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WALKING AID

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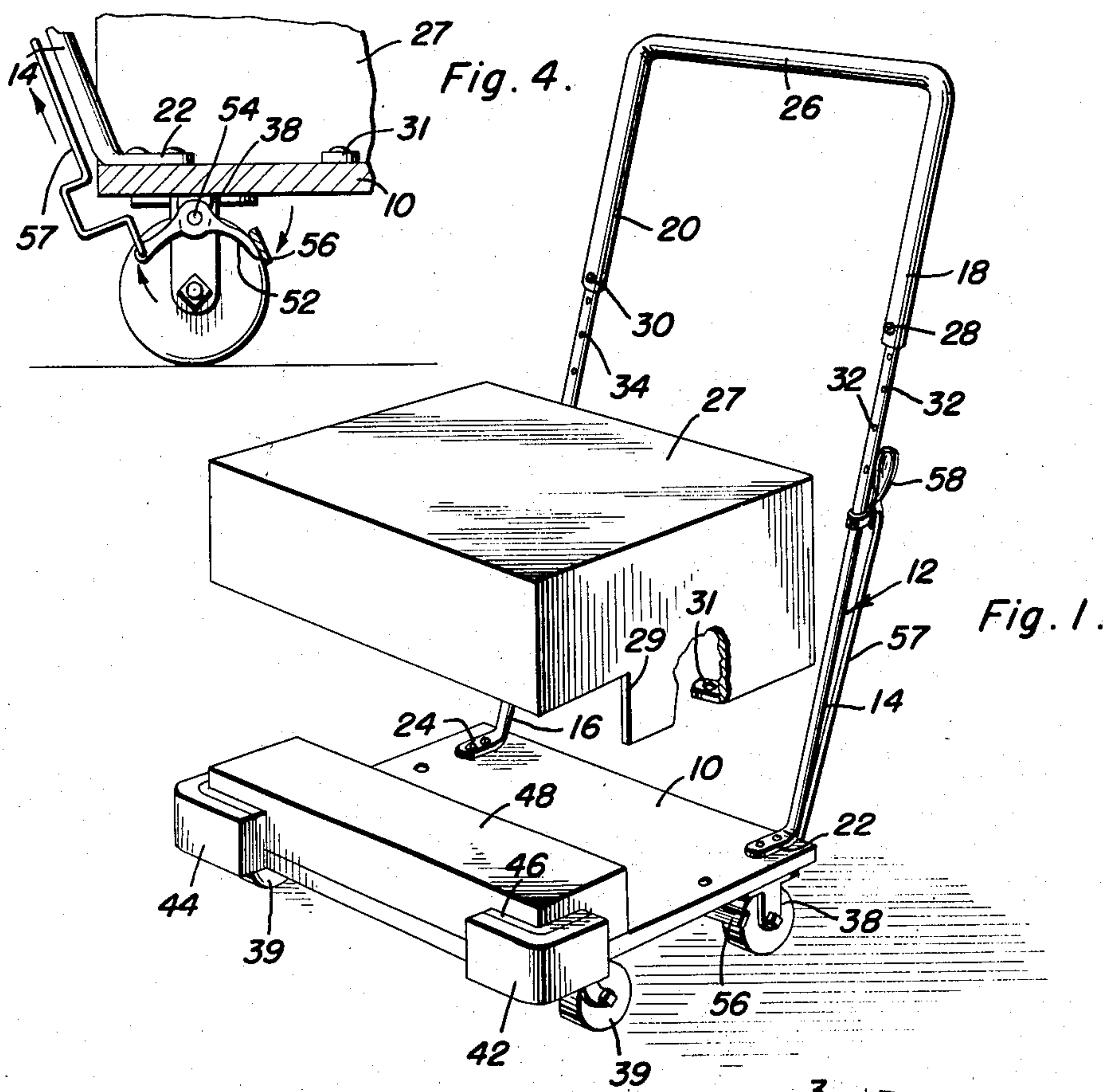


Fig. 2.

