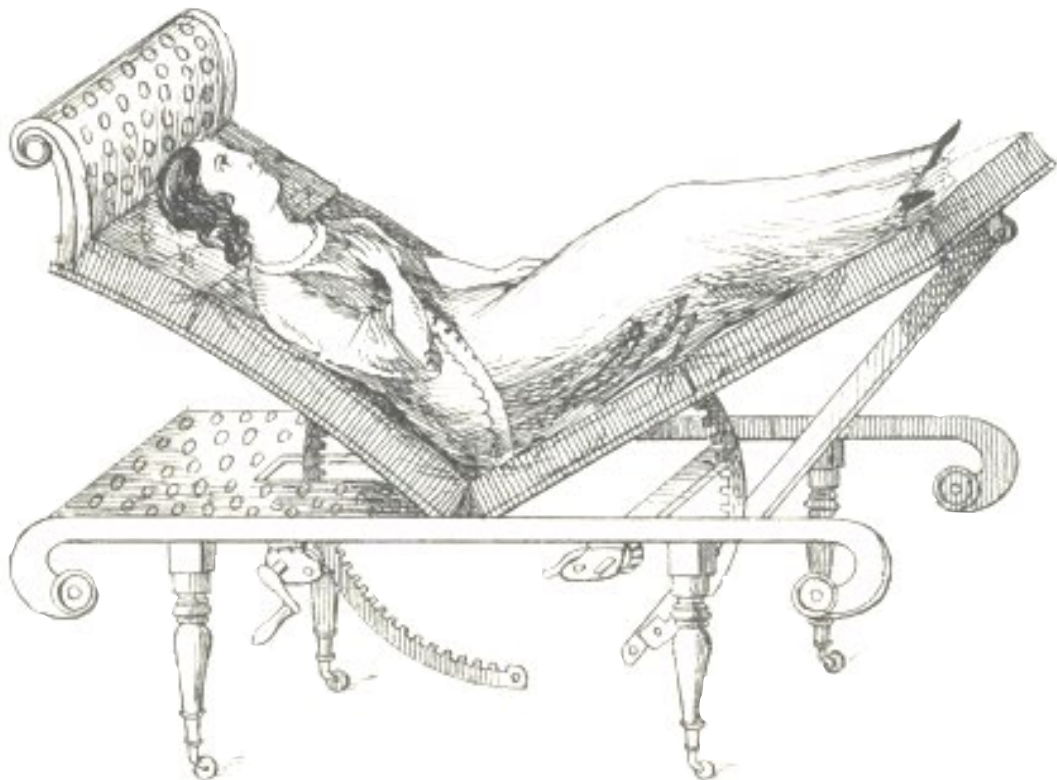


# Making Space for the Voice of the Patient

Exercises in Creative  
Writing by **Gillian  
Shirreffs** for  
Thinking Through  
Things



# Object as Subject



Syringes: Hypodermic, made by Down Bros. Credit: Wellcome Collection

Choose a needle.

How does it feel about  
the other needle?

Continue writing as  
the needle...

are usually supplied with the syringe). The thread on the piston-rod is of a rapid type, upon which the disc stop travels quickly on receiving a slight impulse from the finger. The syringe is so constructed that every part may be sterilized by boiling, and the plunger, which is of asbestos, will absorb sufficient moisture during the process to act as an efficient lubricant. These syringes have also been made with metal plungers, but the asbestos plungers have proved to be more easy and less costly to maintain. Messrs. Down Bros. owe the suggestion to produce such syringes to Dr. J. W. H. Eyre, who has employed them for some considerable time in the Bacteriological Department of Guy's Hospital, where they have given every satisfaction.

Write a description of  
Dr J. W. H. Eyre in its  
voice.

