

SOFA-CHAIR OR LOUNGE.

No. 177,050.

Patented May 2, 1876.

Fig. 1.

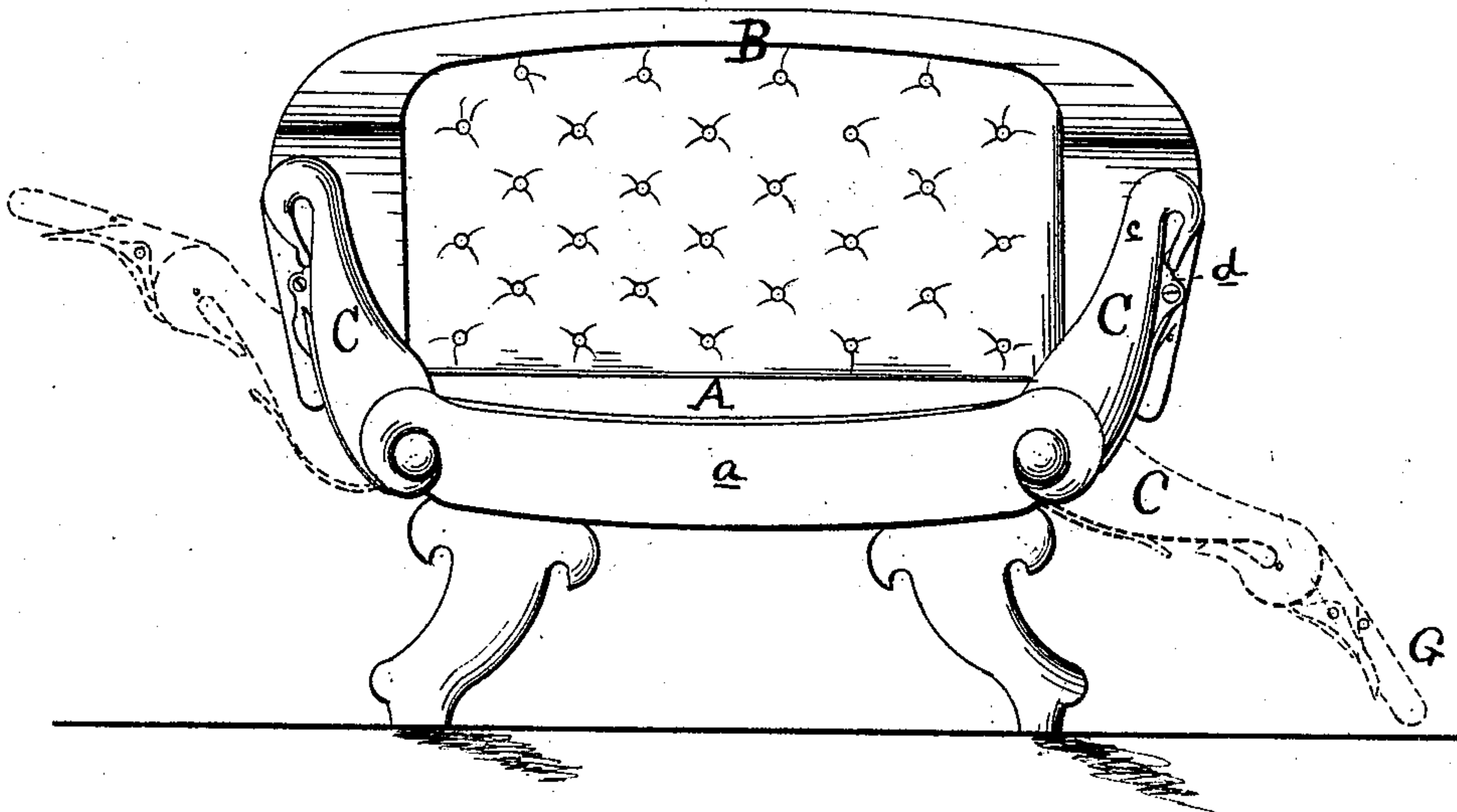


Fig. 2.

