

way. Then perhaps the thread breaks, or it falls, but it begins again and again till it succeeds. Perseverance is the lesson the spider teaches.

The bee and beaver both teach us industry—work is given to every one to do, and we ought to be industrious about it.

The cat teaches us to walk softly.

SOPHIE (aged 14).

Bedside Musings.

Most people get sick sometimes in their lives; there are very few people who have not been sick some time or other.

Sickness comes in many forms; some are catching sicknesses which pass from person to person and place to place through the air; some diseases are not catchy.

Sickness is sent to us from God, sometimes to make us patient, sometimes as a punishment; like when we go and do something on purpose, which will produce sickness, like walking in the water when we are told not to, and then we get a cold as a punishment. Sometimes it is sent to us to show God's great love for us, for it says, "Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth." Some people who are very good seem to suffer more than the ones who seem bad or not so good. That shows He loves them very much, as the saints and martyrs suffered a great deal and our Lord Himself did. We are told that the saints came out of great tribulation.

When we get sick we generally have to have medicine (sometimes very nasty), and we have to take it without calling it nasty or making a fuss and giving trouble to those who are nursing us, and getting cross all for nothing. We should remember who made the medicine and drink it right down, because it says in the lesson for St. Luke's day (who was a physician) that we should not despise medicines, for God made them for our use, even as He made all other things.

Some people say that there is in every place, all the medicines we need, growing around us, in certain roots and plants, if we were only clever enough to get them and find for which diseases they are.

When we are sick in bed we should think of how much trouble we give those who nurse us, and how tired they must get when we don't do what they tell us. When we want to get up and are told not to, we should not get into a rage with the person who tells us we must not, but think whose orders they are and patiently obey.

So we learn to be patient in sickness, and we learn to be obedient, at least we ought to be, and we are also shown how much God loves us. And all the while we are sick we should think of His love for us, and try to pay His love back, which we can never do. But in our own small way we can try, by being patient and obedient