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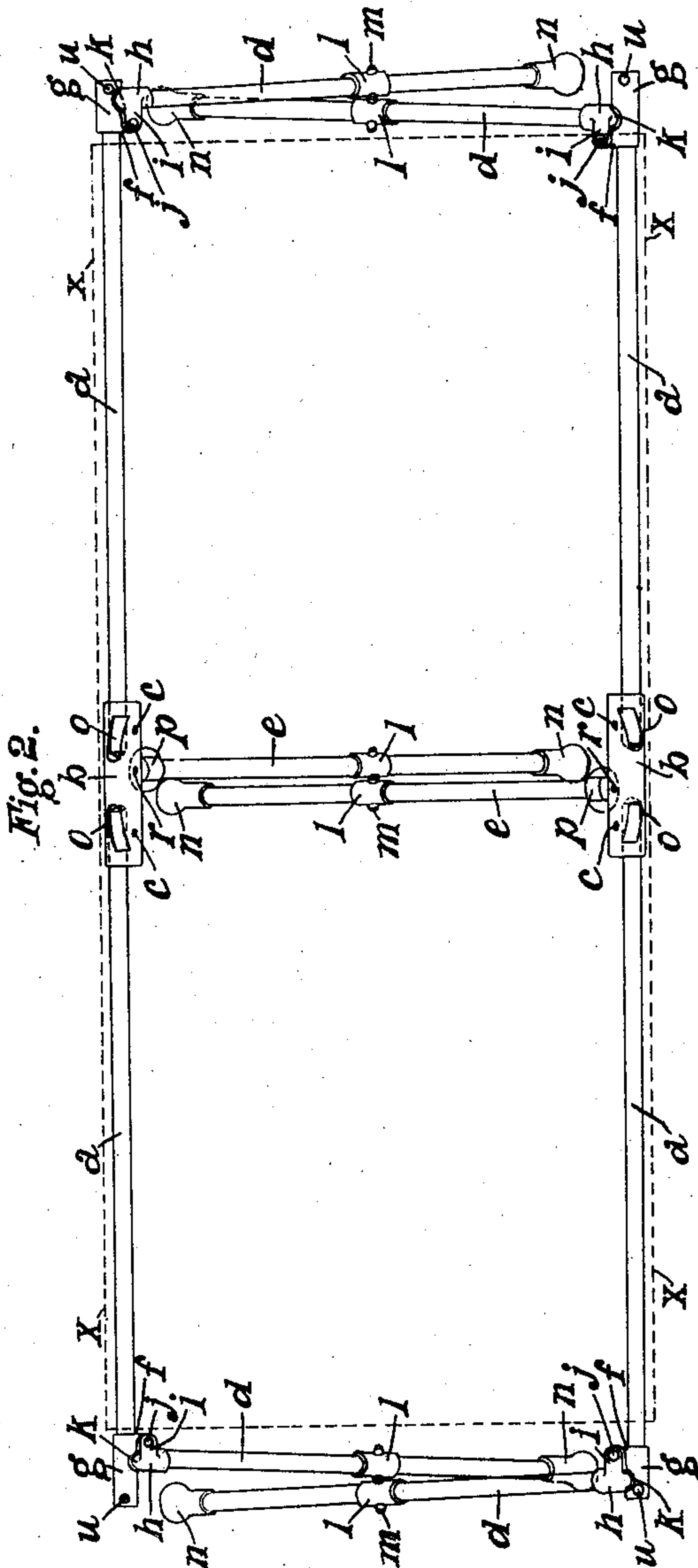
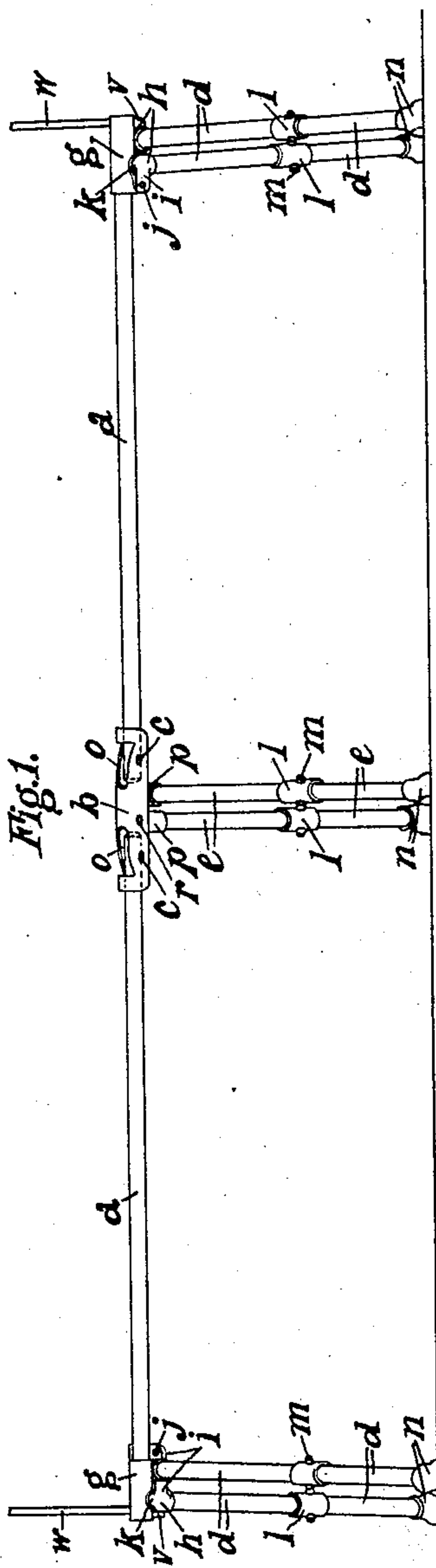
PATENTED AUG. 18, 1908.

