

and then he passes with the mother into the outer nursery. Sonnie's mother is very quiet and pale, but her eyes are full of a horrible fear.

"Tell me the truth."

The truth is soon told.

Diphtheria; no actual danger at present. The little lad must be well nursed—nursing is half the battle in these cases. Sir Douglas will telegraph at once to the Great Eastern for a 'thoroughly-trained' Nurse. He will come in again a little later and give the Nurse directions. Lady Gleamstone must be brave; she must not break down, and, please God, the child will live."

* * *

The clock strikes six—time to begin making the patients' beds. How I wish I had two pairs of hands and legs.

"Nurse Carew?"

I start, and turn to face one of the Office Sisters.

"Matron says you are to get ready at once. She requires you for a private case."

"Now, do you mean at once—before I have attended to the patients? The Ward is very heavy, and Sister is off duty."

"Matron wishes you to leave in half-an-hour."

I say no more, but scribble a note in pencil for Sister (who will go to bed more white than usual, to-night), tell a colleague I am going, and fly to my room and pack. I also think—

"I have been in the Hospital ten months. Am I 'thoroughly trained'? Not quite; in eight weeks, I shall be, according to the estimation of the authorities.

There are numerous ailments, all the same, of which I have never heard, and more which I have never attended. I have only had four months' surgical experience. I hope I am not to be sent to an operation—tracheotomy or colotomy, for instance. I have never seen a case. Shall I go to the Matron and tell her what a Hottentot I am?—that I cannot go to this case, because it is not *right*. Not I; that is the sort of thing the great Graham would do; she is the grandest creature I have ever met. I am working for an end. I must work as I can, not as I would, and this is a typical instance."

Tap at the door. "Come in."

Home Sister enters with the uniform (cloak and bonnet) of the Private Nursing Staff.

"Matron wishes you to wear our uniform," she says; "and, remember, you cannot be too discreet in a private house. The public are so censorious nowadays; but it is quite easy for you to parry questions with a little tact. Matron does not like you to converse about the Hospital or your training. There is no necessity for it with strangers, and they are quite incapable of judging of your qualifications.

I listen, *and understand*.

I array myself in the regulation cloak and bonnet according to orders, and shake my fist at my fraudulent reflection in the glass, and am honest enough to despise myself for a poor, mean time-serving sham!

"This is the address and the papers—Marchioness of Gleamstone, 50, Gleamstone Square. You are going to quite a simple little case—a child, slight diphtheria—don't forget to deliver the papers with

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