

and assured me that her daughter was going to have small-pox, "for she had just the symptoms Wood gives in his medical book." On examination, we found the symptoms were general—fever, with a slight sore throat—and said that, in all probability, it was going to be an attack of rubcola notha, which was then epidemic. On visiting the patient next day, our diagnosis was confirmed; but we found the lady of the house ill—she had been again perusing Wood, and could hardly then be persuaded it was not variola. We have had several such instances, and do not therefore believe in instructing mothers in symptoms. Good seldom comes from it—often much harm.

At page 33 we find the following, which we most heartily endorse. More than once in our own city we have known patients entering the hospital to be treated for a surgical disease, contract small-pox, and narrowly escape with their lives:

"The attention of hospital committees ought to be directed to the crying necessity which exists for the establishment, at every general hospital, of separate wards devoted to the insulation of cases of the more contagious fevers, and especially of typhus. In our view of the case it is difficult to apply terms of reproach sufficiently strong to the practice of mixing cases of a powerfully contagious fever with patients who are suffering from miscellaneous diseases. One has only to state the case to show the impropriety of the proceeding. A poor person, suffering perhaps from a quinsy, or some other disorder in which there is no likelihood of any other result than a speedy recovery, is admitted to a hospital, and, while he is lying defenceless on his back, the authorities place in the next bed to him a typhus patient, who communicates to him a fatal disease, of which he dies. This is no fancy statement of the case; it is what has happened over and over again during the progress of the typhus epidemics, and especially during the great epidemic which has now for so long a time raged continuously in London. It may be said that a simple remedy for this kind of mischance would be the exclusion of all cases of the more contagious fevers from general hospitals, and, in fact, some hospital physicians have proposed to adopt this course rather than expose their other patients to the unjustifiable risk of contracting a highly mortal disease. But, in the first place, until the parishes do their duty in the manner which we shall presently point out, it is vain to suppose that the single fever-hospital can possibly accommodate all the cases of highly contagious fevers which are, or ought to be, treated in hospitals. And secondly, it must every now and then happen, even where the greatest care is exercised, that a person will be admitted who is supposed to be labouring under some ordinary complaint, but who is, in truth, infected with