

What is the duty of a Nurse in regard to visitors? Under the direction of the Physician, she is responsible for the welfare of the patient, and must endeavour to guard her from whatever might be harmful; but really it often requires more tact to manage the people *outside* of the sick-room than the patient within. If the Physician distinctly says what visitors are admissible, it will materially help the poor Nurse when contriving *how* to manage the numberless "particular friends" without causing offence, and still protecting the patient from injury.

This paper would hardly be complete without a few remarks concerning the visits of Physicians. We all know how comforting their calls usually are; with reassurance for the suffering and disheartened patient—giving directions whereby the condition of the hopeless case may be rendered less distressing, and encouraging the tired anxious watchers in the sick-room, with a care for each, appreciated the more because so sorely needed. Of course their visits will not be long enough to tire the patient, and I would also suggest that they ought not to appear hurried. The mind, weakened by disease, can act but slowly, and is easily diverted; and how distressing to remember, after the Doctor has hurried in, spoken a few words, and hurried out again, that what seemed most important has been forgotten and must wait another day.

"What can be done for our friends when suffering from contagious diseases," is a question which cannot be avoided sometimes. It is quite self-evident that no one should be unnecessarily exposed to the danger of contagion; but those who are thus afflicted suffer so acutely from a sense of helpless distress, loneliness, and desertion, not to be met with under any other circumstances. Our sympathies are especially enlisted in their behalf, and we long to alleviate their distress in every way consistent with the safety of others.

No one excepting those needed to care for the patients (and they should remain there) ought to enter a house containing patients suffering from a contagious disease; but there is very little danger incurred by talking *outside* of the house with one of the well inmates, who can give information concerning articles often urgently needed, with no means of procuring. Or notes and letters may be dictated, and messages delivered, all of which dare not be sent from the infected house. Such needs and services must be experienced to be appreciated, as many of us can testify. For these cases the preceding remarks about flowers, books, and messages of sympathy are particularly applicable.

The writer well remembers the feeling of desolation experienced on being sent to the contagious Ward of a Hospital just before Christmas, instead of going home, as anticipated; neither

will the efforts of kind friends be forgotten, whose remembrances reached and cheered her loneliness, brightening even the isolated cottage on that cold wintry day.

To many these remarks may seem uncalled-for, and unnecessarily severe; but to those who, with their patients, have suffered likewise, they will not, the writer feels assured.

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HOSPITAL MEMORIES.—No. V.

"MY BABY."

"IF you please, I've brought my two little boys to have their throats cut," said an out-patient's mother placidly one morning. It was a startling announcement, but a minute's reflection convinced her audience that she wanted to have their tonsils removed, and that, as she added the Doctor promised *to do* for them if they came that day, she probably had an appointment with the Surgeon.

The art of putting things is often very amusing amongst Hospital patients, and the ideas in the maternal brain are often slightly mixed. That a child should cut his teeth across his loins, or the small of his back, is of course a common freak of nature, but when you are told that a patient has "demon's legs," you get anxious, and uneasy feelings respecting the case creep over you, as you are unprepared for supernatural manifestations; and then it turns out that the word "oedema," as used by the Doctor, has been overheard, and a somewhat Biblical interpretation of it has been fixed in the memories of the relations. The uneducated mind is very fond of a long word, and often very curious as to the meaning of it, and here Sister must be discreet, and keep her own counsel carefully. She knows, alas! too well the meaning of the learned, and (to their credit be it mentioned) oftentimes disguised talk, of the Medical men; experience has taught her the cause, and probable outcome, of much of the suffering she sees around her; but she must keep the calm, inscrutable countenance of the Sphinx itself, when questioned by anxious relatives. Mother-in-law will descend upon her, and endeavour to extract information, which if given would destroy the domestic peace of a household, and great tact is required in dealing with the old lady, who is generally only too willing to put the worst construction on the manners and customs of her son-in-law or daughter-in-law, as the case may be, and endeavours by all kinds of leading questions to obtain some utterance from so great an authority as Sister, which she can use as a weapon of offence in future home quarrels.

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