

RECENT PATENTS ^a

Center of Gravity Locating Device: Joseph W. Monroe, Garland K. Grace, and Richard O. Hessler, assignors, by mesne assignments, to the United States of America as represented by the Secretary of the Army. A device to determine, with accuracy, the center of gravity of any object regardless of size, weight, or shape. (Patent No. 3,320,795, May 23, 1967; filed Oct. 20, 1964, Serial No. 405,308; 2 claims.)

Derotation Brace for Tibia Deformities: George R. Callender, Jr. A brace for correcting deformities of the tibia especially in children. The brace holds the leg flexed at the knee by means of cuffs around the thigh and the calf. A foot piece attached to the lower end of the brace bar allows rotation of the foot when loosened. The foot is held in a fixed rotation position by tightening the footpiece when the foot is in the desired position. (Patent No. 3,304,937, Feb. 21, 1967; filed July 24, 1964, Serial No. 384,883; 5 claims.)

Device for Measuring Weight Distribution on a Foot: Mitchell Walters, assignor of 49 percent to Edgar W. Borchert. A device for measuring the weight load concentrated on a single foot, particularly the heel and sole, of a patient while walking. The gages of the device can be suspended on the back of the patient where they are readily viewable so that observations can be made as an observer walks along behind the patient. Units of the device can be incorporated in a special purpose shoe to be worn by the patient, or individual units equipped with adapters may be provided so that the units can be temporarily clamped on the heel and sole portion of the patient's own shoe. (Patent No. 3,305,036, Feb. 21, 1967; filed Oct. 14, 1965, Serial No. 495,868, 2 claims.)

Functional Control Valves for Pneumatic Prostheses: Edward A. Kiessling, assignor to the United States of America as represented by the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and/or the Secretary of the Army. A valve which, according to the inventor, provides improved means for controlling the flow of gas to and from the operating elements of gas-powered artificial arms. (Patent No. 3,221,769, Dec. 7, 1965; filed May 29, 1963, Serial No. 284,271; 20 claims.)

High Range Load Sensing Device: Ronald G. Eckard, assignor to Allegany Instrument Co., Division of Textron Electronics, Inc., a corporation of Delaware. A device for measuring force that has a capacity of 2.5 to 3.5 million pounds. The invention comprises a plurality of plates secured together, a plurality of strain gages secured to each plate, and the strain gages electrically interconnected in a measuring circuit. The device provides load measurements across its entire cross section. (Patent No. 3,277,704, Oct. 11, 1966; filed Jan. 2, 1964, Serial No. 335,134; 7 claims.)

Measuring Instrument: Thomas William Hurst, assignor to Negretti & Zambra Limited, Aylesbury, England, a corporation of the United Kingdom. A device that relates to measuring instruments in which a pointer moves over an arcuate arithmetic scale on a dial with approximately linear movement. Such instruments are normally

^a Patents may be ordered by number from the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, at 50 cents each.

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adjustable to read correctly at zero and full scale. However, deviation does occur especially at midway on the scale. The purpose of this invention is to provide such measuring devices with accurate readings at three points, thereby minimizing errors in readings taken between zero and full scale. (Patent No. 3,320,924, May 23, 1967; filed May 10, 1964; Serial No. 454,532, claims priority, application Great Britain, May 15, 1964, 20,345/64; 2 claims.)

Mechanical Page-Turner: Avi Shachar, Kibbutz Sasa, Israel. A mechanical leaf-turning mechanism for books, bound music, and the like. The invention can be mounted on a music stand as well as on a piano, and it is actuated by a foot pedal. (Patent No. 3,277,596, Oct. 11, 1966; filed Apr. 20, 1964, Serial No. 360,933; 6 claims.)

Occupant-Propelled Wheelchair: Donald L. Bulmer. A drive mechanism for a wheelchair which is designed to be operated by the occupant of the chair. The mechanism involves the use of a unique linkage arrangement allowing the occupant to propel the wheelchair by applying force in a direction opposite to the direction of travel. This device does not require a gripping force to operate. (Patent No. 3,309,110, Mar. 14, 1967; filed Sept. 13, 1965, Serial No. 487,097; 5 claims.)

Pneumatic Cushion Socket with a Porous Filler: Laurence Porten. An inflatable prosthesis socket designed to supply, according to the inventor, the necessary comfort and fit to the amputee without the disadvantages of irritation, soreness, and insecurity. (Patent No. 3,309,714, Mar. 21, 1967; filed Jan. 27, 1964, Serial No. 340,324; 7 claims.)

Prosthetic Leg with a Hydraulic Knee Control: La Vaughn L. Mortensen. A leg prosthesis with a hydraulically controlled knee. The prosthesis may be used with an independently articulated prosthetic foot and ankle. (Patent No. 3,316,558, May 2, 1967; filed Nov. 12, 1963, Serial No. 322,619; 13 claims.)

Safety Knee Assemblage with Adjustable Means for Increasing or Decreasing Clearance Between Braking Surfaces: Hugo Otto Max Nader and Werner Haupt, assignors to Otto Bock Orthopedic Industry, Inc., Minneapolis, Minn. A safety knee for a prosthesis designed to be less complicated and more easily adjusted than other available knees. Some adjustments of the braking surfaces can be made through the user's clothing permitting adjustments for a completely free knee and a rigid knee when needed or desired. (Patent No. 3,309,715, Mar. 21, 1967; filed Dec. 30, 1963, Serial No. 334,091; 14 claims.)