

He proposed that a resolution such as the Chairman had indicated be adopted. Mr. Boyd seconded the motion. On behalf of the committee he might say that they did appreciate very highly the earnest zeal with which Miss Fawcett carried out her duties. Since Miss Fawcett was compelled to retire, the institution had been going on in a very satisfactory way, and the machinery set in motion by her had been such as to make them remember how well she served the institution. Mr. Henry Carr supported the motion. It was always a pleasure and satisfaction to work with Miss Fawcett, and the longer he knew her in connection with the institution the more he became convinced of the great value of her services as Matron. Nothing had ever given him greater regret since he became a member of the committee than to hear that, owing to ill-health, she had been compelled to resign her position. The resolution was adopted.

It must indeed be gratifying to Miss Fawcett that her arduous work has met with such sympathetic appreciation, and we also hope, that with rest, she will be able to re-enter the profession to which she has proved so good an example.

It is not a little surprising (says the *Courier of Medicine*), in view of the constant efforts of architects to design and construct dwelling houses that will have the maximum of comfort, convenience, and beauty, with a minimum of cost, they have failed to comprehend and hence to provide for one of the most useful features of the modern house, namely, that of a room which, when the necessity arises, can be easily and quickly converted into a hospital room. The architects probably have not had the desirability of this feature impressed upon them, and the physician, therefore, will have to become responsible for its introduction. Such a room could be constructed with but a slight increase over the otherwise estimated cost of the dwelling house, and its value would be incalculable. The ceiling, walls, floor, and furniture should be so constructed that they could be washed clean or otherwise rendered aseptic without injury, and regard should be had for obtaining the best possible light, ventilation, control of temperature, sanitation, access, and isolation, together with accessibility to water and toilet adjuncts.

This room should be one of the most pleasant in the entire house, and need not be reserved for use only in time of illness in the family; nevertheless, when occasion arises, it may within half an hour be changed into a more or less complete hospital room. The advantages of such a room

are many and far reaching. Its usefulness in isolating the child with a suspicious tonsillar exudate from the rest of the children in the family will more than repay its first cost; again, where surgical interference is necessary, particularly in emergency cases, how vastly greater are the patient's chances for recovery than in an extemporised operating room. For the unfortunate members of the family afflicted with pulmonary tuberculosis they would be placed under the most favourable surroundings possible in the home, and would at the same time be affording protection to the rest of the family from the contagion. Not the least of the benefits of the hospital room would be its usefulness as an object lesson to the laity in thus affording them a practical demonstration of the value of isolation, asepsis, and antisepsis, and at the same time educating them to a degree of self-reliance in the care and nursing of the sick.

Does not this suggestion rather point to the fact that the construction, even of our modern houses, leaves much to be desired in bedroom accommodation? We think so. Why not polished floors, and rugs instead of nailed-down dusty carpet, washable walls, and a method of ventilation other than a thorough draught between doors, chimney, and window. The bed also might be a suitable height and width for nursing with advantage and certainly in London some means must now be adopted of keeping out noise, as no legislation of any sort touches the crashing, springless, lumbering carts, railway companies and Pickfordian firms are permitted to use, in shaking the very foundations of our houses each time they dash, all chains a-jingle, up and down the ill-paved street.

Human nature seems pretty much the same all the world over, and though we are accustomed to regard our American colleagues as much more united and of one mind than ourselves, yet several little birds have recently whispered in our ear that even amongst American nursing graduates the little demon of jealousy rears his ugly head not unfrequently, and that private nurses there, as here, are a difficult class to cater for. Some of them are "lovely" and most pleasant in the house, but others, though every effort is made to secure their comfort, pack up and leave their hostess with scant notice, and no thanks, if they think that they have found a lodging where they will be "done for" on a slightly decreased scale of charges. We hear further that an American physician has said that the two most jealous classes of professional workers he knows are trained nurses, and medical practitioners, and that the latter come out *facile princeps*!

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)