F. WOOD.

BEDSTEAD, STRETCHER, AND THE LIKE.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 15, 1907.

4 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



WITNESSES

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4 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 3.

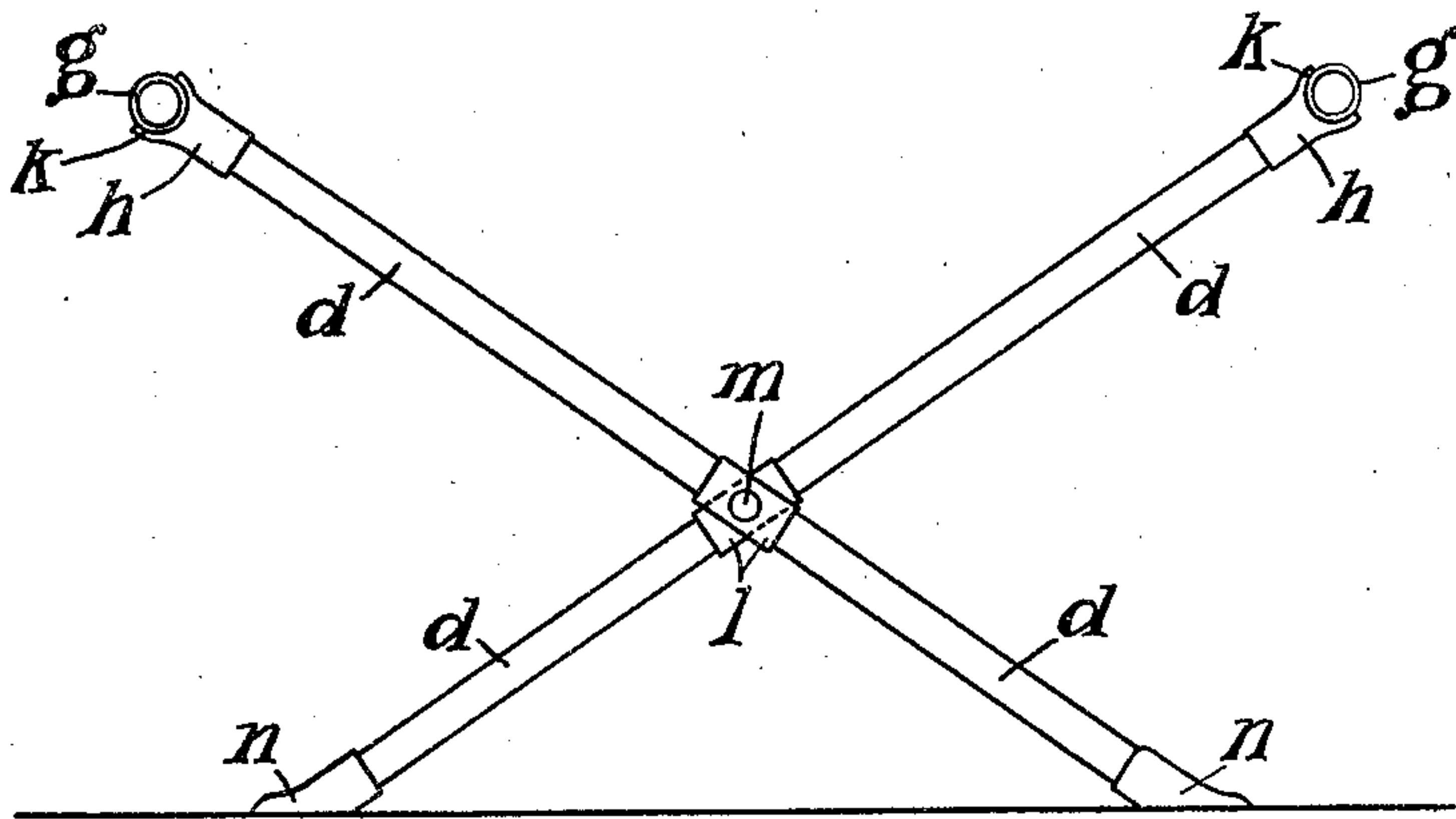


Fig. 8.

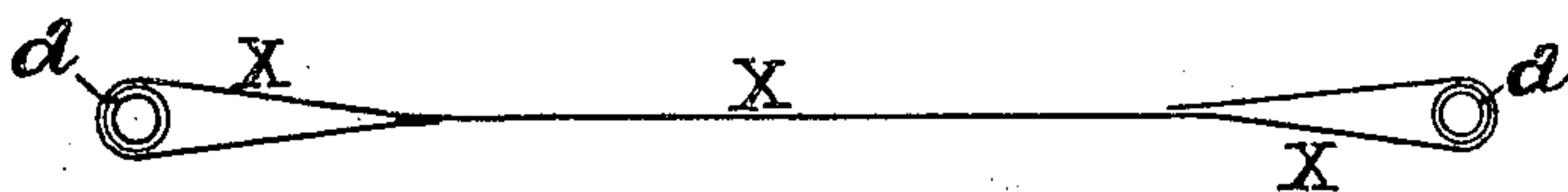
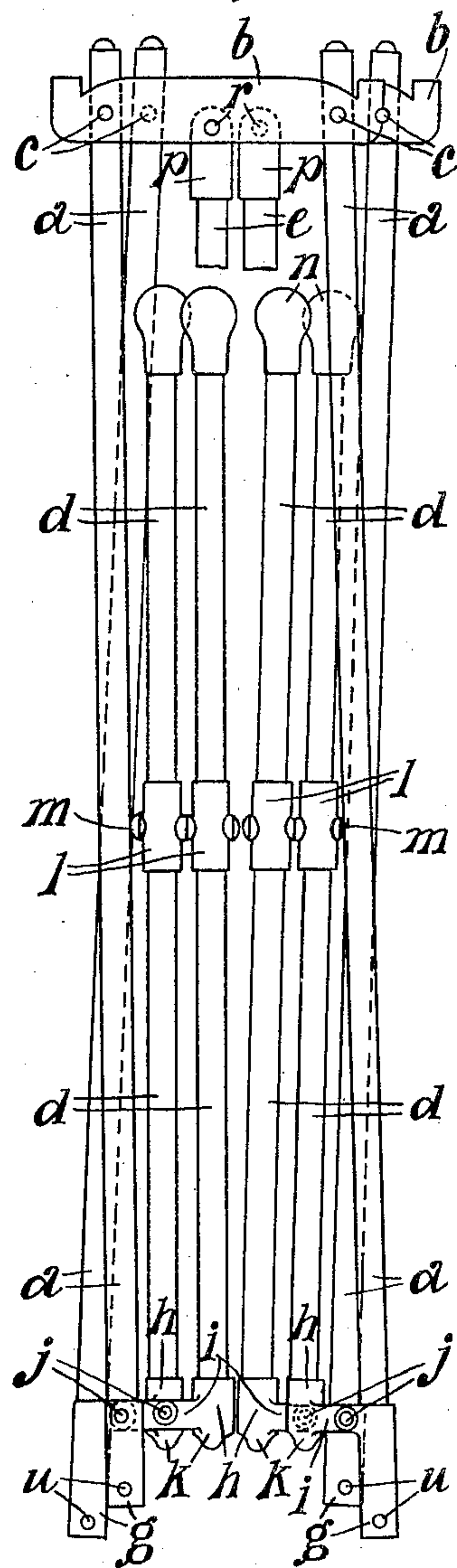


