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BRACES.

RIFT AND SPRAY.

LOVE

THE MOST FASCINATING OCEAN ROMANCE SINCE THE DAYS OF

COOPER AND MARYATT.

CHAPTER XXXV .- (CONTINUED.)

Numerous torches were lit, and stuck in different crevices of the sea cavern, so that there was a tolerable light throughout the place. The tide brought in a quantity of weed and white foam, and the Rift rode rather uneasily by her anchor, as the hour of midnight drew near.

Then Dolan made an affectation of speaking about the night-watches, and the guards of the opening to the ravine and on the plateau where a man had been stationed in lieu of Joseph, whose constant post it had

"All well," was the rep!y and then one of the men added: "Nobody has come into the cave but

Mrs. Wagner, since the sun set." "Mrs Wagner!" exclaimed Dolan. "Yes, captain, but that's all right."

"Oh! yes, Mrs. Wagner. Ha! A boat

Dolan was on the deck of the Rift and he at once stepped into a boat and went toward the steps leading to the inner cavern. These steps and the passages beyond it and the inner cavern were now quite deserted, for the whole of the rew were in and about the cutter. One solitary link was burning at the end of the passage leading to the ships, and Dolan paused at that and listen-

"I do not hear her," he said. "I did not see her come in, but the guard would of course let her pass and she could easily make her way along the dark shadows and I not see her, as I was not looking for her. Well, she has come to meet her doom and it is as well here as elsewhere. Better perhaps-much better. Maria! Maria, I say, are you here ?"

There was a suppressed scream and then all was still.

"What on earth does she mean?" cried Dolan as he snatched the torch from its niche in the chalk and ran toward the great cavern, in which there was no lamp lighted

Dolan held the link high above his head. For a few moments a confused mass of shadows alone met his view, and then they seemed to arrange themselves into a human form, and crouching down and trying to hide something by holding her hands over it | you? he saw Mrs. Wagner.

There was a small, black box, the lid of it was open and the contents strewed about upon the floor of the cavern. It would appear as if in the fright at hearing the voice Bowline. of Dolan calling upon her, Mrs. Wagner had dropped this small, black box, which she had been carrying, although it was rather large so to do, and then when it fell no doubt the lid had burst open and the contents had fallen out on the floor.

There were several toys, such as a little child of about two years old might have possessed. There were several articles of children's wearing apparel and a little white beaver hat, with pale blue ostrich feathers. In fact, there appeared to be pretty well the whole paraphernalia of a child's out of door

And all these lay about, and Mrs. Wagner, with cries and screams, was making futile attempts to gather them together and hide them from the eyes of Dolan.

But most futile, indeed, were those attempts, inasmuch as he could not fail to see every one of the articles that fell from the small box, and as he stood there, with the link in his hand, and glared at the wretched woman, his face grew livid with rage, and a baleful fire shot from his eyes.

She looked up at him in terror.

least not to her, and she felt all her danger. "Mercy! Have mercy upon me, Dolan. It was for your good-all for your good."

His rage was so great that for the mohis mercy.

think that it was to betray your secretyour long-kept secret, that I was taking this admit that Thomas Wright turned false | "She is there!" he thought. "She is box-to-to-to-

the meaningless howl of some wild animal. "To whom? To whom?"

"The admiral." "Clifford?"

terms for you. That is it-only for youonly and wholly for you."

It was with a positive yell of fury, then, that Dolan sprang forward, and with a plunge of his foot, rather than a kick, scattered the contents of the black box over the

"Wretch and spy!" he cried, "I know you-I know you now. You would purchase your own safety by betraying me. I know you now !"

"No-no!" Oh! no." "Yes, I say. Yes, a thousand terrors."

"Dolan in mercy! Oh! I will tell all No no, do not kill me—oh! do not. I did not mean! I will tell you all, Dolan, if | condemnation?" ever you felt for me a moment's affection, spare me now.

upon me now !"

and rage. He struck her on the head with the link. A thousand bright sparks flew down here on this paper—in a few words. the man Dolan, and who carry on their pracfrom it and it was extinguished. She grasp- Dolan, you will do it " ed his arm-she clung to him and screamed aloud. Then there was one half-stifled cry don't matter. No-no-no !" and all was still, save the heavy breathing

of Dolan in his rage. "Dead-dead-dead!" he said "Is she awful gaze. dead !"

