

She leaned her head wearily on her hand.

"I think Jack would probably have wished it," she mused. "He was so fond of him, he would have been sure to like me to marry him better than anyone else. It isn't as if I should be likely to love anyone else, because I know I shouldn't. If I don't accept Guy Fawcett I may have to stay on here indefinitely, and I can't do that—I can't," and she clenched her hands. "And why shouldn't I go to him? I don't care where I am, or what I am so that I am not here. If I go away I might forget a little, but here I never can—never, never. Oh! Jack," and she buried her face in her hands, "I want you every hour of every day; it can't be that I shall never see your dear face again!"

She started up with a convulsive movement.

"Oh! I can't bear it," she moaned. "The emptiness and the monotony and the craving are killing me. I thought I could drown feeling, but I can't. Every step and every stone reminds me of him here; it might not be so bad somewhere else and I have no other chance to get away."

"But you don't love him," whispered a voice within her.

"I can't help that," she reasoned, "and at least I like him better than any other man. He says he will be content with a little. He isn't very much in love with me, I know he isn't by the way he talks. Some people say it is better so. That passionate love soon burns itself out and often ends in

misery, while affection lasts on. Yes! yes!" and she pressed her hand to her head to still its violent throbbing, "I will let him come. Whatever I do, fate is cruel to me so I will take the easiest path and brave it. At any rate I couldn't be worse off, and for him—it is his wish."

Not long after a letter fell into the letter-box, which made its way to Guy Fawcett's hands.

It only contained a few words, but those were enough, and the next train to the north bore him with it.

They plighted their strange troth that very evening in the little summer-house in the garden, with the snow all about them and a cheerless grey sky overhead.

Madge was a little diffident and cold, but Guy thought he had never seen her look so beautiful as in her rich sable furs. Besides, he had seen her in this mood so often that it did not strike him particularly.

"You are sure you understand that I am not capable of loving deeply, and shall be much the same to you that I always have been," she said doubtfully.

"Yes," he answered cheerfully. "It's just as well, because I couldn't be desperately in love myself, but I'm awfully fond of you, Madge, and I'll do my best to make you happy."

"Don't set your heart on succeeding," she said, "for you'll only be disappointed. You can't make me forget."

"Anyhow, I can try," was the hopeful answer, "and I know you'll like London."

"I can't do any visiting among your

friends," she said, "I detest all that sort of thing. You won't mind, I suppose?"

"Rather not, I hate it myself. I haven't any but men friends, so you won't be bothered."

"I'm glad," and she turned away as if to go in.

"Then it is settled?" he asked eagerly.

She bent her head slightly.

"Then I'll go and see Mr. Harcourt now," he said, and slipping his arm through hers they walked to the house together.

Before they left the seclusion of the shrubbery however, Guy stopped suddenly.

"I should like a kiss, Madge," he said, a little doubtfully.

For answer she turned her cold, clear-cut face to his and received, in unresponsive silence, his first salute. As his lips touched hers, he was conscious of a chill sense of disappointment, but he shook it aside and laughed a little.

"You are a very cold queen," he said, with an attempt at lightness.

But Madge did not smile. "I'm not fond of kissing and all that sort of thing," she said, and moved forward.

Guy felt a little further chilled, but he would not give way to it, and in a few paces they reached the house.

Finally, three months later, before the snow-drops were quite dead and when the spring flowers were just appearing, Madge Harcourt and Guy Fawcett became "man and wife."

(To be continued.)



HINTS ON HOME NURSING.

ICE

is employed in various ways in illness as a remedy. The ice-bag is applied to the head in cases where there is severe pain, and to various parts of the body to reduce inflammation. If a proper bag is not at hand, a common bladder from the butcher may be used filled with ice broken up into small pieces, so as to lie on the part more comfortably; if a cork is placed in the centre it may be tied more securely. The ice-bag should be slung over the place so that the weight of the bag does not rest on the part, but just be in contact with it; a piece of folded flannel or lint should be placed under it so that the bag does not rest on the bare skin; it might cause gangrene without this precaution.

Ice is given to stop sickness, or in cases of hæmorrhage from the lungs, a small piece is placed on the tongue frequently. Ice should be kept in large lumps if possible, and these ought to be wrapped in a flannel or blanket. When required to be kept by the bedside a piece of flannel is tied over a cup or basin,

the ice resting in the centre, the water then runs, when melted, into a cup, and prevents the ice from melting too quickly. A darning needle or bonnet pin is the best thing to break up the ice with, if a proper ice pick is not at hand.

IN CROUP

place the child in a warm mustard bath. Give an emetic of one teaspoonful of vin ipecac in water, or if this is not at hand, an emetic of salt or mustard and water. After removing the child from the bath place in a warmed bed, and keep hot applications to the throat. If the spasm does not pass off put the child into a steam tent. See that the bowels are opened as soon as possible.

IN FAINTING FITS

make the person lie down with the head lower than the rest of the body. Apply smelling-salts to the nose, and throw cold water on the face. Allow plenty of fresh air, and see that the clothes are loosened.

A TOURNIQUET

is made by a bandage or handkerchief tied over the pad, with a reef knot and a stick thrust in under the knot and twisted round until firm pressure is obtained. N.B. A tourniquet is only a temporary remedy, and must not be left on indefinitely.

IN CASES OF HÆMORRHAGE,

until you can get a doctor's assistance, (1) Make the person lie down, and raise the bleeding part above the level of the body, and keep it at perfect rest. (2) Press the point of the thumb directly over the bleeding part until you can get help. (3) Wash the part with cold water. (4) Notice if the bleeding is from arteries or veins. The bleeding is from an artery when it is a bright red colour, and flows out in a rush; when from veins the blood is a darker, purplish red colour, and it flows out in an even stream. Place a pad on the bleeding point, and fix with a tourniquet if necessary.

M. D. GOLDIE.