 8, 1900.

J. W. BOWERS.

PLATFORM ROCKING CHAIR.

(Application filed Aug. 31, 1899.)

(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

Fig. 1.

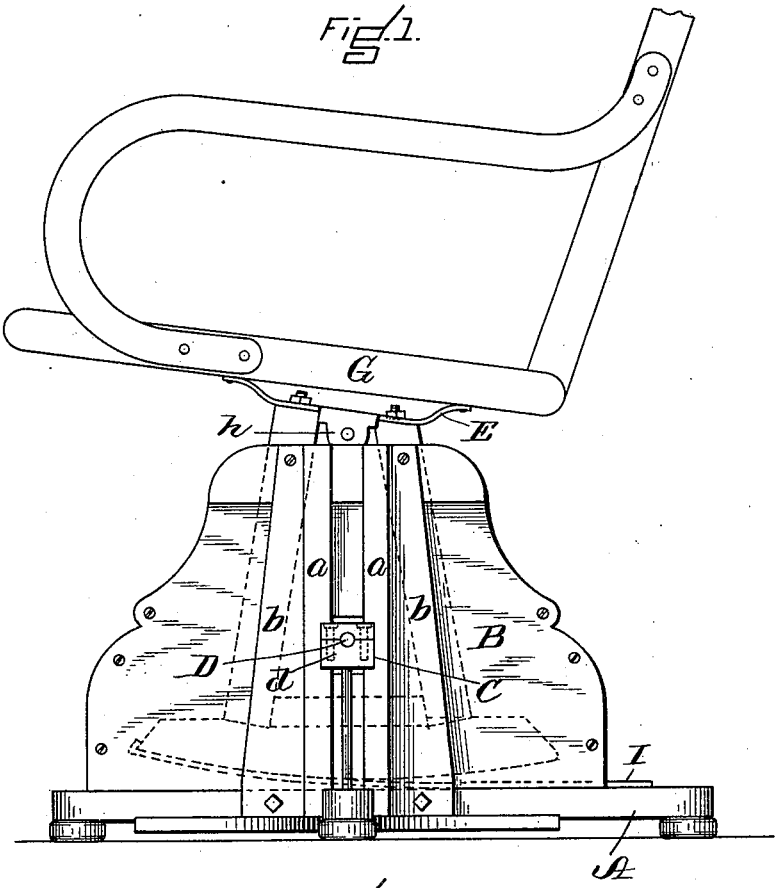

Fig. 2.

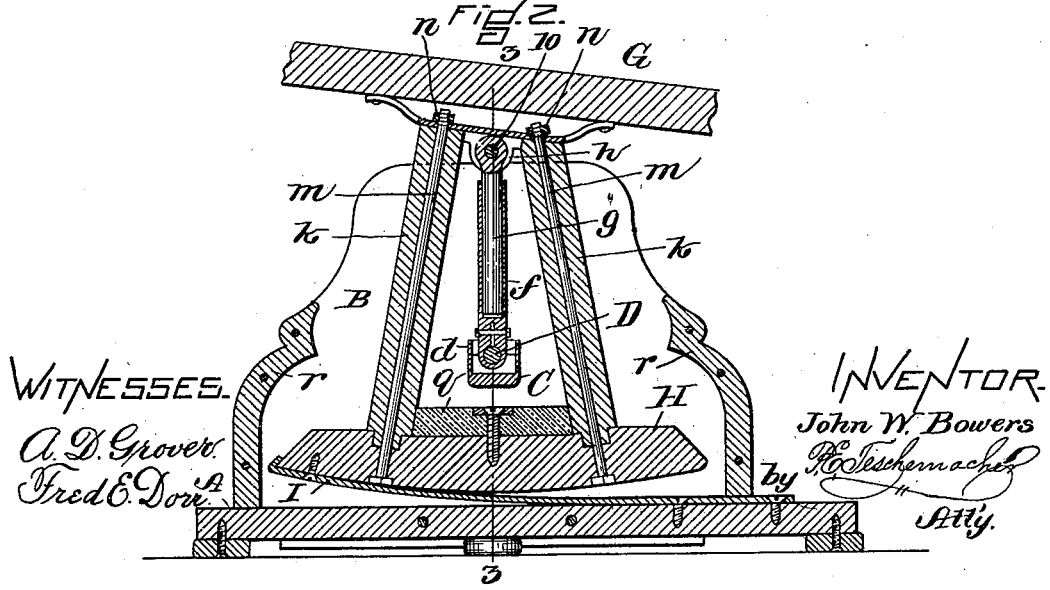

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Fig. 3.