He stood in the darkness and listened. say you?"

hands, lower and lower still. Something daughter—ha!—not as a daughter; no, hot and damp met his touch.

"Is it blood? Is it blood? Maria! speak! Only a word ! speak ! speak, I say !" Not a sound—not a word—not a sigh.

"Dead! she is dead!" trod upon something soft. It was an arm of of the cliffs. the wretched woman, which, in her death agony, was outstretched upon the floor-Dolan recoiled from it as though a serpent had stung him.

"What is that? What is that? Hush hush! no noise. I have killed her! Well. well, I said I would, and it is done. She was betraying me. She would have killed

me. Hanged me in chains. First, the girl -she would have sold me to that strange man in the cottage, for a thousand pounds, and now it was Gerald-what did she want these things but that she might indentify him to the admiral? Of course Oh, of course, and I have killed her; she lies dead now-dead at my feet."

Dolan shuddered, and, with his arms outstretched, he strove to leave the spot. He trod upon a portion of the dress of his victim, and he recoiled again.

"Get out-oh, get out!" he said. "Don't crawl about my feet. No, no-don't do admiral, several persons. that. It is so dark, and yet I can see your eyes. Help! Lights! No, no!-no one must see this sight. No, no, no !"

The link lay smouldering on the floor of the cavern. It was just within his reach. By a stretch he got hold of it and he thought | hend. as he had seen frequently done with links, that by waving it rapidly through the air the smouldering embers might be fanned again into a flame.

"So, so !" he said. "We will see !" He whirled the link round and round. The red embers at its head glowed again and then a little flickering flame burst forth which he humored by holding the link about and turning it downward.

The little flame grew longer and the link was in a blaze. Then Dolan tried to turn his eyes upon the object at his feet, but he him from doing so and yet chained him to

"Dead !- she is dead! It is but another and I have looked upon death so often, why nest. should I fear it in her-I who have killed others? She is not the first-not the first!" "Hoy!" shouted a voice; "Dolan! Cap-

tain Dolan! Hoy! Where are you?" "They call me. They call me, now!" "Captain Dolan!"

"That is Bowline. I know that voice. He must not see this sight. He and they must not suspect it. Hilloa! Hilloa!" "Hold! Not another step. What would | Spray.

What is it? The time has not yet come. Hold! What would you?" Captain Dolan strode forward, and held the link so that the shadow of himself fell

upon the dead body on the floor and faced "Oh, there you are, captain!"

"Why, here's Miss Grace has come into the cave by the entrance in the ravine." "Grace? Grace?" yelled Dolan.

"Well, well. What is it?"

"Yes, and it appears that the Philistines have got hold of Gerald and she wants the men to sign a kind of paper that he was forced on bored the Rift and that he was dragged upon the deck and that he did not fire at the king's ship."

"Grace-Grace-she here?" that is her voice. She prays and calls upon the men to save Gerald. They mock her. Do you not hear?"

"Perdition! Ah!" Her fair hair streaming in disorder around | with me." her—her dress torn by the briars and wild vegetation of the path in the ravine-Grace | the reply. Morton, as we may now properly call her, entered the cavern and gently knelt down close to the feet of Dolan.

"Here me," she said. "Dolan, you hear not so; but some spark—some slight feeling ly to indicate her place in the offing. of affection for me might remain with you. For that-for justice sake-for gratitude- ity, now, about the heart of Captain Morment it only vented itself in a hissing noise. that I have come to warn you that the sec- ton. He folded his arms across his breast to save Gerald by declaring his innocence. house, which, dimly outlined against the "No-no!" she said, "you must not Write it-write it here. It is written. You night sky, he could see, as he each moment will put your name to this paper. You will receded further and further from it. "Yes--yes. To save you. To make you, Dolan, for you know that it is the we meet in heaven!"

it seemed, indeed, to come from his heart.

"You will do it? You will save him?" "Stop! Answer me-answer what I shall smugglers' haunt on Gerald's account. ask of you !"

"Yes, Dolan."

"Gerald-where is he?" "In prison."

"Accused-accused? By a letter-by watch. Thomas Wright-of piracy-of inciting us on-of being the worst of all?" "Yes! Oh, yes!"

