

Red Pepper chuckled. "I can foresee," he said, "that you're going to take the side of the unhappy patient, from the start — worse luck for me! Yes, they're grateful if I can relieve them, but the trouble is I can't relieve them — not the particular class I have in mind. They won't do as I order. And as long as I can't get them comfortably down in bed, where the nurse and I have the upper hand, they'll continue to carry out half of my directions — the half they approve, and neglect the other half — the really important half, and then come round and tell me I haven't helped them any — and why not? Oh, well — far be it from me to complain of the routine work, much as I prefer the sort which calls for all the skill and resource I happen to possess. And the dull part is going to take on a new interest, now, when I can escape from the office into my wife's quarters, between times, where no patient can follow me."

She smiled, watching a big cloud, low on the horizon before them, break into fragments and dissolve into blue sky and sunshine. "I hope," said she, "to be able to make those quarters attractive. You remember I haven't seen them yet — not even the bare rooms."

"That's bothered me a good deal, in spite of the assurance you gave me, when we discussed it by letter. If I hadn't been so horribly busy, and had