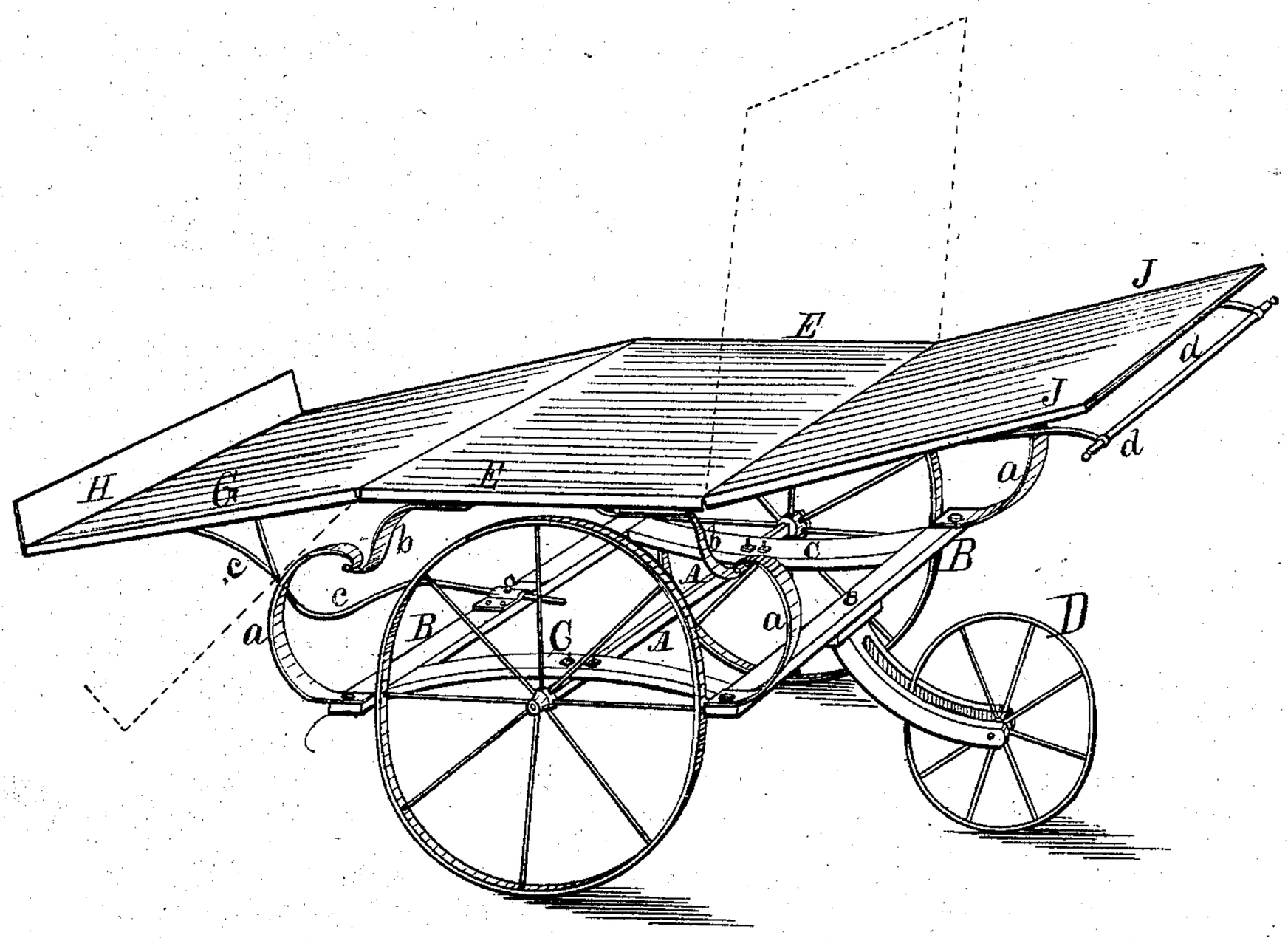
A. W. RICHARDS.

Perambulators.

No. 136,867. Patented March 18, 1873.