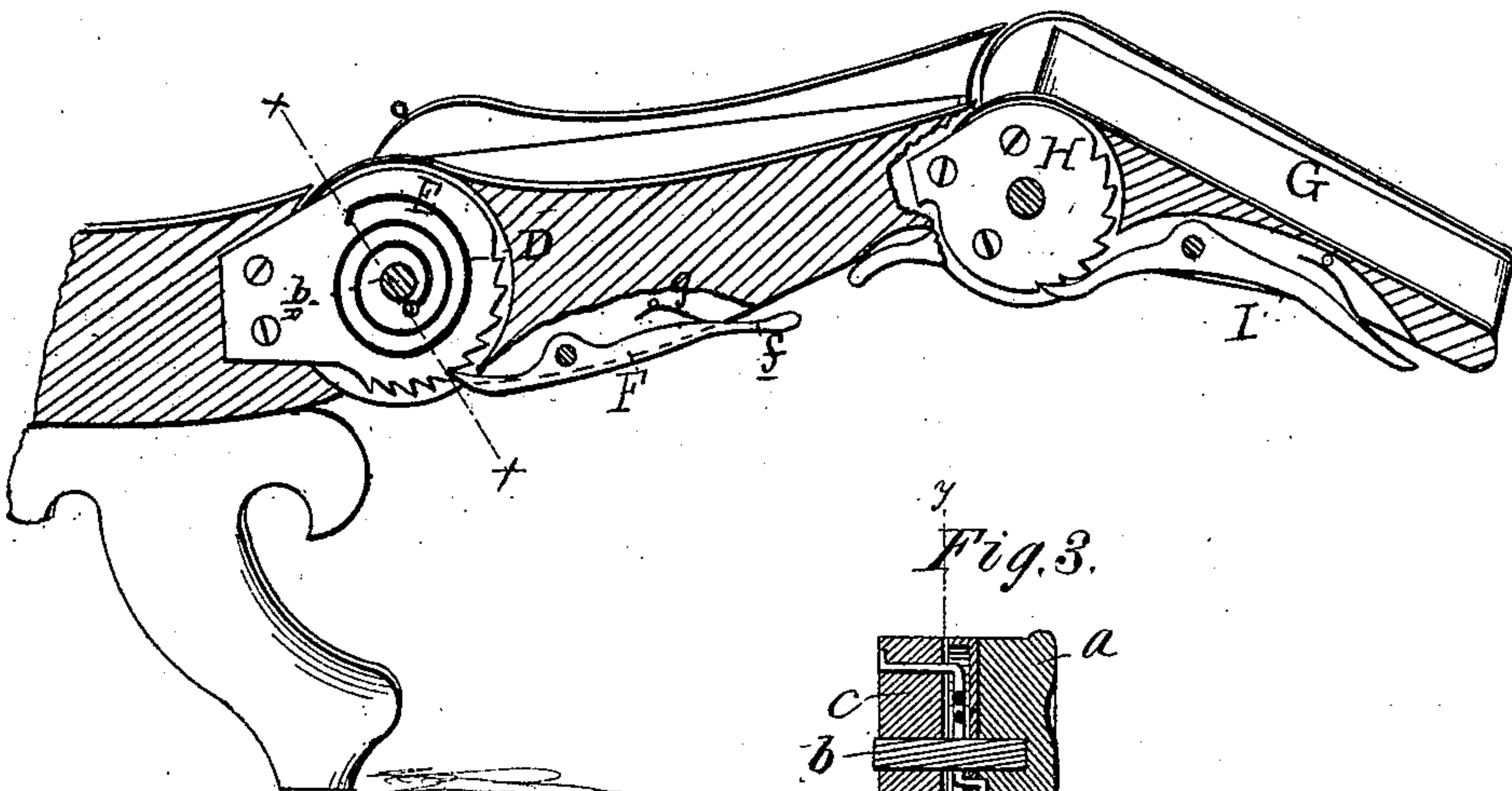