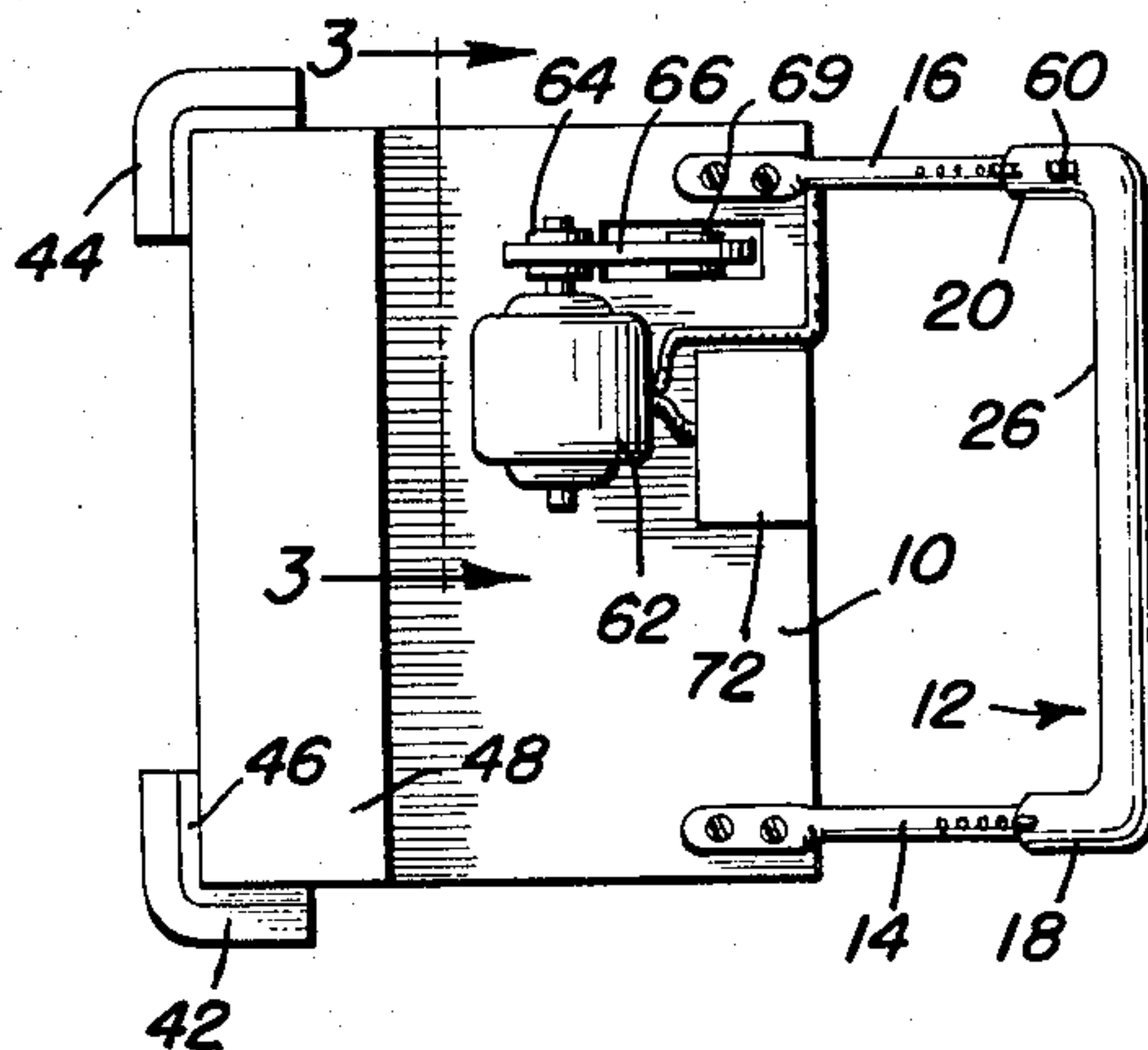
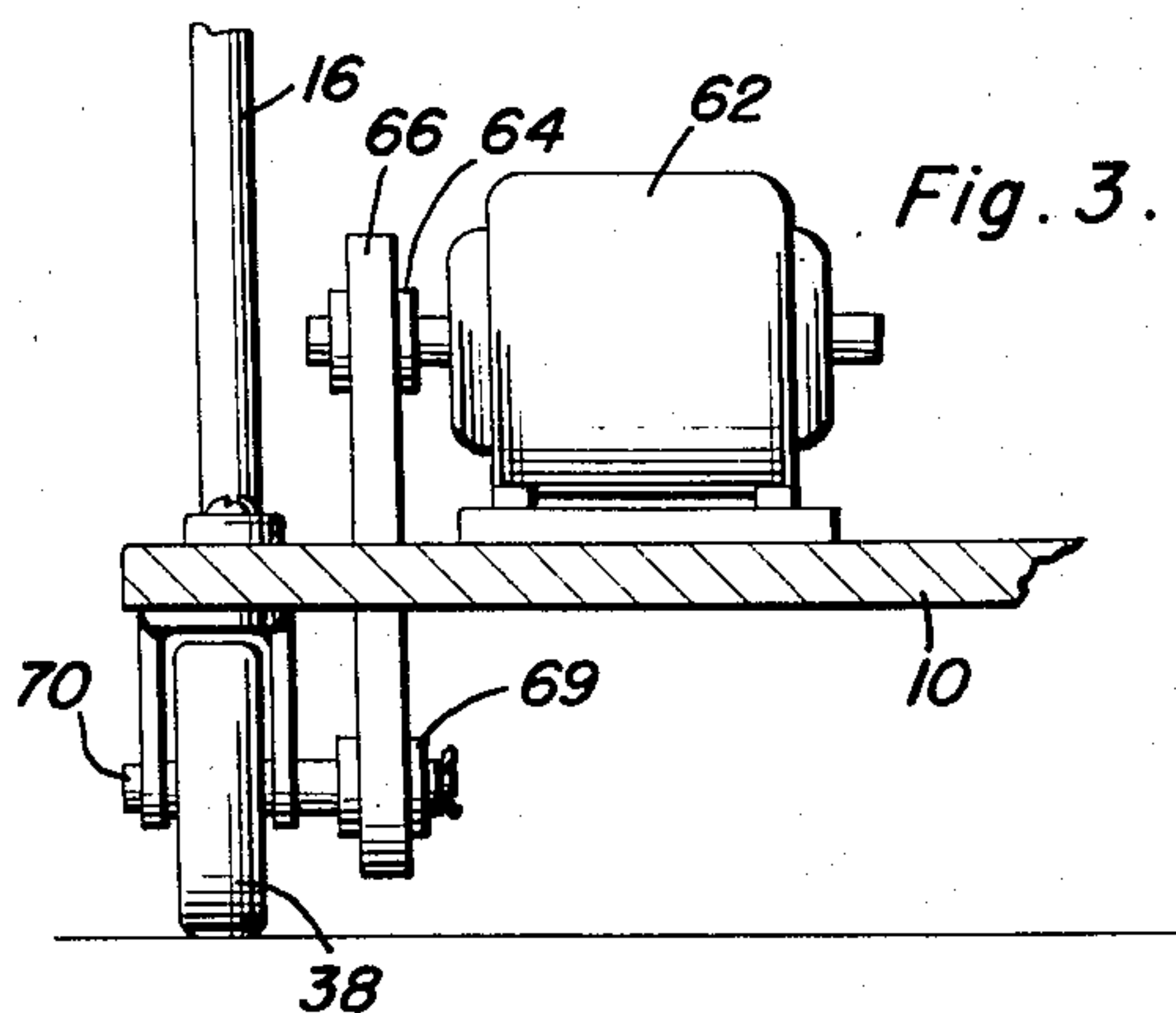


