(No Model.)

H. M. WELLS.

AMBULANCE COT.

No. 261,796. Patented July 25, 1882.

Fig. 1.

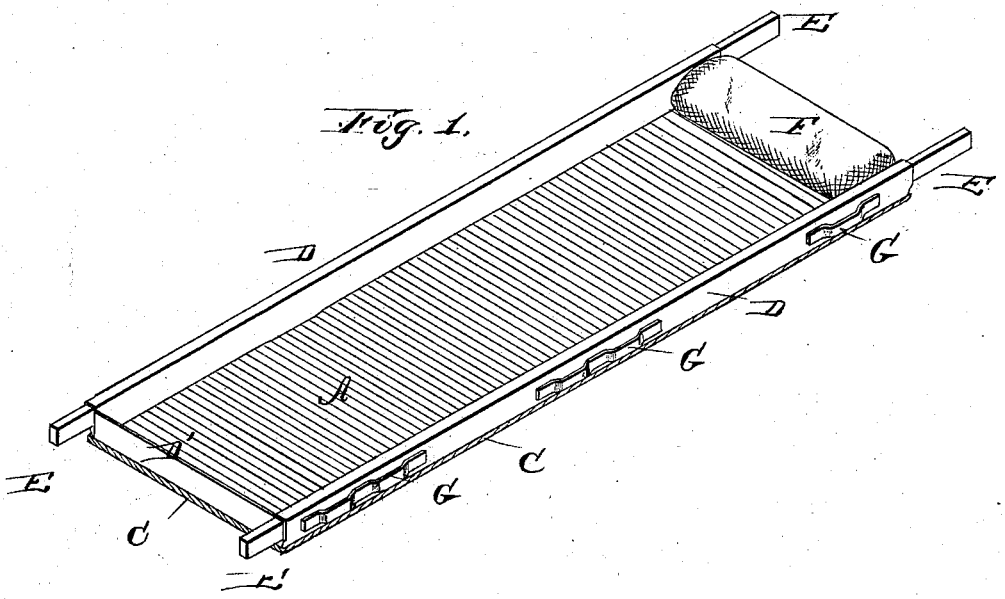


Fig. 2.

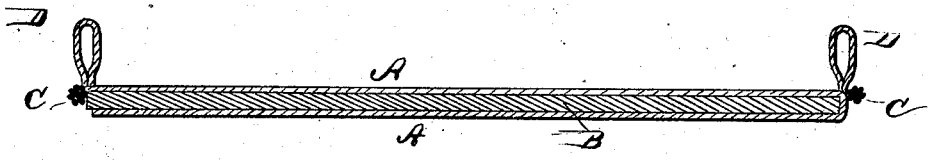


Fig. 3.

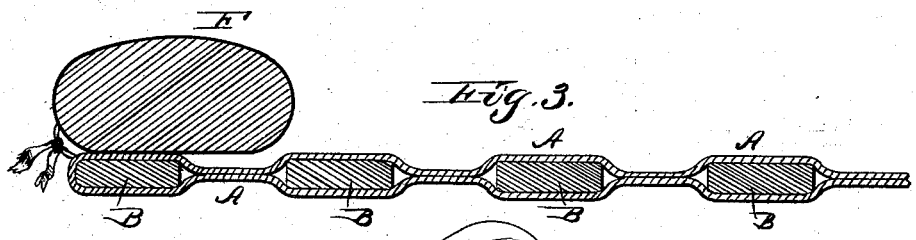
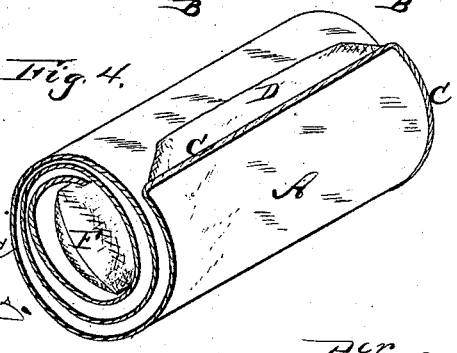


Fig. 4.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY M. WELLS, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO JOSEPH J. WALTON, OF SAME PLACE.

