

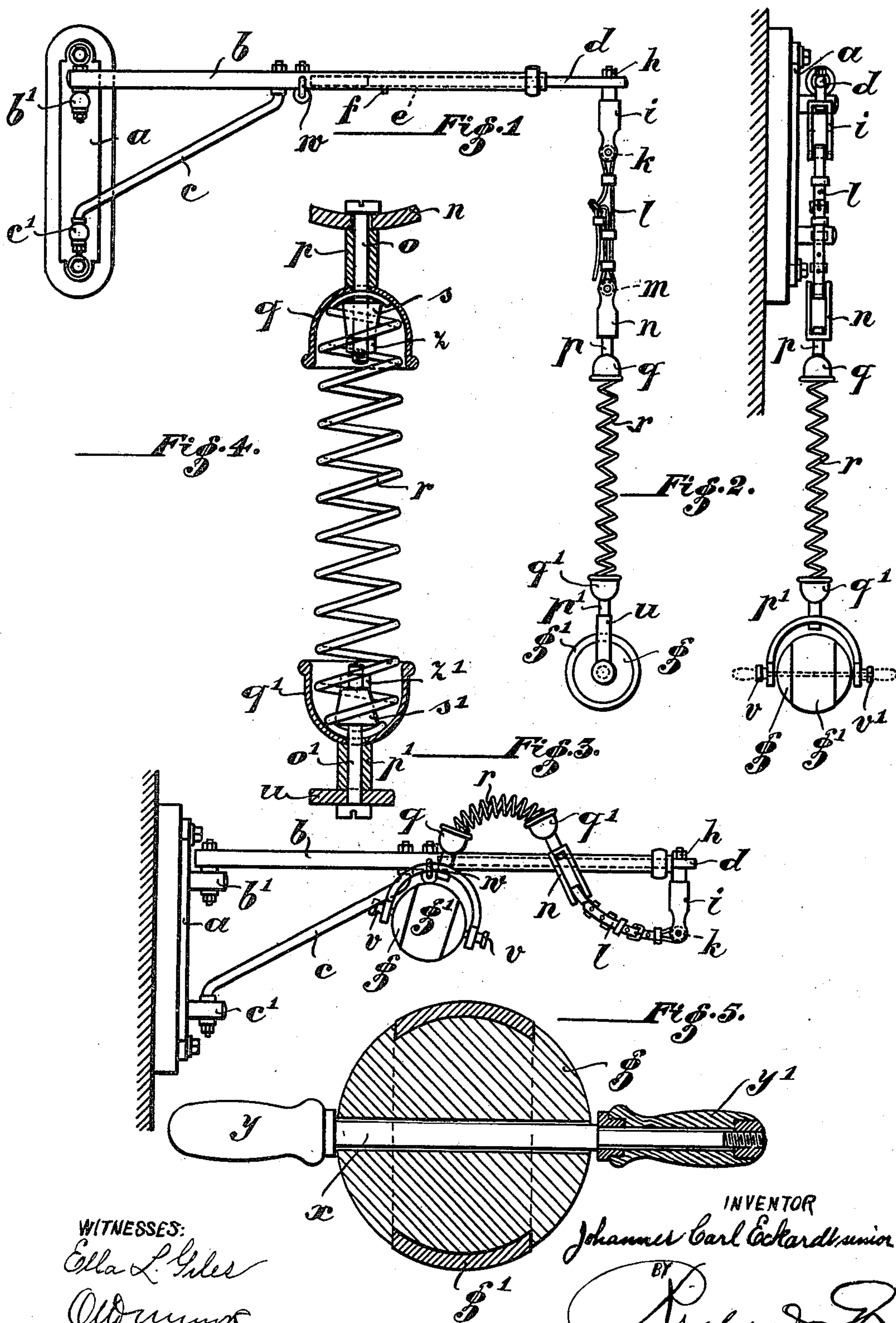
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Patented Mar. 19, 1901.

J. C. ECKARDT, SR.
MASSAGE APPARATUS.

(Application filed Aug. 10, 1899.)

(No Model.)



WITNESSES:

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JOHANNES CARL ECKARDT, SR., OF STUTTGART, GERMANY.

MESSAGE APPARATUS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 670,199, dated March 19, 1901.

Application filed August 10, 1899. Serial No. 726,790. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHANNES CARL ECKARDT, Sr., a subject of the King of Würtemberg, residing at Stuttgart, Germany, have invented a new Massage Apparatus, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The massage hitherto employed against costiveness and constipation and exercised by hand by means of balls had the disadvantage that the patient and the massaging person are soon fatigued by the balls having a relatively great weight, so that the massage could never be effected successfully and constantly.

