Clinical and Other Notes.

AN IMPROVISED STRETCHER BED WITH ATTACHMENTS.

BY
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[Received May 8, 1946.]

STRETCHERS are very convenient as beds for mobile units but have the disadvantage of being without legs and Units find it necessary to improvise some means of raising them above the ground and have to do so afresh at each successive station.

Improvised stretcher bed with attachments ("Holman") as used in the Burma Campaign.

As the methods used are usually cumbersome and involve a considerable amount of labour, a simple means of making a permanent stretcher bed was devised as shown in fig. 1. This has been in use in ALFSEA Units for over a year and has contributed considerably to the comfort of the patients.

In addition to legs, a small side-table about 1 ft. square was fitted and a cloth sling for small kit attached to the head-end stretcher handles.
The legs and attachments are easily removable and are shown in the figure.

Conversion can be carried out in forward areas and the material required is readily available. The details are as follows:

Conversion of standard stretcher:
(1) 13/32 hole drilled into each runner.
(2) Shallow hole drilled into wood above.
(3) Two pieces of 3/8 in. iron rod each 4 ft. 2½ in. in length are bent into two slightly closed U's. The vertical arms of each are 1 ft. 2 in. in length and are passed through the drilled holes into the wood above.
(4) The U legs so formed support the stretcher. These legs can be readily detached so preserving the convenience of the stretcher for mobile use.
(5) Two tinplate brackets are nailed to the stretcher for the side table.

Attachments.—Stretcher kit sling. This consists of a canvas sling between the two upper stretcher handles.

Side-Table.—This is about 1 square foot in area, and is attached near the left head end of the stretcher.

Private De Coene, R.A.M.C., was partially responsible for its design.

THE USE OF D.D.T. FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES.

BY

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[Received April 15, 1946.]

The discovery and perfection of D.D.T. for use during the war has undoubtedly proved its worth, but there is yet much to learn of the actual powers of D.D.T.

On arrival in Singapore just after the re-occupation, the duties of my Field Hygiene Section were confined to the Hygiene of all R.A.P.W.I. camps on the Island.

The usual mosquito, fly and other insect pests were dealt with by various forms of D.D.T. emulsion, spray and powder, with the success to which we have become accustomed.

During the course of my duties, when I later took over the Hygiene of military units on the Island, there was the ever constant menace of ants and cockroaches in bungalows and offices, the former appearing very rapidly when scraps of food, chocolate or sugar were left on tables, window ledges and floors. Even used empty beer and mineral water glasses attracted these little pests in very short time.

Nothing short of constant spraying or use of powder could prevent them, and this was not practicable, possible or economical. I therefore carried out the following experiments: