

additions making it, I believe, altogether the fullest extant, including many works of Piranesi's son, and of Thomas Piroli, and that it is the identical set of volumes known as the Pope Gregory XVI. copy;—willed by the pope to Moroni, author of the "Ecclesiastical Dictionary," and some time ago purchased directly from Moroni by Doctor Van Marter. The work is fully described by Moroni in his "Dictionary." I hope that some of our New York institutions may obtain it, not only on account of the important classic monuments depicted in it, but on account also of the excellence of the drawing and the richness and beauty of the engraving and printing.

The American who is traveling in Europe and delighting at every turn in some picture, or statue, or building of imperishable beauty, entertains the bitter reflection that in his own country there is not one single great and important work of antique art! (By antique I mean all from the Greek period to the sixteenth century.) A few precious specimens there are, to be sure, of the work of great men, but they are comparatively insignificant examples. And this is not because of the lack of opportunity to obtain historical works of art,—for they not infrequently change hands and countries in Europe,—but because the money expended by our collectors has gone principally for costly modern paintings of

transient reputation. One powerful example of a great man's work would do more for art in America than a gallery full of second or third-rate canvases by men of the same grade. It is by such means that art has been inspired and advanced in all countries; nor will the expensive facilities of the steamship, and the cheaper ones of the photograph and the graver, make up to America for the abiding presence of the great work of the great masters.

American collectors should know that at this very moment some of the old families in Italy are parting with certain of their art treasures, and in some instances the most important of these. I heard in Rome that one of the most famous of Raphael's heads—engravings and photographs of which have made it familiar as household words—was about to be sold. And by the by, why does not some New York collector or public institution obtain the prize of Raphael's "Apollo and Marsyas" (belonging to Mr. Morris Moore, of Rome), one of the most exquisite and perfect examples of the art of the Renaissance,—a painting small in size, but fit to become, if this may be said of any one picture, the nucleus and the inspiration of an academy of art. G.

[It will interest many readers to learn that an account and engravings of this celebrated picture will soon appear in this magazine. Ed. S. M.]

HOME AND SOCIETY.

Domestic Nursing.

BY A TRAINED NURSE.

"SOME women possess naturally the light foot, deft hand, watchful eye and quick apprehension that are essential to the good nurse. Yet there are comparatively few who know by intuition exactly what it is best to do and to leave undone in a sick-room. In cases of severe or prolonged illness it is generally possible, at least in large cities, to procure the services of a trained nurse. But frequently from straitened means, or other causes, this is out of the question, and then the care of the sufferer devolves upon some one of the household, who may or may not be equal to the emergency. It is a responsibility bringing with it a terrible feeling of helplessness when a woman realizes that a life, for which perhaps she would gladly give her own, depends in part upon her for its preservation, and may be lost through her ignorance or inefficiency. Under such circumstances, any reliable advice must be welcome, and it is with the hope of being of use that these practical hints, the result of some experience in hospital nursing, are offered to those in need of them.

If there is a possibility of choice, a large, sunny room should be selected for the invalid; if without a carpet so much the better. The importance of sunshine can scarcely be overestimated. Cases have

been known of wounds, that had obstinately refused to heal, yielding to treatment after being exposed for a few hours every day to the direct action of the sun. It is a capital disinfectant, worth bushels of chloride of lime, and never should be excluded unless by the express orders of the physician.

The room should be kept thoroughly ventilated, and at a temperature not lower than 68° or higher than 70°. Florence Nightingale says the first canon of nursing is to keep the air a patient breathes as pure as the external air, without chilling him. In most modern houses the upper sash of the windows lets down, and may be kept open a few inches. If there is the slightest draught it may be prevented at a small expense by having a light wooden frame, similar to those on which mosquito-netting is fastened, about eight inches in width, made to fit the upper part of the window. A single thickness of flannel must be tacked on each side of it.

If the patient is kept warm, air may be freely admitted without the least danger. Far more persons are killed by the want, than by an excess, of fresh air.

All merely ornamental drapery should be removed from the windows, as it only serves to exclude the air and to harbor dust. Useless articles of furniture should be taken from the room, and those allowed to remain arranged to occupy as small a space as possible.

If the nature of the disease is not known, or if it has been pronounced infectious, it is well to remove books, ornaments, and trinkets. They absorb infection, and being difficult to disinfect, may communicate it to some one else long after the patient has recovered.

Feather beds are happily almost obsolete in these enlightened days. Should there chance to be one in the house, it must on no account be put under the invalid. A common mattress, with a hair one over it, makes a much more comfortable and suitable bed. The lower sheet must be firmly tucked in under both mattresses at the foot as well as the sides. It is an excellent plan to spread a piece of India rubber sheeting underneath it, to protect the bed. A sheet folded once, lengthwise, laid *across* the bed, with the upper edge just touching the pillows and the ends tightly tucked under the mattresses, will be found to add greatly to the patient's comfort. It does not wrinkle as a single sheet will, crumbs can readily be brushed off it, and it can be changed with more ease than a large one. It is best to fold the upper end of the spread under the blankets before turning down the top sheet, as it helps to keep them in place.

The bed linen should be changed at least once in three days; the blankets once a week, those that have been removed being hung in the open air for a few hours, then thoroughly aired in a warm room, and put away to replace those in use, which should be similarly treated.

Nothing is more easy to an experienced nurse or more difficult to an inexperienced one than to change the bed linen with a person in bed. Everything that will be required must be at hand, properly aired, before beginning. Move the patient as far as possible to one side of the bed, and remove all but one pillow. Untuck the lower sheet and cross sheet and push them toward the middle of the bed. Have a sheet ready folded or rolled the long way, and lay it on the mattress, unfolding it enough to tuck it in at the side. Have the cross sheet prepared as described before, and roll it also, laying it over the under one and tucking it in, keeping the unused portion of both still rolled. Move the patient over to the side thus prepared for him, the soiled sheets can then be drawn away, the clean ones completely unrolled and tucked in on the other side. The coverings need not be removed while this is being done; they can be pulled out from the foot of the bedstead and kept wrapped around the patient. To change the upper sheet take off the spread and lay the clean sheet *over* the blankets, securing the upper edge to the bed with a couple of pins; standing at the foot, draw out the blankets and soiled sheet, replace the former and put on the spread. Lastly, change the pillow-cases.

In changing body linen, have the fresh garment aired and close at hand; let the arms be drawn out of the soiled one, slip the clean one quickly over the head, and by the same movement draw it down and remove the other at the feet.

In bathing a person in bed, or giving a sponge bath, as it is sometimes called, either for the purpose

of cleanliness or to lower the temperature in fever, the chief point to be observed is not to uncover too large a surface at once. Pin a blanket round the shoulders, fastening it behind, and remove the night-dress under that. It is as well to have a blanket under the patient also. Put the hand beneath the blanket and sponge the skin, a small portion at a time, taking care not to have too much water in the sponge, and dry with a towel; proceeding thus until the whole body is washed. A woman's hair should be combed every day, if she is in any way able to bear the fatigue, else it becomes so matted as to render it almost impossible to disentangle it. It should be parted at the back and plaited in two braids. If done in one it forms a hard ridge, very uncomfortable to lie upon, while two can be drawn well to each side and kept quite out of the way. If, unfortunately, it has become tangled, a little sweet oil will loosen it and render it more easily combed. A coarse comb should be used, beginning to comb gently downward from a point near the ends of the hair, and gradually approaching the head at each successive movement, as this will remove the detached hairs without needless pulling.

The teeth should be washed with a small piece of clean rag, dipped in fresh, cool water.

The utmost care and attention should be paid to keeping the cross sheet free from crumbs and wrinkles, as these are a frequent cause of bed sores. It should be brushed after every meal, and occasionally smoothed and straightened during the day. If the patient is perfectly helpless, he must not be allowed to lie too long in the same position. In every case, the prominent points of the body, as the lower part of back, shoulder-blades, heels and elbows, where the weight principally rests when lying in bed, should be examined daily, and if there is the least redness, bathed with alcohol, thoroughly dried, and dusted with powdered oxide of zinc. If these precautions have not been taken and the skin is broken, the sore must immediately be relieved from pressure. This can easily be done by twisting a strip of cotton batting into a ring of the requisite size, winding around it a long, narrow piece of cotton to keep it in shape, and then so placing it that the abraded surface shall be held away from contact with the bedclothes or garments by the encircling cushion. The spot may then be dressed with ointment of oxide of zinc, or any healing salve. It should still be washed every morning.

The utmost neatness and cleanliness must be observed in a sick-room. If, unfortunately, there is a carpet, it should be lightly brushed once a day, the broom being wetted to prevent the dust from rising in the air. The furniture and wood-work should be wiped with a damp cloth. It is worse than useless to use a dry duster or feather brush, as the dust is then merely transferred from one part of the room to another, instead of being removed, as it should be.

