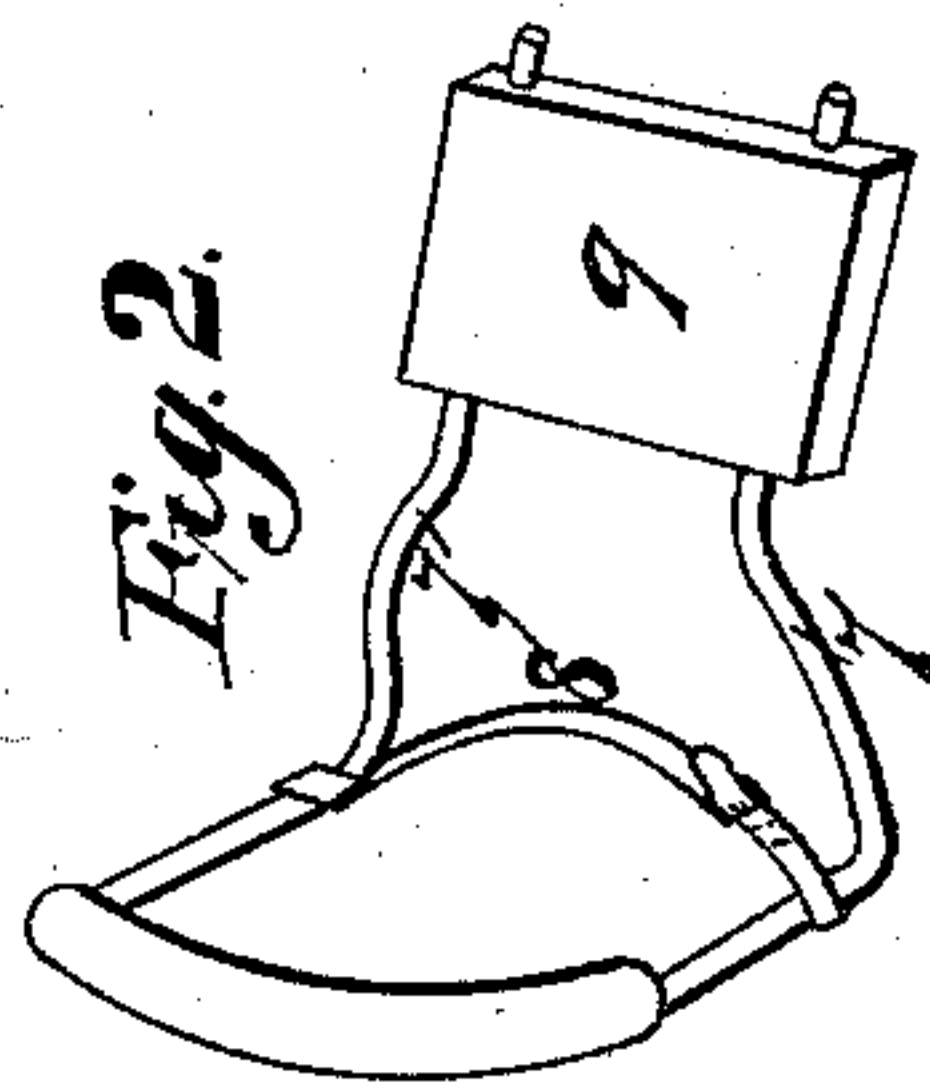
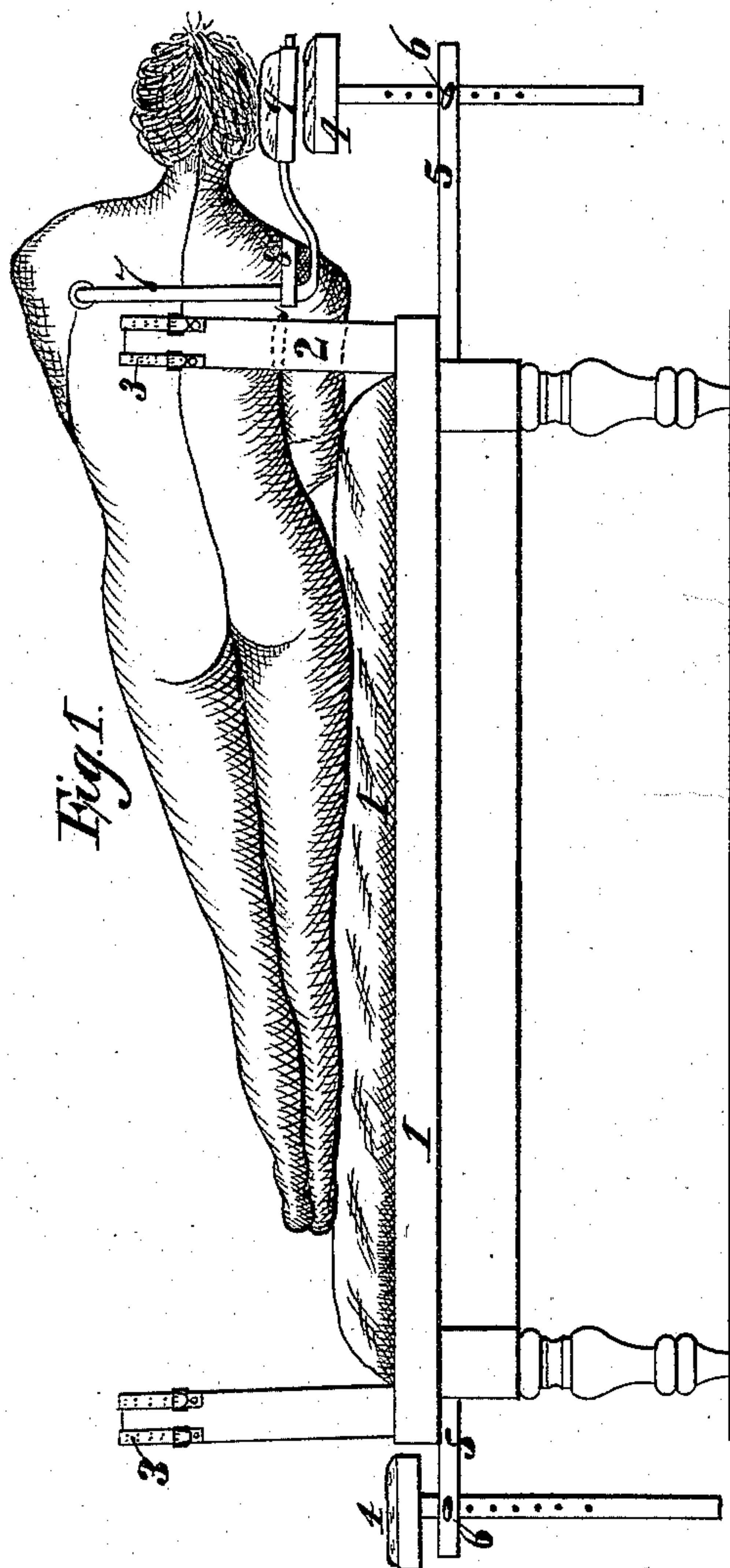


