(No Model.)

E. F. PRESCOTT.

PORTABLE HEAD REST.

No. 278,361. Patented May 29, 1883.

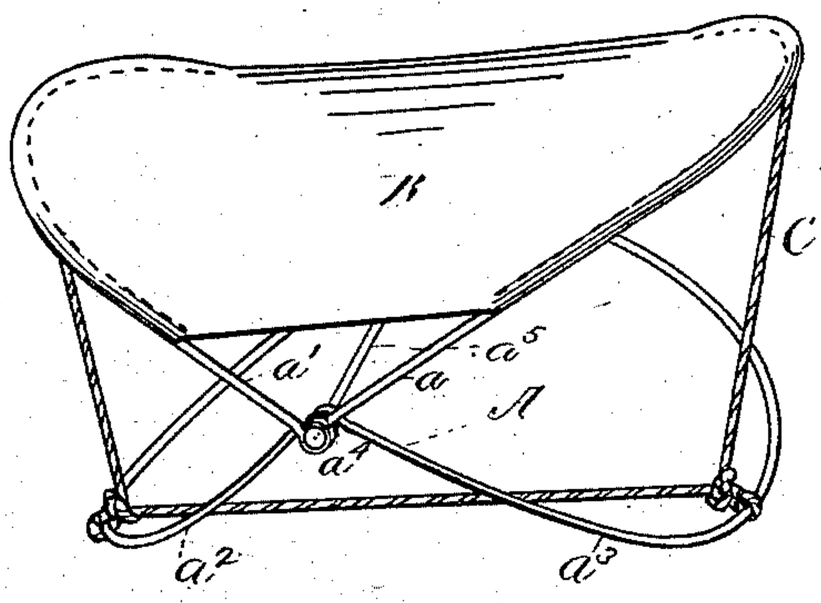

Fig. 1.

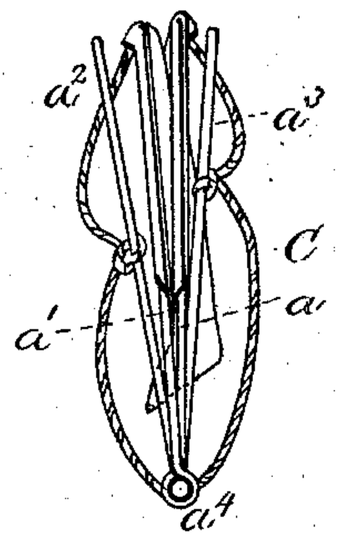

Fig. 7.

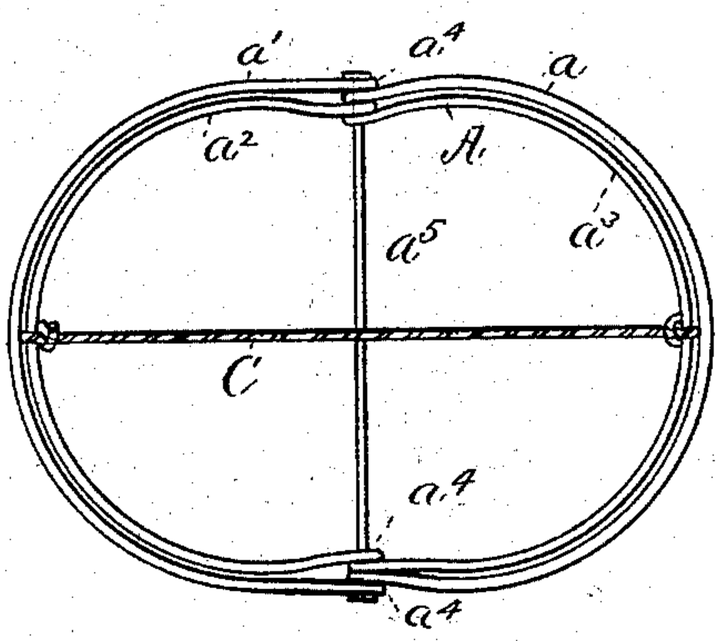

Fig. 2.

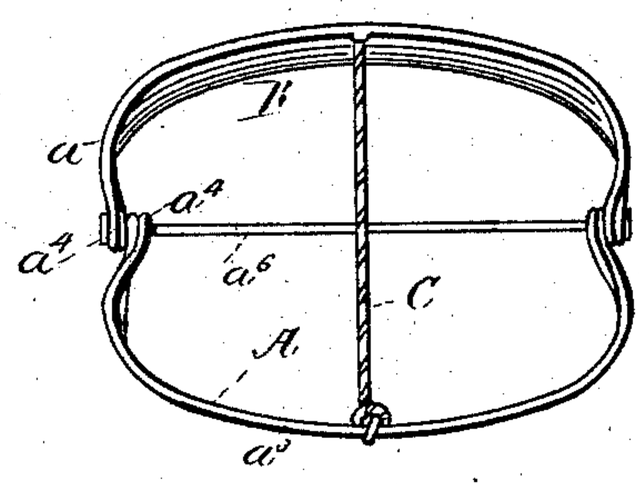

Fig. 3.

