

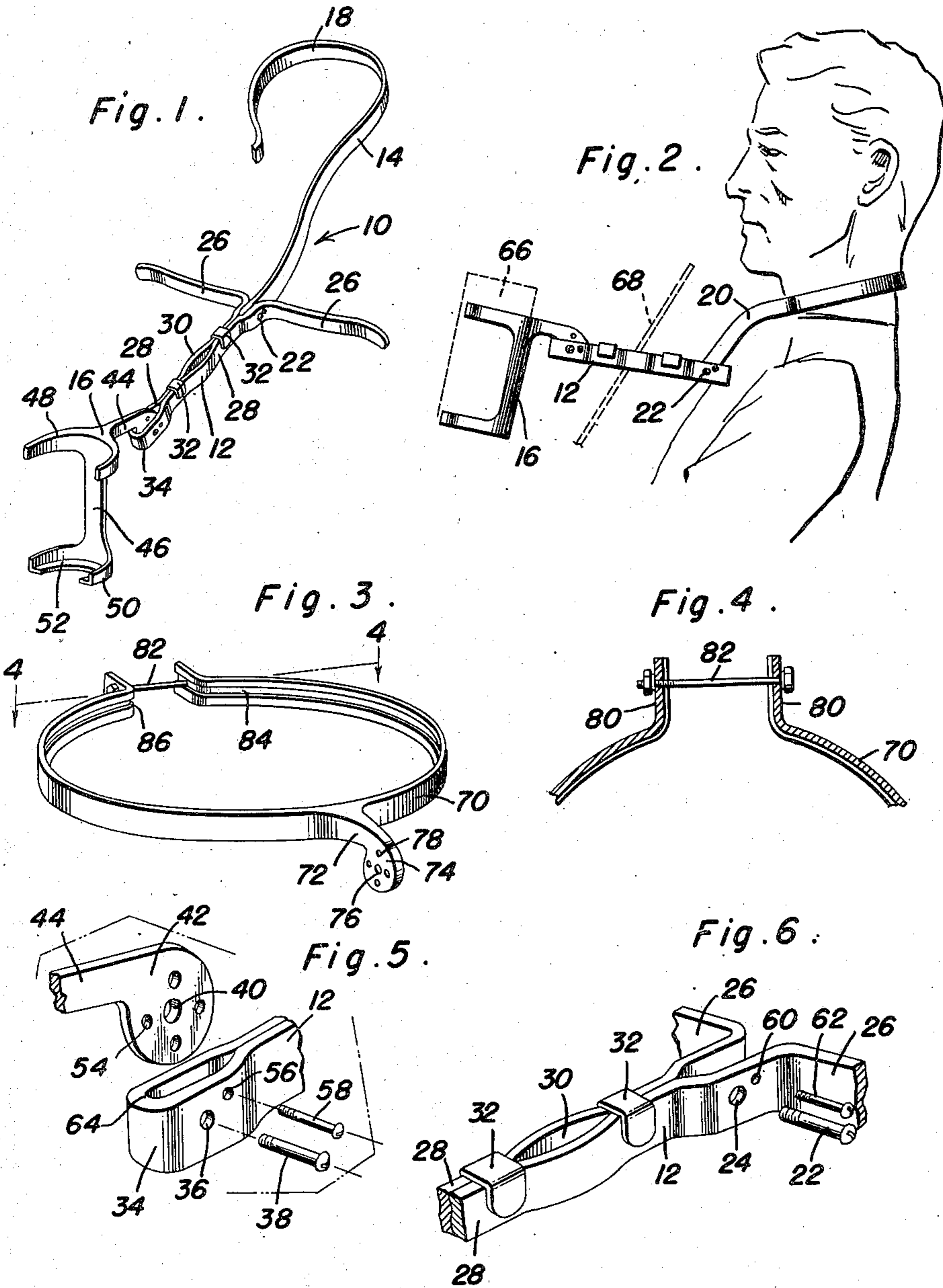
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PORTABLE RECEPTACLE SUPPORT

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PORTABLE RECEPTACLE SUPPORT

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This invention comprises novel and useful improvements in a portable receptacle support and more specifically pertains to an appliance for supporting receptacles preferably upon the chest and the neck of the user.

It is a primary object of the invention to provide an apparatus for enabling invalids, convalescents, and all persons suffering from a temporary or permanent impairment of the use of the arms and hands to conveniently and in comfort drink fluid from cups or bowls supported by the device.

An important feature of the invention resides in the provision of a supporting device which may be comfortably worn upon the neck of the users and supported by the chest of such persons.

A further important feature of the invention resides in the provision of an appliance as set forth hereinbefore provided with stabilizing means for securing the receptacle in steady equilibrium, and further provided with a novel and improved construction whereby the receptacle may be disposed at various angular inclinations with respect to the user.

A still further feature of the invention resides in the provision of a device as set forth hereinbefore wherein the device may be readily adapted for securely receiving and supporting an alternative bowl, dish or similar receptacle.