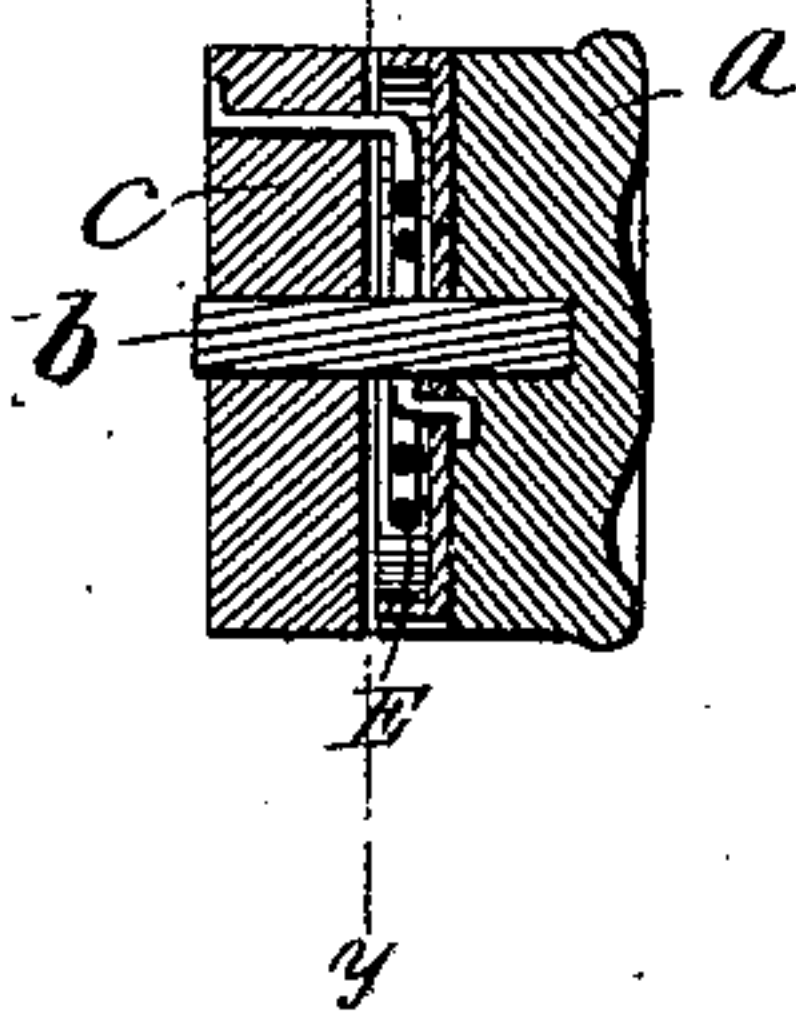


