

PRACTICAL POINTS.

THE FOREARM LEVER WALKING STICK CRUTCH.

Every nurse who has had experience of a patient on crutches knows the many drawbacks of the old type of crutch. In the first place the infirmity of the patient is most conspicuous, and in the second the shape of the crutch, with its head in the arm pit, leaves much to be desired. The pressure compresses the large nerves and may lead to troublesome paralysis, and the

This crutch consists of an almost horizontal handle, which is grasped in the palm of the hand, and of a slightly sloped spring which supports the forearm from the wrist to the elbow, where the arm hangs naturally. The greater part of the weight of the body bears on the hand and the wrist, while the forearm resting upon the spring and the elbow, which fits into the semi-bracelet, play rather an accessory part.

The use of this crutch not only abolishes pressure on the armpit with the risk of paralysis of the arms, but also compels the active effort of hand, forearm, arm and shoulder, and is thus an excellent exercise for the upper limb.

The wounded lower limb, on its part, functions as much as its strength allows it, and it is claimed that with this new appliance it is possible to move about much more quickly and dexterously than with an ordinary crutch, and half a dozen miles or more may be covered without fatigue. Also that stairs, buses, and trams form no obstacles for the patient equipped with this invention.

The Forearm Lever Walking Stick Crutch has been patented in France and Great Britain, and is supplied by the Stick Crutch Fund, Central House, Kingsway.

A fund, recognised by the War Office and registered by the London County Council, has been formed for the purchase of the new stick crutch (*cannes béquilles*) for gratuitous distribution to crippled sailors and soldiers, and funds are needed to carry on the good work. Donations

irritation caused may set up boils, atrophy of the arms, and other ills.

The accompanying illustrations of the "Forearm Lever Walking Stick Crutch," for which we are indebted to Captain Claremont, R.N., Stick Crutch Fund, show a very great advance on any crutch previously on the market. It is the clever invention of a French engineer, M. Schlick, of Nancy, who had the ingenious idea of doing away with the arm-pit leverage and replacing it by a support for the forearm and hand. The Walking Stick Crutch, which has the approval of eminent medical authorities, is the result.

may be sent to the Hon. Secretary at the offices, crossed "Crutch Fund." The crutches are used at the King George Hospital, Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, and many other hospitals. On December 12th a collection was made for the fund in the theatres and music halls, the leading ladies in each theatre arranging their own collection, a thing that has never been done before, even for the Red Cross.

A practical demonstration of the value of the walking stick crutch was given at the recent Health Fair at the Institute of Hygiene, Devonshire St., W., where it attracted much attention.



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