

during the course of my practice at that institution to further my studies in the diseases of women and children, and I found the experience of inestimable benefit to me afterwards."

"And on leaving the 'Women's Hospital,' doctor, I believe you practised very extensively in the old country and on the continent?"

"Yes, I have lived in most countries in Europe in the capacity of a physician and have many friends in the profession on the other side."

"Naturally, you are a clever linguist?"

"Well, I suppose I may call myself a good linguist as I speak Spanish, Italian, German and French, equally as well as English, but I can claim no particular credit for that. I have lived in the different countries where those languages were spoken, and often in parts of them where not a word of English could be understood, so it was only natural, especially when acting as a physician, that I should rapidly acquire the language of the country. You must also recollect that a large portion of my studies were made in foreign countries, where my teachers and lecturers did not understand English or if they did never used it in instructing their pupils, so it would be a wonder if I were not a linguist, rather than a matter for surprise, that I am."

"Apropos of treating patients in countries when you had not as yet become familiar with the language, did you not find great difficulty in properly diagnosing a case, when you could not freely question the patient?"

"No, and that brings me to a point that I meant to have explained when speaking of my student days in Switzerland. Often and again we were given cases to diagnose and treat with strict orders not to put a question to the patient. We were obliged to form our conclusions entirely from the visible symptoms, such as temperature, pulse, appearance of tongue, skin, eyes, &c., &c., and this stern training often proved of great advantage to me, in after years. To give you an illustration; at one of the clinics a case would be brought forward and one of the students would be called upon to diagnose it and prescribe for it. He or she would not be allowed to ask a single question, but would be obliged to form a conclusion from such symptoms as manifested themselves while the patient was under examination. It was a splendid training for the observational faculties and resulted in one's acquiring a capability of judging the condition of a patient with marvellous rapidity. As you may have heard, a man or woman who consults a physician almost invariably either exaggerates or holds back many of the particulars that it is most essential to learn, and unless one can diagnose with a degree of certainty from some other source of information than that of the patient's replies, the difficulty in treating the case properly is doubled and very probably trebled."

"Your habit then, doctor, is to go more by your own observation than by the replies you elicit from the patient in forming an opinion of a case?"

"Most certainly, Mr. FAIR PLAY, and I find it always the safer course to take."

At this point of the interview the doctor drew out a dainty little cigarette case and after, as a matter of formality, excusing herself to her guest, placed a scented cigarette between her lips and lighting it remarked, "You are not shocked at seeing a lady smoke, Mr. FAIR PLAY?"

"Not at all, doctor," was the reply, "the habit has become a common one both in America and on the Continent, and at the present time, I believe, is finding great favour in England. Lady Colin Campbell has taken up the cudgels for the privilege of ladies smoking, and, from her point of view, there is certainly much to be said in its favour. I am glad the subject has been broached, as I would like your opinion upon it, not from a social but from a medical point of view. Do you think the habit, if pursued in moderation, inimical to a woman's health or constitution?"

"No, I certainly do not; as a smoker yourself, you know what a soothing influence the narcotic has on you when you are either overworked or troubled: it quiets the nerves which have, perhaps, been overstrained, and conduces to a frame of mind that is both receptive and logical. As a harmless sedative it can scarcely be matched by any drug, and if not used in excess is certainly, to a great extent, beneficial. A woman's nervous system is much more delicate than a man's, and naturally more susceptible to overwork or mental strain; why

then debar her from a harmless indulgence, which, if moderately exercised, can do no harm, and in nine cases out of ten will do good. Don't fancy, for an instant," continued the doctor, smilingly, "that I am an advocate of an indiscriminate copying of man's vices; far from it, I only contend that we, as women, have a perfect right to participate in such pleasures as our husbands and brothers do, provided they are not deleterious to our health, and do not in any way detract from the dignity of our womanhood. No one would be more scandalised than myself were I see a woman walking through the streets with a cigar between her lips, but a cigarette at home is another matter, and is neither *outré*, if one looks at the matter from a sensible point of view, nor inimical to the health."

"I agree with you thoroughly, doctor," replied the interviewer, "and must thank you for an expression of opinion on the subject; but touching the rights of women to smoke, may I go a step further, and ask your opinion of the extension of the franchise to the women of New Zealand?"

"I am thoroughly in favour of it. If you grant that the educated woman is equal in mental capacity to the educated man, why deny one the privileges you accord to the other? The average woman of intelligence has no desire to exhibit herself as a stump orator, but she does claim the right of exercising her judgment, and having a voice in the decision as to who shall make the laws which shall govern the actions of both her and her children. It has been argued that a woman's time is too fully occupied by her domestic duties to enable her to so educate herself politically as to give an intelligent vote. To this I would reply that you are insisting upon a higher educational and observational standard for a woman than you do for a man. How many men who have the right to vote for our representatives in Parliament have made the study of politics that you claim a woman should have made before being entitled to the franchise? How many of them, I might further ask, are there who go to the polls and simply vote as they are directed to, without a thought or care as to what the result may be? If you wish for an educational qualification, before the franchise is extended, I have no fault to find with your argument, but let it apply to both sexes equally. I certainly am in favour of extending the franchise to women, and I see no reason why I should not go a step further and express my opinion that a woman should be eligible to a seat in the House, for surely there are many women whose intelligence is vastly superior to some of our present legislators."

"Your answer has quite convinced me, doctor, that in an argument of this character, a man, unless he were exceptionally gifted, would, in most cases, have the worst side of the question; but, to return to yourself, may I ask if you intend remaining in Wellington for any length of time?"

"Certainly, Mr. FAIR PLAY. My practice in Wellington has grown beyond my anticipations, and I shall, in all probability, remain here for some time. I, of course, may at times visit Auckland and Christchurch to see my patients there, but at present my intention is to make my head-quarters in Wellington."

"Well, doctor, I must thank you for the time you have granted me and the information you have given, which will, I am sure, prove of interest to our readers. You have stood your examination so good-naturedly, that I am afraid I can hardly call it a revenge for my defeat at chess; that I am afraid I must postpone until another time."

"You will always find me ready to give it to you when I can spare the leisure from my work."

"I suppose with your extensive practice you have not much time to devote to Society?"

"Society, Sir? Well, no, I have neither the time nor the inclination. Society, Mr. FAIR PLAY, is only fit for fools and idlers and nothing bores me so much as your vapid society woman or man, with their insane small talk and scandal-mongering."

"Do you find much jealousy from the male members of your profession, doctor?"

"Well (with a smile) the green-eyed monster is not confined to the amorous swain, but unfortunately pervades all ranks and professions, but I am pleased to say I rise superior to it. I live my life as I deem fit, and in doing my humble best to assuage pain and help my fellow creatures, I am content."