Fig. 3.



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WALKING AID

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4 Claims. (Cl. 155—22)

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This invention relates to novel and useful improvements in vehicles for invalids.

An object of this invention is to assist an invalid or a person incapacitated from illness, injury or disease in walking, particularly during the didactic stage.

Another object of this invention is to perform the above function by means of a device which includes an extensible handle fixed to a platform, the platform or base having fixed casters at the rear thereof and swivel casters at the front, together with a movable weight member which is disposed on the base so as to shift the load to the necessary place on the base, depending upon the amount of resistance and control necessary as indicated by the individual requirements of the patient.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device of the character to be described which is readily portable, compact and suitable for use in small houses having limited space and usable even in the smallest rooms thereof.

Other objects and features will become apparent in following the illustrated form of the invention.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one device;

Figure 2 is a top view of a modification of the device shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 2 and in the direction of the arrows; and

Figure 4 is a fragmentary sectional view showing the use of a brake for one of the wheels.

In the illustrated forms of the invention, a platform or base panel 10 is provided with a handle 12 at the rear ends thereof. This handle consists of a pair of rods 14 and 16 which are disposed in extensible relationship with the sleeves 18 and 20, the sleeves being slidably disposed on the outer ends of the rods. The lower ends of the rods have feet 22 and 24 thereon which are screwed or otherwise rigidly connected with the base panel 10.

