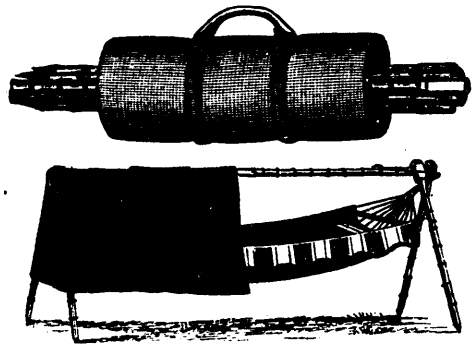




THE GWYNFE PATENT HAMMOCK-TENT.

The season for "camping out" is once more at hand, and the tourist, in order to keep abreast with the requirements of modern travel, must needs set up for himself a more or less luxurious lounge, which he may use at discretion on the lawn, the sea-side, or the deck of a steamboat. Such an appliance, to be of any practical value, must possess the essential qualities of readiness of adjustment, perfect adaptability under varying circumstances, and positive immunity from the weather. Our attention has been called to a contrivance which embodies all these characteristics, namely the "Gwynfe" patent hammock-tent, supplied by Messrs. John R. Whitley and Co., of 7, Poultry, London, E.C., and of which we give illustrations. The great merit of this hammock-tent is that it can be fixed in position in one minute, while it will stand by itself anywhere, independently of ropes, trees, screws or pegs. The "Gwynfe" was originally designed to meet the want so long felt, by officers and others, of a portable weatherproof shelter and sleeping place in time of war, but at the same time equally available for numerous other purposes. The framework of the tent consists of several short pieces of ash or pine, fitted one into the other—an operation which takes only a few seconds—in such a manner as to form a compact, secure, and portable frame to which the hammock is slung, and over which the material forming the tent is thrown. The hammock itself is made of canvas. The operation of taking the hammock-tent to pieces takes less time even than that of putting it together, and can, by placing the pieces of framework side by side, and rolling the hammock and tent neatly around them, be formed into a light and portable parcel. The "Gwynfe" can be placed in any position, or readily removed to another, on grass as well as on rock, on the floor of a room as well as on the muddiest soil. It is equally suitable for the field in war, or for the lawn in peace; while it will prove invaluable as an accessory to field hospital appliances, and can even be used as a manger for foraging horses. In the late Russo-Turkish War it was found that the mattresses in general use by the officers engaged, were no protection whatever from the dampness of the ground, the inclemency of the weather or the irritating attacks of insects, against all of which the "Gwynfe" is completely proof. Sportsmen, gamekeepers, herdsmen, squatters, ambulance surgeons, and invalids,—in fact, everybody who does a little "camping out," will find this contrivance of immense use in securing ease and comfort in the open air. It would be a great boon to the tired travellers crossing the prairies of the Australian continent, and useful as a domestic "fixing" in the bungalows of India. At home even hotel-keepers, or proprietors of sea-side lodging-houses, might turn it to profitable account whenever there is a sudden arrival of visitors in a full house, for with a "Gwynfe" within reach a really comfortable bed may be "rigged up" in a few minutes.



NEW RATCHET BRACE.

Mr. T. Sword, of Cable street, Liverpool, is introducing a new patent ratchet brace, "The Ne Plus Ultra," which seems to possess undeniable merits on the score of simplicity, strength, durability and cheapness. It will be seen that the pawl and its hinge, and the spring, in the common ratchet brace are entirely dispensed with, and the ratchet action is accomplished by two ratchet-toothed wheels on the journal, a little distance apart, and forming with the journal one piece; while an ordinary spanner, which can be used as such, forms the lever handle. It clasps the



journal between the two wheels, and a lug projecting from each side of the spanner takes into the teeth of the wheels, driving the journal in one direction, and sliding back over the teeth in the other direction. By having three instead of two ratchet wheels, two spanners can be used, and thus a two-handed continuous action is obtained. A curved spring is attached to the open end of the spanner to hold it on if required, though this may be dispensed with. This improved ratchet is also applicable to screw-jacks, and for various other purposes where a ratchet action is used.