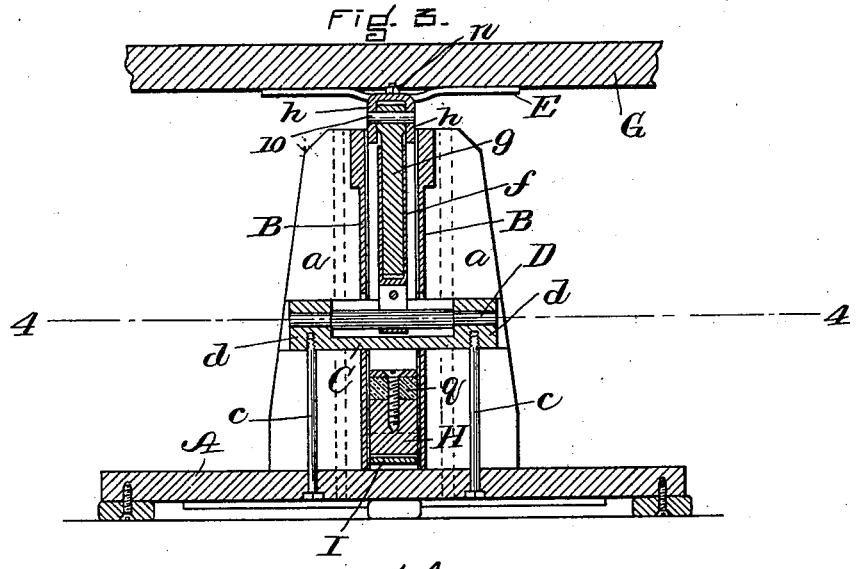
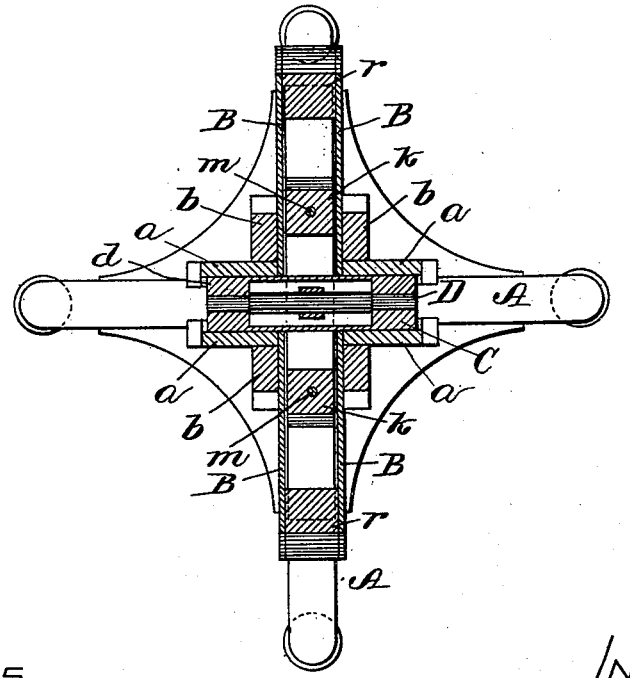


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN W. BOWERS, OF ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS.

PLATFORM ROCKING-CHAIR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 648,916, dated May 8, 1900.

Application filed August 31, 1899. Serial No. 729,114. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN W. BOWERS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Rockland, in the county of Plymouth and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain Improvements in Platform Rocking-Chairs, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to that class of rocking-chairs known as "platform-rockers," and has for its object to simplify the construction and reduce the number of parts.

To this end my invention consists in a rocking-chair having a base or stationary portion, a seat provided with a centrally-arranged rocker supported by and moving on said base, and means for maintaining said rocker and seat in an upright position and preventing lateral movement of the same in either direction, as hereinafter more fully set forth.

My invention also consists in certain novel combinations of parts and details of construction, as hereinafter described and specifically claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of a platform rocking-chair embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a central vertical section of the same. Fig. 3 is a vertical section on the line 3 3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a horizontal section on the line 4 4 of Fig. 3.

In the drawings, A represents the base or platform, which is preferably composed of two horizontal bars put together in the form of a cross, as shown in Fig. 4, thereby occupying the minimum of floor-space and at the same time affording a firm support for the chair.