The sleeves 18 and 20 have a connecting portion 26 at the upper ends thereof which is adapted to be grasped by the hands of an individual employing the device. A pair of pins 28 and 30, respectively, are disposed in apertures provided in the sleeves 18 and 20 and in a pair of the series of apertures 32 and 34, respectively. This expedient locks the sleeves and, hence, the hand-holding portion 26 in the selected extended position with respect to the rods 14 and 16.

A cover or housing 27 having an opening 29

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in the front thereof is disposed on the base to form a seat for the patient and to cover the base panel. Fastening devices, as the screw accommodating ears 31, are employed to hold the cover 27 in place on the base.

A pair of fixed casters 33 are disposed at the rear end of the base panel 10 and a pair of swivel casters 39 are disposed at the corners of the base opposite the rear corners which mount the stationary casters 38.

A pair of resilient bumpers 42 and 44, respectively, are disposed at the corners of the base panel above the swivel casters 39. The structure of the bumpers is preferably a metallic back plate 46 which is substantially V-shaped, covered with a rubber web. By this expedient, the rubber web extends not only at the front of the device but also at the sides.

A weight member 48, which, in the illustration, is shown as a rectangular bar, is disposed on the upper surface of the platform or base panel 10. It is slidable thereon for adjustment. It may be positioned directly over the casters 39 or at another place remote therefrom, toward the rear of the base panel. The position of the weight will depend upon the requirements of the individual patient. The weight provides the amount of resistance and control of the device necessary as required by the individual patient. Hence, by having the weight disposed as shown in Figure 1, it would be extremely difficult to cause the base panel 10 to be pivoted about the axles of the casters 38 so as to raise the front end of the device. It is also rather difficult to turn the device either right or left with the weight reacting directly on the casters 39, as disclosed. To move the weight member 48 renders both of these functions easier.

A brake is operatively connected with one or more of the wheels of the casters, preferably the fixed casters 38. The brake consists of a rocker 52 mounted on a rocker shaft 54 which is disposed below the base panel 10. A braking plate 56 is secured to the rocker 52 for engagement with one or more of said wheels.

An operating arm 57 is secured to said rocker in order to operate the rocker, and a brake setting and releasing device 58 of conventional description is secured to one of the handle rods. Whether one or more rockers are used is a matter of choice.

In the embodiment of the invention shown in Figures 2 and 3, the same structure is employed, in addition to which, a switch 60 is carried in one of the sleeves so that it may be operated by the

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patient. This switch controls a motor 62 which is disposed on the base panel 10 and which is drivingly connected with one of the caster wheels 38. The driving connection consists of a pulley 64 which is mounted on the motor shaft, together with a belt 66 which is entrained therearound, and a second pulley 69 which is rigidly secured to the axle 70 of the caster assembly. A cover or housing 72 is disposed over the battery, whence the current is supplied to the motor, as controlled by the switch 60.

In Figure 2, the cover 27 and brake mechanism has been omitted for clarity.

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

1. In a vehicle for invalids, a base panel having four corners, a wheel located at each corner to support said panel, a handle secured to said panel, a weight member carried by said panel and movable on the upper surface thereof to shift the center of gravity of the vehicle, and a stop secured to said panel and rising above the upper surface of said panel to prevent said member from sliding off said panel.

2. In a vehicle for invalids, a base panel having four corners, a wheel located at each corner to support said panel, a handle secured to said panel, a weight member carried by said panel and movable on the upper surface thereof to shift the center of gravity of the vehicle, and a stop secured to said panel and rising above the upper surface of said panel to prevent said member from sliding off said panel, and said stop having a front surface constituting a seat for a bumper.

3. In a vehicle for invalids, a base panel hav-

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ing four corners, a wheel located at each corner to support said panel, a handle secured to said panel, a weight member carried by said panel and movable on the upper surface thereof to shift the center of gravity of the vehicle, and a stop secured to said panel and rising above the upper surface of said panel to prevent said members from sliding off said panel, and a housing disposed on said panel to cover said weight member and prevent separation of said weight member from said panel.

4. The combination of claim 3 wherein said housing has a notch therein, said stop being received in said notch.

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