C. EILRICH.
Cradles.

No. 197,461. Patented Nov. 27, 1877.

Fig. 3.

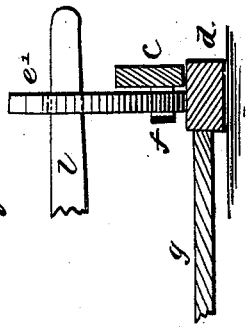


Fig. 2.

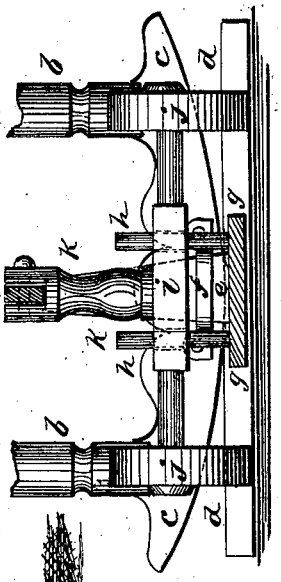
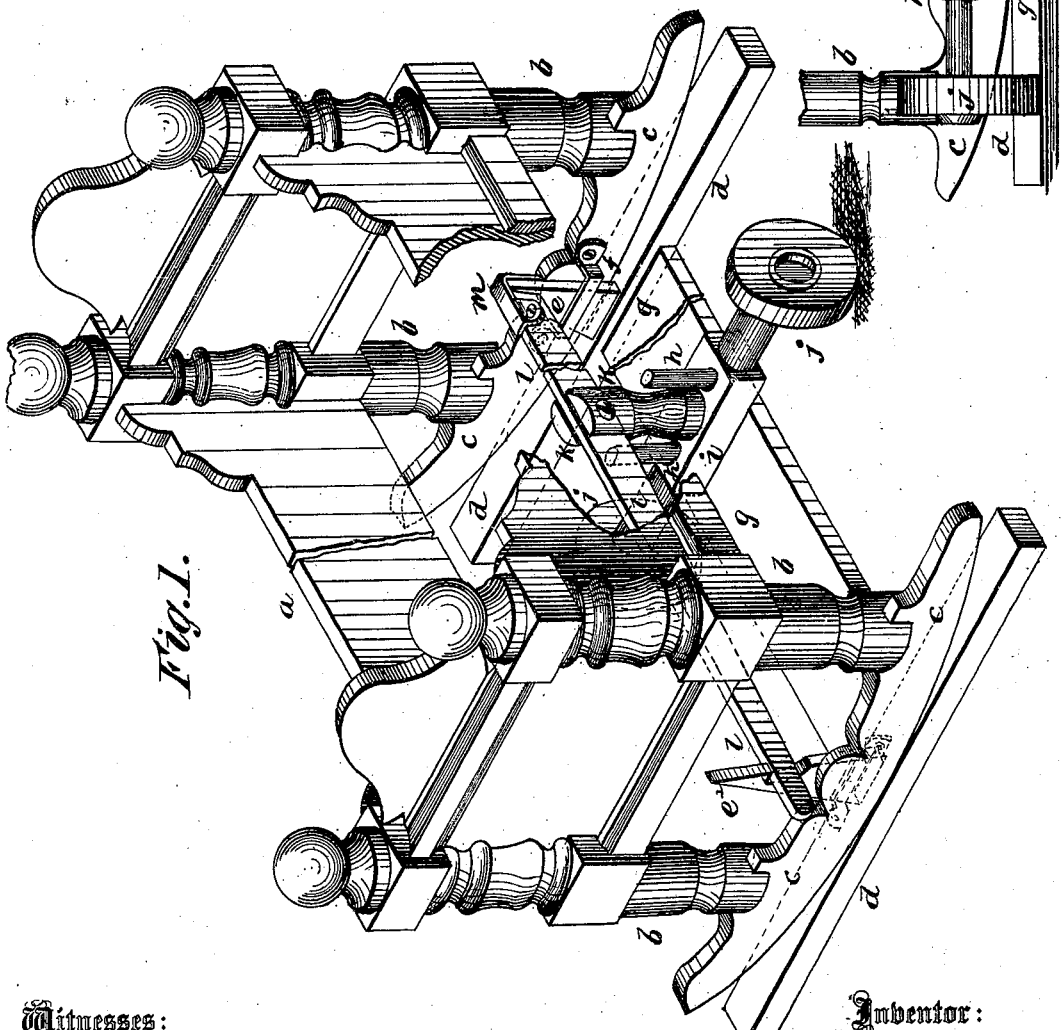


Fig. 1.



Witnesses:

P. C. Dieterich.

Frank H. Duffy

Inventor:

Carl Eilrich.

Per C. H. Watson Assc. Attorney.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CARL EILRICH, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

## IMPROVEMENT IN CRADLES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **197,461**, dated November 27, 1877; application filed July 3, 1877.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CARL EILRICH, of the city of Chicago, Cook county, State of Illinois, have invented new and useful Improvements in Cradles, of which the following is a full description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a device embodying my invention; and Figs. 2 and 3 are details of the same.

The object of this invention is to so construct a cradle that it can be moved or wheeled from one place to another quickly and easily, when so desired, and, when in position for rocking, will be supported firmly on the floor or carpet; and its nature consists in supporting the cradle on a base connected with wheels, and so arranged that the base and cradle can be elevated above the plane of the wheels when it is to be moved, and then dropped or lowered to a plane on a line with the bottom of the wheels, where it will rest firmly.