"And he is in prison— in a fair way of

here—here at your feet. I love Gerald—with with Mr. Green. "Affection? Ha! ha! Affection! Ha!" all my heart. I do love him! I love Heaven "Only an amateur on this occasion, Mr. "You said you did! Mercy! help! mur- and I love Gerald. It was poor Ann, who Green, and a passenger, that is all. I bring tered Mr. Royle. "Why, we are going dred details besides. der! He will kill me. Oh God, have mercy died here in these caverns, who taught me some volunteers with me, though, all of stern on to this big cliff, with the light on to love God! And Gerald, too, I love. whom you know; and we want you now to the top of it!" Dolan sprang upon her with a yell of hate | Dolan, do this act—save him! Let me carry | be so good, in a few hours, as to completely to the admiral your evidence for him. It is rout out the nest of pirates commanded by

"Not if a thousand devils-well, that

He yelled out the negatives with awful vehemence and Grace recoiled from his

"No! I have you both now, and my heart's desire is satisfied. Gerald a felon! nearly committed the irreverence of whistl- thing but chalk.' "Eh? What? Go on. What? What you-you-ha! ha!-and you were safeyou had then escaped me, and you have The moan was not repeated. He bent low come back into the toils again! You—fool down to listen, and then he felt with his that you are—you are mine now, not as a

> Boom! came the sound of a gun at sea. Dolan started.

"What is that?" Boom! from shoreward came another gun, He strove to move from the spot, but he and this latter one sounded as from the top tain Gray, to sink."

"Betrayed! We are betrayed!" shouted Dolan. "Betrayed by this girl. It is she who has told the secret of our cavern in the officers who had come with the latter, de-"Revenge !" cliff—she and Gerald.

girl !" "Ah! you oppose me, villain-wretch! I have set my life upon all this! I will kill her-her-you-all! Devils that you are, | easy.

I am mad-mad-mad !" A wild dry arose from the sea cave at this moment, as a round shot came with a crash through the sailcloth that closed the entrance to the cavern and tore its way over the deck of the Rift, from stem to stern, kil- simplicity has been its safeguard from the acreams of rage and pain. A dull glare of ling three men in its progress.

CHAPTER XXXVI.-THE SPRAY OPENS doubt." THE SECRET DOOR TO THE CAVERN.

It was about an hour after sunset on that most eventful evening, some of the incidents of which-in connection with Dolan and his secret home in the cliff-we have already related, that an unusual bustle was evident at the bit of coast not far from Admiral Sir Thomas Clifford's residence.

In the fluttering wind—that wind which was so rapidly rising and which was soon to blow into the cavern with all its fury-there stood by the landing place, where Captain Morton, of the Nautilus, had first seen the There was the admiral himself, several

naval officers, and there was Captain Morton. A small throng of idlers were close at hand, looking on with apparent wonder at some proceedings they could not compre-The boat of the Nautilus was waiting for

Captain Morton at the foot of the steps, and some miles out at sea there burned a blue light on board some vessel, which was evidently beating on and off in the roads. That vessel was the Spray. And now, with a bright flush upon his face

and a sparkle about the eyes, such as he had not known for many a long day, Captain Morton descended one of the steps leading towad his boat, and holding out his hand to Rift. Admiral Clifford, he said:

"My dear friend, we shall soon meet dare not. Some terrible convulsion kept again. I see the boat of your schooner is near at hand now, and you may depend that the Nautilus will not be many feet behind the Spray in the attack upon the pirates

> The admiral pressed the hand of Captain Morton, as he replied: "I should not be well pleased to be on this enterprise without you, Morton, and I fully comprehend the feelings with which

you go on it." "Yes," added Morton, and the crew of his boat heard his words, "yes, I go in the bow, shielded her from the full force of the marks in the paper of previous writing, and cause of all nations and of all ships. The wind, and she rode easily and safely. Nautilus will be close in the wake of the

A boat which had been signaled for from the Spray schooner now dashed up to the steps and both the admiral and the captain descended them together. The Nautilus lay at about a mile out; and the Spray at about double that distance now; but that space was rapidly decreasing, as with a long tack she was beating in to meet her boat. Then the admiral turned to one of the of-

ficers that were with him and said: "Are you sure, Mr. Strongways, that Mr. Anderson has taken posession of the

"He will be in possession, admiral, within half an hour of this time.