Witnesses.
R. G. Orwig.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ARTHUR W. RICHARDS, OF INDIANOLA, IOWA.

IMPROVEMENT IN PERAMBULATORS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **136,867**, dated March 18, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ARTHUR W. RICHARDS, of Indianola, in the county of Warren and State of Iowa, have invented a Perambulating Cot, of which the following is a specification:

My invention consists in forming and combining an adjustable cot and a movable carriage in such a manner as to produce a perambulating cot, adapted for all the common uses of a cot; and also for the special purpose of moving an invalid from place to place without touching or lifting the invalid's person, all as hereinafter fully set forth.

My drawing is a miniature perspective view illustrating the form and construction of my invention.

A A is a common axle, about two (2) feet long, with wheels of about two (2) feet in diameter, mounted on the ends in any known suitable way. The axle and wheels may be regarded as the base of my perambulating cot, and the length of the axle and the size of the wheels may vary to suit persons of different size and weight. B B are the end pieces of a wooden carriage-frame. C C are inwardly-curved side pieces of the same carriage-frame. They are permanently joined together by means of mortises and tenons, or in any other known and suitable manner. By curving the side pieces C inwardly and dishing the wheels and using short hubs in the wheels I gain a wide base, and prevent the hubs or any other portion of my carriage and cot from extending laterally beyond the tracks of the wheels. By this means I adapt it for passing persons and objects without danger of hitting them, and thereby jarring the invalid on the cot. The end pieces B B correspond in length with the distance between the wheels and the width of the rims of the wheels added. The length of the curved side pieces corresponds with the diameter of the wheels, with about an inch added to each end.

The corners of the carriage-frame, thus shaped and proportioned, form fenders for the wheels, and prevent the wheels from striking and soiling the garments of passers by.

The frame and axle are secured together by means of suitable bolts or clips. D is a common caster-wheel, pivoted in any known suitable way to the middle of the rear end piece B, and, together with the two side wheels, forms a tripod base to support the carriage, cot, and invalid.

I use rubber on the tires of the wheels to prevent noise and concussion; but I do not claim this to be new.

E E is the central section of the frame of the cot, and corresponds in size with the carriage-frame B C. *b b* are pendent metal springs attached to the corners of the frame E. One of these springs is attached to each corner in any suitable substantial manner. They extend downward and angle away from the frame, and are connected with upright half-circle springs by means of suitable links. *a a* are upright half-circle metal springs. One of these is firmly bolted to each corner of the carriage-frame B C, and linked at its upper end to the pendent spring *b*.

The length of the springs may vary, but the combined length of the springs *a* and *b* should be sufficient to elevate the cot-frame E above the wheels about two (2) inches.

G is the front end or foot section of the cot, hinged to the central section in such a manner that it can be held stationary at any angle desired by means of the adjustable supporting-braces *c* or their equivalents. H is a foot-rest attached to the front end. J J is the rear or head section of the cot-frame. It may be a continuation of the central section E; or may be a hinged and adjustable section, adapted as a support for the back of the invalid while in a sitting posture on the cot.

Canvas, carpet, or any suitable flexible material is to be stretched over and attached to the frame of the cot. The edges may be trimmed and ornamented as desired.

I am one of the crippled survivors of the late Union army, and am obliged to keep my spinal column in a horizontal position. I weigh nearly two hundred pounds, and have tested

the merits of my perambulating cot. I find it an easy, convenient, and comfortable cot. During the warm season it is as cool as a hammock. It enables me to get out into the sunshine and air; to go to church; and to visit friends. During cold weather I use a robe and additional clothing to keep me warm when out of doors. When in the house I can move to and from the fire, and from place to place. The relative positions of the wheels and the cot enables me to reach the wheels with my hands, and to move a short distance without help from others.

Claim.

I claim as my invention—

The perambulating and adjustable cot formed by mounting the sections E G J upon the carriage A B C D, substantially as described, and for the purposes specified.

ARTHUR W. RICHARDS.

Witnesses:
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J. L. WILSON.