Fig. 4.



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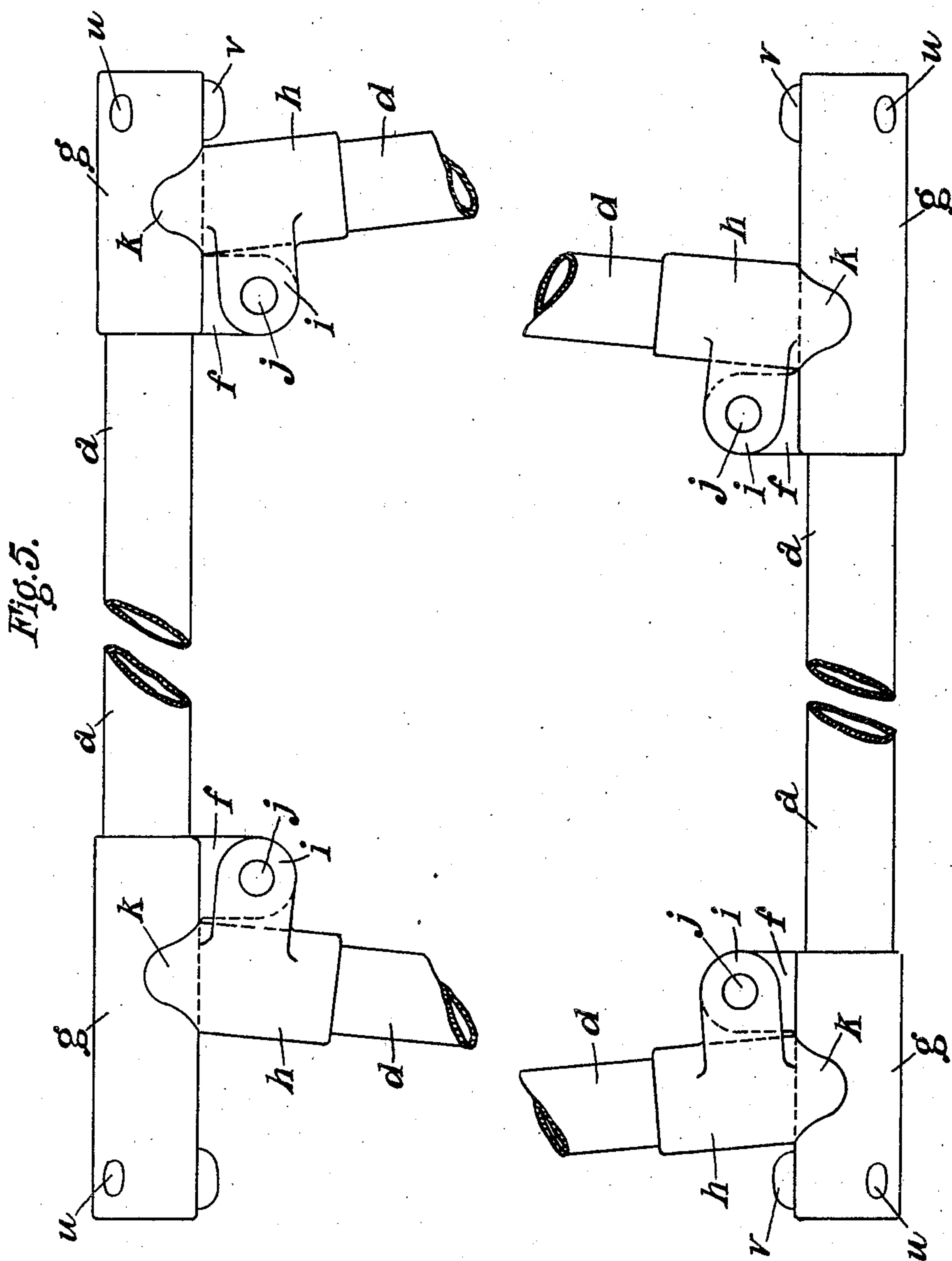
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4 SHEETS—SHEET 3.



