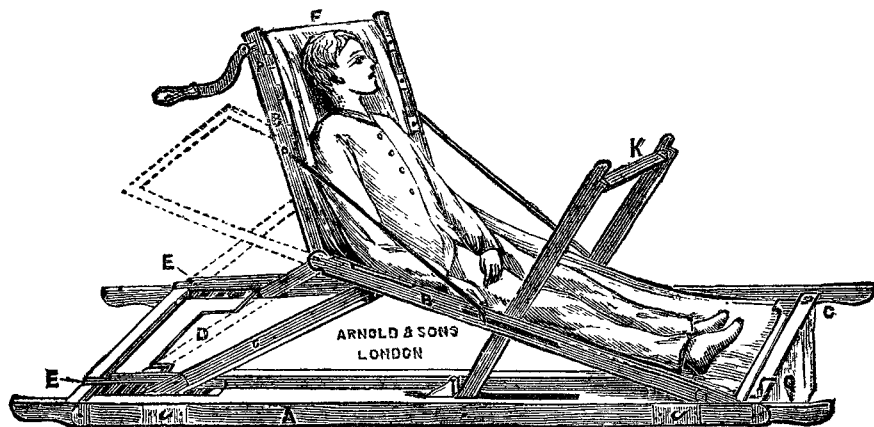


New Inventions.

A NEW INVALID BED AND WEIGHING APPARATUS.

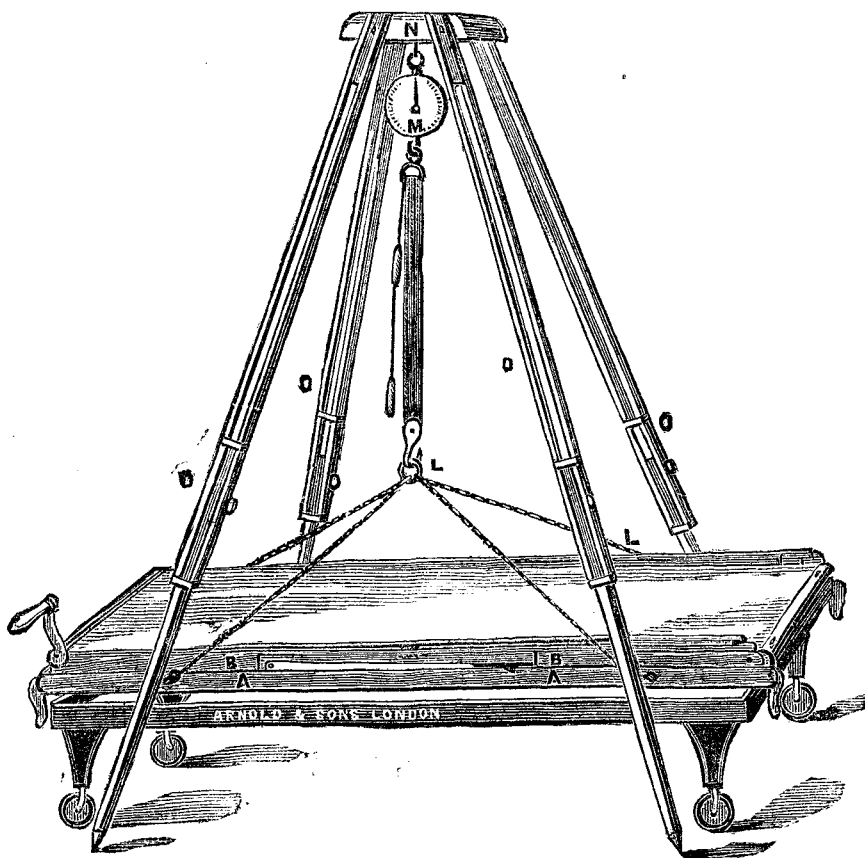
FEELING the necessity of improvement in the adaptation of apparatus calculated to ease the physical wearisome states of recumbent patients, and at the same time being impressed with a novel idea as to the utility of determining the weight of such patients during the progress of many diseases, as a guide towards prognosis, but especially towards dietetic management, I developed my ideas practically so as to make a model of what I thought was required, and submitted it to Mr. John Arnold, who has not

case may be, or a reclining plane by which the axis of the body can be altered at pleasure, so that the pelvis, thorax, or head can be raised or lowered in relation to the remainder of the body, as physical states indicate. Fitted to the frame are also two adjustable upright bars, held together by a transverse one (K), which last is intended to support a tray, book, or other article. Secondly, of a quadrilateral upright, with telescopic legs capable of extension, from which a Salter's spring is suspended to indicate the weight of a patient who lies on the sheet which is grasped by the frame as alluded to. This upright is also useful for other purposes—as, for instance, a suspension apparatus for the application of a Sayre's jacket, or as affording a means by which a patient may raise himself or herself, or for swinging a splint, &c. Further, it forms a cheap weighing apparatus,



only got a useful mechanism made from this model, but has also added a serviceable article in the form of a movable frame on castors. The less a sick person, as a rule, is disturbed the better, but when we have to change the position of such a person for any purpose the aim is to do so with a minimum of discomfort, and to arrive at the maximum of comfort. I

the frame; the top of the same sheet is next wound round a slotted roller at the corresponding end of the frame, where the handle is shown. The latter is then turned round so as to exercise tension, and a stretcher, bed-lift, &c., are at once formed. If it be desired to weigh the patient, the chains diverging from the loop are hooked



claim that the apparatus hereby described will fulfil these indications. It consists of three distinct parts—viz.: First, of a frame terminating with hinged handles, and so made that it can grasp and tighten the sheet on which a patient lies, this sheet being thus utilised to form in connexion with the frame a chair, stretcher, hammock, bed-lift, &c., as the

to the sides of the stretcher apparatus, the pulley is made use of, and patient and frame are raised, the combined weight being indicated by the Salter's spring balance. It is needless to say that the weight of the frame alone must be known, and deducted from the combined weight of frame and patient. If a hammock, a bed-lift, &c., be required, the spring balance is dispensed with, and suspension is made directly from N. Again, if a bed-chair be required, the top of the frame is lifted, fixed at the required angle, and the under supports slid into slots cut in the stationary sides. Thus an elastic chair is instantly extemporised. Bedsores can be dressed and sanitary indications met, &c. Further, in marked acute cerebral anæmia (as after anæsthetics), the head of the patient can be lowered to any degree approaching E, whilst uterine drainage can be favoured by an interiorly inclined position, as shown partly by the figure. Instead of, or in conjunction with, the sheet, straps can be used which are made to hook on the sides of the apparatus, and in this way pressure on tender parts of the body can be obviated. I think, therefore, the mechanism I have described will be useful for private and hospital purposes, and may prove a boon to the bedridden, the novel features I claim being principally these: the capability of weighing a recumbent person, the adjustment of the sheet

and its utilisation, the comfort afforded, the various postures which can be assumed, and the various uses of the parts of the apparatus collectively and singly. The apparatus is well made, and sold at a moderate price by Messrs. Arnold.

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