United States Patent Office

2,959,891

Patented Nov. 15, 1960

1

2,959,891

DOLL

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Filed Apr. 14, 1959, Ser. No. 806,313

7 Claims. (Cl. 46—135)

The present invention relates to the combination of a doll and devices adapted to be attached thereto in order to simulate diseases and/or injuries to which the human being is subject, as well as therapeutic devices to be used in accordance therewith.

In many instances children who are themselves sick or injured develop a morbid attitude concerning their disability, particularly with regard to whether a cure will ever be effected. The commonplace occurrence of the diseases to which children are subject, such as measles, chicken pox, mumps and the like, and the frequency of accidents resulting in broken limbs, and extensive knowledge and experience relative to the present state of medical science, clearly demonstrate to the adult mind that such fears are irrational, but they are nonetheless quite real and unpleasant to those who have them. In addition it is often the case that the very existence of such feelings delays physical recovery.

Most of the common diseases and disabilities to which children are subject are accompanied by characteristic and readily visible symptoms or indicia. The spot-like rash of measles, the pox of chicken pox, and the glandular swelling of mumps, are familiar to all. Likewise the use of casts or splints with broken bones, and the use of bandages with cuts or lacerations are commonplace.

It has been found that children especially find reassurance for many of the anxieties which plague them if they can act out the conflicts or problems involved. Indeed, this is a conventional psychiatric technique even with adults. A child who is sick or injured will tend to minimize his personal problem if he can associate those problems with a make-believe situation and particularly if he can act out a cure in that play situation.

Since all children are familiar with and, to greater or lesser extent, play with dolls, and since it is well known that dolls are used by children in imaginary situations paralleling the real life situations to which the children are exposed, doll-play is believed to be exceptionally well suited to the abatement or amelioration of the anxiety situations to which children are subject because of illness or injury. If a child can make her doll "sick" and then "cure" her by following the same sort of regimen as is prescribed by the doctor who is treating the child, and particularly if the "cure" can be made progressively more and more tangibly visible, then the child's mental attitude toward her own illness or injury will be greatly improved and her own cure is likely to be accelerated, in part because she is more willing to obey the doctor's orders (she gives the same orders to the doll, who obeys them), and in part because of her improved mental attitude.

It is therefore a prime object of the present invention to provide a doll which can actually be made "sick" by the application thereto of the characteristic visible symptoms of selected diseases, and which can be "cured" in play fashion either by the application thereto of therapeutic devices, the simulated administration of medicines, the progressive disappearance of symptoms, or combinations of all of these precedures.

2

Even apart from its therapeutic effect on children who are themselves ill or disabled, the construction of the present invention permits the use of a doll in realistic play situations of a type to which the dolls of the prior art did not lend themselves. With the structure for the present invention one can "play doctor" much more realistically and effectively, because the doll patient will actually be "sick" and its "symptoms" can be caused to disappear, apparently in response to the medical administrations of the youthful user.

To these ends a series of elements are provided which are adapted to be selectively removably attached to the body of the doll so as to simulate selected types of injuries or symptoms of selected diseases. Other elements are provided adapted to be attached to the doll which simulate therapeutic devices or the like adapted to be used in conjunction with human injuries or disabilties. These various elements may be used singly or in combination, depending upon the transitory wishes of the users, and the elements simulating disease symptoms are preferably provided in such number that the various stages of a particular disease, ranging, for example, from the first appearance of a few measles spots through a full outbreak thereof and then to the ultimate disappearance thereof, may be simulated at will.

Because of the distinctive and visible nature of the symptoms of disease such as measles, chicken pox and mumps, the invention is here specifically disclosed in conjunction with the elements simulating the symptoms of those diseases. Each of the elements is in the form of a patch of appropriate size, one surface of which may be provided with a pressure sensitive adhesive so that any desired number of patches may be secured to the outer surface of the doll at appropriate locations and then removed therefrom when desired. Typical of therapeutic devices are casts, splints and crutches, and the construction of the present invention is here illustrated with all of these devices, each being specially designed so that it may be readily applied to or removed from an appropriate portion of the body of the doll.

The play value of the construction of the present invention will be apparent. Its therapeutic value is attested to by the fact that it has been endorsed by leading pediatric specialists.

To the accomplishment of the above, and to such other objects as may hereinafter appear, the present invention relates to a doll construction as defined in the appended claims and as described in this specification, taken together with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a three-quarter perspective view of the various parts of the doll construction of the present invention in a typical package;

Fig. 2 is a three-quarter perspective view of the head of the doll to which patches simulating the symptoms of measles or chicken pox have been secured;

Fig. 3 is a cross sectional view taken along the line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a three-quarter perspective view of the doll head to which patches simulating the symptoms of mumps have been attached;

Fig. 5 is a cross sectional view taken along the line 5—5 of Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a three-quarter perspective view of the doll with a leg cast attached and using a crutch;

Fig. 7 is a cross sectional view taken along the line 7—7 of Fig. 6;

Fig. 8 is a three-quarter perspective view of a doll to which an arm cast has been applied;

Fig. 9 is a cross sectional view taken along the line 9—9 of Fig. 8;

Fig. 10 is a three-quarter perspective view of a doll leg to which a splint has been applied; and