C. F. Taylor,
Reducing Spinal Curvature,
No 32,013, Patented Apr. 9, 1861.



Attest:

H. James Weston
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Inventor:
Chas. F. Taylor

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES F. TAYLOR, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

APPARATUS FOR REDUCING SPINAL CURVATURE.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 32,013, dated April 9, 1861.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES F. TAYLOR, of New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented an Apparatus for Reducing Spinal Curvatures, the construction and operation of which I have described in the following specification and illustrated in its accompanying drawings with sufficient clearness to enable competent and skilful workmen in the arts to which it pertains or is most nearly allied to make and use my invention.

My said invention is for apparatus to aid in the reduction of spinal curvatures, and consists in first, what I term an eccentric couch constructed in the manner hereinafter described, by means of which the patient is enabled to place himself in a state of repose in such a position as to force apart the narrow edges, and press together the wide edges of the joints of the bones of the vertebra, thus reducing the curvature and creating or restoring a tendency of the parts, to their normal position, this lateral correction being however subject to adjustment so as to conform to the necessity of the case and the conformation of the patient. Second, an appendage to this couch hereinafter described, by which the weight of the head is made to aid in the reduction of the curvature by exerting a pressure upon the shoulder which is upon the same side with the outside of the curvature, and a corresponding force in drawing up the shoulder upon the inside of the curve.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of what I term the eccentric couch, and also represents the figure of a person reclining upon it. The operation is illustrated by a plane and dotted line. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the appendage to the eccentric couch by which the pressure is exerted upon the shoulder on the side of the person corresponding with the outside side of the curvature and a corresponding extensional force exerted under the opposite shoulder.

The eccentric couch consists simply of a flat cushioned bench 1, with two posts 2, 2, about thirteen inches high, three inches wide, and one foot apart, which posts are placed at each end of the couch as shown in the drawings, straps 3, 3, being suspended from the top of one post to the top of the one opposite, and made adjustable by buckles or otherwise in such a manner that the

height of the body may be adjusted at that point to suit the curvature and the conformation and strength of the patient, and with an adjustable head rest 4, to prevent the head of the patient from descending too far.

The attachments at one end of this couch are only duplicates of those at the other, and are made for the convenience of allowing the bench to always occupy a position near the wall, and still be adapted to the treatment of curvatures in opposite directions. It can be made single if preferred. The head rest 4, is attached to a bar 5, which may be slid longitudinally in a socket or brackets upon the underside of the bench 1, and the rest 4, passes through a mortise in the end of the bar 5, and is provided with holes by means of which and a pin 6, the height of the rest 4, may be adjusted.

To aid the action of the couch in reducing the curvature, I have contrived the improvement shown more clearly in Fig. 4, though it and its application are represented in Fig. 1. It consists of a round rod of iron 7, bent into shape as shown in Fig. 4, in such a manner as to fit it to pass under the arm in the middle, where it is cushioned, and is provided with a strap 8, to rest upon the shoulder opposite to that under which the cushioned portion is placed, and a pad 9, is placed upon the ends of the rod 7, and may be slid outward or inward a short distance, as the parts are there parallel. The patient being located upon the couch upon the side on which the outer side of the curvature is located, rests the part opposite the curvature upon the straps 3, which have been previously adjusted, as represented; and as the patient lies in that position, the weight of the body upon one side, and of the head and shoulders upon the other, tend strongly to reduce the vertebral column to its normal position as will be apparent from an inspection of the illustration contained in the drawings. To aid in this operation, by compressing the joints in the outer portion of the curve together, distending the inner portion of the vertebral column I generally have the patient employ the improvement shown in Fig. 2, already described, the action of which is perhaps already sufficiently apparent. To prevent the head from descending too far, the pad or head rest 4, is properly adjusted, as represented in the drawings.

Having thus fully described my said in-

vention, and the manner in which it is to be made available, I claim as the improvements which compose it,—

1. The combination of the bench 1, adjustable supports 3, and adjustable pad or strap 4, substantially as described, and in such a manner as to accomplish the purpose set forth.

2. The head rest represented in Fig. 4,

constructed as described, by which the weight of the head is made to exert a pressure upon one shoulder, and a lifting force under the other, substantially as described.

CHAS. F. TAYLOR.

Witnesses:

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THOS. P. HOW.