

things you told me about private work? You said there were other sorts; I think this must be one of them. Tell me, are we supposed to want a night's sleep?"

"Well, no; you are trained to like broken nights."

"Oh, are we? Are we also trained to eat food that the hospital cat wouldn't look at?"

"Of course, with sickness in the house you can't expect to have everything perfect."

"Perfect! did you say? Tell me, is there any limit to the work we are expected to do, or any work we are not expected to do?"

"Personally, I always draw the line at cleaning windows and doorsteps."

"You do? I am thankful to know there is a line somewhere. I came here ten days ago. As it was an operation case I turned the room out and we cleaned it—that is, the cook, nurse-housemaid, and I. The household consists of my patient, her sister, and these two servants—may I never meet them alone on a dark night. I don't think that room or the things in it had ever been clean before. My patient wept, and said it would hurt the servant's feelings, which I suppose it did, judging from the way they have behaved ever since. The operation went off all right, and she is doing well. By the way, do you do your patients' hair as though they were going to a ball while they are in bed?"

"Yes, sometimes. Why?"

"My patient likes hers done in that way. I can't do hair, so the sister does that. You also said something about a nice bedroom—do you always get a bedroom?"

"Not always. I sometimes have to put up with a bed in the bathroom or on the landing. What is your's like?"

"Haven't got one. I sat up two nights, three I laid on the sofa, and since then I have slept in the box-room, which is five feet eight long, and I—well, I am five feet eight also. And what do you usually do about clean towels and sheets?"

"Sometimes they haven't enough, but you can get the laundry to send them back quicker."

"There is no laundry. We have a woman in to wash, and she can't come more than one day a week. The rest of the week Auntie and the two servants are folding and ironing; and I find that if I want anything I must also fold and iron, and sometimes wash. Do you clean your patient's room?"

"Oh, no. I sometimes do the dusting, and the wash-stand."

"I have to do the lot. The nurse-housemaid has to take the children in the morning. In the afternoon she does something else—

what, I do not know—and the children do as they please. They usually please to cry, so, as I expect my patient to sleep in the afternoon, and Auntie always rests at that time, I have to take the children out for the sake of peace and quietness. I wish we were in a town and not a poky village; one could get something to eat then. I am so hungry. Do you ever get hungry?"

"Yes; sometimes one has to buy food or starve. I usually buy plain chocolate, and eggs are useful. I am going to London to-morrow, and will send you a box of eatables down."

"Do, there's a dear! I don't want to attend a Coroner's inquest as—Body. Send me something solid. I am so hungry, and the nearest shop is six miles away. I can't think how these people live; they never have a square meal or anything decently cooked. I don't like to ask for things because I am afraid they are poor."

"It does not follow," said I. "In fact, the worst house I ever was in for food was a pious and rich old lady's. I was on night duty, and had one meal out every day. When I discovered she was rich, I thought I would give her a gentle hint, so bought some sausages and toasted them in front of her fire. She remarked that my supper smelt appetising. I said, 'Yes. I bought these sausages when I was out this morning, and I hope they will taste as good as they smell.' She answered—'I hope so, nurse, and I hope you have not forgotten to give thanks to the Giver of all good things.' That was just what I had forgotten, and my little hint was not taken. How long do you expect to be here?"

"I don't know—wish I did. Don't tell anyone about me, ther's a dear; and don't say that I push the kiddies out every day. Just say that I am very well."

"That is all very well, but you can't come back looking like this. You look as though you need a holiday pretty badly."

"I shall not come back. I shall ask to be sent on to another case at once, and trust that Allah will be merciful, and send me a case where I shall at least get a little sleep and some decent food. Everyone said I should not be able to stand it, so go through with it I will, and no one but you shall know the hardships of my first private case." M. H.

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The Local Government Board has issued an Order with respect to the regulations governing the appointment, duties, salary, and tenure of office of health visitors, who may be women appointed by any sanitary authority in London under the London County Council Act, 1908.

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