A PHYSIOLOGIST'S WIFE.

Professor Ainslie Grey had not come down

to breakfast at the usual hour. The presentation chiming clock which stood be-

tween the terra cotta busts of Claude Ber-

nard and John Hunter upon the dining

room mantelpiece had rung out the half

hour and the three-quarters. Now its gold-

en hand was verging upon the nine and yet there were no signs of the master of the

It was an unprecedented occurrence. During the twelve years that she had kept

house for him, his younger sister had never known him a second behind his time. She satnow in front of the high silver coffee pot, uncertain whether to order the gong to be

re-sounded or to wait on in silence. Either

course might be a mistake. Her brother

middle height, thin, with peering, puckered

eyes and the rounded shoulders which mark the bookish woman. Her face was

long and spare, flecked with color above the cheek-bones, with a reasonable, thought-

ful forehead, and a dash of absolute obstinacy in her thin lips and prominent chin. Snow-white cuffs and collar, with a plain

dark dress, cut with almost Quaker-like simplicity, bespoke the primness of her

taste. An ebony cross hung over her flattened chest. She sat very upright in her chair, listening with raised eyebrows, and swinging her eyeglasses backward and for-

ward with a nervous gesture which was

Suddenly she gave a sharp, satisfied jerk

of the head, and began to pour out the

coffee. From outside there came the dull thudding sound of heavy feet upon thick

carpet. The door swung open, and the Pro-

fessor entered with a quick, nervous step.

He nodded to his sister and, seating himself at the other side of the table, began to

open the small pile of letters which lay be-

Professor Ainslie Grey was at that time

forty-three years of age-nearly twelve years older than his sister. His career had

been a brilliant one. At Edinburgh, at Cam-

bridge, and at Vienna he had laid the foundations of his great reputation, both in physiology and in zoology. His pamphlet,

"On the Mesoblastic Origin of Excito-mo-

tor Nerve Roots," had won him his Fellow-

ship of the Royal Society, and his researches

"Upon the Nature of Bathybius, with Some

Remarks upon Lithococci," had been trans-

lated into at least three European languages.

He had been referred to by one of the great-

est living authorities as being the very

type and embodiment of all that was best in modern science. No wonder, then, that

when the commercial city of Birchespool decided to create a medical school they

were only too glad to confer the Chair of

Physiology upon Mr. Ainslie Grey. They valued him the more from the conviction

that their class was only one step in his

upward journey, and that the first vacancy

would remove him to some more illustrious

In person he was not unlike his sister.

The same eyes, the same contour, the same

intellectual forehead. His lips, however,

were firmer, and his long, thin lower jaw

was sharper and more decided. He ran his

finger and thumb down it from time to time as he glanced over his letters.

"Those maids are very noisy," he remarked, as a clack of tongues sounded in

"It is Sarah," said his sister: "I shall

speak about it." She had handed over his

coffee cup and was sipping at her own,

glancing furtively through her narrowed lids at the austere face of her brother.

"The first great advance of the human race," said the Professor, "was when, by the development of their left frontal consolidation they attained the power of

the development of their left frontal convolutions, they attained the power of speech. Their second advance was when they learned to control that power. Woman has not yet attained the second stage." He half closed his eyes as he spoke and thrust his chin forward, but as he ceased he had a trick of suddenly opening both eyes very wide and staring sternly at his interleptor.

interlocutor.
"I am not garrulous, John," said his sis-

ter.
"No, Ada; in many respects you approach

The Professor bowed over his egg with the manner of one who utters a courtly compliment; but the lady pouted, and gave an impatient little shrug of her shoulders.

"You were late this morning, John," she

remarked, after a pause.

"Yes, Ada; I slept badly. Some little cerebral congestion, no doubt due to overstimulation of the centres of thought. I have been a little disturbed in my mind."

His sister stared across at him in undir

His sister stared across at him in undis-uised astonishment. The Professor's

guised astonishment. The Professor's mental processes had hitherto been as regular as his habits. Twelve years' continual intercourse had taught her that he lived in a serene and rarefied atmosphere of scientification.

tific calm, high above the petty emotions

which affect humbler minds.
"You are surprised, Ada," he remarked.

"You are surprised, Ada," he remarked.
"Well, I cannot wonder at it. I should have been surprised myself if I had been told that I was so sensitive to vascular influences. For, after all, all disturbances are vascular if you probe them deep enough. I am thinking of getting married."

Not Mrs. O'James ?" cried Ada Grey.

laying down her egg spoon.

