

More Practical Points on the Nursing of Phthisis.—2

(EITHER AT HOME OR IN SANATORIA).

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From the discussion of "Shelters" (in the issue of this Journal dated December 23rd), the writer proceeds to that of "Lounges," recommending a "steamer's chair" placed with the head well inside a "wicker beach chair," having the hood part lined and padded.

I trust the writer will pardon me if I point out the obvious disadvantages, not to say dangers, of such a combination, ingenious though it is, and suitable for almost every other class of convalescent patient but those suffering from phthisis.

In the first place it has been proved that the invisible spray produced when a patient coughs is projected for distances of three feet or more, and if received on to a suitable medium deposits material from which cultures of bacteria can be made; the hood of the chair would therefore have to be of an enormous width, and the "padding," unless covered with a washing material which would have to be boiled frequently (and of this I see no mention in the paper), would soon become a source of danger to the patient and his friends.

Wicker work, too, is not suitable for a lounge, you cannot clean the interstices properly or dislodge easily the dust which settles in them.

Again, the patient's head is the very part which does not require shelter, inside the padded hood you would soon get an excess of CO₂, which would certainly not improve his condition.

If the wind be boisterous and there is no natural shelter available, a good wattle fence or a few tall hurdles will answer admirably, but they must be placed out of the line of the patient's cough and preferably behind him.

In the Royal National Sanatorium, Bournemouth, many experiments have been made with different kinds of lounges during the last six years, and I think that every description almost on the market has had a fair trial; none proved quite satisfactory and at last we have designed a pattern of our own which is the best so far that I have seen. The accompanying illustrations explain it.

The chief points to be noticed are:—

1. Sailcloth, which can be scrubbed and is very durable, takes the place of the canvas on the ordinary folding chair.

2. It is removable, being laced at the back of the chair.

3. The cross pieces of the frame, being rounded, cause the sailcloth to move a little



SAILCLOTH LOUNGE CHAIR, DESIGNED BY MISS TODD.

when the patient sits down and so prevents it wearing thin in any one place.

4. The framework is made particularly strong, and the arms are broad enough to afford standing room for a glass or mug.

5. The chairs are made especially long, so that the patient can repose at his full length, and yet there is also ample room for a hot water bottle at his feet.

6. As the chairs fold into small compass they require little storage room (a consideration where there are a large number), and are easily moved from place to place.

The other chair shown in the photograph has

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