

# THE WIVES OF DOCTORS

BY ONE OF THEM



O the girl who has married or is about to marry a physician let me give a few words of advice.

Just as your husband must keep a seal on his lips in regard to professional business, so must his wife guard hers.

It is but natural for people to inquire of you about a friend who is seriously ill, and you will often gain friends by a courteous answer. But let it be a case in which people suspect something of a delicate nature and you will be deluged by questions from people whose sole interest in the patient is that of curiosity. To such people, and of such patients, say very, very little. With a little tact you can avoid being rude and yet give an answer so evasive that it cannot be said, as soon as your back is turned: "Oh yes; that is true about Mrs. Smith, for her doctor's wife has just told me so."

Do not ask your husband as soon as he comes in tired and worn out: "Who's sick?" And how this one and that one are. Remember, his mind is busy with the aches of humanity while on his professional visits, and when he comes home let there be a change.

Read the newspapers and his favorite periodicals and then when he is too busy to spare them any time himself, at meal time, for often with the busy practitioner that is the only time he has to spend with his family, in a pleasing manner all your own, you can tell him what is happening in the outside world.

Read a little when you have leisure in medical journals, etc., and you will be surprised how soon you will have absorbed enough to talk intelligently with him on many subjects pertaining to his profession.

When I married a young physician we could not afford to take the many papers and magazines to which I had been accustomed at home. Living as we did in a small place, with few social duties to attend to, I often found the time dragging slowly and fell into the habit of reading medical books and journals until my husband often laughingly declared that with a little more "Anatomy" I would be better prepared than he had been for his first term in the medical college.

Don't tell who are good paying patients.

Don't tell of the poor paying ones.

Don't boast of your husband's success with certain cases.

Don't repeat to him any gossip you may hear concerning his successes or his failures.

Don't be curious; don't be nervous; don't be jealous of either his patients or his work.

Do be helpful to him yourself by being strong and well and free from all the little failings of the average sick woman.