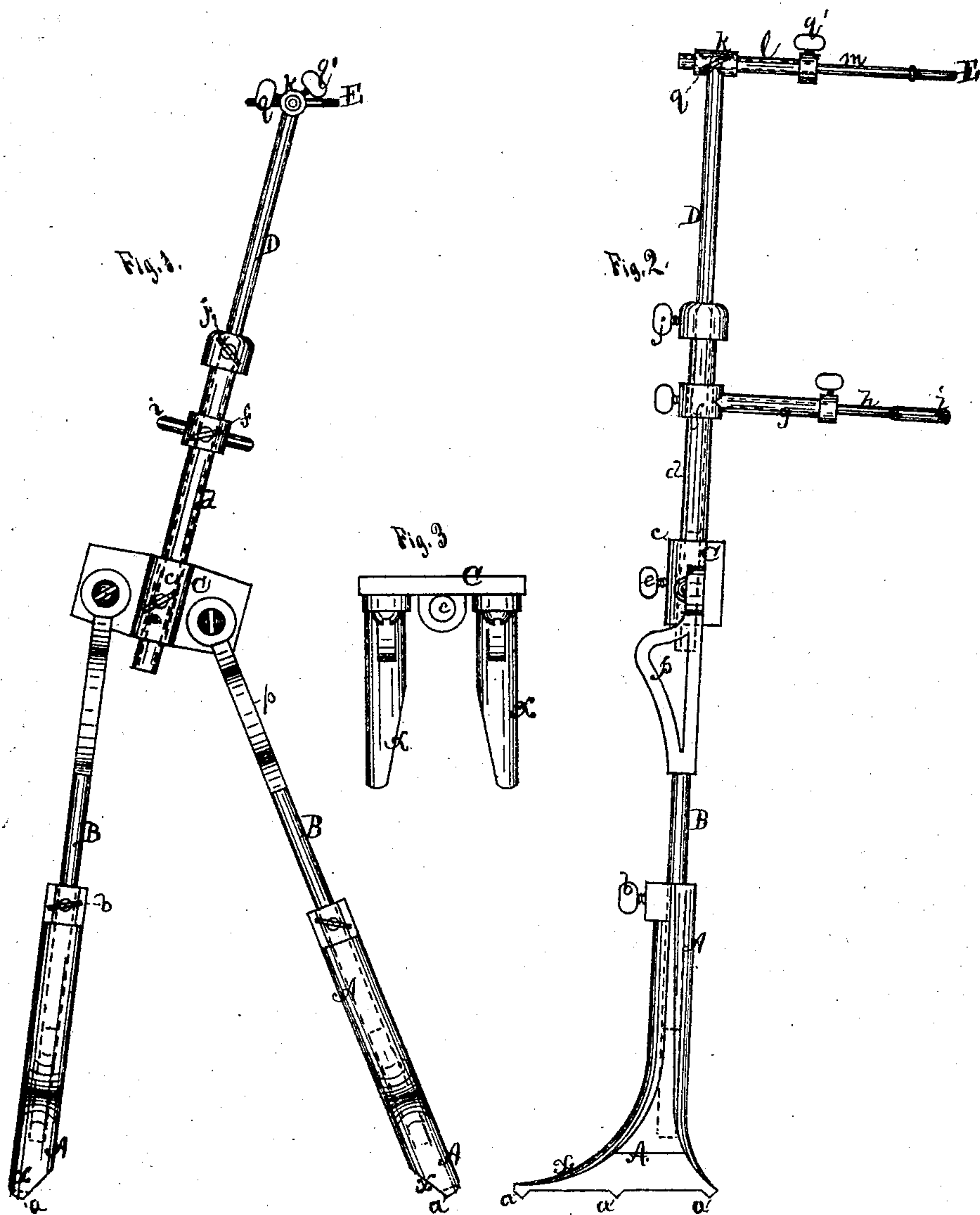


G. B. AYRES.
Photographic Head-Rests.

No. 146,977.

Patented Feb. 3, 1874.