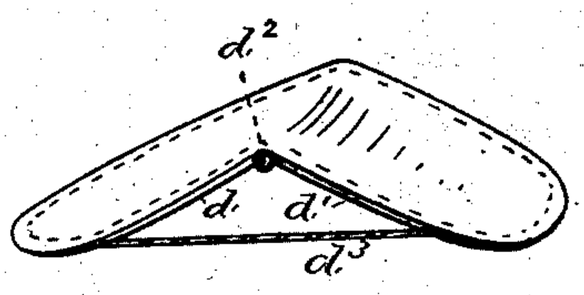

Fig. 4.

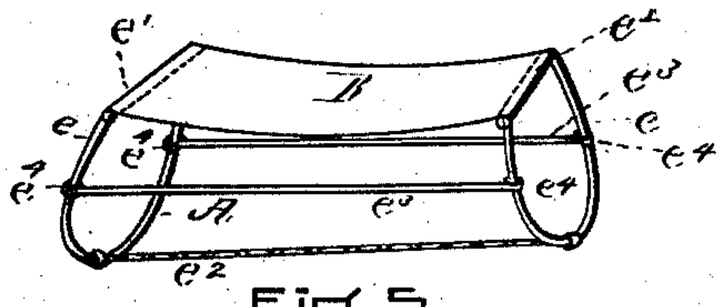

Fig. 5.

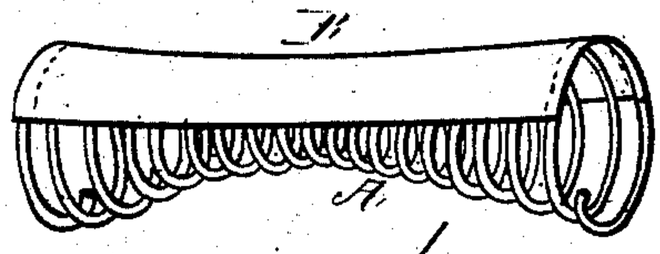

Fig. 6.

WITNESSES

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PORTABLE HEAD-REST.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 278,361, dated May 29, 1883.

Application filed January 27, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD F. PRESCOTT, of Lancaster, in the county of Worcester and State of Massachusetts, a citizen of the United States, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Portable Head-Rests, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in explaining its nature, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one form of my invention. Fig. 2 is a plan view thereof reversed. Fig. 3 is an end view. Figs. 4, 5, and 6 represent modifications of the construction hereinafter more fully described. Fig. 7 is a view of the invention shown in Fig. 1 when folded into portable shape.

The invention comprises a portable head-rest consisting of a light frame-work which may be folded into small space, and which supports a flexible head-cloth.

Referring to the drawings, I represent in Figs. 1, 2, and 3 one form of construction, and it is the one which I prefer to employ, and in Figs. 4, 5, and 6 modifications of the principle which will hereinafter be more fully described.

Referring to the figures, A represents the open frame-work, which may be of wire, rattan, or any other suitable material, and B the head-cloth or support.

In Figs. 1, 2, and 3 the frame-work comprises the bent or curved wire or other supports or arms, $a\ a'\ a^2\ a^3$. These preferably are of the same size and shape, and each has the eyes a^4, through which the cross-rod a^5 extends, and by which rod they are connected together, as represented—that is, the ends being arranged in two groups, one of which groups is at one end of the rod and the other at the other end, and the washers or equivalents thereof fastened to the ends of the cross-rod hold them thereon, while the spring of the wire or frame, caused by the form of the supports, tends to keep them separated from each other and in two groups, as specified; but of course any other means may be used for securing them to the rod. The frame as thus constructed is adapted to be folded upon the line of the cross-rod, so that the arms or supports may be substantially parallel with each other. When open it is made sufficiently rigid to afford a suitable support for the head-cloth or support B by means of a wire or other cord, C, which is fastened at one end to the support a, then extends to the support a^3, to which it is also secured in a way to be movable thereon, and thence to the support a^4, on which it is also movable, and thence to the support a'.

