

A PORTABLE MEDICINE-DISPENSING TRAY FOR HOSPITAL USE

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This tray has been designed to ensure that the procedure of handing out medicines in a ward should be simple, efficient and safe.

It consists essentially of a tray bisected by a vertical partition. On either side of the partition, as shown in the accompanying illustrations (Fig. 1), are tapered slots and circular cut-outs, $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch deep, to hold the medicine

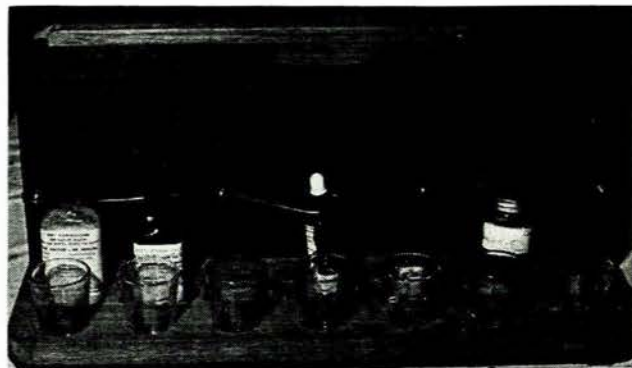


Fig. 1. See text.

bottles and the glass measures. Additional bottles for a particular patient are held in place by a rubber band attached to the partition, as shown. In a children's ward it has been found most convenient to cut the slots to accommodate standard 6-fluid-ounce bottles; smaller bottles stand in these slots easily even if not fitting snugly. Standard glass measures fit comfortably in the circular cut-outs. To make identification easy each child has its own glass measure adjacent to its medicine bottle. The patient's name on a strip of adhesive tape attached to the edge of the tray is a further help to identification.

The tray is kept on a movable ward trolley and need not be removed except for cleaning. The full tray and trolley, when not in use, are locked in a special cupboard in the ward-sister's room.

The medicine-dispensing tray described is made of wood and has 7 slots on either side; another 6 or 8 bottles can be accommodated by the rubber bands alongside the partition. Many modifications of this design are, of

course, possible. The tray could be made of plastic material, and the size and number of slots varied. Instead of slots, the bottles could be held in position (behind rubber bands) on narrow platforms or shelves (Fig. 2).

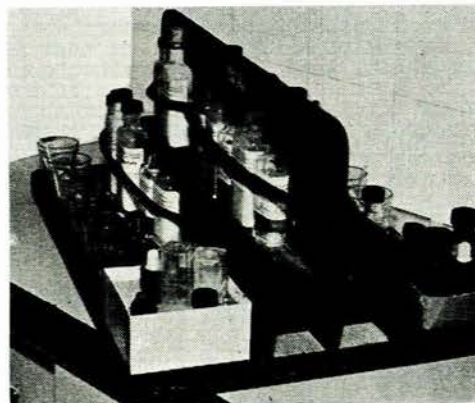


Fig. 2. See text.

Obviously the cooperation of the nursing staff is essential when apparatus of this kind is contemplated.

The following advantages are claimed for this tray:

1. *Safety.* It ensures that the procedure of administering medicine in a ward will be simple, efficient and safe.
2. *Identification.* The bottles are displayed in such a way that they may be easily identified when required. Much valuable nursing time is saved thereby.
3. *Checking.* The arrangement described makes checking easy, and so the danger of handing out the wrong mixture is reduced.
4. *Hygiene.* It is good hygiene for each patient to have his own glass measure.
5. *Convenience.* The tray on its trolley can easily be wheeled from patient to patient and room to room, and safely locked away when not in use.

I wish to thank the nursing staff working in my wards at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital for their great interest and cooperation.