"My dear, you have the feminine quality of receptivity very remarkably developed.

Mrs. O'James is the lady in question."

"But you know so little of her. The Esdailes themselves know so little. She is really only an acquaintance, although she

seat of learning.

the distance.

peculiar to her.

side his plate.

was not a man who permitted mistakes. Miss Ainslie Grey was rather above the is staying at the Lindens. Would it not be wise to speak to Mrs. Esdaile first, John?"

"I do not think, Ada, that Mrs. Esdaile is at all likely to say anything which would materially affect my course of action. I have given the matter due consideration. The scientific mind is slow at arriving at conclusions, but, having once formed them, it is not prone to change. Matrimony is the natural condition of the human race, and indeed of all races save those lower forms of life which preceded the differentiation of sex. I have, as you know, been so engaged in academical and other work that I have had no time to devote to merely personal questions. It is different now, and I see no valid reason why I should forego this opportunity of seeking a suitable helpmate."

"And you are engaged?"

"Hardly that, Ada. I ventured yester-

"And you are engaged?"
"Hardly that, Ada. I ventured yester-day to indicate to the lady that I was prepared to submit to the common lot of humanity. I shall wait upon her after my morning lecture, and learn how far my proposals meet with her acquiescence. But you frown, Ada!"

His sister started, and made an effort to conceal her expression of annovance. She

His sister started, and made an effort to conceal her expression of annoyance. She even stammered out some few words of congratulation, but a vacant look had compinto her brother's eyes, and he was evidently not listening to her. "Frown," he muttered thoughtfully—"frown!" Rising from the table, he turned over the pages of a thick volume which lay upon a desk in the window. Then, with a quick nervous gesture, he drew down his left shirt cutf, and wrote hurriedly across it. The memorandum was "Frown—what origin? Vide Darwin, 'Expression of Emotions'—drawing forward of occipito-frontalis." His sister waited patiently, for she was accustomed to see him dive down every scientific bypath which led out of the main track of conversation.

path which led out of the main track of conversation.

"I am sure, John," she said, when he had resumed his seat, "that I wish you the happiness which you deserve. If I hesitated at all, it is because I know how much is at stake, and because the thing is so sudden, so unexpected." Her thin white hand stole up to the black cross upon her bosom. "These are moments when we need guidance, John. If I could persuade you to turn to spiritual—"

The Professor waved the suggestion away

The Professor waved the suggestion away with a deprecating hand. "It is useless to reopen that question," he said. "We cannot argue upon it. You assume more than I can, grant. I am forced to dispute your premises. We have no common basis."

His sister sighed. "You have no faith," she said.

she said.
"I have faith in those great evolutionary forces which are leading the human race to some unknown but elevated goal."
"You believe in nothing."

"You believe in nothing."

"On the contrary, my dear Ada, I believe in the differentiation of protoplasm."

She shook her head sadly. It was the one subject upon which she ventured to dispute her brother's infallibility."

"This is rather beside the question," remarked the Professor, folding up his napkin. "If I am not mistaken, there is some possibility of another matrimonial event occurring in the family. Eh, Ada? What!" His small eyes glittered with sly facetiousness as he shot a twinkle at his sister. She sat very stiff and traced patterns upon the cloth with the sugar tongs.

"Dr. James McMurdo O'Brien —" said the Professor, sonorously.

"Don't, John, don't!" cried Miss Ainslie Grey.

"Don't, John, don't!" cried Miss Ainslie Grey.

"Dr. James McMurdo O'Brien," continued her brother. inexorably, "is a man who has already made his mark upon the science of the day. He is my first and my most distinguished pupil. I assure you, Ada, that his 'Remarks Upon the Bile-Pigments, with Special Reference to Urobilin,' is likely to live as a classic. It is not too much to say that he has revolutionized our, views about urobilin."

He paused, but his sister sat silent, with bent head and flushed cheeks. The little jet cross rose and fell with her hurried breathings.

breathings.
"Dr. James McMurdo O'Brien has, as you know, the offer of the physiological chair at Melbourne. He has been in Australia five years, and has a brilliant future before him. To-day he leaves for Edinburgh, and in two months' time he goes out to take over his new duties. You know his feeling toward you. It rests with you as to whether he goes out alone. Speaking as to whether he goes out alone. Speaking for myself, I cannot imagine any higher mission for a woman of culture than to go through life in the company of a man who is capable of such a research as that which Dr. James McMurdo O'Brien has brought to a successful conclusion."

