

NEW INVENTIONS FOR THE COMFORT OF THE SICK.

THE "SKEFFINGTON" PATENTS.

The desire to help to relieve suffering, and a mechanical turn of mind, are responsible for the timely and much-needed inventions, namely, the "Skeffington Patent Recumbent Invalid Lifters."

No. 1, called "Skeffington," after the inventor, is made in two forms, the Single and the Double. The Single aims at effecting two things, namely, to prevent a weak patient slipping down in bed, and secondly raising a patient to a sitting position and supporting him without exertion, either to himself or his nurse, thus fulfilling the duties of a bed-rest—in a most comfortable and thorough manner—when once his right position has been assumed, this all by the simple turning of a handle.

The double form, besides this, raises a patient hammockwise bodily off the mattress, allowing the mattress to be turned and sheets changed at will, and a bed-pan to be given in the most comfortable way. The rollers and clamps

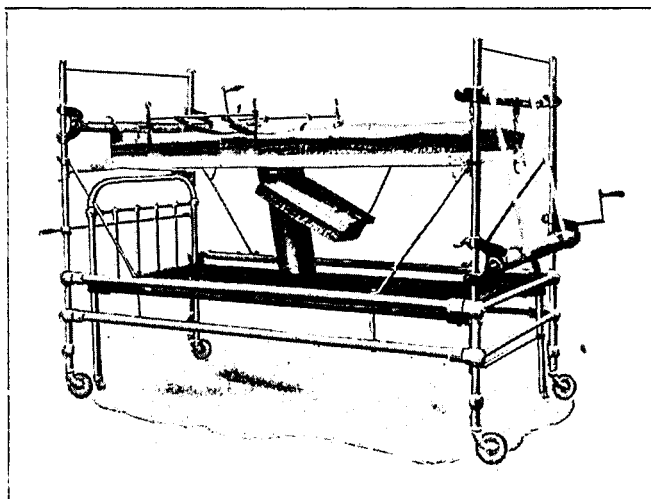
required for this device, which should be most useful in private work, or for elderly patients particularly, are simple in the extreme and are easily attached to any bedstead, or can be made to stand on their own feet and surround a bed, to slip on a hospital bedstead, or to run on wheels and serve several beds as desired. The sheets are strong and especially made for the purpose of lifting, and are attached to the rollers easily.

No. 2, namely, "The Anastasia," will meet a great need in the hospital world, and when once well known will become increasingly more popular, indeed, no hospital ward should be without one. No one, who has not nursed a fractured spine, or a heavy case of fractured femur, can tell the practical value of such an appliance; in the case also of medical work again and again it will be found of service.

The Anastasia Lifter does all the Skeffington does—and many other things in addition.

"A slight steel frame is superimposed upon the bedstead that can be tilted to any desired angle and left in that position whilst the lifter is moved to another bedstead. To the inner side of this steel frame is fitted a small sliding frame, which can be placed where required underneath the patient. This frame carries three or more small longitudinal sectional mattresses. By releasing a clutch any one of these mattresses is made to fall away trap-door wise without friction, giving easy access to the patient's back for dressing and sanitary attention."

I quote the inventor's description. This appliance can also be made as a trolley, and used for any number of beds.



THE "ANASTASIA" LIFTER.

I spoke with the inventor, from the nurses' point of view, and he kindly made many explanations; indeed, as time goes on I think his thought and labour on behalf of suffering humanity will meet with its reward. The amount of physical exertion saved (time and labour) are also points that in a busy hospital will be much appreciated. Already this appliance has

been tried in several private houses, by the direction of eminent surgeons, and is also finding its way into one or two of the larger hospitals. I think the sliding frame and longitudinal mattresses, which may each be covered with their separate mackintosh and linen slip, cannot but appeal to anyone practically engaged in the care of the sick.

No. 3, the "Skeffington Inclinator," is again a novel and remarkably effective device, converting any ordinary bedstead into a surgical one in a few minutes.

It consists of a light steel mattress frame, which can be easily carried by one nurse and be pushed up under the bedding with the patient on, if necessary, and when connected to special pulley tackle can be pulled up by one hand to any desired inclination, even 3 or 4 ft. above

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