# Subject as Object



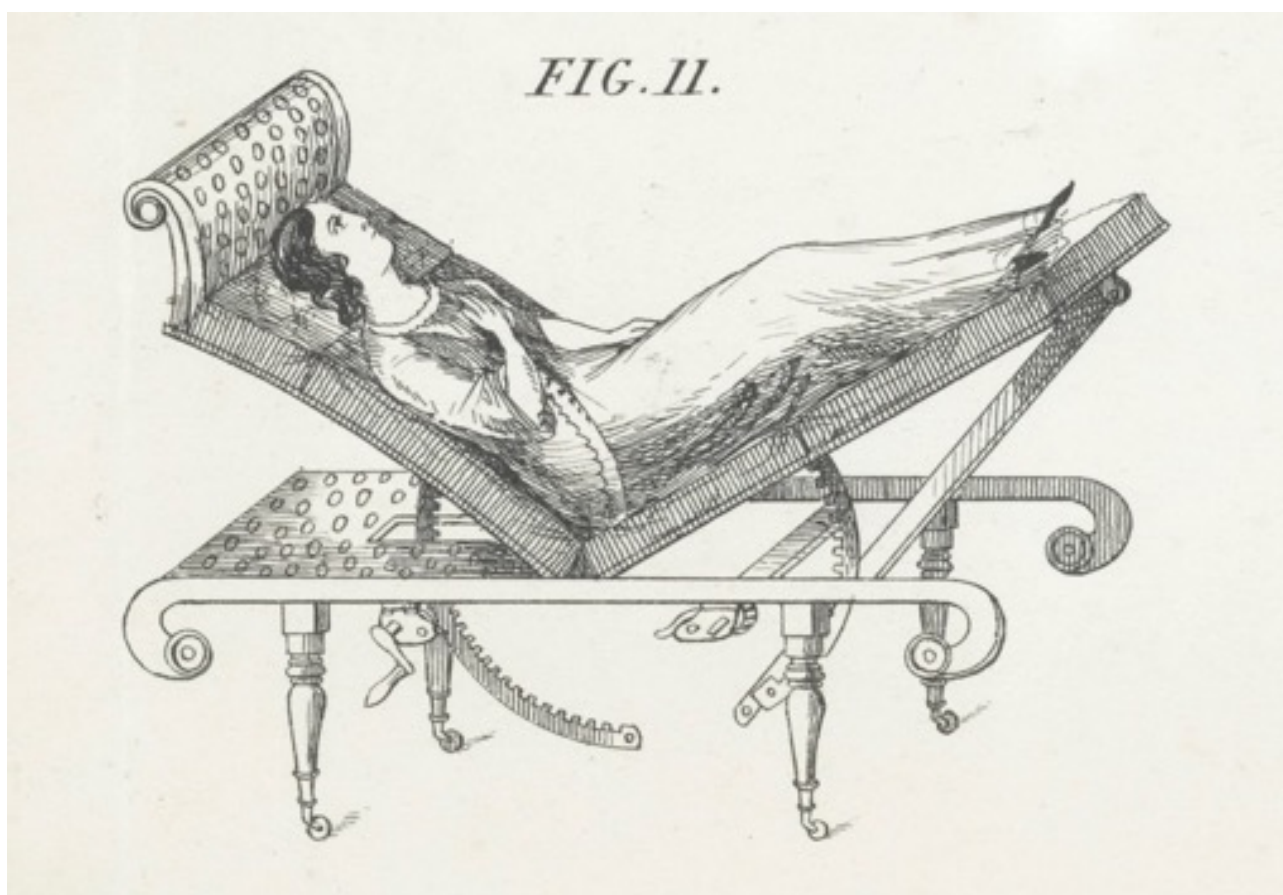
A patient entering a computerised tomography scanner, seen from the control room. Etching and aquatint by Virginia Powell, ca. 1995. Wellcome Collection.

Imagine this is the opening scene of a short story. Write about the scene in the third person.

**breathe in and out breathe in and  
hold your breath very still**

Now write a short  
monologue from  
the perspective  
of the patient.

Use this image as a prompt for a new story.



Adjusting couch for medical, surgical and general purposes. Wellcome Collection.

You can write in the first or third person.

## **Making Space**

Choose a sentence from below to begin

I heard a phone ring.

She was born on an island.

It had been raining for days.

The shadows in the room lengthened.

These micro guides are based on workshops designed and delivered for the Thinking Through Things project.

We are asking how thinking and feeling ‘through things’ can generate new understandings of health and wellbeing.

What other things will you think through?

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Anatomia capitis humani, in Marpurgensi Academia superiori anno [Johann Dryander].. Wellcome Collection.