"He has not spoken to me," murmured "He has not spoken to me," murmured the lady.

"Ah, there are signs which are more subtle than speech," said her brother, wagging his head. "But you are pale. Your vasomotor system is excited. Your arterioles have contracted." He scribbled again upon his shirt cuff. "Let me entreat you to compose yourself. I think I hear the carriage. I fancy that you may have a visitor this morning, Ada. You will excuse me now." With a quick glance at the clock he strode off into the hall, and within a few minutes

with a quick glance at the clock he strode off into the hall, and within a few minutes he was rattling in his quiet, well-appointed brougham through the brick-lined streets of Birchespool.

His lecture over, Professor Ainslie Gray paid a visit to his laboratory, where he adjusted several scientific instruments, made a note set of the progress of three severals. justed several scientific instruments, made a note as to the progress of three separate infusions of bacteria, cut half a dozen sec-tions with a microtome, and finally resolved the difficulties of seven different gentlemen who were pursuing researches in as many who were pursuing researches in as many separate lines of inquiry. Having thus conscientiously and methodically completed the routine of his duties, he returned to his carriage and ordered the coachman to drive him to the Lindens. His face as he drove was cold and impassive, but he drew his fingers from time to time down his prominent chin with a jarky, twitchy movement.

with a jerky, twitchy movement.

The Lindens was an old-fashioned ivyclad house which had once been in the
country, but was now caught in the long
red-brick feelers of the growing city. It
still stood back from the road in the privacy
of its own grounds. A winding path, lined
with laurel bushes, led to the arched and
porticoed entrance. To the right was a
lawn, with the long chalk-marks of tennis,
but without the net. At the far side of the
lawn, under the shadow of a hawthorn, a
lady sat in a garden chair with a book in
her hands. At the click of the gate she
started, and the Professor, catching sight
of her, turned away from the door, and of her, turned away from the door, and strode across the lawn in her direction.

with a jerky, twitchy movement.

"What! won't you go in and see Mrs. Esdaile?" she asked, sweeping out from under the shadow of the hawthorn. She under the shadow of the hawthorn. She was a small woman, strongly feminine, from the rich coils of her light-colored hair to the dainty garden slipper which peeped from under her cream-tinted dress. One tiny well-gloved hand was outstretched in greeting, while the other pressed a thick, green-covered volume against her side. Her decision and quick tactful manner bespoke the mature woman of the world; but her upraised face had preserved a girlish and even infantile woman of the world; but her upraised race had preserved a girlish and even infantile expression of innocence in its large, fearless gray eyes, and sensitive, humorous month. Mrs. O'James was a widow, and she was two-and-thirty years of age; but neither fact could have been deduced from

her appearance. "You will surely go in and see Mrs. Esdaile," she repeated, glancing up at him with eyes which had in them something between a challenge and a caress.

"I did not come to see Mrs. Esdaile," he answered, with no relaxation of his cold and grave manner; "I came to see you."

"I am sure I should be highly honored," she said, with just the slightest little touch of brogue in her accent. "What are the students to do without their Professor?"

"I have already completed my academical duties. Take my arm, and we shall walk in the sunshine. Surely we cannot wonder that Eastern people should have made a deity of the sun. It is the great beneficent force of nature—man's ally against cold, sterility, and all that is abhorrent to him. What were you reading?"

"Beale's "Matter and Life."

The Professor raised his thick eyebrows.

I did not come to see Mrs. Esdaile," he

The Professor raised his thick eyebrows. Beale!" he said, and then again in a kind of whisper, "Beale!"
"You differ from him?" she asked.

"You differ from him?" she asked.

"It is not I who differ from him. I am only a mound—a thing of no moment. The whole tendency of the highest plane of modern thought differs from him. He defends the indefensible. He is an excellent observer, but a feeble reasoner. I should not recommend you to found your conclusions upon 'Beale."

"I must read 'Nature's Chronicle' to counteract his pernicious influence," said Mrs. O'James, with a soft, cooing laugh. "Nature's Chronicle" was one of the many books in which Professor Ainslie Grey had

books in which Professor Ainslie Grey had enforced the negative dectrines of scientific

agnosticism.

"It is a faulty work," said he; "I cannot recommend it. I would rather refer you to

the standard writings of some of my older and more eloquent colleagues."

There was a pause in their talk as they paced up and down on the the green velet-like lawn in the genial sunshine.

