RECENT PATENTS [a]

Ankle Block: Cecil T. Benton, John M. Freter, and Robert R. Moore, assignors to Hosmer/Dorrance Corp., Campbell, Calif. A molded ankle block, able to receive single-axis or SACH feet. The function is conventional; however, much hand labor is saved through prefabrication. (Patent No. 3,940,804, Mar. 2, 1976; filed Mar. 10, 1975, Appl. No. 557,018; 2 claims.)

Apparatus for Connecting a Prosthesis to a Bone: Lester J. Owens. An apparatus for connecting a prosthesis to a bone of a stump of an amputated limb. The prosthesis has a contoured support for receiving the stump. A quick disconnecting lock-pin is carried adjacent to the center of the contoured support. (Patent No. 3, 947,897, April 6, 1976; filed Mar. 17, 1975, Appl. No. 559,108; 9 claims.)

Articulate Joint for Prosthetic Devices: Richard Glabiszewski, assignor to Otto Boch Orthopadische Industries KG, Duderstadt, Germany. An endoskeletal articulated knee joint which is particularly compact requiring a minimum amount of space. A further object of the invention is to provide an articulated joint having an braking mechanism, the contact surfaces of which are not located exteriorly of the joint. (Patent No. 3,863,274, Feb. 4, 1975; filed June 6, 1973, Appl. No. 367,420, 11 claims.)

Artificial Leg: Willem Zevering, assignor to Stitchting Revalidatie Institut, Muiderpoort, Amsterdam, the Netherlands. A knee disarticulation knee-joint providing a center of rotation and braking system in a minimal amount of space. (Patent No. 3,928,873, Dec. 30, 1975; filed Feb. 14, 1975, Appl. No. 550, 132; 4 claims.)

Device for Promoting Formation of Bone Material: Werner Kraus. A means of supplying an ac signal to a bone to promote growth. The application of electrodes is believed simpler with the aid of inserted bone screws. (Patent No. 3,918,440, Nov. 11, 1975; filed July 6, 1973, Appl. No. 377,018; 6 claims.)

Hand Control Apparatus for an Aircraft Usable by a Person Lacking Use of His Legs: Bernard Morin, 1, rue Corneille, 78130 Les Mureaux, France. By providing an additional joystick carrying brake controls, foot operation is eliminated. (Patent No. 3,936,014, Feb. 3, 1976; filed July 29, 1974, Appl. No. 492,915; 9 claims.)

Implantable Nerve Stimulator: Thomas F. Hursen and Steve A. Kolenik, assignors to Arco Nuclear Co., Leechburg, Pa. An implantable stimulator for nerve is powered by a nuclear battery and appropriate circuitry. Low weight is claimed (92 grams) for an output of 1 to 5 mw. It is claimed a saw-toothed pulse signal more closely simulates the biological stimulation of a nerve. (Patent No. 3,896,817, July 29, 1975; filed Aug. 4, 1972, Appl. No. 277,963; 6 claims.)

Inflatable Device for Healing of Tissue: Roy Lapidus, assignor to Roy Lapidus, Inc., Needham, Mass. A porous bladder connected to a source of air pressure permits air flow to the site of an amputation. Incorporated into a bandage, the bladder permits a tight dressing. (Patent No. 3,920,006, Nov. 18, 1975; filed Jan. 2, 1974, Appl. No. 429,599; 4 claims.)

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

Method and Apparatus for Programming a Computer Operated Robot Arm: Merton D. Corwin, Jr., Richard E. Hohn, and Ronald L. Tarvin, assignors to Cincinnati Milacron, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio. A means of obtaining a desired trajectory from a robot manipulator. Simplicity of input to the control system is featured. (Patent No. 3,920,972, Nov. 18, 1975; filed July 16, 1974, Appl. No. 488,968; 45 claims.)

Method and System for Control of a Powered Prosthetic Device: Edmund B. Weis, Jr., Craig R. Hassler, and John. H. Flora, assignors to Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, Ohio. A means of increasing and linearizing myoelectric input through use of an antagonistic muscle coupled to an electromagnetically detectable element. (Patent No. 3,940,803, Mar. 2, 1976; filed May 6, 1974, Appl. No. 467,073; 8 claims.)

Noise Compensation Techniques for Bioelectric Potential Sensing: Donald B. Everett and Louis W. Schlenz. A system is given to prevent base line drift of instruments used to measure human potential. Noise filtering is also accomplished, such that the field produced by clothing is countered. (Patent No. 3,880,146, April 29, 1975; filed June 4, 1973, Appl. No. 366,338; 10 claims.)

Ski-Equipped Crutch: Takafusa Negi, assignor to Nippon Gakki Seizo Kabushiki, Kaisha, Japan. A device for the unilateral amputee permitting both adjustment and folding of the crutch-ski combination. It enables the user to instantaneously effect adequate control of the speed of skiing to meet various changes in the snow surface. (Patent No. 3,948,535, Apr. 6, 1976; filed May 8, 1975, Appl. No. 575,701; 4 claims.)

Prosthetic Limb with Weight-Responsive Joint Lock: La Vaughn L. Mortensen. A weight locking knee joint that will flex readily when load is removed. Constant friction throughout the cycle is also supplied. (Patent No. 3,934,273, Jan. 27, 1976; filed Jan. 20, 1975, Appl. No. 542,217; 9 claims.)

Reading Aid for the Blind: Hans A. Mauch, Glendon C. Smith, and R. Bennett, assignors to the U.S.A. as represented by the Veterans Administration of the U.S. Government. Printed matter is scanned by a device that converts each letter into a sequence of sounds. (Patent No. 3,874,097, April 1, 1975; filed Jan. 8, 1873, Appl. No. 321,851; 35 claims.)

Rotator for Prosthetic Ankle Joint: Robert R. Moore. By placing a ball bearing in the horizontal plane at the ankle, the foot ankle assembly of a leg prosthesis is given rotation about the vertical axis. A rubber spring provides restraint and a return force. (Patent No. 3,956,775, May 18, 1976; filed Feb. 18, 1975, Appl. No. 550,449; 11 claims.)

Subminiature Insertable Force Transducer: James C. Fletcher, Robert H. Silver, Gilbert W. Lewis, Cyril Feldstein, and Edward N. Duran. A sub-miniature strain gage transducer is emplaced at a predetermined location deep within muscle tissue to sense muscular forces without disturbing the tissue. (Patent No. 3,905,356, Sept. 16, 1975; filed May 15, 1974, Appl. No. 470,429; 6 claims.)