

The sadness in her voice touched him deeply, and he drew nearer to her. "Poor old girl," he said tenderly, "I wish I could make you happier. Don't you think you might help yourself a little more. Why not give up studying learned subjects and worrying your head about things that don't really matter in the least."

"I don't seem as if I could, Jack, I want so to know, and it seems such a hopeless quest. You know we may be wrong all the time on some of the most interesting subjects. Fancy the years that people believed the Ptolemaic doctrine, that the whole universe revolved round the earth. It's quite funny to think of it now," and she smiled a tired little smile, "but it was all right then, and everyone looked up to Ptolemy as such a great and learned man. One could understand people fancying themselves a little when they believed that. I think I should like to have lived at that time, it would be nice not to feel quite so dreadfully insignificant. Not that it has made much difference, for people fancy themselves now as much as ever, although they know better how foolish and ignorant they are. I can't think how they can; to me the thought of our insignificance is almost overwhelming." She paused a few moments, then added, "And all the time you are so careless and gay and light-hearted in your indifference. Oh! I wish I had been made like you, I am so sick of everything."

"If you did more as I do, you would grow more like me," he said. "Why not take up golf, read novels and study the fashion papers for a change?"

"I can't," she answered in hopeless tones. "It's no use trying. Exciting novels aggravate me, and I don't care for games a bit."

"I wish you did," he said, looking perplexed. "Do you know you're growing so bitter and hardened that you gave me quite a shock to-night."

"Yes, I know," she answered in a voice of suppressed eagerness. "I do it on purpose, I want to grow hard. I can't bear to know so little, so I try not to care about anything. It's all so confusing, you know. I—I—oh, Jack, you don't know what I'm becoming. I can't even say the prayer mother taught me now, it seems like a farce. At night the stars laugh at me and in the day the sunshine mocks me. I can't get away from myself and my own ignorance and the hopelessness of unravelling things. I must know more about God if I'm to love Him," and the strained look deepened on her face, as she knit her brows to steady her voice and quell the rising emotion in her heart. "My step-mother's bigotry, narrow-mindedness, and hypocrisy have sickened me against religion altogether," she said, and drew her hand across her eyes wearily.

"Poor old girl," he said again, gently, "you have got in a bad way, and no mistake. I could see it in your letters and have been feeling quite

anxious about you. But it'll all pass off in time," he continued in a hopeful voice. "It's chiefly owing to the life you have been leading, and you'll soon be able to change it now. You see if you don't laugh at yourself, Madge, before very long, and wonder how you could have given way to such feelings!" and as he spoke he rose and prepared to return to the house.

Madge sighed, and stood up beside him, but she said nothing in answer.

"We mustn't stay longer now," he continued, "but we can have another chat to-morrow. You're going to be nice to Guy, aren't you? Come, you said you would for me, you know."

"I'll try," she answered, "but I'm not certain to succeed."

"That's right," he said brightly, and putting his arm round her, he led her back to the house.

Guy looked up curiously as they entered, and was struck by the change in Madge's face. She looked very white and tired, and though her lips wore their old compressed look, there was a spiritless expression about her dark eyes that affected him strangely. Then he noticed the cold civility between the girl and her step-mother and wondered at it, for it seemed to him greater than the circumstances warranted, and finally he went to bed still more confirmed in his first impressions, that Madge might have been very nice, but had completely spoiled herself.

(To be continued.)

## HINTS ON HOME NURSING.

### MOUTH WASHES.

The juice of a lemon with an equal part of glycerine and water. Sanitas, Condy's fluid, or myrrh diluted freely with water are useful to cleanse the mouth with in illness. Powdered alum or alum water will often cure small gumboils.

### TO GIVE INHALATIONS,

the remedy to be inhaled may be put into a jug and a cloth put over the mouth of the jug, leaving an aperture large enough to admit of the mouth and nose, partly fill the jug with boiling water and inhale with deep inspirations. An inhalation is best taken at night; and any chance of a cold afterwards should be avoided. Turpentine, one dram, is very good to inhale in cases of bad colds to one pint of boiling water. Where the breath is offensive, one dram of creosote to one pint of hot water every four or six hours is useful. Tincture or benzoïn co. is sometimes used where the breathing is difficult owing to laryngitis, two drams to a pint of hot water, vinegar, two drams, or eucalyptus oil, one dram, to a pint of water, is also good where the cough is troublesome.

### IN BRONCHITIS

a steam tent is made by hanging curtains or screens round the bed and putting it near the fire, on which a bronchitis kettle should be kept boiling, or an ordinary kettle with a child's tin trumpet, or a funnel of brown paper or cardboard on the spout, helps to direct the steam towards the patient. The kettle may be kept boiling on a spirit lamp or oil-stove, if there is no place near the fire available.

### GLYCERINE INJECTIONS

are given in a small syringe sold for the purpose, and able to contain one or two teaspoonfuls of glycerine; it is sometimes more convenient than the simple enema.

### THE DRESSING OF WOUNDS,

whether large or small, require care, in order that they may heal well and quickly. The following rules ought to be attended to.

(1) The wound must be cleansed and kept clean. (2) The divided tissues must be accurately re-adjusted and kept in position. (3) The part must be kept at rest. (4) All fluids must be allowed to escape and be taken up by the dressings. In small superficial wounds, washing with water that has been boiled is sufficient; but if the wound is deep or has been exposed to the air for any time, it is safer to use some antiseptic lotion, such as carbolic, one in forty, or perchloride of mercury, one in two thousand; however small the cut is, it will heal up very much quicker if the part is kept at complete rest.

Wounds heal in one of three ways, (a) by first intention, (b) by granulation, (c) under a scab.

### BY FIRST INTENTION

means when the edges are carefully re-adjusted, and the wound heals without any discharge or pus forming.

### BY GRANULATION,

when into the wound is poured lymph, little blood-vessels force up this lymph; tiny excrescences are formed, these are called granulations, and they increase and grow until the

wound is healed up; if the wound is active the little cells increase tremendously, and those that are not used die, and these dead cells are called pus, and must be cleansed away when the wound is dressed.

### HEALING UNDER A SCAB

means that the admission of air to a wound being a serious thing, it is prevented by means of a scab; an artificial scab is sometimes formed by painting the part over with collodion.

### IN DRESSINGS,

where antiseptic treatment is carried out, the idea is to prevent air getting to the surface of the wound and so causing decomposition. The existing germs are destroyed by washing the part with an antiseptic lotion. The wound is then covered over with some substance thick enough to prevent these germs from again getting to the surface of the wound. Lint and wool steeped in antiseptic lotion cover the wound and kill any germ before it gets to the wound. It is of great importance then to see, if you are nursing wounds treated antiseptically, that the dressings put on by the doctor are not allowed to get loose or dirty, and must not on any account be taken off or loosened without the doctor's leave.

### FOR EAR-ACHE

laudanum placed on a piece of warm cotton wool. A roasted fig, split in half, and laid over the ear as hot as possible to be borne. A piece of hot onion placed just inside the ear, or a mustard plaster put behind the ear will give relief.