

UNEVENTFUL POST OPERATIVE COURSE

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Waverley Dashiell's patient, O.L., had her uterus removed last month at St. Francis Hospital. Medically her hospital recovery went off without a hitch, although her postoperative course was hardly uneventful. O.'s chief complaints following surgery were nervousness, insomnia and a predisposition to fainting spells.

All went well until the third post-op day when one of the Sisters accidentally tripped the hospital fire alarm system, and a few minutes later seven fire trucks and two police cars arrived outside of O.'s window with sirens screaming. In the general commotion and panic in the nursing station and patient rooms that followed, O.'s strained nerves gave up and she fainted dead away.

O. recovered gamely from this setback. But then on the sixth post-op day, while making a routine visit to the bathroom, she accidentally locked herself in. At the same time, the lady who was sharing the semi-private room had a cardiac arrest.

For the next hour, as the emergency team worked feverishly on the roommate, O. pounded frantically on the door, but everyone was too busy to let her out. After the crisis, the nurses found O. on the bathroom floor, fainted again.