

**Specification of Edmund Adolphus Kirby : adjusting couch for medical, surgical, and general purposes.**

**Contributors**

Kirby, Edmund Adolphus.

**Publication/Creation**

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A.D. 1852 . . . . . N<sup>o</sup> 578.

S P E C I F I C A T I O N

OF

EDMUND ADOLPHUS KIRBY.

—  
ADJUSTING COUCH FOR MEDICAL,  
SURGICAL, AND GENERAL PURPOSES.  
—

L O N D O N :

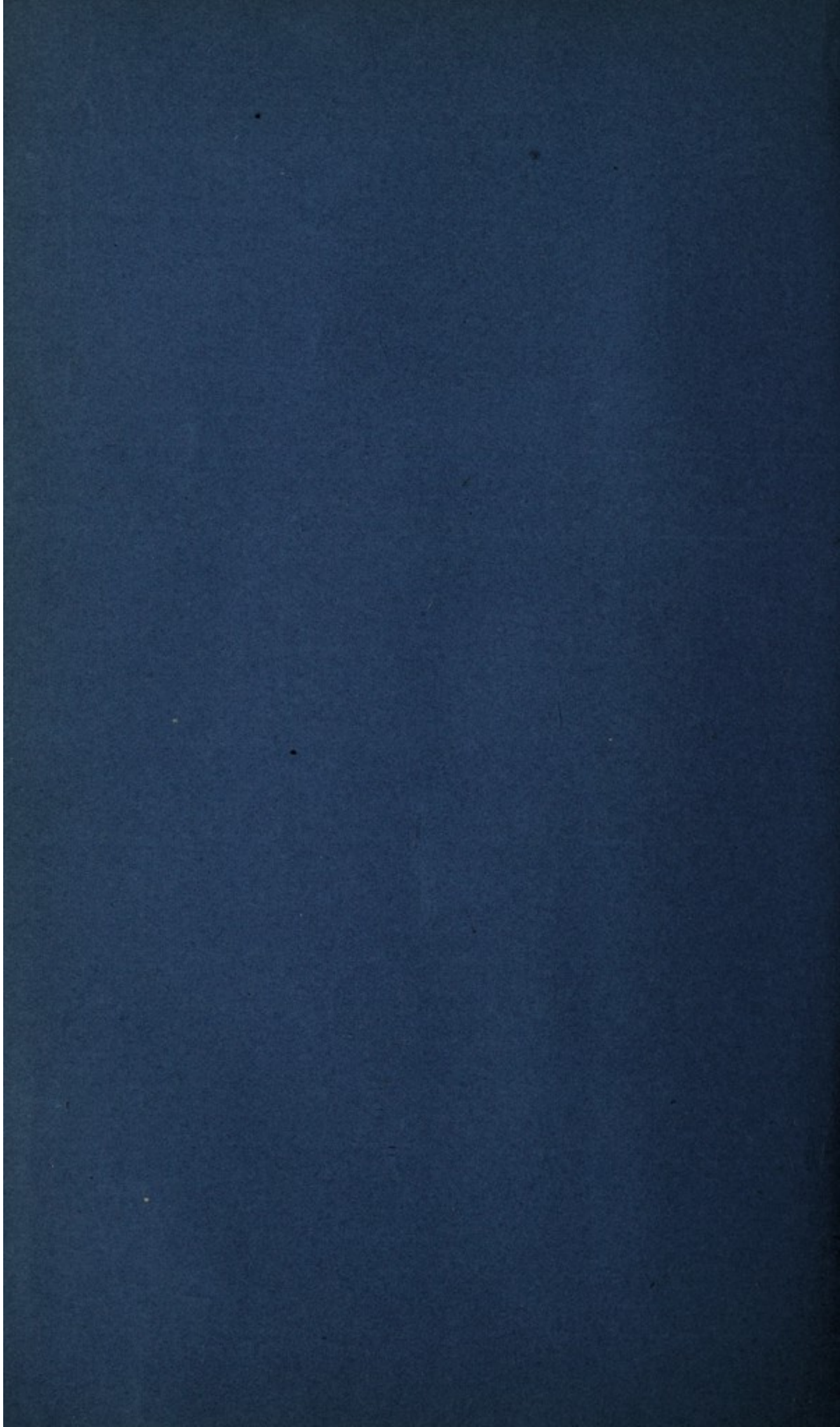
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*Price 8½d.*

1854.







A.D. 1852 . . . . . N° 578.

**Adjusting Couch for Medical, Surgical, and  
General Purposes.**

**LETTERS PATENT** to Edmund Adolphus Kirby, of Haverstock Hill,  
London, Surgeon, for the Invention of "**AN IMPROVED ADJUSTING  
COUCH FOR MEDICAL, SURGICAL, AND GENERAL PURPOSES.**"

Sealed the 30th April 1853, and dated the 30th October 1852.

**PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION** left by the said Edmund Adolphus  
Kirby at the Office of the Commissioners of Patents, with his  
Petition, on the 30th October 1852.

I, EDMUND ADOLPHUS KIRBY, of Haverstock Hill, Surgeon, do hereby  
5 declare the nature of the said Invention for "**AN IMPROVED ADJUSTING  
COUCH FOR MEDICAL, SURGICAL, AND GENERAL PURPOSES**" to be as  
follows:—

In the Drawings annexed I show 12 distinct views of my adjusting  
couch in different positions. The positions shown are those most  
10 desirable for medical & surgical purposes, but in Figs. 1, & 2, it is  
shown as an ordinary couch; in Figs. 3, & 12, in its most complex  
form. For surgical operations this couch will be found very useful.  
It will be seen that each part is moveable; back, front, and sides shift,  
while joints in the frame admit of almost any change in position. The  
15 required movement is effected by a graduated quadrant, actuated by a



*Kirby's Improved Adjusting Couch for Medical, Surgical, &c. Purposes.*

rack & pinion, or other suitable means, on either side of the couch. A connecting rod is attached to this quadrant. By these means one part of the couch may be raised & another depressed in manner shown by the Drawings, which fully illustrate the Invention.

**SPECIFICATION** in pursuance of the conditions of the Letters Patent, 5  
filed by the said Edmund Adolphus Kirby in the Great Seal  
Patent Office on the 30th April 1853.

**TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, I,**  
EDMUND ADOLPHUS KIRBY, of Haverstock Hill, London, Surgeon, send  
greeting. 10

**WHEREAS** Her most Excellent Majesty Queen Victoria, by Her  
Letters Patent, bearing date the Thirtieth day of October, in the year  
of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, in the six-  
teenth year of Her reign, did, for Herself, Her heirs and successors, give  
and grant unto me, the said Edmund Adolphus Kirby, Her special 15  
licence that I, the said Edmund Adolphus Kirby, my executors, admin-  
istrators, and assigns, or such others as I, the said Edmund Adolphus  
Kirby, my executors, administrators, and assigns, should at any time  
agree with, and no others, from time to time and at all times thereafter  
during the term therein expressed, should and lawfully might make, 20  
use, exercise, and vend, within the United Kingdom of Great Britain  
and Ireland, the Channel Islands, and Isle of Man, an Invention for  
“**AN IMPROVED ADJUSTING COUCH FOR MEDICAL, SURGICAL, AND GENERAL  
PURPOSES,**” upon the condition (amongst others) that I, the said  
Edmund Adolphus Kirby, by an instrument in writing under my 25  
hand and seal, should particularly describe and ascertain the nature  
of the said Invention, and in what manner the same was to be  
performed, and cause the same to be filed in the Great Seal Patent  
Office within six calendar months next and immediately after the date  
of the said Letters Patent. 30

**NOW KNOW YE,** that I, the said Edmund Adolphus Kirby, do  
hereby declare the nature of my said Invention, and in what manner the



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same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement (that is to say):

The couches for invalids hitherto made have been complicated in construction, costly in price, and unsuited for any other than the special  
 5 purpose for which they were made. Now the object of my Invention is, to construct a couch which shall be easily adjustable to every position required in the treatment of disease or accident, while it may be used for the ordinary purposes of sleeping or reclining. My improved couch, by an easy adjustment, forms a sofa, bedstead, or easy chair, and may  
 10 be put into a variety of positions without an effort of the patient. The arrangement of the mechanism is not complicated, and this places it within the means of all classes. But in order that my Invention may be well understood I will proceed to describe the same, referring to the Drawings annexed and to the figures and letters marked thereon, in  
 15 which similar letters of reference denote similar parts.

Figure 1, in the accompanying Drawing is an elevation of the couch; Figure 2, a plan; Figure 3, an end view; and Figure 4, an elevation, shewing one of the various positions in which it may be placed. A, A, are legs supporting the framing B, B; within this is a moveable frame  
 20 C, C, upon which the mattress or squab is placed; this is made in three parts, and jointed at D, E, and F. At the central joint E, the rod *a*, is fastened to the framing B, B, so that either end may freely move up and down. G, is the head piece secured to the framing B, B. The foot piece H, is so fastened to the framing B, B, that it may readily be  
 25 removed when required. I, is one of the side rails; these fit into the sockets *b*, *b*<sup>1</sup>, or when the position of the couch is altered they may be removed to the part marked *b*<sup>1</sup>, *b*<sup>11</sup>; a groove *c*, underneath the cushion of the side rail, is intended to receive the sides of the foot piece H, and this, when extended across the couch, forms a convenient table  
 30 either for writing, reading, or working. Below the framing B, B, are secured two pairs of brackets *d*, *d*<sup>1</sup>, these support the shafts *e*, and *e*<sup>1</sup>, upon which are fixed the wheels *f*, and *f*<sup>1</sup>, gearing into the curved racks *g*, and *g*<sup>1</sup>. By means of these racks or segments the parts D, F, of the framing C, C, are elevated or lowered as required, the ends of  
 35 the shafts *e*, and *e*<sup>1</sup>, being made square, to receive a winch K, as shewn