"Have you thought at all," he asked, at last, "of the matter upon which I spoke to you last night?"

She said nothing but walked by his side.

last, "of the matter upon which I spoke to you last night?"
She said nothing, but walked by his side with her eyes averted and her face aslant.
"I would not hurry you unduly," he continued. "I know that it is a matter which can scarcely be decided off-hand. In my own case it cost me some thought before I ventured to make the suggestion. I am not an emotional man, but I am conscious in your presence of the great evolutionary instinct which makes either sex the complement of the other."

"You believe in love, then?" she asked, with a twinkling, upward glance.
"I am forced to."
"And yet you can deny the soul?"
"How far these questions are psychic and how far material is still sub judice," said the Professor, with an air of toleration." Protoplasm may prove to be the physical basis of love as well as of life."
"How inflexible you are!" she exclaimed: "you would draw love down to the level of physics."
"Or draw physics up to the level of

physics."
"Or draw physics up to the level of love."
"Come, that is much better," she cried, with her sympathetic laugh. "That is really very pretty and puts science in quite a delightful light." Her eyes sparkled and she tossed her chin with the pretty, willful air of a women who is unistress of the situ. air of a woman who is mistress of the situ-

ation,
"I have reason to believe," said the Professor, "that my position here will prove to be only a stepping-stone to some wider scene of scientific activity. Yet, even wider scene of scientific activity. Yet, even here, my chair brings me in some fifteen hundred pounds a year, which is supplemented by a few hundreds from by books. I should therefore be in a position to provide you with those comforts to which you are accustomed. So much for my pecuniary position. As to my constitution, it has always been sound. I have never suffered from any illness in my life save fleeting attacks of cephalalgia, the result of too prolonged a stimulation of the centres of cerebration. My father and mother had no sign of any morbid diathesis, but I will not conceal from you that my grandfather was afflicted with podagra."

Mrs. O'James looked startled. "Is that very serious?" she asked.

"It is gout," said the Professor.

"Oh, is that all? It sounded much worse than that."

than that." than that."

"It is a grave taint, but I trust that I shall not be a victim to atavism. I have laid these facts before you because they are factors which cannot be overlooked in forming your decision. May I ask now whether you see your way to accepting my proposal?" He paused in his walk, and looked

posal?" He paused in his walk, and looked carnestly and expectantly down at her.

A struggle was evidently going on in her mind. Her eyes were cast down, her little slipper tapped the lawn, and her fingers played nervously with herchatelain. Suddenly, with a sharp, quick gesture which had in it something of abandon and recklessness, she held out her hand to her companion

essness, she held out her hand to her companion.

"I accept," she said.

They were standing under the shadow of the hawthorn. He stooped gravely down and kissed her glove-covered fingers.

"I trust that you may never have cause to regret your decision," he said.

"I trust that you never may," she cried, with a heaving breast. There were tears in her eyes, and her lips-twitched with some strong emotion.

some strong emotion.
"Come into the sunshine again," said he.

"Come into the sunshine again," said he.

"It is the great restorative. Your nerves are shaken. Some little congestion of the medulla and pons. It is always instructive to reduce psychic or emotional conditions to their physical equivalents. You feel that your anchor is still firm in a bottom of ascertained fact."

"But it is so dreadfully unromantic," said Mrs. O'James, with her old twinkle.

"Romance is the offspring of imagination and of ignorance. Where science throws her calm, clear light there is, happily, no room for romance."

"But is not love romance?" she asked.

"Not at all. Love has been taken away from the poets and has been brought within the domain of true science. It may

in the domain of true science. It may prove to be one of the great cosmic ele-mentary forces. When the atom of hydrogen draws the atom of chlorine toward it to form the perfected molecule of hydrochloric acid, the force which it exerts may be intrinsically similar to that which draws me to you. Attraction and repulsion appear to be the primary forces. This is attraction.

traction."

"And here is repulsion," said Mrs. O'James, as a stout, florid lady came sweeping across the lawn in their direction. "So glad you have come out, Mrs. Esdaile! Here is Professor Grey."

"How do you do, Professor?" said the lady, with some little pomposity of manner. "You were very wise to stay out here on so lovely a day. Is it not heavenly?"

"It is certainly very fine weather," the Professor answered.

"It is certainly very fine weather," the Professor answered.
"Listen to the wind sighing in the trees!" cried Mrs. Esdaile, holding up one finger.
'It is nature's lullaby. Could you not imagine it, Professor Grey, to be the whisperings of angels?"
"The idea had not occurred to me, Madam."

