

REAL BARGAINS.

Those desiring to replenish their wardrobes just now should not fail to visit the establishment of Messrs. Cozens, 32-50, Edgware Road, W. (near the Marble Arch), where real bargains are to be found. To mention a few, there are well-cut coat-frocks from £1 1s to £2 2s. in coating serges and gabardines; taffeta silk dance frocks, 29s. 6d.; artificial silk dresses in all the leading colours, trimmed with beads of contrasting shades, 35s. 6d.; knitted wool dresses from 12s. 11d., and knitted coats and skirts from £1 1s. The firm are also showing a splendid range of marabout stoles in nigger and black, from 12s. 11d. The special needs of nurses are also catered for, regulation dresses in various styles costing from 6/11 to 15/11. We cordially recommend those who desire good value for their money to pay a visit to Messrs. Cozens forthwith.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

THE BREAKING POINT.*

This very interesting and able novel deserves wide popularity.

The "breaking point" refers to the crux of the story—that is, the lapse of ten years' identity in the case of Dr. Dick Livingstone, the good-looking and popular partner of his Uncle David, who practised in a suburb in the States.

This ten years of Dick's life was, as far as he was concerned, completely blotted out, and Dr. David and Aunt Lucy were well content that it should be so, and prayed that the terrible events that led up to Dick's loss of memory might be for ever buried in oblivion.

These events took place when Dick was but twenty-one, and he was then known as Judson Clarke, the son and heir of a very wealthy man. He had fallen in love with an actress, and was madly jealous of the man she married, and was supposed to have killed him in a fit of rage and afterwards fled to the mountains, where it was assumed that he died of hunger and privation.

But he lived unsuspected in the person of Dick Livingstone, and no one, himself included, had any idea that Judson Clarke and he were one and the same person.

When the story opens he is good-looking, popular Dr. Dick, who, beyond being aware that there is an unaccountable period in his life, has no suspicion that there is anything wrong with him.

He is deeply in love with pretty Elizabeth Wheeler, who is a charming character, and first appears before the reader as a church chorister.

She liked the small sense of achievement it gave her of being part on Sundays of the service. She liked the feeling, when she put on the black cassock and white surplice, and the small round velvet cap, of having placed in her locker the things of this world, such as a rose-coloured hat and a blue georgette frock, of being stripped, as it were, for aspiration. In the afternoon her dreams were of a different character. Generally

speaking, they had to do with love—romantic, unclouded young love, dramatic only because it was love, and very happy.

Dr. Dick loomed large in these dreams, but clouds had already begun to gather before he kissed the engagement ring and then her finger, and slipped it into its place.

"Forsaking all others, so long as we both shall live," he said unsteadily.

"So long as we both shall live," she repeated.

The tragedy of the story begins when unsuspecting Dick is recognised as Judson Clarke, and very cleverly the plot is unravelled.

That handsome, debonair Dr. Dick could have identity with the wild, undisciplined boy of ten years previously seemed an impossibility.

Dick himself is horrified and mystified, and travels back to the scene of the murder, where bit by bit his memory comes back to him. He satisfies himself that he is indeed Judson Clarke, the former lover of Beverley Carlyle, and, strangely, with the establishment of his identity, his old infatuation for her revives, and Elizabeth's image temporarily fades.

To understand this really clever plot it is imperative that the book should be read, as it is impossible in a few words to convey to the reader the ingenious means by which Dr. David and dear old Aunt Lucy had contrived to cover Judson Clarke's tracks and transform him into Dr. Dick.

After many thrilling and interesting adventures the book closes with Dr. David and Dick once more in partnership.

The latter's infatuation for Beverley faded as quickly as it had revived, but above all, his innocence of the murder established.

There are many dramatic and appealing situations in the fine story. Dr. David and Aunt Lucy are both very lovable characters, and the reader cannot but feel sorry that the dear old lady did not live to enjoy Dick's return.

Very pathetic is the note that Elizabeth's father put in her Christmas stocking, and which went far towards healing the breach between her and Dick:—

"Dearest,—You will find this in your stocking in the morning, when you get up for the early service, and I want you to think it over in church.

Life is not so very long, little daughter, and it has no time to waste in anger or bitterness. A little work, a little sleep, a little love, and all is over."

Elizabeth, reading this on Christmas morning, felt the fierce repression of the last weeks was gone.

She saw herself cold and shut away, not big enough nor woman enough to meet him halfway. She saw David gaining harbour after the storm and finding no anchorage there.

She turned and went half blindly into the empty street.

The next morning saw the announcement in the press of an engagement between Elizabeth Wheeler and Dr. Richard Livingstone.

* George Doran. New York.

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