"That will do; and now, gentlemen, I "She is. You may hear her now. Hark, do not order you on this duty. I go myself, more as a spectator than otherwise, for I shall let Mr. Greene, of the Spray, fight his own schooner, and not interfere with him,

"And we are glad to go, admiral," was

The two boats pushed off together and were soon pulling toward their respective Captain Morton waved his arm to the ad-

me. I have come to tell you of your doings miral, as the American boat shot off at and to ask you to do one act of justice for an angle toward the Nautilus; and then the She had never seen him look like that—at | your soul's sake. Dolan, you have in times | blue light gradually began to die away on past called me your child. You know I was | board the Spray, but still it shone sufficient-There was a feeling of deep joy and seren-

witness, Dolan! Dolan! you see I kneel to there! my own dear child, saved to me at "To whom?" bellowed Dolan, with a roar you. I pray to you to do this. I have left last through so many perils! She is there! of rage that echoed through the cavern, like a new-found father-I have left dear friends my darling treasure! Oh, would that there -to kneel to you, Dolan. It is but a little were but one other in this life, to share with sir, go in." act; but oh, it shall weigh heavily against | me the joy that now sits so serenely at my the evil you have done. Say that he is in- heart-her poor mother! No, no, that may nocent-write it. Here! here! I implore not be. We shall not all meet again until

Little did Captain Morton think that Dolan drew a long breath, and the "ah!" Grace-in the depth of her affection for that he uttered was so congratulatory that Gerald and in her small experience of the worst villainies of which Dolan were capable -had conceived the idea of revisiting the

deck of the Spray, and the admiral's boat was nearly alongside of the schooner.

"Boat ahoy !" was the cry from the deck. Spray.

"Flag!" was the response; and then a couple of lanterns at the gangway showed Lieutenant Green in uniform, with his drawn sword in his hand, with which he ant. ceremoniously saluted Admiral Clifford, who "Alas, yes! Oh, Dolan! you see me returned the courtesy, and then shook hands

"We should be rejoiced, admiral; but as yet we have not fallen in with the rascals." "They are there."

"There, sir?" "Yes; there in the bay—in the cliff." Mr. Green looked at the admiral, and very

ing slightly; for he thought, at the moment, that Sir Thomas Clifford's reason must be a the question, Mr. Green. Fire at the chalk, Of two men or women otherwise equal, the little—just a little—on the wane. "Yes, Mr. Green, in the cliff. I will tell | water's surface." you all about if you will only come below."

"Certainly, admiral, certainly. You command here, sir, Where shall we go?" "No, I will not command; but keep on |ed to the cliff. and off at the entrance to the bay in which

the smuggler vessel was supposed, by Cap- a pin drop on board the Spray as Lieuten- long list might be made of nervous disorders Lieutenant Green gave the necessary orders; and then he and the admiral and the said Mr. Royle to the steersman.

scended to the little main cabin of the Spray

eyes not to see it !"

" There was its success."

his own trap." "We have indeed; and thank God that there are only those there who may well and then, standing close in by the bows of suffer with him. Captain Merton's daughter | the Spray, could be seen the Nautilus, with has been rescued from him; but that is a Captain Morton on her deck and the flush long story, which you shall hear the full of excitement on his brow. particulars of at my house to-morrow. Lieutenant Anderson, with a strong party of his men, has by this time possession of tain Morton to keep out of the line of fire; the only other outlet from the caverns, for he fully expected a return of his shot except by the sea-that outlet from the top from the cavern. of the cliffs to the beach. I think, there-

"Let them fight, admiral, if they like.

fore, Mr. Green, that when they find their

nest discovered they will be only too glad to

We have the rascals surely now." The heaving of the Spray on the agitated sea each moment became greater, and when the admiral and Mr. Green came upon the deck, the wind had very much increased, and they could see the little yacht Nautilus scudding along at a great rate, although she only carried a foresall, and was little off the wind.

"Make for the bay," said Mr. Green.

