

Main real estate listing table with columns for Desc., Lot, Blk., Amt., and various property details across multiple columns.

HOSPITAL RAILWAY CAR

Erie's Plan For Attending to Injured Passengers.

COMPLETE OPERATING ROOM IN USE

All Appliances and Conveniences of an Up to Date Surgical Unit Provided—Even Safety Pins, Overlooked in First Accident, Now at Hand, Doctors Quickly Summoned.

Plans were completed by the Erie railroad for the introduction of a number of hospital or ambulance cars, with which to cope with the effects of collisions or other accidents, says the Brooklyn Eagle. For over a year the railroad has been quietly experimenting with the ordinary car.

Instead of having to rely upon local hospitals or improvised ambulances in cases where other employees or passengers have been hurt, the company has been able to send at once to the scene of any trouble a perfectly fitted car, wherein all the appliances needed by the surgeon for caring for the injured were at hand.

The car that has been in use as an experiment is merely an ordinary day coach, from which the seats have been taken. The car has been divided into an operating room and a room wherein eight beds, all ready for patients, are disposed along the two sides of the center aisle. This arrangement will be followed out in the new cars about to be built, but with important modifications and improvements.

In the first place, the new cars will be more strongly built and hung upon roller springs, so that in transit the patients will feel the minimum jar and jolt. The doors at each end of the new car will be sufficiently wide to permit beds to be raised through them. In addition to these end doors there are also doors on either side of the operating room, which fold on double hinges and through which a stretcher or a bed can be passed with ease.

Three-fourths of the length of the car is taken up by two rows of beds, four being in each row. The beds are single from head to foot, having a fine steel spring mattress, a rubber sheet and above that the regular bedding according to the season of the year. The covers are white and neat and the blankets are army army blankets that are light and get warm. Each bed stands on four low boxes that raise it a bit from the floor. Other boxes of different heights are provided, so that the bed in case of necessity may be raised two feet or less above its regular height. The walls of the car are white enamel, the iron beds are white and the ceiling a soft gray.

The operating room is simply large to care for patients who require the most delicate operations. It is about fourteen feet long and the full width of the car, so that an injured person may be carried into the room from any direction. The doors are wide enough to permit a bed being varied in from the hospital in a stretcher may be passed in through one of the side doors and the patient laid on the table and white enamel operating chair.

In one corner of the room is a washstand which has its own special tank of sterilizing pipe water. This water is distilled and changed frequently so that it may always be fresh and ready for use. Beside it, on a stand, is the sterilizing machine to cleanse the instruments. When not in use it is covered with a soft rubber sheet.

In another corner of the operating room stands the surgeons' closet, which is kept always ready stocked with instruments and appliances for the use of injured persons.

Some months ago the surgeon who has charge of the car while it stands in the freight yard at Jersey City felt sure that every appliance was properly in its place. Then came a slight wreck, and several persons were injured. When it came to dressing the wounds the first cry was for safety pins. There weren't any in the closet. It was the only thing that had been overlooked, and the very next day a large assortment of safety pins was placed upon the shelves, so that when the next wreck occurs all will be in readiness.

Along the walls of the car are a dozen folding stretchers, tanks containing oxygen, axes and saws with which to liberate persons pinned under wreckage, crutches and splints and even easy folding chairs of canvas for patients to sit on while waiting their turn at the hands of the surgeon.

On each of the four walls of the operating room is a list of the surgeons who are to be called in cases of emergency. This list comprises every section of the road through its entire length. The name of the doctor or surgeon, his town address, his street number, and, if he has a phone, his telephone number too. There is not a section of ten miles along the road where doctors are not practically under the orders of the railroad.

The orders are that as soon as a wreck or accident is heard of the doctors in that vicinity are notified at once, and the car is taken from its siding in the freight yard at Jersey City and drawn by a special engine at once to the point of need.

The car has a separate short siding in the center of the freight yards, and no other car is ever placed in front of it. No matter how congested the tracks may be, an engine can always reach the hospital car and whisk it away to wreck or accident without a moment's delay. It is now proposed to build a number of these cars and place them at various points along the whole length of the road.

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