

RECENT PATENTS ^a

Ankle Joint for an Artificial Leg: Jan Prael, assignor to Wilhelm J. Teufel, Stuttgart-O, Germany. An ankle joint that is attached to the lower leg and foot portions of an artificial leg and permits pivoting movement of the foot by means of an inner tube attached to the foot and inside an outer tube that is attached to the lower leg. (Patent No. 3,480,972, Dec. 2, 1969; filed Sept. 21, 1966, Serial No. 581,086; 6 claims.)

Artificial Arm Having Bioelectrically Controlled Finger Movement and Hand Rotation Responsive to Shoulder Muscle Impulses: David Moiseevich Ioffe, et al. An active upper-extremity prosthesis having a combined control, both bioelectric and rod. The components include: shoulder socket, current collecting device for taking off the biological current from the shoulder stump muscles, an elbow joint, a forearm, an electronic controlling unit, an artificial hand, reversing servo-gears, an external power source, and rods. (Patent No. 3,491,378, Jan. 27, 1970; filed Feb. 28, 1967, Serial No. 619,424; 2 claims.)

Artificial Leg Having a Lockable Knee Joint Responsive to Foot Pivoting and Body Weight: Orval L. Minor. A pivotal knee joint in an artificial leg, that is locked by limited pivoting of the ankle joint and the placement of weight on the knee joint. This prevents the knee joint from collapsing under any condition when body weight is applied downwardly on the limb. In addition, the knee lock is activated when the body weight shifts such as in the beginning of a fall or stumble. (Patent No. 3,453,663, July 8, 1969; filed Apr. 20, 1967, Serial No. 632,379; 10 claims.)

Artificial Limb Having Interchangeable Leg Sections and Length Adjusting Means: Ronald C. Lindgren. An artificial limb with provision for interchangeability between an artificial foot and peg enabling the user to change the weight-bearing surface of the artificial limb without removal of the remaining portion of the limb and without disturbing adjustment. In addition, this limb has means for accurately adjusting the length of the limb when there are variations in the stump. (Patent No. 3,461,464, Aug. 19, 1969; filed Feb. 15, 1967, Serial No. 616,258; 9 claims.)

Bio-Medical Instrumentation Electrode: Robert E. Mason. An electrode for bio-medical instrumentation which consists of a paste immersed, plastic mounted metallic mesh as a flexible, ventilated electrode, which provides constancy of contact by avoiding pressure differences between the paste and the atmosphere. (Patent No. 3,464,404, Sept. 2, 1969; filed June 17, 1966, Serial No. 558,316; 7 claims.)

Crutch Tip: Louis V. Lucibello. A molded rubber crutch tip with a recess that receives a sleeve. The sleeve, in turn, receives the end of the crutch with a firm grip. The sleeve is locked by an adjustment screw that prevents it from sitting at the bottom of the recess in the tip, leaving a small space inside the tip. This space,

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according to the inventor, provides a more cushioned effect when the full load is on the tip, thereby reducing wear of the tip. Also, this space allows the tip to lean more readily making the bottom of the tip parallel with ground providing more effective use of the suction cup qualities of the tip. (Patent No. 3,467,117, Sept. 16, 1969; filed Aug. 23, 1967, Serial No. 662,722; 1 claim.)

Pick-up Walking Stick: Walter P. Ringewaldt. A hollow walking stick containing a pickup mechanism. This pickup mechanism consists of "fingers" that spread when projected from the bottom of the cane, and close together when retracted into the cane. When the fingers are retracted, the device can be used as an ordinary cane. (Patent No. 3,467,116, Sept. 16, 1969; filed Feb. 12, 1968, Serial No. 704,687; 4 claims.)

Solenoid Elbow: Gilbert M. Motis. A locking mechanism, utilizing a solenoid operation, that can be applied to a prosthetic elbow or knee joint. This mechanism is designed to operate with a momentary application of energy. (Patent No. 3,466,944, Sept. 16, 1969; filed Aug. 22, 1966, Serial No. 574,184; 12 claims.)