"We shall find less wind." "But more water, sir," said Mr. Royle. "Very likely, Mr. Royle, but we are going to look for our old acquaintance, the

"Lord, sir! you don't think of lifting her, do you? For I begin to think that after all, she must have gone down." "We will see about that. I intend to

tread her decks to night, if I can." "Yes, sir. Mad. Poor young fellow! said Mr. Royle to himself. "Why there is nothing at all in the bay but a trumbiling sea, that will knock us about like a cockle-

The Nautilus now shot ahead of the Spray and made its way close to one of two promontories, which, being on the weather-

Then the Spray dashed into the bay, and, as Mr. Royle had observed, there was such Thanks, Morton, thanks! Here is my a tumbling sea in it that while the wind was not really so powerful there, from the reaction against the cliffs and the protection of row in the paper, which will remain, no the promontories, yet there was, in the seaman's phraseology, much more water.

> the night air, and Lieutenant Strongways, his name, I think the lead pencil broke. who had been on the watch for it, approach- And this is my reason for thinking so. ed the admiral and said:

session of the ravine." "That will do. Now, Mr. Green, I don't think we need wait except for the signal." "A signal, admiral?"

a lantern on the old signal post near the edge of the cliff, and below that, in a right the place of those originally writen by Mr. line, will be the mouth of the cavern." "There sir, is that it?"

As if ascending in the night air to the height of about twenty feet, by its own mere will is undoubtedly a forgery, although but I shall, of course, be glad to have you volition, a white light rose from the verge the testator's own signature is attached of the cliff.

"Yes; that will do. One white light."

"Now, sir," said the admiral, "I leave all to you. "Admiral, may we follow up our track?"

"How do you mean?" "Why, sir, when we left off fighting the at us; and there is a piece of new wood in you can make an expert, though you may our bulwarks where she hit us. We owe train him up to a certain point. her one for that, sir."

that the attack is about to commence." A few moments, and the boom of the first

gun, which had so shocked Dolan in the in-Then she, still on her knees, implored again 'ret of this cavern is discovered. I ask you and kept his eyes fixed upon the admiral's ner cavern, awakened the echoes of the bay. loops and the points. With a sharper report, an answering gun from shore.

pounder from his battery," said the admiral.

seemed to be only intent on her own destruct this way the whole problem is worked out. tion, by sailing into a bay, around the whole

be nothing but cliffs. "Bill," said one sailor to another, "the skipper has been a knocking of his head

And now the blue light died out on the agin the bulks, I take it. Eh?" "It's orders, said Bill. "Ay ay; but there's an end of the

"It's orders." "Sir! Bill, what a cat's head you are, to in common. be sure. You haven't got no ideas."

"Loundings, there !" shouted the lieuten-"Quarter less three, sir!" "That will do. Brail up, Mr. Royle.

Down anchor, and let her swing !"

"You see it?" whispered the admiral. "Something, sir."

Mr. Green. night-glass, which he now handed to his turn of the top." lieutenant, who looked long and curiously at the portion of cliff below the light. Then

he said : "It is well done, admiral. I can see no- than the cry for food, not because it is more

and one twenty-four. It was the twenty- temper, peevishness, and unhappiness. It four now that Lieutenant Green had point- will restore to vigour an overworked brain.

ant Green pointed the gun, as the crew and other maladies that sleep will cure. thought, against the solid face of the cliff. "He'll bring it all down with a run,"

" Ay, ay, sir." The lieutenant pointed the gun. The Spray stimulants and anreoties.

"By the beavens where, to the surprise of Mr. Green, the only lightly pitched stem and stern as she above us, Dolan, you shall not harm the secret of the cavern in the cliff was fully ex- rode to her eacher, and the gue pointed lained.

That's it! You, that must be it!" he still how the Book then broken by exclaimed ; "and it is so easy, too so very the alear roise of Mr. Green ; " Ready-

With a stunning report the twenty-four "So simple. Why, we must have had no pounder was fired and awakened all the yes not to see it!" "It was never suspected and so never the canvas covering of the sea cave, and looked for," added the admiral. "Its very there was a crashing sound then and loud first to the last; but that the Rift is lying light came through the opening in the thick there now at anchor, I have not the remotest | double sail cloth and then the crew of the Spray seemed in a moment to comprehend "Then we have this villain, admiral, in the whole affair; and they raised a cheer, which mingled with the echoes of the gun.

That cheer was answered by another

"Hurrah! Well done!" he shouted. Lieutenant Green waved his hand to Cap-

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

FRAUD DETECTED

The Wonderful English Handwriting Expert.

