STIRLING'S WEBBING STRETCHER: A STRETCHER DESIGNED TO FACILITATE THE CARRIAGE OF WOUNDED FROM NARROW TRENCHES.

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DESCRIPTION OF STRETCHER.

The stretcher is constructed of strong broad webbing, and is composed of two sets of braces (A and B) and a body (E). It is operated by two bearers.

Fig. 1.

The Braces.—Each bearer wears a set of braces made in the form of a double loop of "figure of 8." The braces are slipped on as a waistcoat is, thus leaving the chest free of pressure. Attached to the most dependent portions of each brace is a metal hook (C).
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Body of Stretcher.—The body of the stretcher (E) is composed of two long lateral and parallel strips of webbing, equal in length, connected (ladder-like) at intervals by shorter pieces, the second piece from No. 2 bearer's end being slightly longer than the others. At both ends of these lateral strips metal D's (F) are attached. These D's are for connecting with the corresponding brace hooks (C). Attached to each D is a short chain (G) for purpose of adjustment. A strap of webbing (H) with a loop at the free end is attached to each lateral strip, near the front, or No. 1 end, for passing round the patient in such a way as to support him in a horizontal position.

![Image](https://example.com/image.jpg)

**FIG. 2.**

Rigid Stretcher.—On the surface of each lateral strip are several loops (I) for the insertion of a rifle, short pole, or other suitable implement for the formation of a rigid stretcher, when such is required.

Method of Use. Ordinary Sitting Cases.—The bearers, having their respective braces on, pass the body of the stretcher under the patient so that his buttocks are in the space (K) between the first and second cross pieces from the rear, or No. 2 bearer's end; the leg straps (H) are now passed round the legs above the ankles, and, to secure them in position, the front ends of the lateral strips are threaded through the loops of the leg straps, thus providing excellent means of support for the legs. The
DESIGN FOR PROPOSED STRETCHER.

REFERENCE:

A (No. 1) and B (No. 2) = Braces.
C = Hooks.
E = Body.
F = Ds.

= Chains.
= Leg Carrier.
= Loops.
= Centre of Seat.

ELEVATION OF STRETCHER

BRACE "A" (No. 1.)
BRACE "B" (No. 2.)

SCALE: 1 1/8 INS. TO A FOOT (R.F. = 1/4).

SKETCH VIEW OF STRETCHER & BRACES.
PLAN OF STRETCHER

SCALE: 1/8 INS. TO A FOOT (R.F. = ¼).
bearers are now ready to lift the patient. No. 1 kneels with his back to, and between the legs of, the patient; No. 2 kneels at the patient's head and facing the back of No. 1. If necessary, No. 2 may first assist No. 1 to hook up. The bearers now connect their brace hooks (C) with the corresponding D's (F) or with the chain links (G) (as circumstances dictate) of the stretcher body (E), which done, leaning forward, they rise together.

*Rigid Stretcher—For Lying-down Cases.*—For the cases in which it
Clinical and other Notes

Fig. 4.
is desirable that the patient lie prone, or on his back, a couple of rifles, or pieces of wood, one on either side, are slipped into the special loops (G) provided for this purpose, the rifle butt at No. 1 end; a rigid but comfortable stretcher is thus provided. For such cases the patient is laid on the body of the stretcher so that his head is level with the rear D's; the leg straps are adjusted accordingly.

![Fig. 5.](image)

**Very Heavy Patients.**—If the patient is very heavy, or the position difficult, the bearers will find it an advantage, while kneeling, to attach their hooks to the links of the short chains attached to each D. These chains have been provided for the special purpose of lengthening the attachment when required, thus making it easier for the bearers to stand up. When the bearers have raised the patient they can re-adjust the attachment to a higher level should they so wish.

**Fracture Cases.**

Fractured legs may be comfortably supported and carried, with or without splints.
Note.—For the lying cases the rifle butts may be included in the leg straps instead of the special loops. Also the leg straps may be looped into the brace hooks. These modifications allow of wider adaptability.

Advantages.—The greatest carrying power is secured to the bearers by the manner in which the braces distribute the patient's weight. Two bearers can load and lift the patient from the ground, and one can also off-load on to an ordinary stretcher without assistance. The construction of the stretcher prevents the patient slipping. Both bearers have both hands free, either to support the patient, steady themselves when passing through slippery trenches, over rough ground, climbing gangways, or for removing obstacles from their path. This freedom and power reduce the risk of fall to a minimum, and give confidence to both bearers and patient. The stretcher is well adapted to turning sharp corners and passing along narrow trenches, as has been proved in practice.

Weight 3 lb. 5 oz.—This stretcher is very light, simple and easy to
make, cheap, comfortable, adaptable and efficient. It is very portable, and can be carried in a haversack. The ease with which cases may be lifted and lowered, combined with freedom of movement of the bearers permits of rapid evacuation of the wounded from the trenches or elsewhere. Bearers returning to the trenches could use the stretcher for carrying water or supplies.

Improvement for Ordinary Stretcher.—Braces as used in the Stirling Stretcher would also be of assistance to the bearers of ordinary stretchers.

They confer greater power for carrying, and allow the bearers to step out freely, thus tending to lessen fatigue, while at the same time the patient is not so shaken as with the single sling method. An excellent substitute for each bearer may be made with two ordinary slings of equal length, crossing on the back, their two ends slipped on to the respective handles of the stretchers.

Carriage of Munitions, Supplies, etc.—The principle of this stretcher is well adapted for the easy and quick carriage of munitions to and from the firing line.