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN B. WOOD, OF CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND.

IMPROVEMENT IN SOFA-CHAIRS OR LOUNGES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **177,050**, dated May 2, 1876; application filed January 13, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN B. WOOD, of Cranston, in the county of Providence and State of Rhode Island, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Combined Sofa-Chair and Lounge; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

The object I have in view is the production of a sofa-chair or lounge which will be especially adapted for the use of invalids or sick persons, and at the same time may be convenient for use as a chair for sitting in, or for writing while sitting in it; and my invention therein consists in the novel and peculiar means adapted for the adjustability of the arms or portions of the arms to any desired angle of inclination, and in the combination of the various operative parts, all as more particularly hereinafter explained.

In order to enable those skilled in the art to use my chair and lounge, I proceed to describe the same, having reference to the drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is an elevation of my device; and Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section of one of the arms, looking from the rear and on the line *y y* in Fig. 3; and Fig. 3 is a cross-section on the line *x x* in Fig. 2.

Like letters denote corresponding parts in each figure.

In the drawings, A represents the body or seat of the chair, of any usual or convenient description; *a*, the front of the same, and B the back, preferably of the form shown in Fig. 1, both of which parts may be adapted for covering or cushioning, with or without springs, in any convenient way. To each end of the front *a* is pivoted an arm, C, which pivoting may be by means of pins *b*, or by means of a rod extending through the bottom of said arm to the back, and secured therein. This arm C may have the ordinary covering-piece *c*, to give a better finish to the front of the arms. A ratchet-disk, D, is secured within or upon the front *a*, with its center coincident with the pivoting-pin *b*, or the equivalent rod, which ratchet-disk is cut away or hollowed upon one side, so as to adapt it to

contain a coil-spring, E, one end of which is secured to said ratchet-disk, and the other to the arm C. By turning down said arm the spring is coiled up, and when the arm is raised to a vertical position the spring acts most energetically in assisting such movement. A pawl, F, pivoted upon the arm, and preferably working partially or entirely in a recess in the same, curves to conform to the external shape of said piece *c*, or the outside of the side rail, and terminates in a thumb-piece or handle, *f*, and, in order to insure that its biting end shall take hold of the ratchet, has a leaf-spring, *g*, and the pawl and ratchet limit the movement of the arm outwardly and downwardly.

It follows, then, that a person sitting in the easy-chair or lounge may, by pressure of the hand upon the pawl, lower either arm to any inclination desired, and, by raising such arm, may restore it to a vertical or other position above its former plane, the operation of raising being aided by the spring E. To the top of each arm is pivoted, in any convenient manner, a head-rest, G, constructed preferably like the arm C, so that it may be conveniently covered or cushioned. Upon or within the upper part of the front piece *c*, or side rail of the arm before described, a ratchet-disk, H, is secured, and, working into this ratchet-disk, is pivoted a spring-pawl, I, pivoted to the head-rest G, and preferably so arranged that it may be operated by pressure of the hand upon the side rail or front piece of the head-rest.

By this contrivance it follows that the person sitting in the easy-chair or lounge may, by pressure upon the side rail named, release the pawl from the ratchet, and incline the head-rest in any desired position.

Should one desire to write when sitting in the chair, either head-rest, inclined outwardly in a horizontal position, gives a convenient desk for the purpose.

If the chair is to be used simply as an easy-chair for sitting, both of the head-rests may be dropped outwardly to any inclination most convenient and comfortable, and, when dropped vertically, will be so inclosed in the arm C as to be out of the way, and give a good finish to the outside of the arm.

When the chair is to be used for an invalid or sick person the adjustability of the arms and the head-rests, independently or conjointly, affords every inclination desired for rest or comfort both to the body, the head, or legs and feet.

When either arm of the chair is lowered to a horizontal position, with the head-rest extended in the same plane, there is formed a lounge, with the advantage that the other arm may be inclined at the same time to any desired angle, and its head-rest adjusted to the greatest degree of comfort; or both arms may be extended outwardly in a horizontal plane, with their several head-rests in the same plane, and there is formed a bed, upon which a person may lie at full length.

In the various movements and uses of this chair or lounge it will be noticed that the several movable parts are entirely independent, and thus the inclinations of the several parts may be changed almost indefinitely.

Having thus described my device, and explained some of its advantages, what I claim as new therein, and for which I desire Letters Patent, is—

1. In a sofa-chair or lounge, the combination of the arm and head-rest, each capable of independent adjustment, substantially as described.

2. In a sofa-chair or lounge, the spiral spring E, the ratchet D, and the pawl F, in combination with the arm, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

3. In a sofa-chair or lounge, the combination of the head-rest with the ratchet H and its pawl, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

This specification signed and witnessed this 13th day of January, 1876.

JOHN B. WOOD.

Witnesses:

J. CHAS. THURMAN,
WM. H. MINNIX.