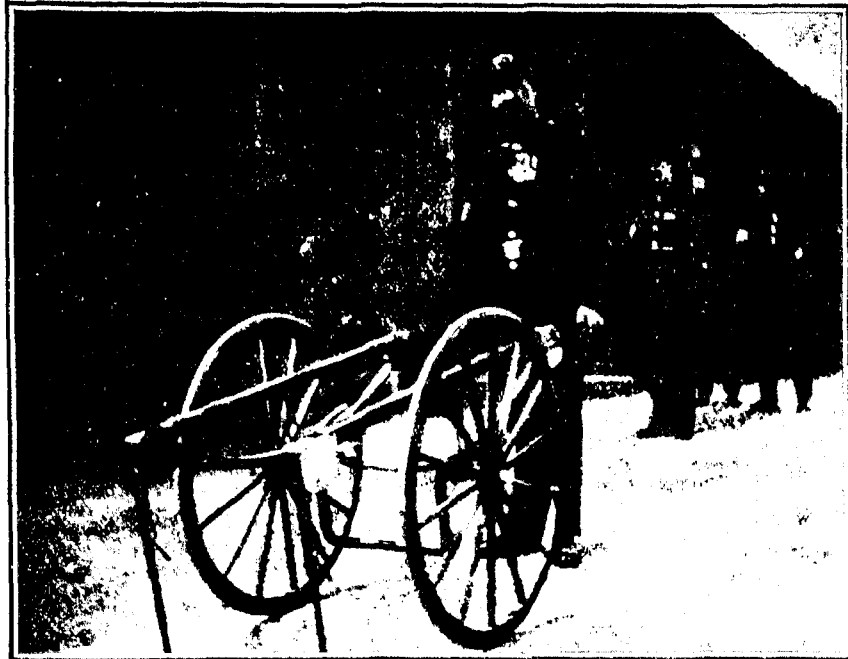


horsed splendidly by Mr. Harry Simpson of the County Mews. It turns out with the lightning speed and smartness of a fire-engine. It costs somewhere about £200.

In order to give a little insight into accident work, I will describe a typical case. A call is received at headquarters; there has been a boy knocked down by a dray. The ambulance turns out and a squad arrives before many minutes at the scene of the catastrophe. They clear the crowd back from the unlucky lad, whose head is badly gashed, while broken ribs and a fractured thigh need attending to carefully, more especially as the latter is an ugly example of what is technically known as a "compound" (*i.e.*, the broken bone has pierced the skin, tearing away a vein and an artery) fracture. The bleeding is stopped with neatly-applied bandages, splints make the leg immovable, and a towel binds up the ribs, then a telephone message is sent to prepare the nurses at the hospital, and the litter starts its journey up the hill to that haven of the sick and



THE WHEELED LITTER.

injured. One man trundles the stretcher on the litter, while the others keep back the crowd and an eye on the patient. On arrival at the hospital door, the litter stands firm and even on its iron legs (you touch a spring and those same slim-legs bend up, straighten

out, and form the shafts), while the men prepare to lift the stretcher off. Two of them carry it, No. 1 at the feet, No. 2 at the head, and, preceded by the receiving nurse (Kendal is but a small hospital at present, and owns no resident surgeon or porter), they march their burden into the ward and deposit him on the Inder-Redhead accident bed. The rugs are taken off him, he is rolled in hospital receiving blankets, and neatly and deftly the stretcher is taken from under him. They are very ingenious these stretchers, for they come patly to pieces. The poles come away from the canvas, which is then easily rolled from under an injured man without hurting him. Then, very gently, but deftly and quickly, the lad is undressed and left quite ready for the nurses to bath and prepare for the surgeons, who may arrive at any moment. In a large hospital, of course, the duties of the



THE LITTER SET DOWN WITH STRETCHER AND PATIENT.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)