It will readily be observed that by sliding the straining-cord upon the lower support or arms toward the end of the cross-rod the cord is slackened, and the supports may be folded, as above explained, and that upon the movement of the cord upon the lower supports or arms away from the cross-rod the arms or supports are braced or strained apart, and caused to take the shape or position in relation to each other shown in Fig. 1.

The head-cloth B is united to the upper supports, $a\ a'$, by sewing, riveting, eyeleting, or in any other desirable way, and it may be made of cloth, duck, canvas, leather, gossamer, or any other suitable material, and may be padded or not, as may be desired. For ordinary purposes a covering of cloth is sufficient, and on some accounts preferable, because it is not heating to the head, and is sufficiently flexible or yielding to afford a soft and portable support. The action of bending or expanding the frame also causes the head-cloth to be strained into proper shape.

It will be noticed that the frame of the rest has a rounded or curved base by which it automatically conforms to the inclination of the head, and that the head-support B is supported by arms which are to a certain extent yielding; but of course this latter feature is not so material, as the arms may be so shaped or strained as not to be yielding.

It will also be observed that the arms extend from each side downwardly toward each other, thereby forming a shape which is easier and more comfortable for the head and neck. While I prefer this form of construction I may use as a substitute therefor the construction shown in Fig. 4, which comprises a frame-work having the two supports $d\ d$, shaped as shown, pivoted to each other at d^2, held together against the tension of the head-support when in use by the cord d^3, as shown.

This construction will answer fairly well, and it involves the principle of my invention; but I do not consider it equal to the one described.

Another form is that represented in Fig. 5, in which the frame-work consists of the supporting-arms *e*, carrying the cross-rods *e'*, to which the head-cloth is attached. These arms *e* are prevented from spreading when the head is upon the rest by means of the cord e^2. In lieu of this cord, I may have a sliding metal frame or rods, e^3, arranged below the head-cloth to slide up and down upon the supports, the frame or rods having eyes e^4, through which the supports pass, and by moving this frame-work down the supports are opened and held apart, but upon moving it upward to the head-cloth the supports can be folded in upon it, parallel therewith.

Still another construction is shown in Fig. 6, in which a helical spring is employed as the frame, and the head-cloth is attached to the outer coils, as represented, and is strained by them to make it taut. This spring can be closed into a narrow space or box to make it portable, and when in use it will expand, and it thus answers all the purposes of the folding and expanding or straining frame first described.

The invention can be used in hammocks or upon the ground, or as a substitute for a pillow, and in a great many other obvious ways, and the advantages arise from its being cheap, portable, and sanitary.

It will be observed that, when the frames are made and folded, the device can be shut into a small space and carried in the coat-pocket.

By enlarging the frame represented in Figs. 1, 2, and 3 to a sufficient size, and also the cloth or support B, this device can be used for a cushion for use at fires, &c., to receive persons who may jump thereon, or articles that may be thrown upon it. In this case, however, the lower arms, a^2 a^3, should have square corners, and it would be preferable to use coiled springs for straining the arms apart rather than a rope.

Having thus fully described my invention, I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States—

1. As a new article of manufacture, a portable head-rest comprising a light open frame-work, A, substantially as described, and the head-cloth B, suspended thereby.

2. The combination, in a head-rest, of a folding or extensible frame-work with a head-cloth, all substantially as and for the purposes described.

3. The combination, in a head-rest, of a frame having a rounded or curved base, and the head-cloth, all substantially as and for the purposes described.

4. The combination, in a head-rest, of a frame having suspension-arms, and the head-cloth B, secured to said arms, all substantially as described.

5. The combination, in a head-rest, of a frame having suspension-arms higher upon their sides than at the center of the rest, in combination with the head-cloth, all substantially as described.

6. The combination, in a head-rest, of a folding frame and a head-cloth adapted to be strained upon the unfolding or expansion of the frame, all substantially as and for the purposes described.

7. The combination, in a head-rest, of the spring supporting-arms and the head-cloth supported thereby, all substantially as and for the purposes described.

8. The combination, in a head-rest, of the supporting folding arms, the head-cloth, and means for straining the cloth and holding open or separated the supporting-arms, all substantially as and for the purposes described.

9. The combination, in a head-rest, of supporting-arms, a head-cloth, and a straining-cord, all substantially as and for the purposes described.

10. The combination of the arms *a* *a'* a^2 a^3, the cross-rod a^4, the head-cloth B, and the cord C, all substantially as and for the purposes described.

11. The combination of a straining-frame with a cloth, B, all substantially as and for the purposes described.

12. The combination of a straining-frame having two sets of yielding or spring arms, with a head-cloth fastened to one side thereof, all substantially as and for the purposes described.

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Witnesses:
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