Madam."
"Ah, Professor, I have always the same complaint against you. A want of rapport with the deeper meanings of nature. Shall I say a want of imagination? You do not feel an emotional thrill at the singing of

that thrush ?"

"I confess that I am not conscious of one, Mrs. Esdaile."

"Or at the delicate tint of that background of feaves? See the rich greens!"

"Chlorophyll," murmured the Professor.

"Science is so hopelessly prosaic. It dissects and labels and loses; sight of the great this reason. things in its attention to the little ones. You have a poor opinion of woman's intellect, Prof. Grey. I think that I have heard

you say so."
"It is a question of avoirdupois," said the Professor, closing his eyes and shrugging his shoulders. "The female cerebrum averages two ounces less in weight than the male. No doubt there are exceptions. Nat-

ure is always elastic."

"But the heaviest thing is not always the strongest," said Mrs. O'James, laughing.
"Isn't there a law of compensation in science? May we not hope to make up in science? May we not hope to make up in quality for what we lack in quantity?"

"I think not," remarked the Professor, gravely.

"But there is your luncheon gong. No, thank you, Mrs. Esdaile, I cannot stay. My carriage is waiting. Goodbye. Good-bye, Mrs. O'James." He raised his hat and stalked slowly away among the laurel bushes.

"He has no teste" said Mrs. Esdaile—

"He has no taste," said Mrs. Esdaile—
"no eye for beauty,"
"On the contrary," Mrs. O'James auswered, with a saucy little jerk of the chin.
"He has just asked me to be his wife."

As Prof. Ainslie Grey ascended the steps of his house, the hall door opened and a dapper gentleman stepped briskly out. He was somewhat sallow in the face, with beady black eyes, and a short black beard with an aggreisive bristle. Thought and work had left their traces upon his face, but he moved with the brisk activity of a man who had not yet bade good-bye to his

youth. "I'm in luck's way," he cried. "I wanted to see you."

"Then come back into the library," said the Professor; "you must stay and have lunch with us." The two men entered the hall, and the Professor led the way into his private sanctum. He motioned his companion into an

tum. He motioned his companion into an arm-chair.
"I trust that you have been successful, O'Brien," said he. "I should be loth to exercise any undue pressure upon my sister Ada; but I have given her to understand that there is no one whom I should prefer for a brother-in-law to my most brilliant soholar, the author of 'Some Remarks Upon the Bile-Pigments with Special Reference

the Bile-Pigments, with Special Reference to Urobilin."

"You are very kind, Prof. Grey—you have always been very kind," said the other.

"I approached Miss Grey upon the subject; she did not say No."

"She said was then?"

"She said yes, then?"
"No; she proposed to leave the matter open until my return from Edinburgh. I go to-day, as you know, and I hope to commence my research to-morrow."

"On the comparative anatomy of the vermiform appendix, by James McMurdo O'Brien," said the Professor, sonorously. "It is a glorious subject—a subject which lies at the very root of evolutionary philosophy." phy," cried dearest girl," cried O'Brien, with a sudden little spurt of Celtic The vermiform appendix—" began the

Professor. "She is an angel from heaven," interrupted the other. "I fear that it is my advocacy of scientific freedom in religious thought which stands in my way with her."

"You must not truckle when that reight

"You must not truckle upon that point. You must be true to your convictions; let there be no compromise there." there be no compromise there."

"My reason is true to agnosticism, and yet I am conscious of a void—a vacuum. I had feelings at the old church at home between the scent of the incense and the roll of the organ, such as I have never experienced in the laboratory or the lecture room."

"Sensuous—purely sensuous." said the Professor, rubbing his chin. "Vague hereditary tendencies stirred into life by the stimulation of the nasal and auditory nerves."

nerves."

"Maybe so, maybe so," the younger man answered thoughtfully. "But this was not what I wished to speak to you about. Before I enter your family, your sister and you have a claim to know all that I can tell you about my career. Of my worldly prospects I have already spoken to you. There is only one point which I have omitted to mention, I am a widower."

which I have control
widower."
The Professor raised his eyebrows, "This
is news indeed," said he.
"I married shortly after my arrival in
Australia. Miss Thurston was her name. I met her in society. It was a most unhappy match."

Some painful emotion possessed him. His quick, expressive features quivered, and his white hands tightened upon the arms of the chair. The Professor turned away towards the window "You are the best judge," he remarked; "but I should not think that it was preserve to go judge." hink that it was necessary to go into de-

tails."