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at Figure 3. A ratchet wheel  $h$ , and  $h^1$ , are also fitted upon each of the shafts  $e$ , and  $e^1$ ; a pawl  $i$ ,  $i^1$ , secured to the brackets  $d$ , and  $d^1$ , prevents the recoil of the ratchet wheel. This arrangement is to retain the framing C, C, in its place when elevated to any angle; to lower it, all that is required is to release the pawl regulating the descent of the frame C, C, by the winch K.  $k$ ,  $k$ , in Figures 2, 3, is a friction roller, against which the back of the rack  $g$ , works. The racks  $g$ , and  $g^1$ , are screwed or fixed to the cross pieces L,  $L^1$ , which are fastened to the lower part of the framing C, C. The upper part of the moveable frame between the joint F, and the head piece is adjusted, as required, by mean of a spring and rack; to the cross piece L, is fastened a piece of metal  $m$ , terminating in a circular head, having teeth cut upon its surface, similar to the teeth of a ratchet wheel; the spring piece  $n$ , catches in these teeth, and retains the part to which it is affixed in any position desired. That portion of the framing between the joints D, E, is elevated and depressed by the rack  $g^1$ , and wheel  $f^1$ , in manner precisely similar to that just described. Beneath the lower end of the frame C, C, is jointed a lever  $o$ , which regulates the height and position of the frame C, C, at the leg piece. Upon the racks  $g$ , and  $g^1$ , are studs  $l$ ,  $l^1$ , and to either of these the lever  $o$ , is fixed by means of notches cut in the edge of it. I call the part F<sup>1</sup>, the head part, the part from E, to F, the body part; the two other parts E<sup>1</sup>, and D<sup>1</sup>, the thigh and leg parts, because these parts can be raised independently of the others, or altogether, and the couch affords great ease and comfort to any one of these parts when required. The principle upon which I construct my improved couch is applicable to any ordinary bedstead or couch, for it is obvious that if the framing of such bedstead or couch be jointed in manner similar to that described herein in reference to my improved couch, and the other mechanism be applied, namely, the segments or racks, ratchet wheels, pawl, winch, and connecting rods, that the bedstead or couch will assume the form and have the properties of my improved couch. I propose to make my improved couch of wood or metal, or of wood and metal, giving a preference to the latter materials. I do not limit myself to the precise details herein-before set forth and shown, as I may slightly vary the number or position of the segments,

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ratchets, and other parts. But I claim the manufacture of an improved couch for medical, surgical, and general purposes, substantially as herein-before described and shewn.

5        In witness whereof, I, the said Edmund Adolphus Kirby, have  
hereunto set my hand and seal, this Thirtieth day of April, in  
the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty-  
three.

EDMUND A. KIRBY. (L.S.)

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LONDON :

Printed by GEORGE EDWARD EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,  
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty. 1854.



*Knows I improved Nothing Cough for Medical Society, &c. &c.*

catchers and other parts. But I claim the manufacture of an improved cough for medical, surgical, and general purposes, substantially as herein-before described and shown.

In witness whereof, I, the said Edmund A. Kierst, have hereunto set my hand and seal, this Thirtieth day of April, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty-three.

EDMUND A. KIERST. (S)

LONDON:

Printed by GEORGE EDWARD EYRE and WILLIAM STODDART, 15, Abchurch Lane, in the City of London.

FIG. 1.

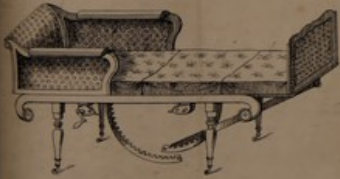


FIG. 2.



FIG. 3.

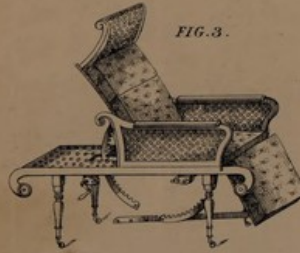


FIG. 4.



FIG. 5.



FIG. 6.



FIG. 7.



FIG. 8.



FIG. 9.



FIG. 10.



FIG. 11.



FIG. 12.







This architectural drawing shows a longitudinal section of a building. A central corridor, labeled 'G' at its right end, runs horizontally through the middle of the plan. On either side of this corridor are several rooms. To the left, there are rooms labeled 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D', 'E', and 'F'. To the right, there are rooms labeled 'H', 'I', 'J', 'K', 'L', and 'M'. The drawing includes various structural details such as columns, doorways, and wall thicknesses, all rendered in a technical, line-drawn style typical of 19th-century architectural plans.



