

is something more than mere gratitude because of returning health, but there is a feeling of affection and a warm appreciation of the interest which has prompted the physician or the nurse to do what a daughter or a mother of such a household would have done for the patient.

One reason why people are careless in handling another's private property is the fact that they do not appreciate the value of such property.

We are told by the friends, in their great fear, which is paramount to everything in the minds of the relatives, to spare nothing to save the life of the patient. That cannot mean to any well-ordered mind the license to destroy or to wantonly use up costly and valuable belongings. For instance, if every nurse knew that a new pair of handsome woollen blankets cost, perhaps, twelve dollars, and were valuable in many houses only while they were new and fresh, and after being put to the wash their value had decreased at least by one-half, the nurse would not be likely to use these things in a way to needlessly destroy them. In all houses where such handsome things are there are also half-worn and half-used-up duplicates which answer the purpose quite as well in the hands of a nurse, and which do not cause such heartaches to the housekeeper when she gets about if she finds them destroyed.

The first time this question was thrust upon me personally was when a friend of mine was sick with typhoid fever and a trained nurse was brought in, and everything was being done to make the patient safe and comfortable, and after her recovery she told me that all the handsome towels she had in the house were used up and thrown in a closet in one week's time, so that it was necessary to borrow a supply for the household. I have been in but few houses better supplied with everything which money and good taste could procure.

Another of the objections urged is that the things that are used are not restored to their former condition of cleanliness and order, and that a maid is necessary to wait on many nurses. I sometimes think that nurses feel that only the things that are directly in the line of their hospital training should be done and all others are beneath them. Such persons can never become good nurses, for it is not wholly the relation of the employer and employee that exists, but it is the friendly and helpful spirit which prompts a good nurse to do anything that the wife or the daughter of the household would do under similar circumstances.

I once sent a nurse into a very refined and charming household in a distant city to take care of the housewife, who was then quite advanced in years. The ailment was not a very

serious one, but after her recovery she had the strongest prejudice against trained nurses, and the reason for it was chiefly that the nurse who had her in charge failed to arrange the chairs and furniture about the room in an orderly manner or to dust and make bright the little ornaments of which she was fond in the room—and especially that she allowed the ashes on the hearth to be blown over the rug to its injury, instead of brushing it up, as would her daughter or her neighbour have done in the same circumstances.

These may, perhaps, be very trivial matters, but they make the difference between a nurse being wanted again in a household or being resisted when the doctor advises that one be brought in for an emergency. In small households where it is necessary for a nurse to go into the kitchen to prepare things, an opportunity for the exercise of that economy presents itself again which makes the greatest difference in the cost of the sickness to that family.

It is a very common trait of character, however, to find that people who are employed by corporations and in large business houses are not as careful of the owner's property as they would be of their own. If this comes from the cause I have mentioned,—namely, a want of knowledge of the value of such property and how to care for it,—there is more excuse than as if it were the result of mere recklessness and the want of regard for other people's rights.

The old saying that "an invitation to ride is not a permission to drive" applies very well to the position of a trained nurse and the doctor and the family during a case of sickness. It is well to remember that the income from the earnings of the average mechanic or skilled labourer is not greater than that of the trained nurse during the time she is occupied, and, if you take out of such earnings the necessary household expenses, that of caring for the invalid in addition is so great that when the bills are paid this family must be denied many of the actual necessities of life. While with those who are living upon incomes it is very often the case that the method of living is all the income will bear, and the extra expense of a long sickness means very rigid economy for a long period, or an actual doing without many things that they have been accustomed to, before the family is again even with the world.

It is not strange, therefore, when you realize that all classes of people have to observe economy in order to live comfortably and well, that none like the sin of wastefulness in their households or destructiveness of household supplies which have been procured at the greatest care and trouble to occur, even though it happens during the peril of a great sickness.

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