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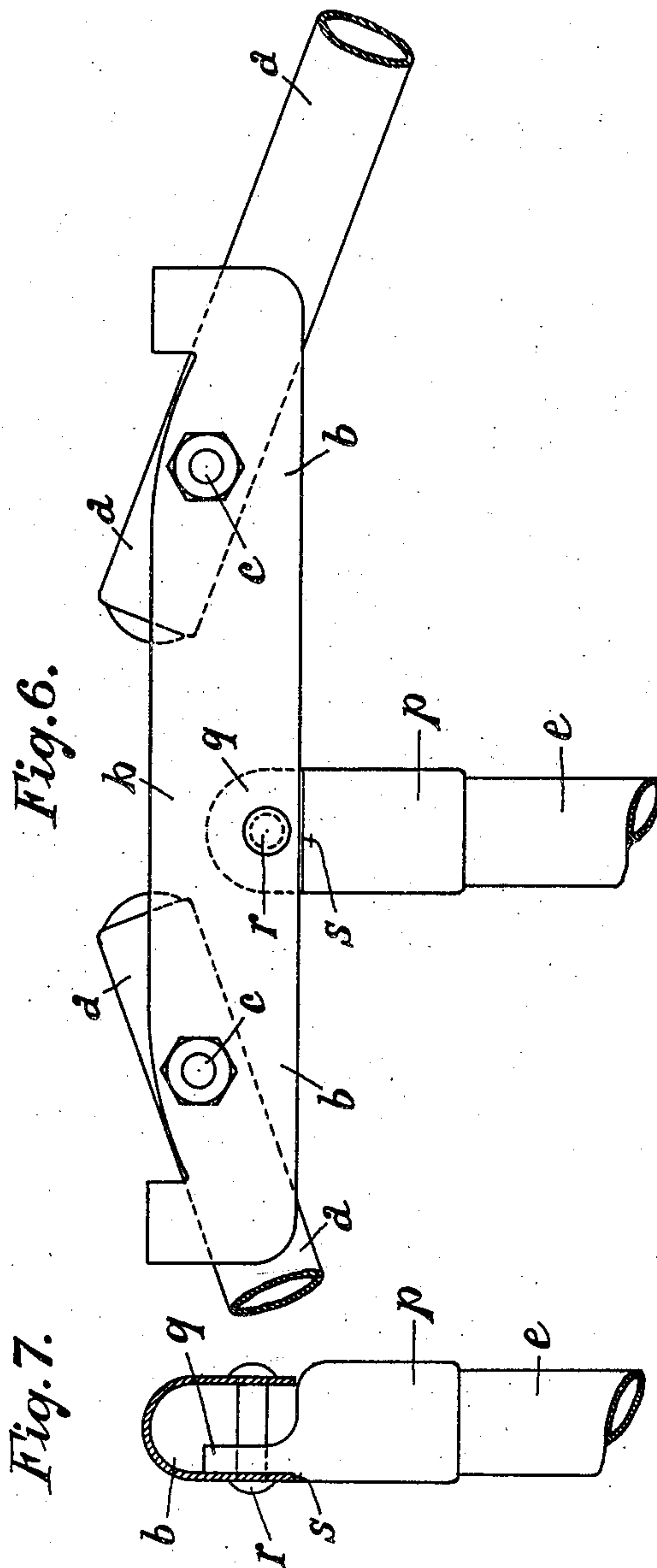
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APPLICATION FILED JUNE 15, 1907.