From the base A rise two side pieces B B, each provided on the outer side with two solid uprights *a a*, having strengthening side pieces *b b*. Within suitable recesses in these uprights is secured, by means of vertical bolts *c c*, a transverse metal bar C, at the ends of which are formed bearings *d d* for a horizontal rock-shaft D, to which is firmly secured a cylinder *f*, within which slides a piston or plunger *g*, the upper end of which is pivoted at 10 between two ears *h h*, formed integral with a metal chair-supporting frame or spider E, to the arms of which is securely fastened the chair-seat G, which may be of any desired shape or construction.

H is a rocker which is centrally arranged with respect to the chair-seat G, as shown in Fig. 3, and is connected with its supporting frame or spider E by means of two slightly-converging bars *k k*, which are securely fastened to the said rocker and spider by long bolts *m m*, which extend through the rocker, the bars, and the spider, and are provided at their upper ends with nuts *n*, the several parts being thus rigidly braced and held together as required.

The rocker H is maintained in its proper position on the base A by means of a flat spring I, one end of which is secured to one end of the rocker, while its opposite end is fastened to the base A, as shown in Fig. 2, said spring serving also to keep the chair-seat normally in the position shown in Fig. 1 and preventing the rocker from working toward the front or rear while in motion.

q is an elastic buffer which is secured to the upper side of the rocker H between the bars *k k*, said buffer being adapted to contact with the rounded corners of the bar C, which form stops to limit the rocking movement of the chair-seat in either direction.

During the rocking of the chair-seat forward and backward the piston *g* slides up and down within the cylinder *f*, the two forming an extensible guiding brace or stay for preventing any possible lateral movement of the chair-seat in either direction, the cylinder receiving the lateral strain, which is in turn transmitted to the horizontal shaft D and its bearings, which thus resist any tendency of the chair-seat to tip to one side or the other and prevent any possibility of the contact of the rocker-bars *k k* with the side pieces B B.

It is obvious that the positions of the members of the extensible guide brace or stay may be reversed, if desired—that is, the cylinder may be attached to the spider E and the piston to the rock-shaft D without departing from the spirit of my invention.

The narrow space between the side pieces B B is partially closed at the front and rear by strips *r r*, and it will be seen that the rocker is protected and concealed from view by said side pieces and strips, which form a narrow box or casing therefor, whereby the feet and hands are effectually prevented from coming into contact with and being injured by the rocker, an event of frequent occur-

rence with the ordinary platform rocking-chair in common use.

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

1. A rocking-chair comprising a base or stationary portion, a seat provided with a centrally-arranged rocker supported by and moving on said base, and means for maintaining said rocker and seat in an upright position and preventing lateral movement thereof in either direction, substantially as described.

2. In a rocking-chair, the combination with a base or stationary portion, of a seat provided with a centrally-arranged rocker supported by and moving on said base, and a jointed extensible brace or stay connected with the said seat and the base or stationary portion, whereby lateral movement of the seat in either direction is prevented, substantially as described.

3. In a rocking-chair, the combination of a base or stationary portion, a seat or movable portion having a centrally-arranged rocker, and an extensible brace or stay, consisting of a cylinder and piston connected the one with the seat and the other with the base or stationary portion of the chair, substantially as described.

4. In a rocking-chair of the character described, the combination of a base or platform having side pieces or uprights, a chair-seat having a central rocker, upright bars connecting said rocker and seat and moving between said side pieces, a rock-shaft, an oscillating cylinder mounted on said rock-shaft, bearings for said rock-shaft secured to said uprights, and a piston fitting within said cylinder and rigidly secured to the seat-supporting frame or seat, said cylinder and piston forming an extensible brace or stay to prevent lateral movement of the seat and rocker, substantially as described.

5. In a rocking-chair, a base having side pieces rising therefrom and forming a casing for the rocker, combined with a seat having a centrally-arranged rocker, upright bars connecting said rocker and seat and swinging between said side pieces, an elastic buffer for limiting the movement of the rocker and seat in either direction, and a jointed extensible brace or stay connected with the seat and base to prevent lateral movement of the seat in either direction, substantially as described.

Witness my hand this 28th day of August, A. D. 1899.

JOHN W. BOWERS.

In presence of—
P. E. TESCHEMACHER,
L. I. BASFORD.