

New Preparations, Inventions, etc.

THE CARRYING SHEET STRETCHER.

THE Carrying Sheet Stretcher, manufactured by Messrs. W. H. Bailey and Son, of 38, Oxford Street, W., is an invention of practical utility which we commend to the notice of our readers. It was invented by Mr. J. C. Derham, Chief Constable of Blackpool, and enlarged and converted to a stretcher with poles by Mrs. Alfred Paine, of Wharfedale, Bedford. As will be seen by the accompanying illustrations, it has the great advantage that where space is limited the length or width can be at once contracted, and, further, the side loops can be used as handles at any point, so that when an exceptionally heavy patient is being carried in it more than two bearers can assist if necessary. The simple carrying sheet is transferred into an ordinary stretcher by the use of transverse bars. This sheet is made of strong brown or white canvas, about 6 feet 4 inches long, and 2 feet 4 inches wide, with brass eyelet holes; through these, a soft strong cotton rope is passed, through which bamboo poles are threaded; the rope is knotted at certain intervals so as to form handles which can easily be grasped.

A stretcher which is readily convertible into a carrying chair is a convenience which will be readily appreciated, and, especially in cottage hospitals, where an ordinary stretcher will very often not accommodate itself to awkward corners, the carrying sheet, by reason of its adaptability is specially to be commended, moreover, it has another recommendation in such cases in its lightness, as in the absence of porters the carrying of the patients falls to the lot of the nursing staff, and a heavy and cumbersome stretcher adds materially to their burden. Another point in its favour is its extremely moderate price. The brown canvas stretcher with poles costs 13s. 6d., the transverse bars 5s., and a pillow covered in khaki 1s. 6d., so that a sovereign covers the whole cost. If it is desired to use the stretcher as a hammock, then four ropes, with swivel hooks, may be obtained for 6s. When not in

use, the sheet can be folded up and put away into a small space, and the poles stand in an inconspicuous corner. The stretcher is on view in Messrs. Bailey's Oxford Street show rooms, as are also many other articles of use to nurses, tempting by reason of their practical utility and their moderate cost.

But though we have mentioned cottage hospitals as a special field of usefulness for the Carrying Sheet Stretcher, it must not be supposed that it uses are confined to these institutions. It is especially suitable for ambulance service, or for the use of invalids in private houses, and owing to its extreme portability and moderate cost, it might usefully be added to the furnishing of many houses. In conveying helpless passengers by train it is also serviceable, as the accompanying illustration will show. The patient can lie upon it on the seat of the carriage, and can be carried on it to his destination when he reaches the end of his railway journey.



REMOVAL TO OR FROM RAILWAY CARRIAGE WITH ASHFORD WHEELED LITTER.

RIBBON GAUZE.

Messrs. Davies and Long, of Dorset Street, Baker Street, are now showing some samples of ribbon gauze of various kinds, which must delight the heart of a natty district nurse, and make her determined to possess herself of some forthwith to carry in her district bag. The gauze is prepared by Messrs. Milne, of Ladywell, a firm whose name is a guarantee of excellence. It may be had in one yard lengths, and about two inches wide, in little square cardboard boxes, which remain unopened until the gauze is wanted for use, or it is also

supplied in glass bottles with screw tops. To nurses who know the difficulty of cutting bandage lengths from an ordinary piece of gauze the convenience of having this done for them is obvious. The gauze is well finished off at each side, so that there are no frayed edges. We also noticed a useful glass jar for sponges, with glass lid and screw metal rim. Nurses will do well to pay a visit to this shop and inspect the goods for themselves. They will find many useful articles which are arranged so that they can see at a glance the various patterns of the same thing. This plan saves much time—a consideration to busy nurses.

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