And a final feature of the invention to be specifically enumerated herein, resides in the provision of such a device wherein provision is made for conveniently supporting a straw or tube by the device to enable consumption of the contents of receptacles supported thereby by the user.

These, together with various ancillary features and objects of the invention which will later become apparent as the following description proceeds, are attained by this device, the preferred embodiment of which has been illustrated by way of example only in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the apparatus showing the means for holding a cup attached thereto;

Figure 2 is a side elevational view showing the device positioned in an operative manner upon the person of the user, and indicated in dotted line the holding of a cup or glass and the positioning of a tube or straw in the device;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of a holder which may be applied to a device for supporting a bowl, dish or the like;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary horizontal sectional view, taken substantially from the plane of section line 4-4 of Figure 3 and showing the clamp-

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ing means for securing the holder upon a bowl or dish, not shown;

Figure 5 is a group perspective view, parts being broken away, showing the pivotal adjustable connection and the associated parts of the device, whereby the holder may be detachably carried by the base member of the device; and,

Figure 6 is a fragmentary perspective view illustrating the construction of a part of the base member and particularly showing the means for supporting a tube or straw therefrom, one of the pivot pins and pivot lock means being indicated in detached position with respect to the view.

Referring now more specifically to the accompanying drawings, wherein like numerals designate similar parts throughout the various views, attention is directed first to Figure 1, wherein the device is indicated generally by the numeral 10.

The device includes a base member 12, a hanger bar 14 and a receptacle holder 16, the two latter members being pivotally connected to the extremities of the base member. The hanger bar 14 has one end terminating in a hook portion 18 which is adapted to comfortably encircle and hang from the neck of the user as shown in Figure 2. The stem of the hanger bar is provided with a curve 20 as shown in Figure 2, whereby the lower extremity of the hanger bar comfortably conforms to and rests upon the chest of the user. As will readily be seen by Figures 1 and 2, the hanger bar and the base member are formed on a flat strip of metal or other suitable material, preferably disposed on edge to lend strength and rigidity to the support.

At its lower extremity, the hanger bar 14 is pivotally connected as at 22 to the base member. As shown in the detail view of Figure 6, the pivot screw 22 extends through an aperture 24 in the side of the base member, and also through a corresponding aperture, not shown, in the lower extremity of the hanger bar for pivotally securing these members together.

The base member may conveniently consist of a single strip of flat material, folded upon itself and having its ends disposed laterally in opposite directions as indicated at 26 to provide legs whereby the base member rests upon the chest of the user. These legs also provide stability when the base member is separated from the hook portion or hanger bar, and used separately as set forth hereinafter.

The intermediate portion of the base member is folded to provide a pair of plates 28, which intermediate their extremities are bowed outwardly

from each other to provide an enlarged passage therebetween, for a purpose to be later set forth. The two side plates forming an integral part of the base member are secured to each other as by clip 32, disposed on opposite sides of the passage portion 30. These clips may be detachably or if desired may be rigidly secured to the base member.

As above mentioned, the generally parallel plates 28 of the base member, at one end terminate in the oppositely disposed legs 26, while the other ends are integrally joined to provide a loop portion 34 which is provided with a laterally extending aperture 36 to receive a pivotal fastening screw 38 therein. This screw, as shown best in the detail view of Figure 5, extends through a pivot aperture 40 in the enlarged end 42 of the laterally extending arm 44 of the receptacle holder 16, whereby the latter is pivotally mounted within the loop portion 34. This receptacle holder includes a vertically extending member 46, which at its upper end is provided with an arcuately shaped band 48, and its lower extremity, with a similar band 50, having upon its inner surface an arcuate horizontally disposed flange 52, whereby a glass or cup may be rested and supported within the holder 16, with its bottom resting upon the flange 52 and its sides partially embraced by the arcuate bands 48 and 50.

As shown clearly in Figure 5, the enlarged portion 42 which is of generally annular shape is provided with a plurality of angularly spaced locking apertures 54 therein, which are adapted to selectively register with a corresponding aperture 56 in the loop portion 34, whereby a lock pin 58 may be inserted in the aligned apertures to selectively position the holder at various angularly inclined positions with respect to the base member 12.

As will readily be understood, when the hanger bar 14 is removed from the base member, the latter may be rested upon the bed, a table surface or other supporting surface, whereby a glass may be received within the holder 16, and held in a suitable inclined position by properly angularly adjusting the holder relative to the base member 12, whereby the legs 26 of the latter and the bottom band 50 of the receptacle holder constitute a three point support for the receptacle.

