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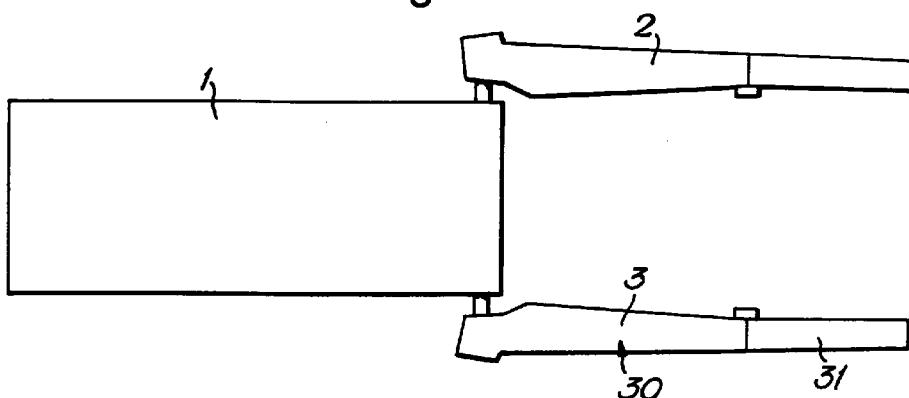
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(54) Patient support tables

(57) A surgical operating table has two leg support sections 2 and 3 made up of an articulated thigh support part 30 and a calf support part 31. A rotatable shaft 41 extends along the thigh support part 30. The shaft 41 has a gear 40 at one end engaging a bevel gear 36 fixed to the table. At the other end, the shaft has a gear 42 engaging a gear 44 in the calf support part 31 so that raising or lowering the thigh support part 31 causes the

calf part to bend in the opposite sense. A pawl 54 is connected to a button 58 and engages a ratchet wheel 50 on the shaft 41. The ratchet allows the shaft 41 to be rotated in one direction, caused by raising the thigh support part 30, but prevents rotation in the opposite direction, and hence lowering of the thigh support part, unless the button 58 is released.

Fig.1.





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 96 30 0179

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)						
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim							
A	FR-A-1 556 308 (ALEXANDRE & CIE) * page 1, column 2, line 30 - page 2, column 1, line 26; figures 1,2 *	1	A61G13/12						
A	GB-A-2 067 414 (ETABLISSEMENTS RENE MARZET) -----								
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)						
			A61G						
<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Place of search</td> <td>Date of completion of the search</td> <td>Examiner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>THE HAGUE</td> <td>16 September 1996</td> <td>Godot, T</td> </tr> </table>				Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	THE HAGUE	16 September 1996	Godot, T
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CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document							
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document									