AMBULANCE-COT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 261,796, dated July 25, 1882.

Application filed April 4, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY M. WELLS, of New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Ambulance-Cots; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form part of this specification.

The object of my invention is to afford a safe, comfortable, and rapid means for the transportation of sick and disabled persons; and the nature of my invention consists in the novel manner of constructing a canvas cot or stretcher, whereby great facility is afforded in the movement of disabled persons from one place to another, as will be hereinafter explained.

The following description of my invention, when taken in connection with the annexed drawings, will enable others skilled in the art to fully understand it.

In the annexed drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved stretcher or cot arranged for use as a military or field stretcher. Fig. 2 is an enlarged cross-section through the stretcher or cot. Fig. 3 is an enlarged longitudinal section through one end of the stretcher or cot. Fig. 4 is a view showing the cot rolled up compactly.

The form of my cot is oblong and quadrangular. It is preferably made about six feet long and from twenty-two inches to two feet wide, although these proportions may vary according to circumstances. The bottom or body proper of the cot is made of two thicknesses of canvas, as indicated by the letters A A, which are connected together by transverse parallel rows of stitching, so as to form casings or tubes, in which narrow strips of wood are inserted, as indicated by the letter B. This allows the cot flexibility when taken longitudinally, but stiffens it laterally. The strips B may, if desired, be sufficiently flexible to allow them to conform in a degree to the body of a person, and afford all the comfort possible. This canvas body or cot-bottom is strengthened by means of strong ropes C, suitably stitched to its edges, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. To the two longitudinal sides, and also to the foot of the cot-bottom, I strongly secure guards or stays D D′, which are made of canvas, so that they will fold up with the slatted bottom of the cot. The side guards, D D, are made tubular for the purpose of receiving staffs E E (shown in Fig. 1) when it is desired to use the cot as a portable field-stretcher for carrying sick or wounded persons. The foot-guard or stay D′ is secured by lacing or otherwise to the ends of the side guards, D, so that the guards serve, as their name implies, to stay the sides and one end of the cot.

At the head of the cot the transverse-guard may be omitted, and in its place I attach by a rope hinge a pillow, F, which may be detached, if desired, and which will afford a good head-rest when adjusted on the top of the cot, as represented in Fig. 1.

To the side guards, D, I securely fasten, at proper distances apart, a number of flexible canvas handles, G. These I prefer to arrange, as shown, so that the lifting-power can be distributed and changed according to the requirements of the patient, the location of his wound, and the position in which it may be necessary to keep him during transportation.

As the cot is flexible longitudinally, when the poles or staffs are detached from it a patient may be moved either with his head and chest elevated above the lower extremities, or the latter may be elevated or flexed more or less. In short the cot will, when the staffs are removed from it, adapt itself comfortably to the various parts of the body in whatever position it may be necessary to maintain them.

It will be seen from the above that my improved cot is adapted for convenient use on board of merchant-vessels, vessels of war, in military-camps, hospitals, city-ambulances, and wherever sick and wounded persons are to be moved.

When the cot is not in immediate use it can be compactly rolled up, as shown in Fig. 4.

Having described my invention, I claim—

1. A portable invalid-cot consisting of the longitudinally-flexible bottom, stiffened by transversely-arranged strips, and provided with side

guards and lifting-handles, substantially in the manner and for the purposes described.

2. The combination of the cot-body formed of two thicknesses of canvas, stiffened transversely by strips, the flexible side guards adapted to receive stretcher-staffs, and the handles secured to said guards and so disposed that the lifting-power can be distributed and changed according to the requirements of the patient, substantially as described.

3. The combination of the binding-rope C, the transversely-slatted and longitudinally-flexible cot-bottom, the flexible guards, and the pillow applied to the head of the cot, substantially as and for the purposes described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

HENRY M. WELLS.

Witnesses:
H. S. MITCHELL,
THOMAS H. SANDERS.