

bubbles over he rolls on the ground and groans for sheer joy!

On the rare occasions when the stress and strain of life reduce me to tears he is instantly at my side, trying to thrust his muzzle under my hands, and uttering plaintive little cries of concern and sympathy. When I am ill he will lie silent and motionless for hours at my feet.

Once I broke my green lampshade, and while writing I put up my left hand to screen my eyes from the glare. A piteous sound from Scrope, who was sitting on a chair opposite, made me look up. His face was sharpened into an expression of the keenest distress and anxiety. I had to jump up and hug him, and assure him that his "muvver" was not crying, but was only shielding her eyes from the light. Could anyone feel lonely with such a companion?

A dog makes so many demands on the mother principle in one, that to do one's duty by him is a sure antidote to impatience and selfishness. I can never forget that Scrope's happiness and welfare depend entirely on myself.

And because of my own little Scrope-dog, I love all other dogs.

This competition has aroused much interest. No wonder; no woman who does not love animals can be a really sympathetic nurse.

We, of course, thought the dog would be first favourite, and the other dear animals would come second. This, however, is not the case, for although twenty times as many nurses love dogs best, some competitors prefer horses, cows, goats, and silver Wyandotte hens!

Not one competitor has given the cat first place in her affections. This is strange, as much affection is lavished on cats, although they return but little.

Miss Maria Woodward writes:—

"The animals I like best are a good winter laying pen of silver Wyandotte hens. (1) Because I get a nice basket of eggs to send to an invalid. (2) By proceeds of sale of some eggs at 2½d. each is sent help to a London deaconess to distribute little delicacies to the sick poor. (3) All household scraps can be used up for birds' dinner. (4) Gives me much recreation and amusement attending to the hens, especially at hatching-out time, which I find an antidote to my sometimes anxious duties, and often domestic worries.

Truly animals are like children in this respect. A half-hour spent in a children's ward will charm away many worries and anxieties.

How to Succeed as a Private Nurse.

By MISS ELIZABETH BARTON.

The private nurse to be successful must have a thorough and clear knowledge of nursing, both theoretically and practically, for she will often be left for a considerable time to act on her own responsibility.

The medical man being often out of reach, she will, in cases of great emergency, and, in many small matters, have to rely on her own judgment.

QUALIFICATIONS.

To be really successful, she must above all other things be

Adaptable, have a sound and ready observation, be tactful, calm, humble, and obedient. She must be quiet in movements, and in the discharge of her duties. Maintain quietness of *mind* in cases of emergency, be a woman of delicate feeling, and have a genuine sympathy with suffering.

Loyalty.—The private nurse must be—(a) Loyal to the doctor under whom she works. (b) Loyal when taken into the patient's or the family's confidence.

Gossip.—She must be no gossip, nor relate weird hospital experiences. Gossip can do no possible good, but it may do an immense amount of harm.

Duties.—As regards the patient's diet or treatment, the doctor's orders must be strictly carried out.

The patient will undoubtedly make his wishes known as regards his toilette if he is not unconscious, delirious, or too ill to think for himself, or, unless he is a child.

Household duties will often fall to the lot of a private nurse. Such duties must be performed cheerfully and willingly in a manner in which there is no suggestion of the martyr.

Manners.—(a) To the patient: A kindly, cheerful, and pleasant manner is indispensable. She must be gentle, very patient and forbearing with her patient, study his whims and temperament, for certain peculiarities of temperament are often the result of disease. The private nurse must be ready to sacrifice herself, her off-duty time, or her sleep, within reason, if needs be. Must have perfect self-control, and suppress all signs of impatience, at least, in the presence of the patient, or the patient's friends. Avoid whispering or loud talk, as it is irritating to the patient.

(b) Manner to the doctor: She must be professional, truthful, and obedient. Give an

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