United States Patent [19]

Gault

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[54] **PATIENT MONITORING SYSTEM AND SWITCH**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **340/573;** 340/514; 340/530; 340/636; 340/667

[58] **Field of Search** 340/573, 667, 530, 514, 340/636, 516, 524, 525

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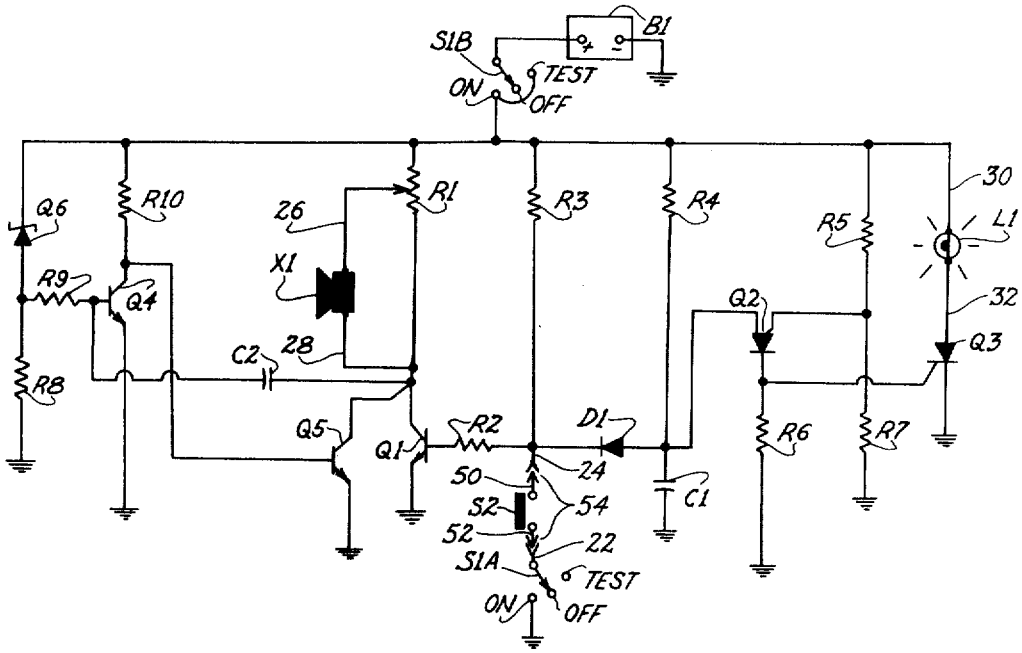
Primary Examiner—Glen R. Swann, III

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A switch is placed on a bed, chair, or other object and is maintained in closed condition so long as a patient occupies the bed, chair, or other object and continues to exert sufficient weight on the switch. When the weight acting on the switch is relieved, the switch opens to cause an associated circuit to give an immediate audible alarm. The circuit also causes a visible alarm to be given shortly thereafter. The circuit is powered by a D.C. battery and includes a low voltage monitor which causes the audible alarm only to be given when the battery voltage drops below a certain level indicative of the need to replace the battery. A three position control switch establishes off, on, and test modes of operation. The patient monitoring switch comprises a tape switch arranged in a T-shape configuration, and the switch is foldable in half for use with a chair.

9 Claims, 4 Drawing Figures