

Comfort in the Workhouse - and Elsewhere

In response to our picture of an old man from the Hackney Workhouse being carried in a special chair (RFS Newsletter, Spring 2007), Laurance Black kindly sent these two illustrations of similar chairs. Fig 1 shows an advertisement from Burke's *Landed Gentry*, 1871. Among his patent invalid chairs and couches John Ward of 5 & 6 Leicester Square, recommended 'the simplest and best constructed Chair for carrying invalids up or down stairs, the lower handles for level ground, the upper ones for ascending or descending a staircase. The sketch conveys the exact idea; it is also made portable for travelling. Several other kinds are always in stock upon various principles.'

Fig 2 shows a 'Portable Carrying Chair' from the Army & Navy Stores catalogue of 1907. It 'can be instantly folded by releasing a catch. It is a useful chair for travelling, as it can be placed under the seat of a railway carriage. Very light in weight, made of polished wood, with cane back and seat...47/3.' An 'extra stout quality' example could be had for 56/9.

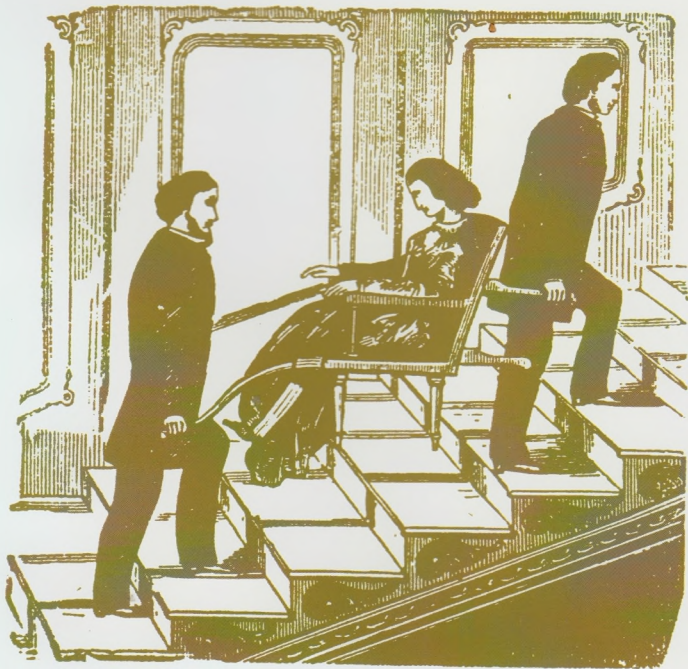


Fig 1.

†*Portable Carrying Chair.

