

"I beg your pardon—I—I—don't think I heard you correctly," I stammered.

"I only wished to know where the Macula Lutea is."

"Oh! It is the most sensitive spot of the retina."

"I thank you. I have been reading something that incidentally referred to it. I thought it must be there. Very good train this, is it not? Good morning!" And he departed.

I saw no one else of medical interest until I was returning from Church on the first Sunday of my holiday, when Mrs. Smart overtook me.

"So glad you have come home before we go away. We are going to Norway to-morrow for six weeks, and I wanted to see you so much before we go, because I want you to show me how to massage to reduce fat."

"I am sorry, Mrs. Smart, but I could not possibly teach you to massage in one day; it takes a long time to learn."

"Oh! does it? I thought you did a twisty sort of movement with the palms of your hands, and that you would not mind showing me as we walked home. I shall not have another minute to spare before we leave to-morrow. Don't you do it somehow like that?"

I explained to that dear lady that it was impossible to teach massage on the King's highway, and that one lesson, any way, would be of no use to her. She seemed very dissatisfied, and said good-bye quite coolly.

A few days later I was strolling through the village when a woman came up to me and said:

"You'll excuse me, Miss, but I heard as how you were a nurse, and I thought you wouldn't mind me asking you something."

"Certainly," I said, "Ask anything you like, and I will answer you if I can."

"Well, it's like this. My man works in the quarries, and he's been and ruptured hisself, and the doctor says he must go to 'orspital and have an operation. Now, do you think he ought to go?"

"Yes, certainly, if the doctor says so. The sooner he goes the better."

"Well, what'll happen if he don't go?"

"If he does not go he may hurt the ruptured part so badly that he would have to have an operation at short notice to save his life, and that would be difficult here, with the nearest hospital twenty-five miles away."

"Yes, I see. If he went, how long would he have to stop?"

"About three weeks."

"Then he'd have to get undressed and go to bed?"

"Oh, yes; he would be in bed nearly all the time. As soon as he was well enough to travel he would come home."

"Be in bed, day and night, with nurses like you walking about?"

"Yes."

"Then he'll never go; he'd die fust! My man's too shy to do anything like that."

"But there are lots of other men there. I believe in the County Hospital they have from twenty to thirty beds in each ward. He would not mind, with all those men there."

"Yes he would; my man ain't one of those brassy ones—he's shy, he is. I am much obliged to you. Good night, Miss."

I went on my way, refreshed by this instance of the modesty of the modern man.

Then, towards the end of my stay, I foregathered with the village nurse. She was a very busy woman, and had had no training, but *loads* of experience. She attended every form of illness, and always assisted at pig-killings. Altogether, she was a great character, and quite a personage in the village. She told me she didn't hold with people staying in bed too much, and always made her patients get up a day or two sooner than the doctor told them to. But just then she was greatly troubled. She had a patient who was paralysed, whom she washed as often as necessary, and sometimes when it was not necessary; and she had noticed a strange tingling in her hands since she attended that patient. And a terrible fear had taken possession of her that paralysis was catching!

M.H.

School Hygiene Congress.

A preliminary programme for the Second International Congress on School Hygiene has just been issued. The Congress, of which the King is patron, is to be held at London University during the first week in August, under the presidency of Sir Lauder Brunton. Delegates are to attend the Congress from the United States, Austria, France, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Finland, Greece, Holland, Japan, Italy, South Africa, Sweden, and Switzerland. Sectional meetings will be held for the discussion of various questions connected with the instruction of teachers and children in hygiene. It was determined at the first Congress, held in Nuremberg in 1904, that the educational and hygienic movement going on in the British Empire should be acknowledged by holding the next meeting in London, and probably the congress of 1910 will be held in France.

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