

vale does ; and I don't doubt he likes to get on with what he's at—Percivale does, for he's ever so much better company when he has got on with his picture ; and I know he likes to see me well dressed—at least I haven't tried him with anything else yet, for I have plenty of clothes for a while ; and then for the dinner, which I believe was one of the points in the description I gave—I wish Percivale cared a little more for his, for then it would be easier to do something for him. As to the newspaper, there I fear I must give him up, for I have never yet seen him with one in his hand. He's so stupid about some things !”

“Oh ! you've found that out, have you ? Men are stupid ; there's no doubt of that. But you don't know my Walter yet.”

I looked up, and, behold, Percivale was in the room ! His face wore such a curious expression that I could hardly help laughing. And no wonder ! for here was I on my knees, clasping my first visitor, and to all appearance pouring out the woes of my wedded life in her lap—woes so deep that they drew tears from her as she listened. All this flashed upon me as I started to my feet, but I could give no explanation ; I could only make haste to introduce my husband to my cousin Judy.

He behaved of course as if he had heard nothing. But I fancy Judy caught a glimpse of the awkward position, for she plunged into the affair at once.

“Here is my cousin, Mr. Percivale, has been abusing my husband to my face, calling him rich and stupid, and I don't know what all. I confess he is so stupid as to be very fond of me, but that's all I know against him.”

And her handkerchief went once more to her eyes.

“Dear Judy !” I expostulated, “you know I didn't say one word about him.”

“Of course I do, you silly coz !” she cried, and burst out laughing. “But I won't forgive you except you make amends by dining with us to-morrow.”

Thus for the time she carried it off ; but I believe, and have since had good reason for believing, that she had really mistaken me at first, and been much annoyed.

She and Percivale got on very well. He showed her the portrait he was still working at—even accepted one or two trifling hints as to the likeness, and they parted the best friends in the world.

Glad as I had been to see her, how I longed to see the last of her ! The moment she was gone, I threw myself into his arms, and told him how it came about. He laughed heartily.

“I was a little puzzled,” he said, “to hear you inform a lady I had never seen that I was so very stupid.”

“But I wasn't telling a story either, for you know that you are ve-e-ry stupid, Percivale. You don't know a leg from a shoulder of mutton, and you can't carve a bit. How ever you can draw as you do is a marvel to me, when you know nothing about the shapes of things. It was very wrong to say it, even for the sake of covering poor Mrs. Morley's husband ; but it was quite true, you know.”

“Perfectly true, my love,” he said, with something else where I've only put commas ; “and I mean to remain so in order that you may always have something to fall back upon when you get yourself into a scrape by forgetting that other people have husbands as well as you.”

(To be continued.)

The “Nursing Record” POST-CARD EXAMINATIONS.

No. 13.

A Book or Books of the value of Five Shillings will be awarded to the best answer to the following question, addressed, “Nursing Record Post-Card Competition,” St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, E.C. All answers to this question to reach us not later than February 7th, 1891 :—

“Describe in full the best method of making a Mustard Plaster or Sinapism.”

(a) The answer must be written (neatness and distinctness count to credit) in ink, on a *thick* post-card, with the full name and address of the candidate at the *top*. The successful candidate's answer will be printed in *fac-simile*.

(b) All associated with nursing work are accepted as candidates, but in case of a “tie” a subscriber will naturally have preference, and for this reason each candidate must mention at the *bottom* of the post-card, “I am a subscriber,” or “I obtain the NURSING RECORD from—”

(c) The decision of the Examiners to be final.

* Give name and address of newsagent where obtained.

COMPETITIVE PRIZE ESSAY. TWENTY-THIRD COMPETITION.

A Book or Books of the value of One Guinea will be awarded for an Essay upon the following subject :—

“Describe for a Hospital containing fifty beds the number of Nursing Officials, Staff, Pupils, or Probationers, required ; mention their duties, their hours, and the regulations necessary for satisfactory working.”

RULES.

1.—Contributions must reach the Editor, at the office of THE NURSING RECORD, not later than Saturday, March 7th, 1891, addressed as follows :—“Prize Essay Competition, THE NURSING RECORD, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.”

2.—Manuscript must be written distinctly in ink and on one side of the paper only, upon not less than 24 nor more than 48 pages of ordinary-sized ruled sermon paper. The pages must be numbered and fastened together.

3.—The real and full name and address (stating whether Miss or Mrs., of the Competitor must be inscribed on the back of each contribution, and notification of which Hospital or Institution the Competitor has been or is attached to.

4.—Trained Nurses or those personally associated with Nursing work only allowed to compete.

Winners in previous Competitions are permitted to compete, but in case of a “tie” the prize would be awarded to the Competitor who has not secured a prize before.

The decision of the Prize Essay Editor to be final, and any infringement of the above Rules will be considered a disqualification.

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