The object of my invention is to overcome this drawback by hanging up the massage-ball on a frame preferably fastened at the wall by means of an elastic piece, so as to attain a massage acting, at pleasure, more or less intensive.

In the accompanying drawings a massage apparatus of this kind is illustrated, as follows:

Figure 1 is a side view thereof. Fig. 2 shows a front view, and Fig. 3 a side view, in another position, while Figs. 4 and 5 represent details on an enlarged scale.

With a plate *a*, fixed at the wall, is connected a horizontal arm *b*, being provided with a stay *c*. The arm *b* and the stay *c* are pivotally arranged around the points *b'* and *c'*, respectively. Within the tubular arm *b* slides a rod *d*, the movement of which is limited by means of a slot *e* and a pin *f*.

The massage-ball *g*, partially covered with a rubber ring *g'*, is vertically hung upon the rod *d* in the following way: At the front end of the rod *d* is fastened, by means of a screw *h*, a yoke *i*, to the roller *k* of which an adjustable strap *l* is connected. The lower end of the said strap is also hung around a roller *m*, journaled within an analogous yoke *n*. By means of a screw *o* and a disk *p* is fastened to the yoke *n* a bell-shaped casing *q*, to which I have fixed an elastic and yielding intermediate piece, the lower end of which is in connection with a second casing *q'*. This elastic piece may be of any suitable kind. In the example shown the said piece is formed as a coiled spring *r*, the ends of which being soldered with nut-pieces *s s'* of the casings *q q'*, as clearly shown by Fig. 4. The nut-pieces *s s'* and the casings *q q'*, respectively, are held

in place by means of screws *o o'*, disks *p p'*, and counter-nuts *z z'*. The screw *o'* is connected with a yoke *u*, between the legs of which is journaled the massage-ball *g* by means of a knop-pin *v* and a nut *v'* in such a manner that it is able to produce a rolling motion.

The application and action of this apparatus are as follows: Having placed the frame in a suitable height and having properly adjusted the ball *g* by turning the arm *b* and shifting the rod *d* and the strap *l*, so that the ball is a short distance—say about forty to fifty millimeters—over that part of the human body which is to be treated with the ball—as, for instance, the belly—then the apparatus is ready for commencing the massage action. This is effected by seizing the yoke *u* of the ball with the hand and moving it in such a manner that the ball makes at the same time a horizontally-rolling and a vertically-falling motion.

As already stated, the rolling motion is rendered possible by loosely arranging the ball around the pin *v*, while the falling or the vertical up-and-down motion of the ball is effected by means of the coiled spring *r*, which, if desired, could also be substituted by an elastic piece of another material, such as rubber or the like.

In the aforesaid manner I produce an effect equal to that which is attained by the massage by hand. The essential feature consists therein that in cases of costiveness and constipation or similar diseases the patient is enabled to effect the massage himself without any fatigue even on a more or less intensive way, according as the elasticity of the spring is used in a greater or less degree.

When the apparatus is not used, the ball *g* may be hung on a hook *w*, fastened to the arm *b*, as seen by Fig. 3.

By unscrewing the nut *v'* and withdrawing the pin *v* the ball *g* can be exchanged, so that it can also be used for applying the massage on the back, the genuflexion beneath the arms, or another part of the body. For this purpose the ball is put upon a reserve pin *x*, provided with a fixed and a movable handle *y* and *y'*, respectively, Fig. 5. If desired, the reserve pin *x* could also be journaled within the yoke *u* instead of the pin *v*, Fig. 2 in dotted lines, so as to attain after seizing the han-

dles $y y'$ a constantly yielding and rolling action of the ball loosely mounted on the pin x .

It is to be seen that the pin v is not absolutely necessary.

5 The frame shown in the drawings has the advantage that an adjustment in any desired position is easily attained by means of the arm b , rod d , and strap l . It is, however, to be remarked that this frame might also be
10 substituted by another suitable one without altering the function of my apparatus.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

15 1. In an apparatus for massage the combination of an elastic intermediate piece consisting of a coiled spring r and bearing the massage-ball by means of a yoke u , substantially as described.

2. In an apparatus for massage the combination of a massage-ball hung upon a frame 20 by means of a spring the frame consisting of a pivot-arm b , a rod d sliding therein and an adjustable strap l , substantially as described.

3. In an apparatus for massage the combination of a massage-ball journaled within a 25 yoke by means of a knop-pin v and a nut v' in such a manner that the ball is exchangeable after unscrewing the knop-pin, as and for the purpose set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my 30 hand in presence of two witnesses.

JOHANNES CARL ECKARDT, SENIOR.

Witnesses:

KARL BOSCH,

HERMAN WAGNER.