

RECENT PATENTS ^a

Bath Lift: Calvin R. Berthelsen and Owen W. Berthelsen, assignors to Century Mfg. Co., Nebraska. A hydraulic lifting device that lifts a patient into a tub on a chair that swivels. The lift is foot controlled leaving the operator's hands free to assist the patient. (Patent No. 3,371,357, Mar. 5, 1968; filed May 10, 1965, Serial No. 454,540; 3 claims.)

Command Control System for Vehicles: Donald Selwyn. A system for controlling a multiplicity of functions by the use of a head-mounted servo control system. This system is arranged so that selective movements of the head can command the operation of a motorized wheelchair. (Patent No. 3,374,845, Mar. 26, 1968; filed May 5, 1966, Serial No. 547,832; 18 claims.)

Device for Lifting Invalids: Albert M. Herrera. A foldable, castered framework with vertically movable arms for use by an invalid. The device, which is a hydraulic mechanism, is controlled by the user who is supported by a depending sling seat and a pair of armpit crutch supports on the arms. An object of the device is to lift a patient from a chair to a standing position and to lower the patient from a standing to a sitting position. Another object is to serve as a support while the patient stands or walks. (Patent No. 3,374,493, Mar. 26, 1968; filed Sept. 27, 1966, Serial No. 582,450; 8 claims.)

Page-Turning Assembly: Edmund C. Barbera. An apparatus for turning pages of a book. This device consists of an easel for supporting a book in an upright position, a shaft mounted on the easel that supports arms for turning the pages, and page-gripping fingers that are attached to the page-turning arms. (Patent No. 3,371,571, Mar. 5, 1968; filed Dec. 30, 1964, Serial No. 422,310; 7 claims.)

Page Turning Device: Fritz Wallenberg. A device for turning pages that uses magnetic attraction for engaging lifting fingers placed between the pages. These fingers release the pages after the turning operation automatically due to a difference in radial length and displacement of pivot points of the arcuate paths of the moving elements. (Patent No. 3,374,701, Mar. 26, 1968; filed Nov. 4, 1966, Serial No. 592,207; 3 claims.)

Pressure Indicator: Alan W. Baldwin. A device usable with a mechanical artificial hand to indicate the amount of force being applied to an object held in that hand. It consists of a compressible chamber, secured to the grasping face of a mechanical thumb, which forces fluid through a tube to an indicator which is part of a ring placed around another finger. The force supplied in response to finger pressure causes fluid to flow from the compressible chamber to the indicator. (Patent No. 3,374,762, Mar. 26, 1968; filed Jan. 27, 1967, Serial No. 612,769; 6 claims.)

Self-Propelled Wheelchair: Benno Lotz, assignor to Everest & Jennings, Inc., Los Angeles, Calif. A wheelchair driven by electric motors. These motors are

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attached to each drive wheel by a belt and are mounted with a lever attached to each one that enables the occupant of the chair to swing the motors away from and toward the drive wheels. (Patent No. 3,376,944, Apr. 9, 1968; filed Nov. 26, 1965, Serial No. 509,734; 1 claim.)

Typewriter for Braille Dots and/or Visual Letters: Masaharu Watari. A typewriter for communication between two blind persons or a blind person and one that has vision. The typewriter can type in braille or visual letters or both simultaneously. (Patent No. 3,032,164, May 1, 1962; filed Feb. 19, 1958, Serial No. 716,137; 7 claims.)

Ultrasonic Guidance Apparatus: Arthur Nelkin, assignor to Westinghouse Electric Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pa. A device that employs ultrasound as a mobility aid for the blind. Strapped to the front of the user's body, it automatically scans the forward area through an array of transducers that receive echo-return information. This information is transferred to an array of tactile-stimulus producers mounted on the back of the user and opposite the transducers. There are the same number of tactile-stimulus producers as there are transducers; therefore, information is received in the same area that it detects an object. (Patent No. 3,337,839, Aug. 22, 1967; filed Apr. 27, 1966, Serial No. 545,637; 8 claims.)