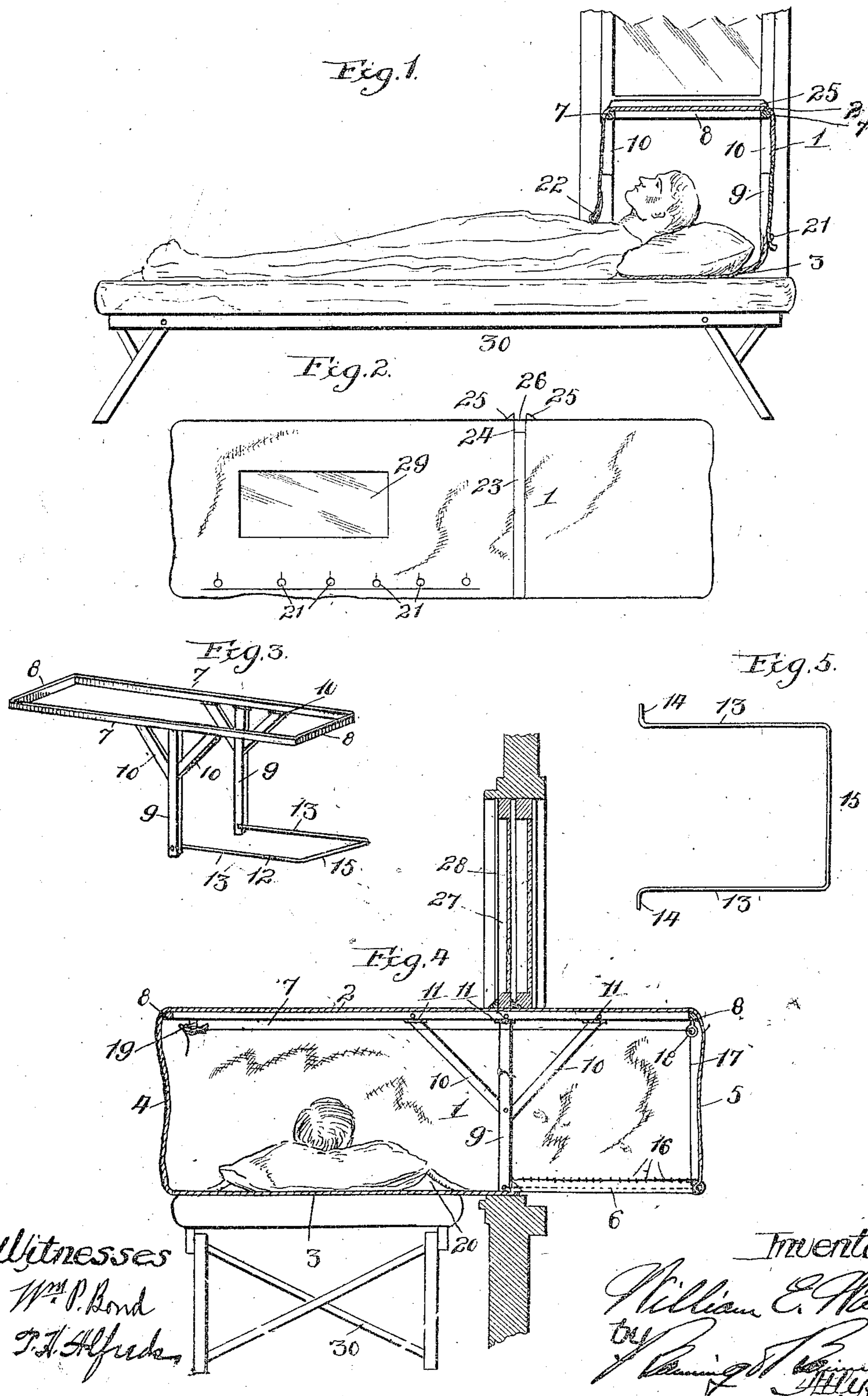


No. 840,975.

PATENTED JAN. 8, 1907.

W. E. WALSH.  
WINDOW TENT.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 17, 1906.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## WINDOW-TENT.

No. 840,975.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 8, 1907.

Application filed April 17, 1906. Serial No. 312,271.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM E. WALSH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Morris, in the county of Grundy and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Window-Tents, of which the following is a specification.

In the treatment of tuberculosis and kindred diseases of the lungs it has been demonstrated that the only method of alleviation or cure which is at all effective is the fresh-air treatment, during the progress of which the patient lives out of doors as much as possible and sleeps and eats in a tent or light shed which allows an abundance of fresh air to be supplied to the living-quarters. It is obvious that such treatment can only be supplied to those who are enabled to leave the more congested portions of the city and spend their lives in the suburbs or the country or in some spot where it is possible to pitch a tent and obtain the necessary fresh air. In the tenement and more crowded districts of cities where no yards are provided it is ordinarily impossible for the patient to find space in which to rear a tent or shed even if the conditions were otherwise favorable for such an arrangement, and by reason of the crowding and lack of air and light in such congested districts the death rate is very high.

