

about her hospital life, about the out-patients and the sick.

"Do the doctors tell poor people the truth?" Katherine questioned.

"Not always," said the nurse, "it depends. If they really want to know, because they ought to, then, of course, they tell them, but not otherwise. Still they are more open with them than with private patients, no doubt."

"Katherine made her describe again and again with the utmost minuteness all the details of the hospital routine.

"Now tell me from the beginning," she would say. "A woman comes with a letter—what is it you call it? Yes, an out-patient's letter, and she has to sit hours and hours."

"Then the nurse would explain the hospital regulations, and she would question and cross-question her on every detail. Sometimes the nurse wondered at her great eagerness, but finally settled that she perhaps intended to leave money to the charity, or build a new ward, and so she took pains to give her all the information she demanded.

"The nurse prided herself that she could generally 'place' patients, but Katherine completely mystified her. She was young, she was rich, she was beautiful. She possessed more expensive clothes than any she had ever seen. Every wish that she expressed was gratified, and yet she seemed to care for nothing. It was certainly a bad sign, and the woman wondered why she showed no desire to see her friends. The loss of her husband might account for this apathy. Her grief might have shattered her, for the disease from which she was suffering would not yet have so undermined her strength as to hinder her desire for change and enjoyment. But she had never spoken of her grief, or behaved in the way bereaved people invariably did, according to her experience. It was very odd, she would say to herself; and a feeling of profound pity, almost akin to contempt, possessed her, when she thought how little use this woman made of the good things of life which were scattered around her in such profusion."

All sorts and conditions of nurses have I known, but thank God never have I met this coarse-fibred little snob—with her callous contempt for the poor, who finds squalor in their suffering. Rather are not our nurses almost fiercely pitiful towards the sick in hovel and tenement? With the elegant ailments of the society neurotic, patience is sometimes strained to breaking point. But may the day never come when our nurses can find a place in the Book of Snobs.

S. R. V.

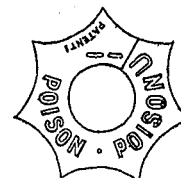
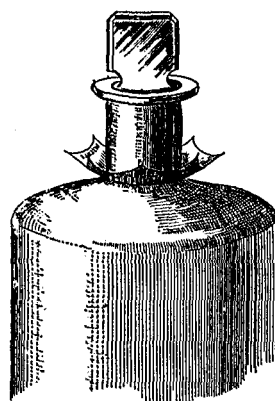
Sir Edward Fry will be the president of the twenty-third annual congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute, to be held this year at Bristol. A prize of £50 and the medal of the Institute are offered for an essay conveying suggestions for an improvement in sanitary appliances used in workmen's dwellings.

## Practical Points.

### A New Poison Label.

Acts of Parliament have been passed, compelling Chemists and Druggists to dispense poisonous compounds in bottles distinguishable by touch, and recommending such to be distinctly labelled. Still cases of accidental poisoning occur. Bottles of unusual or even grotesque shape are no longer to be relied upon, as they are used for a variety of purposes; and labels are liable to be washed off.

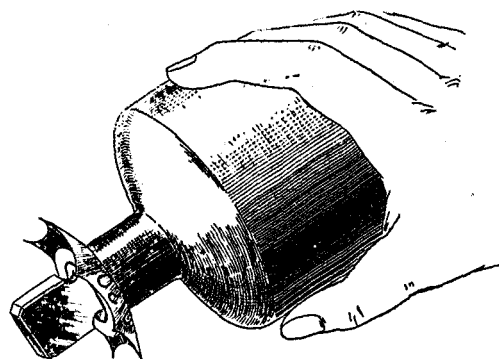
Something to be attached to the bottle, not easily detached, never failing to give warning in various



ways, has long been wanted, and the cost must be trifling or it will not be used.

The appliance illustrated has been tried and proved for some months past, and appears to fulfil all requirements.

It is attached to, but runs freely along, the neck of the bottle. In six ways it acts as sentinel. If you do not see it shine in the dusk, you will hear it ring or feel it rattle on touching the bottle. On proceeding to the cork you will be sure to touch it. On



pulling out the cork you will rattle it. If you attempt to pour out of the bottle, you will jingle it upon the edge of cup or spoon. If you try to drink from the bottle you will feel it.

It is made in sizes to suit all sizes of bottles by the International Bottle Company, 19, St. Dunstan's Hill, E.C., and sold by wholesale houses at the low price of 4s. a gross.

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