

excitement enough to spread over the lifetime of fifty men.

Of course the whole book is wildly improbable and impossible, but it is none the less absorbing on that account; indeed on these occasions fiction outdoes truth by a long way.

The result of Hugh's interview with this charming girl, Phyllis Benton, was that the next morning he told James:

"I almost think I could toy with another kidney. Do you think it will cause a complete breakdown in the culinary arrangements? I've got a journey in front of me and I require a large breakfast."

"Will you be motoring, sir, or going by train?"

"By car," answered Drummond. "Pyjamas and a tooth-brush."

Perhaps it would be as well to give our readers the summary of the case that Hugh gave to his batman.

"Listen, James! Either I'm a congenital idiot and don't know enough to come in out of the rain, or we've hit the goods. That is what I propose to find out by my little excursion. Either, my friend, our legs are being pulled till they will never resume their normal shape, or that advertisement has answered beyond our wildest dreams.

"The maiden lives with her papa at a house called the Larches, near Godalming. Not far away is another house, called the Elms, owned by a gentleman of the name of Lakington—a nasty man, James, with a nasty face.

"Miss Benton accuses Mr. Lakington of being the complete IT in the criminal line."

"Indeed, sir; more coffee, sir?"

"Will nothing move you, James?" said his master plaintively. "This man murders people and does things like that, you know. Keep quite still, or I shall get it wrong. Three months ago there arrived at the Elms the most dangerous man in England—the IT of ITS. He owns a daughter. From what Miss Benton said I have doubts about that daughter, James—grave doubts! It appears that some unpleasing conspiracy is being hatched by IT and the IT of ITS, into which Papa Benton has been unwittingly drawn.

"As far as I can make out, the suggestion is that I should unravel the tangled skein of crime and extricate papa."

In a spasm of uncontrollable excitement James sucked his teeth.

"Lumme, it wouldn't 'alf go on the movies, would it?" he remarked.

Hugh's immense resource, physical strength, and wit stood him in good stead in his blood-curdling adventures, and the author's capacity for original and thrilling situations would be hard to beat.

Readers whose literary tastes are a trifle jaded cannot do better than sample this pick-me-up. Not the last thing at night, though! H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

September 11th.—National Union of Trained Nurses. Monthly meeting. London Branch, 46, Marsham Street, S.W.1. 3 p.m.

September 18th.—Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. Meeting, by invitation, at Queen Mary's Hospital for Children, Carshalton. 3 p.m.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

THE CASE OF THE ELDERLY NURSE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—I quite agree with your correspondent on the above subject in to-day's BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. I cannot claim such a long nursing record as the writer, but already I find I am looked upon as a "back number" by the younger members of our profession. It is difficult to arrange to take a post-graduate course for many of us who have home ties; but there are some, like myself, who would like to work in a modern hospital for a short period in order to rub up some special treatments. I took my midwifery training ten years ago, and should feel most grateful for a fortnight's instruction in a midwifery ward any time between September 20th and December 1st.

Do you know of any institutions which would be willing to open their doors to any of us in the above way, who still feel they have something to learn?

I am, &c.,

AN UP-TO-DATE BACK NUMBER.

REPLY TO CORRESPONDENT.

An Inquirer.—We shall be glad to answer Inquirer's question if she will send us her name and address, not for publication, but in accordance with our invariable rule.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Churchwoman.—Delighted to see article on "The Order of Deaconesses" in *B.J.N.* There has been no other article in the press, so far I have seen, so informative on this important subject.

School Nurse.—The possible connection between fleas and scarlet fever mentioned in the *JOURNAL* this week is most interesting. Why not? I hope you will tell us more about this.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

QUESTIONS.

September 4th.—What are the principal drugs taken by drug addicts? What precautions would you take in regard to such patients, and what are the nursing points in caring for them?

September 11th.—Mention any two surgical conditions which may follow infectious diseases. Describe fully one of them. If an operation should be necessary describe in detail how you would prepare the patient.

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