

medicine suits dear Carry," &c. This is frequently done.

DON'T artlessly engage an enthusiastic nurse in professional conversation and draw from her delightfully harrowing details about former cases and hospital work, and afterwards deride her behind her back for "always talking shop" and "telling such terrible stories."

DON'T wonder, when you have grudgingly allowed the nurse six hours' rest in the twenty-four for a week that she is not "fresh as paint" at the end of that time. Wonderful to relate, a sick-nurse is a human being, and is as likely to be worn out as a signalman who does twelve hours' duty in the twenty-four.

DON'T marvel that a young woman with a healthy appetite does not find a cup of tea sufficient food when on night duty from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. Remember that hospitals provide two meals during the night for their night nurses—one a substantial one.

DON'T imagine, because a nurse does not admit unlimited friends to a patient's room, that it is always done out of sheer "contrariness." The irritation, the physical discomfort, and the lassitude induced by severe disease often cause patients to have no desire to see their nearest and dearest, strange as it seems to those in health. Very often the rest from even pleasurable emotion is a strong factor in treatment, and where the relatives and friends feel themselves aggrieved at not being allowed free access to the sick-room they should always appeal to the doctor for a definite statement, as the delicate task of "keeping people out of the room as much as possible" is often left to the nurse.

Often, also, alas! the nurse's announcement that Aunt So-and-so wants to see the sufferer is met with an irritable "For Heaven's sake, keep that chattering old woman out of the room. Tell her I'm asleep, tell her it's against doctor's orders, tell her *anything*, but don't let her in." So Aunt So-and-so trots off to say that poor Jim has a very uppish young woman for a nurse, who would not let her into the room.

And last, but not least, oh, my public—

DON'T send the fool of the family to be trained as a probationer; she will be of no more use in a hospital than she is at home, I assure you.

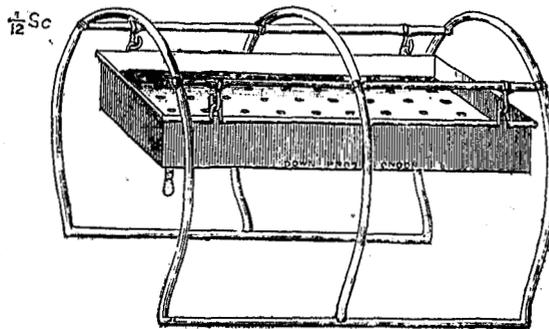
Believe me, oh, great general English public, the grumbling is not all on your side. I have known a nurse—really a lady (who could, therefore, see the humour of it)—who arrived at a house to nurse a case, for whom not the smallest attempt at sleeping accommodation had been provided. She was indebted to a good-natured housemaid who lent her her bed during the day. What a storm you would have made, my public, if your daughter, probationer at St. Somebody's Hospital, had been so treated!

I have heard of a great physician who found a

nurse at one of his cases in an almost fainting condition from hunger and fatigue. Fortunately, he was a big man as well as a humane man, and he there and then packed her into his carriage, carried her back to her hospital, and gave instructions that never again was that family to be supplied with nurses from his hospital. But that was an unusual man. I know plenty of similar tales. But you are not all, my public, by any means inconsiderate, and neither are all private nurses bad—not either, by any means. At present the good are made to suffer for the evil, and we have no means of sifting the tares from the wheat. But of one thing you may be sure: by the attitude you are taking with regard to trained nurses, your senseless—often ill-bred—jealousy, your harshness, your indifference, your lack of firmness with undesirables, the fact that you willingly accept any impostor who sports a bonnet and veil as a trained nurse, you are gradually squeezing out of the ranks of private nurses exactly those for whom you are clamouring. The sensitive, well-bred woman will not lay herself open to being classed with most undesirable women, and railed at in print. Personally, I would, at any stage of my career, have sooner accepted the hardest and most poorly-paid hospital appointment than have been a private nurse.

### An Ice-Cradle.

In an article on appendicitis in this issue we refer to an ice-cradle which is a great improvement on the usual cradle to which zinc pails filled with ice are attached. Even when these have flannel jackets the result is not entirely satisfactory, and though in an emergency these pails may be used, the cradle with a zinc tray attached is far better.



By the courtesy of the makers, Messrs. Down Brothers, of 21, St. Thomas's Street, Borough, we are able to give our readers an illustration of this cradle, which is useful not only in cases of appendicitis, but in any case of pyrexia, such as pneumonia, enteric fever, &c.

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