

## RECENT PATENTS <sup>a</sup>

**Flexion Back Brace:** Fred L. Stuttle, assignor to Florida Brace Corporation, Winter Park, Florida. A flexion back brace for treating the lumbosacral area to change a lordotic back to an active flat back. The brace is made up of interchangeable prefabricated parts adapted to be easily and quickly assembled as a complete unit. (Patent No. 3,351,053, Nov. 7, 1967; filed Nov. 13, 1962, Serial No. 236,924; 7 claims.)

**Mechanical Hand Having Computer-Type Drive Mechanisms for Producing Numerous Hand Articulations Similar to a Human Hand:** Joseph A. Gentiluomo. An anthropomorphic mechanical hand which can be articulated to provide finger and thumb motions separate and distinct from one another or in various combinations with one another. According to the inventor, the hand has a novel and relatively simple finger and thumb construction making them easily operable and capable of grasping diverse objects with substantial strength if needed. (Patent No. 3,345, 647, Oct. 10, 1967; filed Oct. 7, 1963, Serial No. 314,148; 6 claims.)

**Method of Muscular Stimulation in Human Beings to Aid in Walking:** Franklin F. Offner. A method for stimulating in a periodic manner the denervated tibialis anticus and peroneus longus muscles of the leg, in order to obtain near normal use of these muscles in walking. In this method, the pulse-type stimulating current to these muscles is controlled by the periodic up and down movement of the heel. Raising of the heel turns on, and lowering of the heel turns off, the stimulating current. (Patent No. 3,344,792, Oct. 3, 1967; filed Jan. 13, 1965, Serial No. 426,476; 1 claim.)

**Self-Operable Detachable Power Unit Attachment for Wheelchairs and Power Control Unit Therefor:** Shawn M. Solomon. A device to power operate a wheelchair that can be attached to any standard wheelchair without modification of the wheelchair's existing structure. According to the inventor, the unit can be readily removed from and attached to the wheelchair by the user, without assistance, while he is occupying the chair. (Patent No. 3,351,148, Nov. 7, 1967; filed Oct. 24, 1965, Serial No. 504,316; 24 claims.)

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