

THE PROFESSIONAL INVALID.

The travelling invalid seems to be under the protection of a special Providence. He comes unscathed out of the most manifest perils. With a faith that would do credit to an innocent child, he places himself in the hands of twenty doctors in as many weeks, and is yet no worse at the end of the twenty weeks than he was at the beginning. How does he manage it? one is prone to ask. For my part, I believe he finds his entertainment in comparing the prescriptions of one doctor with those of another. He accepts very varied medicines, but he does not take them. The advice of different kinds, which he receives in the like manner, he treats with the like contempt.

Certainly the different injunctions of his different medical advisers are enough to make him smile at the mere sight of a medicine bottle.

The Herr Physician-in-Chief at Mudbad thinks almost any malady can be cured if the patient only be made to perspire sufficiently.

In the Swiss highlands, on the other hand, our friend is expected to get as fat as he can, and to become as tawny as a gipsy.

No self-respecting microbe, it is said, will tolerate Davos for more than two years. Unless, therefore, our friend is really very ill, and if he is still fairly strong, the Swiss mountains will put him to rights. As a matter of fact, however, he knows more than the doctors. He does not stay two years in Davos, because he is tired to death of the place in two months, and because, too, he knows quite well he will live quite as long elsewhere. Moreover, he rather likes shocking the faculty, if only to give them a lesson in humility.

Of course he disregards completely the more general counsel of his advisers. He is told by one doctor to sleep with his window open and lightly covered; by another, with his window shut, and under several blankets; a third will not let him leave the house in the morning until an hour before noon; a fourth tells him to get up early, and take a walk before breakfast. And one and all attempt to physic him with medicines of price. It is an odd business. They cannot be blamed. Neither can he.

The ordinary traveller is constantly meeting the professional invalid where he would least expect to find him; upon the tops of mountains, in the teeth of icy blasts; in suffocating billiard-rooms at midnight; at prize-fights, in cellars and other out-of-the-way places; seated at the green tables of Monte Carlo; or in the slums of Naples, where, it is thought, one may catch a fever as easy as breathing.

The ordinary traveller's tour is cut short as often as not by typhus or blood-poisoning; and it is then as much as he can do to pull himself together for a long spell of convalescence. But his acquaintance, the invalid, jogs light-heartedly from risk to risk, sipping one pleasure after another until he is surfeited, and all without appreciable discomfort. He does not brag about his happiness, or his immunity from contagious diseases. He takes the gifts that Heaven tenders to him, and allows his thanks to be understood.

Neighbour- "How do you like your new neighbours?"

Little Girl- "Mamma says they is awful nice people, real polite, an' Christian."

"Has she called?"

"No, but we've sent in to borrow a dozen different things, an' they didn't once say they was just out."

YOU SHOULD AND YOU SHOULDN'T.



MISCHIEVOUS Tommy.

A Homely sample,
He hears every day,
Beginning this way:

"Now, Tommy, you mustn't,"
And, "Tommy, you mustn't;"
And, "Tommy, stop running,
You'll kick up the dust;"
And "Do not go swimming,
Or you will get wet."
And "Do not go sailing,
Or you will upset;"
And "Do not be wrestling,
You'll fracture your bones;"
And "Do not go climbing,
You'll fall on the stones;"
And "Do not be whistling,
You're not a mere bird;"
And "Good little children
Are seen and not heard."

Which Tommy, on hearing,
Exclaims "Deary me"
What can a boy do,
And where can a boy be?"

--ST. NICHOLAS.

FACTS ABOUT FLAGS.

To "strike the flag" is to lower the national colours in token of submission.

Flags are used as the symbol of rank and command, the officers using them being called flag officers. Such flags are square, to distinguish them from other banners.

A "flag of truce" is a white flag, displayed to an enemy to indicate a desire for a parley or consultation.

The white flag is a sign of peace. After a battle, parties from both sides often go out to the field under the protection of a white flag, to rescue the wounded or bury the dead.

The red flag is a sign of defiance and is often used by revolutionists. In the Canadian naval service it is a mark of danger, and shows a vessel to be receiving or discharging her powder.

The black flag is a sign of piracy.

The yellow flag shows a vessel to be in quarantine or is a sign of a contagious disease.

A flag at half-mast means mourning. Fishing and other vessels return with a flag at half-mast to announce the loss or death of some of them.

Dipping the flag, is lowering it slightly and then hoisting it again to salute a vessel or fort.

Aunt Isabel "Gracie, those crusts are not hard. If I were you I'd eat them."

Two-year-old (pushing them under the edge of her plate) "No, auntie. If you was me you wouldn't eat 'em, but if I was you I would."