

## NEW DEVICES SUITABLE FOR HOSPITAL PRACTICE.

The *Modern Hospital*, the most sumptuous and best of all hospital journals, makes a point of presenting new instruments and appliances to its readers, and as such notices are usually illustrated, we find much useful information in this section of the journal.

Amongst new devices which might be useful to wounded soldiers we find a belt for shoulder and thigh amputations.

One of these is a strong webbing belt with buckles and straps, to which a metal hook is attached at the proper place to keep a tourniquet in position, and prevent it from slipping in shoulder and thigh amputations. The illustrations (Figs. 1 and 2) fully show the construction and method of application.

Another device, which, according to reports from German military hospitals, has proven very satisfactory, is a splint and bandage combined (Fig. 3) to keep the fractured lower jaw in position. A flexible piece of metal is shaped to fit the chin. Rings are fastened to this for the purpose of connecting elastic straps, which in turn are fastened by means of buckles to a universally adjustable head bandage. Thus the device can be employed on any size of head, and inasmuch as the chin splint is flexible and the whole apparatus sterilizable, it may be used over and over again on different patients. It is especially pointed out that the patients may be dressed quickly and that very little dressing material and no bandages are needed. The quantity of these items used at present by some of the belligerents in Europe is very considerable; and as a rule economy in this also is appreciated in general hospital practice.

## OFFICIAL RECOGNITION AND PROTECTION OF THE V.A.D. UNIFORM.

The War Office announces that the Voluntary Aid Detachment uniform of the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John may be considered to be official uniform for the purposes

of Regulation 41 of the Defence of the Realm Acts and Regulations.

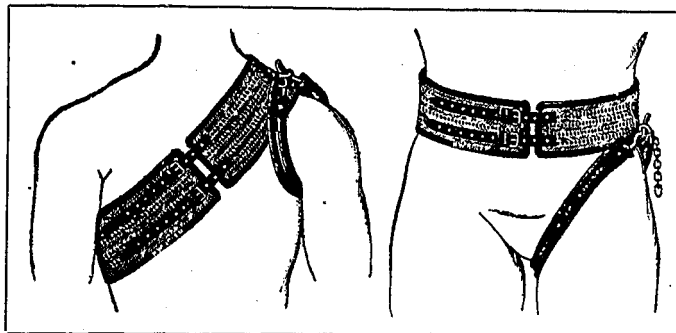
Persons wearing such uniform without authority are liable to prosecution.

Whilst congratulating the members of Voluntary Aid Detachments upon the protection so soon bestowed by the

Government upon their uniform and status, we cannot refrain from contrasting the honourable consideration accorded to these comparatively unskilled workers, with the marked neglect and active opposition by the Government, for a quarter

of a century, to every petition advanced for protection and legal status by highly skilled professional women who have adopted nursing as their life's work. It is quite useless to argue that wealth, social influence, and exalted patronage are not dominating factors in the nursing field in this country; nor can we blame professional nurses for their warm resentment when they realise that merit and conscientious devotion to duty count for nothing in this connection. It is nothing short of a scandal that any criminal may still be tried for murder and other crimes wearing trained nurses' uniform in the dock.

In this connection, the *Times* says: "The subject of the registration of nurses' uniforms is an old bone of contention. Perhaps, however, now that the first step has been taken, the authorities may see their way to extend the protection afforded to the V.A.D. nurses to the uniforms of other nurses, so that an end may be made of impostors who use this noble dress to cloak unworthiness. With the memory of Nurse Cavell in its mind,



BELT FOR SHOULDER AND THIGH AMPUTATIONS.



DEVICE FOR FRACTURED LOWER JAW.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)