4 SHEETS—SHEET 4.



WITNESSES
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK WOOD, OF LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND.

BEDSTEAD, STRETCHER, AND THE LIKE.

No. 896,426.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 18, 1908.

Application filed June 15, 1907. Serial No. 379,189.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK WOOD, a subject of the King of England, residing at Liverpool, in the county of Lancaster, Eng-
land, have invented new and useful Improve-
ments in Bedsteads, Stretchers, and the Like,
of which the following is a specification.

This invention has reference to bedsteads,
stretchers, and the like, of the folding or port-
able type; and it has for its object and ef-
fect, to provide improvements in connection
with same, by which they can be and are ren-
dered lighter than those at present in use,
and which also at the same time shall be
strong, or stronger, and capable of being fold-
ed very compactly and quickly; and, con-
versely, easily and very quickly spread out
or unfolded and extended, and put into po-
sition for use.

The invention will be described in connec-
tion with the accompanying drawings which
illustrate it, and the several novel character-
istics comprised under it, will be set out in
the claiming clauses concluding the specifi-
cation.

In these drawings, Figure 1 is a side eleva-
tion; Fig. 2 is a plan; and Fig. 3 is an end
view of a bedstead in its unfolded or extend-
ed position, ready for use. Fig. 4 is a view
showing the bedstead folded; Fig. 5 is a plan
view showing in detail the construction of the
end leg joints; and Figs. 6 and 7 are detail
views showing the construction of the middle
joint connection. Fig. 8 is a cross section
showing the supporting fabric in position.

All the main parts of the bedstead are
preferably tubes or tubular; but in some
cases the rails and legs may be of suitable
wood, or other suitable material.

Referring now to the drawings, *a* are the
side rails, each of which is jointed at the cen-
ter with a joint connecting piece or link *b*;
c being the joint bolts or pins which pass
through these joint pieces *b* and the rails *a*.

d are the legs supporting the side rails *a* at
the ends; and *e* is a pair of intermediate legs
connected with the joint connecting links *b*,
and supporting the bedstead at the center.

The end legs are jointed to the ends of the
side bars *a* by hinge joints, so arranged that
they will fold inwards, practically in the
same plane in which the side rails lie; and
these legs, and the center legs, are jointed to-
gether at a point near their center longitudi-
nally, enabling the two sets of side rails to be

drawn towards one another, and folded to-
gether.

The joint connecting the end legs *d* with
the ends of the rails *a* consists of a lug *f*, pro-
vided on the inside of a cast cap terminal *g*,
fitting over, and suitably secured to the end
of the tubular rails *a*; while the legs *d* have a
terminal cap fitting *h*—preferably a casting—
on each end, having jaws *i* one of which
comes on each side of the lug *f*, a pin *j* being
passed through both the lugs and the jaw
forming a hinge joint. The leg terminal
caps *h* also have a pair of jaws *k* on their ends,
which are curved to the curvature of the
caps *g*, and so disposed, that when the legs
are extended to the open position, the side
rail terminals *g* will fit and lie in between
them, and rest upon them; so this fitting *h*
constitutes a firm and secure chair for the
side rail ends to rest in and upon.

The end legs *d*, and the parts connected
with them, are so arranged and constructed
that their feet will be outside the vertical
plane in which their upper ends or fittings *h*
lie, as seen by Figs. 1 and 2; by which means,
pressure, due to a person lying on the bed,
tends to prevent the legs folding backwards,
and general rigidity or firmness, and resist-
ance of the bed against endwise movement,
is afforded. To provide for this outward in-
clination of the legs, the bearing surface of
the end cap fittings *h* will be so disposed in
relation to the other parts that their axes
will form an angle greater than a right angle,
with the axes of the side rails.

The joints connecting the two sets of legs
d—and the legs *e*—together, consist of tubu-
lar fittings, say light steel castings *l*. They
are slid over the legs; and a joint is effected
by a pin *m*, say a rivet, which passes through
these tubular castings or fittings, they being
provided with a slightly projecting boss both
at the inside—which form “distance pieces”
between the two tubular castings—and on
the outside.