The object of the present invention is to provide a ventilating-box or "window-tent" which is adapted to provide for the patient substantially the same conditions afforded by open-air life in a tent or shed and without many of the discomforts and inconveniences incident to living in this manner. The window-tent is adapted to be inserted through a window of any suitable size and to supply to the patient's lungs an abundance of fresh air, the patient's body meanwhile being in the warm room and unexposed to the cold air from out of doors. The window-tent possesses many other features of advantage in that it can be readily taken down and stowed away when not in use. It is so arranged that, although the patient's head is within the tent or box, the room will not be appreciably cooled. It is capable of adjustment to vary the amount of air admitted to the patient, and it is so arranged that it can be readily and quickly set up and taken down, as occasion may require.

Although the tent is adapted more espe-

cially for the treatment of lung disease, its may be used with great benefit by persons in a debilitated condition due to other causes or by well persons who desire to obtain while sleeping the beneficial results of an abundant supply of fresh air without any attendant discomforts.

In the drawings illustrating the invention, Figure 1 is a cross-sectional view of the window-tent, showing the method of positioning the patient in suitable proximity thereto; Fig. 2, a side elevation of the tent; Fig. 3, a perspective view of the framework; Fig. 4, a longitudinal sectional view showing the arrangement with respect to a window, and Fig. 5 a view of the hinged bracket for the outer flap.

The window-tent is in the form of an elongated rectangular canvas box having side walls 1, a top wall or roof 2, a bottom 3, an inner end wall 4, and an outer end wall 5. The bottom is cut away at the outer end to provide an opening 6, which, as shown, extends substantially one-third of the length of the entire box, but may be otherwise proportioned, if desired. The roof of the box is supported by means of a rectangular frame consisting of side rails 7 and end cross-rails 8, as best shown in Fig. 3. The frame is supported by means of side uprights 9, having diagonal braces 10 secured thereto. The side uprights and braces are secured to the side rails by means of hinges 11, which arrangement allows the side uprights on opposite sides of the box to be inwardly folded with respect to one another when it is desired to stow away the tent or box. The uprights are distended by means of a hinged bracket 12, having side arms 13 terminating in pivot ends 14, adapted to be inserted into the inner sides of the side uprights, and the bracket is completed by means of a cross-rod 15, connecting the side arms. The bracket as a whole is preferably made of a single piece of spring-steel of proper dimensions to be inwardly compressed when the pivotal ends are inserted into the side uprights, so that after the insertion of the pivotal ends the tension of the bracket will hold the uprights properly distended.

The hinged bracket serves as a support for the edge of the outer portion of the box or tent which surrounds the opening 6. The edges are lapped over the bracket and secured by means of stitches 16, which arrange-

ment reinforces the free edge surrounding the opening 6 and at the same time permits the bracket and the canvas secured thereto to be raised and lowered to elevate or depress the opening in order to vary the amount of air admitted therethrough. The bracket has secured thereto a cord 17, which is passed through an eye 18 in the outer cross-rail 8 and extends along the roof of the box or tent within suitable proximity of the patient and is secured at its inner end to a cleat 19 or similar fastening means, which arrangement allows the bracket to be raised and lowered at will and the amount of air admitted through the opening to be varied. The inner portion of the box is provided with a slit or opening 20 near the lower edge thereof, through which slit or opening the patient's head is inserted into the box. This opening may be on either side of the box, depending upon the position of the patient's body, or the box, if desired, may be provided with two openings of this character, one for each side, adapting the patient's body to extend in either direction. The flap when not in use can be closed by means of buttons 21 or other suitable fastening means, and it is preferred to have the edge of the flap 22 suitably weighted to lie close against the body of the patient to prevent the admission of air through the slit or opening into the room. The outer sides of the box have secured thereto guide-strips 23, which are in alinement with the uprights 9 and are nailed or screwed through the canvas, the guide-strips being provided with cuts 24 in alinement with the hinges 11 for permitting the folding of the sides. In alinement with the guide-strips 23 are a pair of transversely-extending cleats 25, which extend across the top and provide an opening 26, into which the window-section 27 is dropped. The guide-strips 23 are intended to fit into the window-guide channels 28, so that when the box or tent is positioned within the window it will be firmly held therein against displacement and so tightly secured that there will be no cracks or openings for the admission of air to the room. If desired, the wall of the box may be provided with a window 29, of transparent celluloid or other suitable material, for admitting light to the box and permitting the patient to look out into the room. In case the window is of greater width than the box or tent the open space may be filled by means of a suitably proportioned board or other suitable filling.