A similar pivotal connection and angular adjusting means is provided at the other end of the base member 12, wherein it will be seen that the plates 28 are provided with an aperture 60 for the reception of a locking pin 62 therein, this pin being selectively engageable with similar apertures in the extremity of the hanger bar, which also not shown, will be fashioned similarly to the construction of the members 40, 42, and 54 of Figure 5. Accordingly, it will readily be seen that the hanger bar may be selectively positioned at various angular inclinations with respect to the base member, and securely locked in the selected position. Thus, the position shown in Figure 2 may be readily obtained, the base member 12 being positionable and securable at different angular positions upon the hanger bar, while the receptacle holder 16 is likewise independently angularly adjustable upon the base member.

It will be noted by reference to Figures 1 and 5, that the upper surface of the loop portion 34, as indicated at 64, constitutes a stop or abutment means for engaging the undersurface of the arm 44, to thereby limit the downward pivotal movement of the receptacle holder 16 with respect to the base member. This feature therefore pre-

vents the accidental lowering of the receptacle holder from the position shown in Figure 2, in the event the locking pin 58 is not in place.

As shown in Figure 2, a cup designated by the dotted line 66 may be conveniently received in the holder 16 while a straw or tube 68 may be positioned within the supporting passage 30 in convenient position for easy use and access by the user. It should be here noted that it is within the province of this invention to make the side plates 28 of the base member of resilient construction, whereby the use of the clips 32 will enable the straw or tube 68 to be frictionally and compressably clamped within the opening 30. In order to enhance the utility of the holder, an optional holding means is indicated in Figures 3 and 4 whereby dishes and bowls may be securely mounted upon the base member. For this purpose there is provided an arcuate substantially annular split ring 70 provided with a supporting lug 72 at one side thereof, which lug is further provided with an annular enlargement 74 provided with a pivotal hole 76 by means of which the receptacle holder may be pivotally mounted upon the base member. Additional angularly disposed locking apertures 78 are provided in the member 74. The fastening and locking means is identical with that previously described and illustrated with connection to Figure 5.

The open ends of the ring 70 are provided with parallel ears 80 which are apertured to receive a fastening bolt 82. An intermediate groove 84 is disposed upon the inner surface of the ring 70 throughout the entire ring thereof, this groove being provided with a shoulder 86 at the lower portion thereof, whereby the flange or rim of a bowl or dish may be received within the groove and the clamp bolt 82 tightened to cause the ring to securely support a bowl, dish or other receptacle. The operation of this form of the device is identical with that set forth above.

From the foregoing it will be seen there has been provided a receptacle support which may be easily and comfortably applied to the person or the user for supporting cups, glasses, dishes, bowls or other receptacles in easily and readily adjusted position whereby the fluid contents may be consumed by the user. It will be particularly noted that the device is of simple construction, consisting essentially of flat strip material with particular means being provided for imparting stability to the device. Further, the two pivotal connections at the opposite ends of the base member provide a variety of adjustable positions to which the receptacle may be supported. Finally, it will be noted that this device opens a very satisfactory means for facilitating the feeding of invalids, most operative patients, persons paralyzed or temporarily incapable of using their arms or hands, and for numerous other similar uses.

From the foregoing, the manner of construction in the device and of employing the same in its numerous uses will be readily understood and further explanation is accordingly believed to be unnecessary. Since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art and after a consideration of the foregoing specification and accompanying drawings, it is not intended to limit the invention to the exact construction shown and described, since this is to be regarded as illustrative of the principles and possibilities of the device only, and in no way limiting as to the utility thereof.

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Accordingly, it is not intended to limit the scope of the invention to the specific embodiment shown and described, but various changes in size, shape, and arrangement of parts may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention except as limited by the appended claims.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A portable receptacle support including a base member comprising a single flat strip having side plates formed by the intermediate section of said strip being folded upon itself and forming a loop at the fold, the end portions of said strip being bent divergently at right angles to said side plates, aligned apertures in each of said side plates adjacent the bend of said end portions, a hanger bar having one end formed as a hook portion curved to fit the neck of the user and having a plurality of apertures in the other end thereof, said hanger being pivotally connected to said base member between said side plates, and means pivotally mounting a receptacle holder within said loop, said hanger and said side plates being pivotally secured by a pivot pin extending through aligned apertures in said side plates and said hanger, the other apertures in said side plates and said hanger being angularly spaced, and locking pins selectively engaging said holder and said side plates when said angularly spaced apertures are in alignment.

2. A portable receptacle support including a base member comprising a single flat strip hav-

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ing side plates formed by the intermediate section of said strip being folded upon itself and forming a loop at the fold, the end portions of said strip being bent divergently at right angles to said side plates, aligned apertures in each of said side plates adjacent the bend of said end portions, a hanger bar having one end formed as a hook portion curved to fit the neck of the user and having a plurality of apertures in the other end thereof, said hanger being pivotally connected to said base member between said side plates, and means pivotally mounting a receptacle holder within said loop, said last means including a pivot pin and a locking pin at each end of said base member and a plurality of angularly spaced alignable apertures in each of said holder and hanger bar, said locking pins being selectively engageable through said apertures in said holder and said hanger bars when said apertures are in alignment.

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