Every utensil should be taken out of the room as soon as used, and thoroughly cleansed before being brought back again. This may seem sometimes an unnecessary trouble; but could one see the poisonous exhalations that are thus got rid of, one would

not grudge the slight extra labor that is involved in disposing of them where they can do no harm. Every cup, glass, and spoon should be washed as speedily as possible.

There is no objection to there being a few plants in the room so long as it is lighted; they absorb carbonic acid and give off oxygen, and so assist in purifying the atmosphere. If cut flowers are admitted, the water must be changed every day. A pinch of salt helps to keep it sweet, and is said to keep the flowers from fading. As soon as they begin to lose their freshness they should be removed.

Should the patient be allowed to eat fruit, a few grapes, or an orange peeled and divided, may be kept on a plate placed over a bowl containing ice; the coolness imparted to the fruit making it more grateful to the palate. If cracked ice is given, as it is now in so many diseases, it may be necessary to prepare it in the sick-room, or at least within hearing of the patient. This can be done almost noiselessly by placing the lump of ice on a folded towel and using a long, stout pin to break off the pieces. If the point is pressed firmly on the ice near the edge of the block, fragments can be separated with ease.

Where there is nausea, very small quantities of food must be given at once, and that perfectly cold. A single tea-spoonful of milk or beef-tea, repeated in fifteen minutes, is more likely to be retained than two tea-spoonfuls taken together. The quantity may gradually be increased, until at length half a tea-cupful can be taken without difficulty.

When a person is too ill to sit up in bed, a glass or metal drinking-tube, such as can be procured at any apothecary's shop, is invaluable for administering fluid nourishment and medicines. Should nothing better be at hand, a piece of small, flexible rubber tubing will answer the purpose, though glass is the most easily cleaned and the best in every way.

In cases of long illness a small bed-table will be found indispensable to the comfort of the invalid. They may be bought of black walnut, or prettily finished in light and dark wood; but one that will answer every practical purpose can be made at home. A thin piece of board, 14 x 28 inches, forms the top and strips of wood about five inches long, fastened securely at each corner, make the legs. When the head is raised with pillows, the table can be placed across the chest; anything put on it is brought within easy reach, and the sufferer can help himself to food with little exertion.

In preparing a meal for any one whose appetite is delicate, it should be made to look as tempting as possible. The tray should be covered with the whitest napkin, and the silver, glass, and china should shine with cleanliness. There should not be too great a variety of viands, and but a very small portion of each one. Nothing more quickly disgusts a feeble appetite than a quantity of food presented at one time.

The patient never should be consulted beforehand as to what he will eat or what he will drink. If he asks for anything, give it to him, with the doctor's permission; otherwise prepare something he is known to like and offer it without previous comment. One of the chief offices of a good nurse is to think for her patient. His slightest want should be anticipated and gratified before he has had time to express it. Quick observation will enable her to detect the first symptom of worry or excitement and to remove the cause. An invalid never should be teased with the exertion of making a decision. Whether the room is too hot or too cold; whether chicken broth, beef tea, or gruel is best for his luncheon, and all similar matters, are questions which should be decided without appealing to him.

Household troubles should be kept as far as possible from the sick-room. Squabbles of children or servants never should find an echo there.

In the event of some calamity occurring, of which it is absolutely necessary the sufferer should be informed, the ill news should be broken as gently as possible, and every soothing device employed to help him to bear the shock.

Above all, an invalid, or even a person apparently convalescent, should be saved from his friends. One garrulous acquaintance admitted for half an hour will undo the good done by a week of tender nursing. Whoever is the responsible person in charge should know how much her patient can bear, she should keep a careful watch on visitors of whose discretion she is not certain, and the moment she perceives it to be necessary, politely but firmly dismiss them.

She must carry out implicitly the doctor's directions, particularly those regarding medicine and diet. Strict obedience to his orders, a faithful, diligent, painstaking following of his instructions will insure to the sufferer the best results from his skill, and bring order, method and regularity into domestic nursing.

CULTURE AND PROGRESS.

Mallock's "Is Life Worth Living?"*

EVER since the doctrines of modern science have made their way among the educated classes of the English people, the Roman Catholics have been

reaping a harvest of converts. The progress of science has been not unlike that of a precipitate; it leaves men no choice between the difficult and often sorrowful profession of one faith, which rests on slender and spiritual props, and the acceptance of an older faith which, while assuming greater spirituality than any other, is really strong by reason of its appeal to comparatively lower motives.

* *Is Life Worth Living?* By William Hurrell Mallock, Author of "The New Republic," etc. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.