

chievous and dangerous notion, which ought to be eradicated from the public mind. Nature never made a waist round, slight or tapering, as though it were chiselled out of a block of wood; and why should we allow ourselves to be persuaded by the fashion-mongers that a thing which from an artistic standpoint is truly hideous, is otherwise than monstrous and repulsive? An artist who would make a nude figure with the waist modelled after a French corset, would not be allowed to exhibit his work in any respectable gallery.

A singular illustration of the inconsistency of human nature is to be found in the fact that the same artist who takes so great care of his "model's" figure that he will not allow her to wear a corset, or subject herself to waist constriction of any sort, never thinks to criticise his wife, who squeezes herself into a French mould of the latest pattern, regardless of the fact that the circumference of her trunk is decreased by several inches at the middle, only at the expense of a commensurate increase below the waist, making an unsightly protuberance of displaced adipose tissue, relaxed abdominal muscles, and a promiscuous assemblage of stomach, bowels, kidneys, spleen and other things, which have been forcibly ejected from the snug corners in which nature carefully stowed them away, and thrust into an unnatural and unsightly mass below. We see in the enormous busts and bustles which fashion prescribes, an evident attempt to cover up the uncouthness of form which the corset and other fashionable modes of torture have induced by means of these excrescences, and by their aid to approach as far as possible to the ideal figure, which, in its native grace and beauty, requires no such accessories.

Home Hospitals.

SOME IDEALS.—THE HOUSE.

THE ideal house for a Home Hospital has yet to be built, and a woman widely experienced in the management of such an institution must collaborate with the architect before good practical results can be obtained; we should then find space, light, comfort and *cupboards*, a combination many modern Hospitals sadly lack. But failing this ideal building, we must make the best of such houses as can be obtained for the purpose; and it goes without saying that in country towns it is much more easy to obtain a roomy unattached house than in London, especially when it must be at once recognised that the time of the great operating consultants, by whom such houses are used, is of the utmost value, and that it will be a convenience to him and to his patients that they shall be in close proximity. Therefore a woman who desires to make a Home Hospital successful in London must pitch her tent within half a mile of Cavendish Square.

In choosing a house, be careful that it is light, dry

and airy, and that the basement also possesses these advantages, as the maids pass much of their time downstairs, and a basement failing in these desirable qualities will speedily produce anæmia amongst women.

In taking a house, much care is necessary, and many details must be taken into consideration. First of all, let it be located in a quiet street or square; let it have an open space at the back, where rugs and mats may be well beaten, as the policeman, proverbial for obtuseness, will interfere with preremptory officialdom if he perceives these necessary and domestic duties being performed on the pavement, although he will daily shut his eyes and ears to every species of abuse and item of municipal mismanagement.

Then, before signing a lease, obtain the opinion of a first-rate sanitary engineer as to the condition of the drains; have the concrete in the back yard and area taken up, and the quality and size of drain pipes examined; get his opinion on the water system and cisterns, and in fact make quite sure that the house is in perfect repair from a sanitary point of view before signing the lease.

The best conducted Home Hospitals are those which contain from six to twelve beds—not more—as it is then possible for the Superintendent to be on intimate personal terms with each patient; she is able to visit each one several times daily, know their likes and dislikes, and study their characteristics; she is also able to accompany the doctor during his visits, herself hear directions for treatment given, and make herself entirely responsible for efficient management in every detail.

The patients' rooms should have floors which will wash or polish, polished furniture of elegant and convenient shape, and painted or tinted walls. A convenient suite will consist of a Beaconsfield wardrobe, with surgical cupboard fitted with all the surgical appliances necessary as follows:—1 tin dirty dressing bowl, 1 glass graduated catheter bowl, 1 glass lotion bowl, 1 kidney receiver, 1 glass receiver, 1 graduated lotion measure, 1 urinometer glass, 1 ounce medicine measure, 1 minim medicine measure, 1 glass syringe, 1 china oil measure, 1 olive oil glass with cover, 1 carbolic oil glass with cover, 1 enema syringe, 1 clinical thermometer, two dressing mackintoshes.

On the washstand should be found a large china jug and *square* basin—the latter will be found much more convenient than a round basin—soap dish, tooth brush jar, bottle and glass, drinking tumbler, nail brush, and pretty hot-water brass jug. In the drawers should be kept on one side, sanitary paper, dusters and rubber, on the other, medicine glass cloths and doctors' towels, soap, &c.; in a centre closed cupboard the bed-pan and slipper can be hidden away. One drawer in the dressing table should be reserved for tray cloths and dinner napkins. The bed is, of course, the most important item of furniture in a sick room, and should be 3 feet wide by 6 feet 6 inches long, and should be so constructed that it can be easily taken to pieces. It should consist of brass frame with coiled spring mattress in iron frame, covered with a strong crash washing cover, a well-stuffed hair mattress in washable holland cover, blankets of the best, as they are light and warm, and large pillows, about 26 inches wide by 34 long, stuffed with the best *white feathers*, which are not so stuffy and hot as down; as a coverlet have a twilled cotton sheet and open-work lace quilt, both of which permit of free ventilation and are easily washed.

(To be continued.)

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