AN EASILY ADJUSTABLE BED

Realizing the discomfort of an ordinary bed for patients whose condition requires that they should sit up, many beds and couches have been designed to provide a more satisfactory posture. As far as we know, however, this is the first time that there has appeared on the British market a full-size single bed which can be adjusted by the occupant himself at will through an infinite range of postures from the flat to the fully sitting-up.

The Egerton bed is made in three sections, hinged one to another and pivotally supported upon a short chassis (4-ft. 2-in. long) mounted on standard castors. The sections are connected by paired link rods in such a way that, as the back section tilts up, the seat section is counter-tilted to meet it, whilst at the same time the leg section swings downwards, pivoting at the knee line. These concerted movements are effected by a small electric motor mounted on the chassis, driving through the link rods and operated at will by the patient by means of push buttons located in any convenient position.

The designers claim that they have taken an important step toward:

Reducing bed weariness
Reducing the tendency to pressure sores by distributing and varying the pressure areas
Enabling cardiac and emphysematous patients to obtain relief by frequent changes of position day or night without help
Giving independence of movement to all patients and so promoting convalescence
Reducing the labour of lifting for the nurses
Bringing new hope to the paralysed and the bed-ridden

Detachable and adjustable hand-grips have been provided to assist the convalescent patient to step out at the foot of the bed; these hand-grips also serve as rests for a bed-table. A small adjustment by the nurse fixes the foot section in the flat or slightly sloped position, leaving the back and seat sections free to move under the patient's control. Another adjustment enables the back of the bed to be tilted downward for postural drainage. Special cot-sides are provided for the restless patient, and for unconscious or unreliable patients the controlling switch-box may be moved out of reach and operated by the nurse.

The bed was shown at the International Exhibition of Hospital Equipment at Olympia last May, and has since undergone some modification of design. It is manufactured by Egerton Engineering, 1, Walters Yard, High Street, Bromley, KENT, Telephone No. RAVensbourne 8632, to whom all enquiries should be addressed.

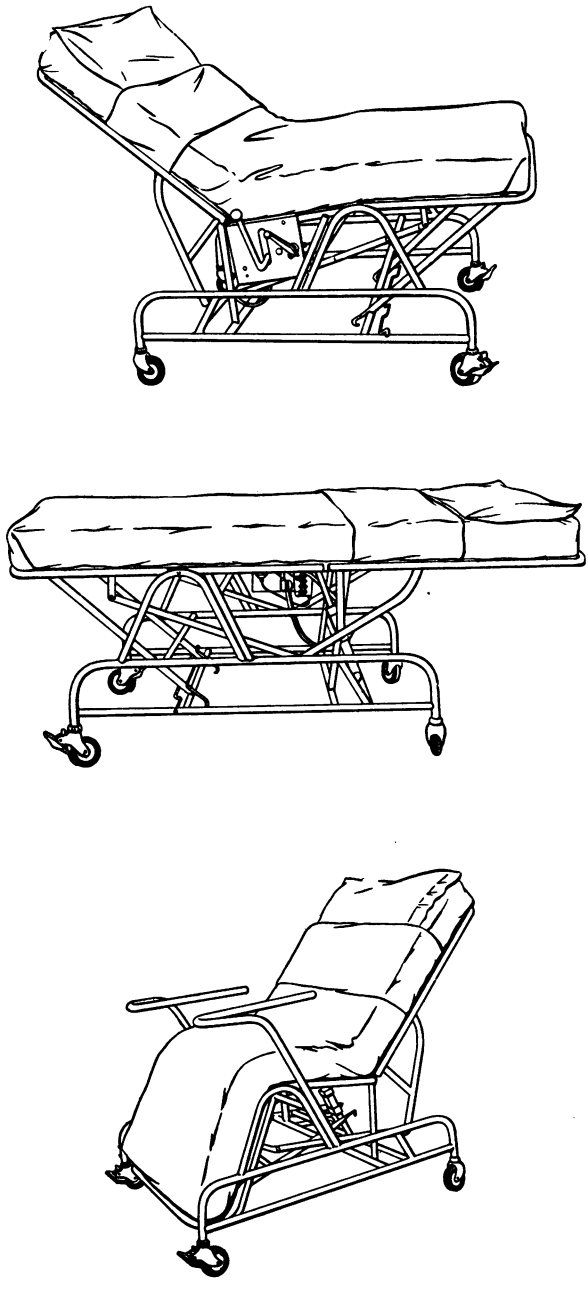

Figure 1. The Egerton Bed