

we'd just run over, have a look round, and a chat about it, eh ?'

They turned, the whole group of them, and made their way towards the Hospital.

Liston answered a trifle grimly.

'You're more than welcome, Mr Hickman. No visit could have been better timed.'

He ushered the gentlemen into the hall and closed the door. They glanced round, favourably impressed, and Alma Norway came down the staircase at just that artistic moment when in a play, the 'star' enters the scene. She was introduced, and the Minister's piercing scrutiny seemed better satisfied than ever. Not much difficulty, he thought, in getting at facts from that quarter! She expressed herself delighted to show them over the Hospital, secretly amused at the way Liston was letting them stand about, but Liscard glanced at his watch and remarked that if there was any question of meeting the Committee—

'If there's any question of meeting the Committee, we'll meet it,' Hickman observed, 'but first let's see what there is to see.'

He walked off by himself, took a rapid survey of the first empty room he came to, then wheeled as though to accompany the rest in the little Matron's wake and rejoined Liston lingering for him.

'Time, I suppose, is some object,' he said, 'and no doubt there's a good deal to tell about all this. The whole world they say loves a lover, but the gods I believe love