Witnesses.
J. R. Drake,
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE B. AYRES, OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN PHOTOGRAPHIC HEAD-RESTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **146,977**, dated February 3, 1874; application filed May 16, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE B. AYRES, of Buffalo, in the county of Erie and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Photographers' Rests, of which the following is a specification:

This invention relates to rests used by photographers, more particularly for artistic and full-length postures, &c.; and the object is to make an extensible rest partly resembling in outline the human figure, and which is intended to be fully or wholly hidden when used, and which can also be arranged at almost any angle, or set at any height; and the invention consists in the peculiar telescopic arrangement of the joints and rods, so that they can be pushed in or out at will, and all parts held in any given place or position by thumb-screws, the whole allowing great range of adjustability, and great compactness when out of use.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a back view of the device. Fig. 2 is a side elevation, and Fig. 3 a plan view of the center plate.

A A are two hollow standards or bases, having feet *x x* to aid in supporting the upper part of the rest. These feet have sharp points *a a*, to stick into the carpet or matting of an operating-room. B B are two rods or legs, which project downward into the hollows in the standard A, and are held at any height desired by set-screws *b b*. The upper parts of these rods B are pivoted to a center plate or body, C, having a socket, *c*, in its center, into which a tube, *d*, is set, which is also held at any desired height by a thumb-screw, *e*. *p p* indicate the openings in the legs to move the rest. *f* is a loose collar surrounding the tube *d*, and having an attached tube, *g*, running at right angles thereto, into which a rod, *h*, moves back and forth, having a curved waist-rest, *i*, thereon, as shown. The collar *f* and tube *g* are both supplied with thumb-screws to enable them to be held in any position desired. The collar allows this back or waist rest *i* to be swung round into any desired position. D is a rod, which is held upright in the tube *d* by a thumb-screw, *j*, thus enabling the head-rest to be elevated to a considerable height. The top of this rod D is supplied with a socket, *k*, into which a tube, *l*, is placed, as shown. This tube

is supplied with a rod, *m*, having the usual curved rest E for the support of the head of the subject, the whole being held and adjusted by thumb-screws *q q'*.

The advantages of my construction are many, the first being that for standing figures of men or women, and also children with short dresses, the entire rest, which steadies both the head and body, is wholly hidden behind the subject. The legs being provided with sliding joints not only enable the whole upper portion of the rest to be raised to any desired height, but also permit the feet of the rest to be turned in any desired direction, so that they will be always invisible in the picture. The advantage of the hollow legs and movable body C is, also, very great, as by their use an artistic pose, or any inclination of the body or unusual positions, can be readily obtained, and, by the thumb-screws, kept in the position desired, the rest following the direction of the body.

The pivots by which the legs are adjusted to the center plate of the rest enable the body to be inclined to any angle desired for fancy positions for actors and actresses, and for figures in groups.

The object in telescoping all the rods is, that only one-half the space usually occupied is used, and which also gives the important advantage of allowing the photographer to bring the backgrounds used close to the subject, which cannot be done with the rests now in use, which have their rods running their full length to the rear, and are all single rods, which, when extended rearward, not only prevent the background from being brought up close enough to the figure, but render the background constantly liable to injury from accidental scratching, indentations, and punctures. My rest obviates all these objections. The rod which steadies the head, especially, by being telescoped, when put rearward, is not likely to appear beyond the line of the head, which is often seen in photographs.

This advantage applies equally well to the double legs and feet, as by their form they will always be hid by the subject, as before stated.

Another advantage of telescoping the rods is, that all or any can be adjusted separately

without necessarily disturbing the others, which cannot be done by other rests.

I claim—

1. The two hollow standards A A, with the feet *x x* and points *a a*, the legs or rods B B telescoping into the hollow standards, and pivoted to the body or center plate C, and with the socket *c* and the thumb-screws, all combined, arranged, and operating substantially in the manner and for the purpose specified.

2. In combination with the subject-matter

of the above claim, the tube *d*, with collar *f*, tube *g*, with rod *h*, rod D, socket *k*, tube *l*, rod *m*, and their thumb-screws, all arranged in the manner and for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

GEO. B. AYRES.

Witnesses:

J. R. DRAKE,

J. M. SPIES.