

(5) By narrowing or removing the cross-bars at the head and foot, the lift is converted into a species of cradle. If it be now raised, and a long bath be placed on the bedstead below it, the patient can be lowered into and lifted out of the bath, without the slightest effort or fatigue. It is obvious that by the use of the Excelsior Bed-lift, bed-sores may be entirely prevented, or should they have already appeared, can be treated with every prospect of success.

If ordered direct through the inventor, the price will not exceed £5 to £6. The lift can also be hired. All inquiries should be addressed to Mrs. Monkhouse, 32, Tulse Hill, S.W.

Being determined to see everything, I began at the beginning, where I found placed the exhibits sent from King's College Hospital, near which a kind little Sister was stationed, who was most indefatigable in explaining to visitors the uses of the various appliances. We all know that "King's" is renowned for the carefulness with which the antiseptic system of dressing wounds is carried out—initiated by the Senior Surgeon, Sir Joseph Lister—so that I was not surprised to find a very attractive display. Here I saw the operation table designed by Miss Monk, the Sister Matron, and Mr. Rose, and which is admirably adapted for its purpose; a new machine for rolling bandages; and a most commodious antiseptic dressing table on wheels, which is moved from bed to bed, and on which is to be found every requirement for dressing a wound, and which would have seemed quite perfect had I not a little later seen the table, for the same purpose, designed and exhibited by Miss Cooper, of the Victoria Hospital for Children, the white-tiled top of which, so easy to keep clean, charmed all practical people.

The dressings sent from King's were quite lovely (this rather sounds as if one was describing the bonnets and gowns from a West-end *modiste*), but the mixture of alembroth sheets and dressings—turquoise blue—the pale pink mackintosh, pale tinted flannel gowns and covers, made the stall look very gay. Here I particularly noticed a long, cosy flannel gown, to be worn by a patient after undergoing the exhausting, if pleasant, process of massage, when the patient is particularly liable to chill, and in consequence, where great care is not taken, often suffers rather than benefits from the treatment. A jacket poultice protector, made of flannel and thin mackintosh, with bandage attached, looked natty; as did an ingenious arrangement of the same materials to cover and keep moist a fomentation on the throat.

Next to King's, which seemed quite natural, came Charing Cross Hospital, which was most admirably represented. Here a most instruc-

tive lesson in how to treat a fracture was to be learnt from the exhibition of two artificial legs, which side by side represented the imaginary injury under two phases of treatment, before and after having been set by the Surgeon—very realistic and most skilfully carried out. All was complete, and very cosy appeared the fractured limb when finally slung, with its little quilted toe-cap of crimson flannel lined with cotton wool, and long strip of quilted flannel to match, covering the leg from ankle to thigh. The bandaging was a work of art.

Speaking of toe-caps reminds me of an incident which occurred to me in a London Hospital not so very long ago. When passing as a visitor down the Ward, my attention was drawn to the occupant of one of the beds, whose legs, from the knees downwards, were entirely exposed to view—the left, *au naturel*; the right, encased in a snowy plaster of Paris bandage, lately adjusted, from out of which sprang five grimy toes. The displeasing sight naturally arrested my attention, to the evident embarrassment of their possessor.

"Ahem! Madam, will you be so very kind as to cover up my distressing toes?" she whispered softly, with an evident desire not to be overheard. Poor toes, they were not only very dirty, but very cold, and had she been a patient in Charing Cross Hospital, I feel sure they would have been both clean and warm. I hope the pattern of these neat little toe-caps will be borrowed far and wide, and largely used, as the custom in so many Hospitals of wrapping the foot of a fractured leg in a handful of loose cotton wool is both extravagant and slovenly. In the section allotted to Charing Cross, specimens of miniature dressings in all the materials used in the Hospital were on view. All dry materials, such as lint and cotton-wool, were neatly housed in cases of crimson oil-cloth, bound with ribbon, and the handy little dressing and lotion basins of white china were provided with tightly-fitting covers of the same material. Charing Cross also seems famous for its charts. Here were to be seen charts for recording the temperatures—set for one hour, two hours, four hours, or only night and morning—and a most comprehensive book of reference and report, kept entirely by the Sisters, in which a detailed report of each patient and all his concerns is daily written by her. I noticed that everything, even the bandages, from this Hospital was most neatly marked in cross stitch, C. X. H.

Passing on, I found an excellent display of Nursing appliances, kindly lent by Messrs. Maw and Son, and I was especially glad to find at last amongst them a hygienic feeding-bottle, which should be universally adopted by mothers and others who have the responsibility of bringing

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)