

**THE PHYSICIAN'S WIFE
AND THE THINGS THAT
PERTAIN TO HER LIFE**

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The physician's wife and the things that pertain to her life by Ellen M. Firebaugh

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ELLEN M. FIREBAUGH

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Sincerely yours,
Ellen M. Firebaugh.

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TO HER LIFE.

BY

ELLEN M. FIREBAUGH.

Illustrated with Forty-Four Photo-Engravings of
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RESPECTFULLY AND AFFECTIONATELY

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TO

Physicians' Wives in General

AND

TO THAT ONE IN PARTICULAR WHOSE GRACIOUS PEN
HAS DONE SO MUCH FOR CHILDHOOD, AND,
THROUGH CHILDHOOD, FOR ALL
THE WORLD—

MRS. FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT.



TO THE READER.

I TRUST I am not without that modesty becoming to a country doctor's wife, and so it may be well at the outset to offer a word of explanation as to how the present volume came into existence.

An invitation was extended to me last year, by the Æsculapian Society of the Wabash Valley, to read a paper before the society at its semi-annual meeting in October. The subject assigned me was "The Physician's Wife." It was a subject with which I was quite familiar, and the writing of the paper afforded me much pleasure, though the pleasure was necessarily lessened by the knowledge that many things that might be said, and ought to be said, must be omitted, lest it assume an interminable length. Without a thought that it would ever arrive at the dignity of print, the paper was read. It pleased the society, and it was at once voted that it be published in pamphlet form for distribution among

its members, comprising, I believe, about one hundred and twenty-five physicians, in the States of Indiana and Illinois.

The pamphlet was duly circulated, and many kind and generous words in regard to it came to me from persons both in the profession and out of it, some going so far as to say that the little pamphlet should wear a more substantial dress and have a wider circulation. More than one voice within the profession said the subject was worthy of a more extended treatment, and urged me to write farther in regard to it. But, being a novice in literary work, I thought very little about the matter until, by chance, I came across a book in the office library entitled "The Physician Himself and the Things that Concern His Reputation and Success," written by an elegant and scholarly physician of Baltimore. (I draw my inference from the book alone, having no personal knowledge of the author.)

I saw that it was a large volume, and that it had reached at that time—1889—its ninth edition. Then the thought came, Why should not