

grave. The bleeding artery will not cease to spurt while you are looking up your authorities to find where or how it should be secured, nor will the deadly poison stop its destructive work while you are looking up the proper antidote to administer. And here I would take the opportunity of advising you against being stingy with your knowledge. I have known men to go about work as if there was some great mystery connected with our art—as if to divulge any of its secrets, no matter how trifling, would be to commit an unpardonable offence against the dignity of the profession. There can be no greater mistake, and those who practice medicine and surgery in this way are constantly getting into trouble. Thus how often, especially in country places, has secondary hæmorrhage proved fatal after amputation or as the result of a wound, simply from the want of a little knowledge on the part of the attendants. So gangrene after fractures has gone on for days unheeded, the nurse having received the most positive instructions not to interfere under any circumstances; whereas if she had been taught how to test the condition of the circulation, and warned to loosen the dressings on the first appearance of discoloration, such a calamity would not be likely to occur. So with medical cases, after administering a dose of some powerful drug, explain to the person in attendance what the effect of the remedy may be, and thus prevent the alarm which odd and unexpected symptoms often produce. You will find it to your advantage, then, to have one or two intelligent women in your district somewhat trained, so that you could entrust to their care any severe cases. You may perform your operations very dexterously, but without proper nursing all your skill will be of little avail.

While, however, I would wish you to be apt in cases of emergency, I would advise you always to avoid haste in forming your conclusions. When pushed for a diagnosis in a doubtful case, never be too positive. No amount of knowledge can justify one in becoming dogmatical in his opinions regarding disease. In cases of doubt you need not be idle, however; treat the symptoms that exist while you are waiting for nature to reveal her secret. So with your prognosis; it should always