One of the most interesting persons in England is Mr. Inglis, an expert in handwriting. Having given himself to his business for more than forty years, his skill in detecting fraud is so great that there is scarcely a single contested will-case, turning upon the handwriting of testator or witnesses, in which he is not called upon to testify. He is a quiet gentleman, but he has a fund of stories at his command which a novelist would prize—stories of mysterious disappearances, murders, forgeries and concealments, which have been unravelled or detected by the study of a few strokes of the pen. One of these curious facts will show the nature of this expert's profession. A miser by the name of Whalley died a few years ago, leaving his property, worth seventy thousand pounds, to two men who had nursed him during his last illness. As these men had no especial claim on the miser, his relatives contested the will on the

ground of forgery. The document was shown to Mr. Inglis, who declared the signature to be genuine, but the will itself to be a forgery. By the use of a powerful microscope, he discovered after long and patient study, he told the

court and jury in the case his opinion. "I find," he said, "that the deceased probably wrote this will with a lead pencil. Now a lead pencil will always leave a furmatter how carefally the lead pencil marks may be removed. When he had written A rocket, then, landward, sprang up into the body of the will, and was ready to sign

"The signature by Mr. Whalley is un-"Lieutenant Anderson sir, has taken pos- doubtedly his own. When the lead pencil broke, it is my opinion that another person supplied Mr. Whalley with pen and ink. He signed his name. Then the two nurses rubbed out the will which was written with "Ah, yes! I forgot. My man will hoist the lead pencil, and re-wrote this present will in ink, substituting their own names in Whalley.

"The whole thing was very skilfully done, but, gentlemen, the marks of that lead pencil are to be seen on the paper, and this

The facts of the case actually proved to be exactly as Mr. Inglis stated them. One of the two forgers is now in prison; the other confessed the forgery.

Mr. Inglis says: "Experts in this work Rift in this very bay, she had the last shot | are the growth of years; but I do not think "Suppose I have two documents to com-

"Do as you please, Mr. Green. But fire pare, to find out whether they were written one gun as a signal to Lieutenant Anderson by one and the same person. I study the most minute particulars of each paper in turn, the junction of the letters, the slopes the size of the letter and of the lines, the

"I then make out a report on sheets of tracing paper, fastened to a white surface, "The lieutenant has the small twelve- on which are shown loop for loop, letter for letter, habit for habit, in one column the I want to catch these fellows without the false writing, in the other the real handloss of honest men's lives, if I can; and I writing, of the person suspected. To each told him to make a display of force. Now, of these is attached in red ink, for facility of recognition, the letter, two numbers in The crew of the schooner were placed at the form of a fraction, say a 3, the 2 showquarters, and the guns shotted. Surprise ing the line to the document from which it and expectation were upon every face; for is taken, the 3 indicating the word where no enemy could they see, and the Spray 'a' is, in which I detect similarity. And in

"There are some peculiarities about shoreward segment of which there seemed to handwriting which an expert must take into consideration, or he will blunder in coming to a decision. A servant, for example, is very apt to imitate the writing of his master. A private secretary will often fall, unconsciously, into the style of his chief. If twenty young ladies are educated at the same school, and taught writing by the same master, their handwriting will have much

"Then, again, the fact that a signature is seen under the microscope to be cramped or tremulous is no indication of a forgery, because thousands of genuine signatures are signed every day by men who are excited, or nervous, or even drunk at the time. The "Ay, ay, sir. And in time, too," mut- expert must remember all this, and a hun-

"In the famous Tichborne trial, the comparison of different letters played a large part in deciding who was the rightful claimant to the English property. It may be said "I fancy there is a difference. Look, that the final disposition of thousands of pounds turned upon the writing of certain The admiral had been looking through a letter l's, which are made with too sharp a

The cry for rest has always been louder

important, but because it is often harder to "It is well done. One shot will settle obtain. The best rest comes from good sleep. as it seems to belabout a line or two over the one who sleeps the more satisfactorily will be the more healthy, moral and efficient. The Spray had some eighteen-pound guns | Sleep well do much to cure irritability of It will build up and make strong a weary You might, as the saying is, have heard body. It will cure a headache. Indeed a Sleeplessness is best cured by a clean, good bed, sufficient exercise to produce weariness pleasant occupation, good air, not too warm a room, a clear conscience, and avoidance of