

Doctor Maudeth

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Dr. Maudeth was a good doctor. Everybody in Partridge knows that he was a good doctor. Why, he brought more babies into the world here in Partridge than you could count — and remember during that storm last spring when he was up for four days and nights without any sleep, taking care of the poor white trash beyond the railroad yards who got washed out? Mrs. Casper had a baby the first night of the storm. Her husband had been dead for only a week. Remember how he took care of everybody so well and all? And how he felt when Mrs. Casper passed on a month later?

We're going to miss him here in Partridge. No doctor like Dr. Maudeth is going to come around here for a spell. So good and kind. And that beautiful little wife of his — so sickly and all — and yet he never uttered an unkind word about how much trouble she was — being bed-fast for a month and all, you know.

We never did understand about the paralysis, though. I guess it was one of those woman sicknesses you never can explain. He was so brave when she got down bad, never stopped smiling and tipping his hat to every lady on Locust Street. He always was polite and all.

And those awful gossip women in the D. A. R. who started all that talk about the doctor and Mary Lou Percy. Why, she was one of the finest ladies in the parish. He had to go out to her place a lot to tend to her little boy. The fever was so bad with the children here in Partridge that year. Well, I guess he paid more notice to Mrs. Percy's little boy because she was so prominent in Partridge. Mr. Percy left a lot of money and she always had the

most of the best for her little boy. And Dr. Maudeth was the best here in Partridge.

Not like that awful Dr. Scarswin . . . drinking and taking dope until he couldn't give a pill for a simple, little pain. Or Dr. Cylane so proud and all with that society crowd from New Orleans. It's a blessing he did leave and set up down there. It was a good thing for the whole parish.

I guess those D. A. R. women soon found somebody else to talk about when Mrs. Percy moved away for good and she died the next month. Poor Mrs. Percy. Almost like Mrs. Maudeth's going on — so quiet — just wilting away. I guess they were a little alike. Why, we all know he was heart-broken about her going on. He didn't speak to anyone for a long while afterwards. She was such a sweet little woman and they were so much in love.

Remember the way he stayed with Widow Martaine when she was paralyzed? Day and night and when she died a month later how he felt so bad? He told Mrs. Wileman how she didn't have a chance. Poor Widow Martaine, wilting away and leaving that sweet little three year old boy.

And now our Dr. Maudeth has left Partridge. They say it's because of all that talk of an investigation about that rich Mrs. Johann's paralysis. Really, I don't see how anybody could even think such a thing about our Dr. Maudeth. Why, he just couldn't live with those sad memories out in the house any longer. Just think, poor man, his mother and sister and wife died in that very house. All such good women and he was such a good doctor and all,