The feet *n* of all the legs are simple cast-
ings, say of steel, closed at the ends, and fit-
ted and suitably fastened on the end of the
legs; they being splayed out at the bottom,
and cut at an angle, so that they rest flatly on
the ground when the bed is spread.

With regard to the central connecting link
joint part *b*, it is made saddle-shape, and say
of pressed steel, and the joint bolts or nuts or
pins *c* which connect the ends with the side

rails *a*, are disposed some distance within the ends. When the bed is unfolded and spread, and the weight comes upon it at the center, the thrust downwards is taken by the bolt joints *c*, and the crown of the saddle piece *b* towards the ends; and the central legs *e* are made of such a length that when the bed is unfolded and in a position for use, their feet will be off the ground, say to the extent of half an inch. This construction tends to increase the outward endwise inclination of the end legs and their resistance to the movement or working of the bedstead endwise, when weight is upon it.

A hole *o* is provided in the top or crown of the saddle piece at each end, to enable the inner ends of the side rails *a*—which are closed by stoppers—to pass up through them when the bed is folded; at which times, as shown in Fig. 4, the two members of the side rails *a* will be at about right angles to the link head or connecting part *b*.

The central legs *e*, at their upper ends, are provided with casting cap fittings *p*, which at the top are provided with lugs *q*, as shown (see Figs. 6 and 7); and each of these lugs is rigidly fastened to one of the side pieces—*i. e.* the outside—of the saddle connecting link *b* by rivets or bolts *r*; and the caps *p* are provided with a shoulder at *s*, which abuts up against the edge of the saddle piece *b*, and so forms therewith a rigid and secure fitting and attachment. Of course, the caps *p* are fastened onto their respective saddle link *b*, and at suitable points, so that the two legs lie in parallel vertical planes.

Each of the side rail cap fittings *g* has a hole *u* in its upper side at the end, and a socket *v* projecting downwards from and below the under side; into which light rods *w* may be stepped, for carrying mosquito curtains.

The bed bottom or fabric on which the user lies is designated *x*, and is shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2, and in cross section in Fig. 8; and it may be of any suitable textile or other fabric. The fabric *x* is made with tubular edges—see Fig. 8, within which lie the side rails *a* and connecting link joint parts *b*; and at these latter parts where the legs *e* come, the tubular edges of the fabric is provided with apertures, through which the legs *e* pass.

When the bedstead is unfolded and spread, the fabric *x* will be tight, and its width serves as a tie, holding the side rails *a* at the required distance apart. In use and action, the weight of the body on the bed tends to spread the legs wider apart, and the movement in this direction tends to move the side rails farther apart; and hence the web or fabric *x* is pulled laterally, making it taut from side to side.

In folding, the members of the side rails *a* are moved so as to lie at right angles to the middle joint pieces *b*, and the legs at each end fold up inwards along and parallel with the side rails, the middle legs *c* remaining of course in their normal rigid position, which will be parallel with the legs *d* and side rails *a*, as indicated in Fig. 4. In the folding, the bottom fabric *x* will be found will fold in and up conveniently and compactly.

I am aware that folding bedsteads have had jointed side rails, with central connecting links, and with legs at their ends which fold up parallel with said side rails; and that the end legs of the folding bedsteads have been arranged to incline outwards from the points of their joints, and no claim *per se* is made to same hereunder.

What is claimed is:—

1. A folding bedstead comprising side rails, jointed at their central part, to a joint connecting piece or link, at which they are adapted to fold, and having at their ends, and connected to them by movable joints, crossed jointed legs adapted to fold up along or substantially parallel with the side rails; and intermediate crossed over legs connected rigidly to said central connecting joint links or parts; substantially as set forth.

2. In a folding bedstead the side tubes *a* having a tubular cap *g* fitting over their ends, in combination with tubular caps *h* fitting over the ends of tubular legs *d*, said tubular caps being jointed together by hinge parts, as *f, i*, projecting towards each other from the sides of said caps; as set forth.

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

FREDERICK WOOD.

Witnesses:

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H. WATSON.