

Sept. 5th
1860

7 St Agnes Villa
(Banyquater)
Wednesday

AL/2904

My dear Emily

I have just returned from a four hours visit to The Reading Room, so I feel justified in not studying any more this afternoon. The books are very interesting, & increasingly so. I wish very much that I knew more of Greek, so many of the medical names are derived from it with scarcely any change in form. I had some talk with Dr. Willis a few days ago about the amount of unprofessional learning required for the examinations. He says that very few pupils undergo any examination before

beginning their medical course, and he
thinks it would be quite needless in my
case. I do not agree to this, for boys have
so many examinations during their school
life that they must know much more
accurately how they stand as compared
with other students than I do. Dr. Willis
will get me some information & papers
upon the entering examination. He says
the literary exam: for the M. D. degree is
more at Oxford & Cambridge, but less so
at Edinburgh where however the professional
test is the strictest. He took his degree at
Edinburgh, & I mean to ask him more
about the literary requirements there, if
he could show me some of the papers

on the different branches of mathematics
& in French & Latin, I should be much
more clear upon the subject than I am
now. He is very kind in giving me a
good deal of information, and if he
should continue at the hospital I don't
think I could do better than by asking
him to take me as a pupil. I don't
find that it makes any difference
whether the doctors are young or old,
or married or single, as far as being
taught by them goes. Dr. Willis takes
everything so calmly that I do not feel
half as much awkwardness with what
he says to me & shows me, as I do

with the hesitation & would-be modesty
of some of the old Physicians. It also
seems to be uncertain if any of these would
take a pupil at all. Mr. Worthington
thinks they would not, but that the
surgeons would, but as I do not want
surgical instruction so much as clinical
they would not be the people to ask.

I am almost forgetting to tell you that
I went through my 1st operation yesterday.
It was a stiffish one, and I did not feel
at all bad, the excitement was very great
but happily it took the form of quickening
all my vitality, instead of depressing it.

I was excessively tired after it was over, but

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This effect will soon cease I should think.
 I stood with the pupils in the theatre, and
 they gave me the best place for seeing & then
 took no more notice of me, which was
 exactly the right style throughout. Experience
 is modifying my notions about the most
 suitable style of dress for me to wear at
 the hospital. I feel confident now that
 one is helped rather than hindered by being
 as much like a lady as lies in one's power.
 When my student life begins, I shall try
 to get very serviceable, rich, whole coloured
 dresses that will do without trimmings
 & not require renewing often. Miss Smith
 came into the Luncheon Room yesterday
 as I was fortifying myself with a nutron

chop & ale, and save me some fresh spirit,
as a look at her face generally does ^{s. girrell}
~~She has been a good deal at the office~~
~~of the day or yesterday, and I hope has~~
~~done Jane some good. I have been~~
~~very anxious about her lately, the want~~
~~of ~~her~~ better ~~more~~ ~~has~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~managed~~.~~
~~The plan of living in the house does~~
~~not seem altogether satisfactory to me,~~
~~it may be better than living in lodgings,~~
~~of course, but the quiet rest & society of a~~
~~nice family life would have been much~~
~~more healthy I fancy if it could have~~
~~been found. Jane gets very much absorbed~~
~~in the people there, and (much more than~~
~~in the society) and their associates & ~~many~~~~