In use the patient's bed or cot 30 is positioned adjacent to the window and moved to have the inner part of the box or tent immediately above the head of the bed or cot. The patient's pillow can be placed within the box or immediately beneath the box, and the patient lies with his head within the box or tent and his body outside of the box or tent

and within the warm room. The weighted flap of the slit or opening rests against the body near the neck of the patient, and the bedclothing is drawn up to completely protect all portions of the patient's body, leaving only the head exposed to the action of the fresh outside air. The outer portion of the box or tent is preferably waterproof to prevent leakage and the intrusion of dampness, and the hinged end can be entirely dropped when the weather is inclement to prevent the admission of rain, snow, and undesirable amount of wind; but when the weather is fine the hinged end can be raised more or less to enlarge the opening and provide a more direct ingress for the air. The amount of air admitted will of course depend upon the nature of the weather and the condition of the patient; but experience has shown that there is no danger of the patient's catching cold when sufficient bedclothing is provided to keep the body warm. If the weather is extremely cold, a blanket or quilt can be spread entirely over the box or tent, which prevents the cold walls thereof from cooling the room, the temperature of which can be maintained at any desired degree. The framework hereinbefore described merely serves to illustrate a desirable arrangement of parts; but it is obvious that the framework can be changed or modified without departing from the spirit of the invention. The value of this window-tent has been fully demonstrated, and its employment enables the dwellers in flat buildings and tenement-houses to secure for themselves all of the curative benefits incident to life in a tent or shed in so far as such advantages can be obtained in the atmosphere of a large city. At the same time no expense is involved in the use of the device, and the patient, if not totally incapacitated by reason of the disease, can continue at his work or occupation during the day-time. Furthermore, the atmosphere of the house will not be contaminated by the breath of the patient, so that the device is of extreme value from a sanitary as well as a curative standpoint. In some respects the window-tent is highly superior to the average tent in that the ventilation is perfect and the air supplied to the patient is repeatedly renewed and never contaminated by long and continued usage, whereas tents of ordinary construction, unless arranged with special reference to the intended use, are not well ventilated, so that the air within the tent, although it may be cold, is frequently foul and unfit for a consumptive person to breathe.

It will be seen from the foregoing description that the device of the present invention is of extreme value in the treatment of diseases and in the preservation of health and that it affords the poorer class of the community a highly-advantageous method of se-

curing to themselves the advantages which it is ordinarily impossible to obtain in the more congested districts.

What I regard as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A device of the class described, in the form of a box having top, bottom and side walls, closed at its inner end and provided with an opening at its outer end and adapted to have its outer end projected through a window to bring the opening in communication with the outer atmosphere, the inner portion of the box being provided with an opening for the insertion therethrough of the head of a patient, leaving the body of the patient outside of the box and within the room, substantially as described.

2. In a device of the class described, a framework and a covering for the framework constituting a box adapted to be projected through a window, the inner end of the box being provided with an opening for the insertion of a patient's head and being otherwise closed, and the outer or projected portion being provided with an opening in communication with the outer atmosphere, substantially as described.

3. In a device of the class described, a framework and a covering for the framework constituting a box adapted to be projected through a window, the inner end of the box being provided with an opening for the insertion of a patient's head and being otherwise closed, and the outer or projected portion being provided with an opening in its lower side in communication with the outer atmosphere, substantially as described.

4. In a device of the class described, the combination of a framework, a covering therefor providing a substantially rectangular box having an opening in the bottom of the outer end portion, a hinged bracket to which the fabric surrounding the opening is secured, means for raising and lowering the hinged bracket, and an opening for the insertion of a patient's head, substantially as described.

5. In a device of the class described, the

combination of a framework, a covering therefor providing a substantially rectangular box having an opening in the bottom of the outer end portion, a hinged bracket to which the fabric surrounding the opening is secured, means for raising and lowering the hinged bracket, an opening for the insertion of a patient's head, and a weighted edge adjacent to the opening for preventing the admission of air from the box to the room, substantially as described.

6. In a device of the class described, the combination of a rectangular framework, uprights secured to the framework and depending therefrom, a hinged bracket secured to the lower ends of the uprights, a covering of fabric surrounding the framework and uprights and providing a rectangular box adapted to be outwardly projected through a window and having an opening in the bottom of the outwardly-projected portion, the edges of the fabric being secured to the hinged bracket, and the fabric further having an opening for the projection of a patient's head into the box, substantially as described.

7. In a device of the class described, the combination of a rectangular framework, uprights secured to the framework and depending therefrom, a hinged bracket secured to the lower ends of the uprights, a covering of fabric surrounding the framework and uprights and providing a rectangular box adapted to be outwardly projected through a window and having an opening in the bottom of the outwardly-projecting portion, the edges of the fabric being secured to the hinged bracket, and the fabric further having an opening for the projection of a patient's head into the box, and a cord secured to the hinged bracket and extending within suitable reach of the patient for raising and lowering the hinged bracket and the covering secured thereto, substantially as described.

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Witnesses:

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H. H. HALL.