In the drawings, *a* represents the body of the cradle; *b*, the corner supporting-posts, extending some distance below the body *a; c*, the rockers, secured to the lower ends of the posts *b*. These parts *a b c* may be of any of the well-known forms for such parts, and of the usual sizes, the other parts being made in proportion to the size of these parts.

*d* are pieces of hard wood or other suitable material, wide enough for the rockers to rest on their tops, and long enough to permit of the rockers going to their lowest point and still remain on the bases.

*e e'* are standards or posts, of considerable width at the bottom, and tapering gradually toward the top, and secured firmly at their lower ends in the pieces *d*.

*f* are metal loops or bands, secured centrally to each rocker near the lower edge, and on the inside thereof. The opening of these loops is a little longer than the width of the standards *e e'* at the bottom, and they pass around the standards, which are so located on the bases *d* as to leave a space on their outer edge or surface for the rocker to rest on, and hold the rockers in place on the bases, and permit of their free rocking movement, which movement is limited by the bands *f* striking the edges of the standards.

*g* is a cross-piece, connecting the two base-pieces *d* together. Its length is such as to bring the posts or standards *e e'* just inside of the rockers when the parts are in position, and it should be wide enough to prevent any tipping of the cradle when elevated, as this cross-piece *g* supports the cradle when elevated on the axle. This cross-piece is located centrally beneath the cradle.

*h* are two pins or rods, permanently secured in the cross-piece *g* near the center, and at a little distance apart, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

*i* is the axle or support, located above the cross-piece *g*, near the center thereof. It is provided on each side of its center with holes corresponding with the pins *h*, in which the pins fit and slide up and down when the cross-piece *g* is raised or lowered.

*j* are the wheels, secured on the ends of the axle *i* in any suitable manner. These wheels are large enough to permit of their easy passage over the sill of the door or other small obstructions, and also to permit of the turning of the cradle accurately in any direction.

*k* is a post, permanently secured in the top of the axle *i*, at the center thereof. It is provided with a slot at its upper end.

*l* is a lever, pivoted in the slot of the post *k*. One end of this lever is connected to the standard *e*, and the other end projects a short distance beyond the post *e'*, which post, as shown, is provided with a notch to engage with the end of the lever when depressed, and hold it in position.

*m* is a metal connecting-piece, one end of which is secured to the top of the standard *e*, and the other to the end of the lever *l*, by means of which the lever is attached to the post. This end of the lever may be connected to the post by other devices, if desired.

The parts *d g* form the base of the cradle, and its length is such that the rockers will be outside of the standards *e e'*, and rest on that portion of the base *d* outside of each standard, which bases should be wide enough for this purpose. When the cradle is used for rocking, the base *d g* and the wheels *j* are to rest on the same plane, in which position the base will rest squarely and firmly on the carpet or floor. The lever *l* in such case will be raised up and disengaged from its locking device. In

this condition the cradle is free to be rocked back and forth, the rockers resting and moving on the bases *d*, the same as if resting directly on the floor or carpet. These bases also protect the carpet from wear, as no movement takes place in the base itself. The cradle can be rocked hard or only a little, as desired, and when the cradle is rocked hard it can only go to the limit of the bands or loops *f*, which, striking against the standards *e e'*, prevent the cradle from rocking to a point where it will tip over, unless the whole of the base is tipped; but this cannot very well happen, as the base cannot easily be thrown up so far but what its weight will draw it back.

When it is desired to roll or move the cradle from one place to another, the lever *l* is depressed at its free end by the hand or foot, which depression of the lever causes the opposite end thereof to rise; and as this end is connected to the base *d* through the standard *e*, that end of the base will also rise, bringing with it the connecting-piece *g;* and this upward movement of the parts will continue until the piece *g* strikes against the under side of the axle *i*, the pins *h* sliding up in the holes in the axle, when the lever *l* is locked by engaging it with the notch in *e'*, holding the board or piece *g* in contact with the axle. Then by taking hold of the cradle and bringing it to a level position, the whole of the base will be supported clear of the floor or carpet, leaving the cradle supported on the wheels *j*. In this position the cradle can be moved or rolled wherever desired without much exertion, and when the desired position is reached the lever *l* can be disengaged, when the base will drop to the floor by its own weight in proper position for rocking the cradle.

By making the wheels *j* of considerable size, the cradle can be handled easier than if small caster-wheels were used, as with such caster-wheels it is sometimes difficult to climb over a door-sill; and by using only two wheels secured to an axle, as shown, the cradle can be turned or run close to any object without any danger of running into such object, as such construction gives the operator perfect control over the movements of the cradle, which would not be the case if small caster-wheels were used for this purpose.

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

1. The base *d g* for supporting the cradle, in combination with the axle *i*, wheels *j*, and devices for raising and lowering the base on the axle, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

2. The supporting-base *d g* and guide-pins *h*, in combination with the axle *i*, wheels *j*, lever *l*, post *k*, and standard *e*, substantially as described.

3. The body *a*, posts *b*, rockers *c*, bands *f*, and base *d g*, in combination with the axle *i*, wheels *j*, lever *l*, post *k*, standard *e*, and locking-standard *e'*, all constructed and arranged substantially as and for the purposes specified.

CARL EILRICH.

Witnesses:
O. W. BOND,
F. F. BRUNS.