"You have a right to know everything—you and Miss Grey. It is not a matter on which I can well speak to her direct. Poor Jinny was the best of women, but she was open to flattery, and she was liable to be pisled by designing persons. She was untrue to me, Grey. It is a hard thing to say of the dead, but she was untrue to me. She fled to Auckland with a man whom she had known before her marriage. The brig which carried them foundered, and not a soul was saved."

"This is very painful, O'Brien," said the Professor, with a deprecatory motion of his hand. "I cannot see, however, how it affects your relation to my sister."

"I have eased my conscience," said O'Brien, rising from his chair; "I havetald you all there is to tell. I should not like the story to reach you through any lips but my own."

"You are right. O'Brien. Your action has

my own."
"You are right, O'Brien. Your action has been most honorable and considerate. But you are not to blame in the matter, save

you are not to blame in the matter, save that perhaps you showed a little precipitancy in choosing a life-partner without due care and inquiry."

O'Brien drew his hand across his eyes. "Poor girl!" he cried. "God help me, I love her still! But I must go."

"You will lunch with us?"

"No, Professor; I have my packing still to do. I have already bade Miss Grey adieu. In two months I shall see you again."

"You will probably find me a married man."

man."
"Married!" "Yes, I have been thinking of it."
"My dear professor, let me congratulate you with all my heart. I had no idea. Who

"Mrs. O'James is her name—a widow of the same nationality as yourself. But to return to matters of importance. I should

return to matters of importance. I should be very happy to see the proofs of your paper upon the vermiform appendix. I may be able to furnish you with material for a footnote or two."

"Your assistance will be invaluable to me," said O'Brien with enthusiasm, and the two men parted in the hall. The Professor walked back into the dining room, where his sister was already seated at the luncheon table.

"I shall be married at the Registrar's," he remarked; "I should strongly recommend you to do the same."

Prof. Ainslie Grey was as good as his word. A fortnight's cessation of his classes gave him an opportunity which was too

gave him an opportunity which was too good to let pass. Mrs. O'James was an orphan, without relations and almost with-out friends in the country. There was no obstacle in the way of a speedy wedding. They were married, accordingly, in the quietest manner possible, and went off to Cambridge together, where the Professor and his charming wife were present at several academical observances, and varied the routine of their honeymoon by incursions into biological laboratories and medical libraries. Scientific friends were loud in their congratulations not only mon Mrs. ical libraries. Scientific friends were loud in their congratulations, not only upon Mrs. Grey's beauty, but upon the unusual quickness and intelligence which she displayed in discussing physiological questions. The Professor was himself astonished at the accuracy of her information. "You have a remarkable range of knowledge for a woman, Jeannette," he remarked upon more than one occasion. He was even prepared to admit that her cerebrum might be of the normal weight.

mal weight.

One foggy, drizzling morning they returned to Birchespool, for the next day would reopen the session, and Professor Ainslie Grey prided himself upon having never once in his life failed to appear in he's lecture room at the very stroke of the hour. Miss Ada Grey welcomed them with a constrained cordiality, and handed over the keys of office to the new mistress. Mrs. Grey pressed her warmly to remain, but ed an invitation which would engage her for some months. The same evening she departed for the South of England.

A couple of days later the maid carried a card just after breakfast into the library where the Professor sat revising his morning lecture. It announced the rearrival of Dr. James McMurdo O'Brien. Their meeting was effusively genial on the part of the younger man, and coldly precise on that of his former teacher.

You see there have been changes," said the Professor. "So I heard. Miss Grey told me in her letters and I read the notice in the British Medical Journal. So it's really married

we deal Journal. So it's really married you are. How quickly and quietly you have managed it all!"

"I am constitutionally averse to anything in the nature of show or ceremony. My wife is a sensible woman—I may even go to the length of saying that, for a woman, she is abnormally sensible. She quite agreed with me in the course which I have adopted."

"And your research on Vallisneria?"
"This matrimonial incident has interrupted it, but I have resumed my classes and we shall soon be quite in harness again."
"I must see Miss Grey before I leave

England. We have corresponded, and I think that all will be well. She must come out with me. I don't think I could go with-The Professor shook his head. "Your nature is not so weak as you pretend," he said. "Sexual questions of this sort are, after all, quite subordinate to the great duties of life."

O'Brien smiled. "You would have me take out my Celtic soul and put in a Saxon one," he said. "Either my brain is too small or my heart is too big. But when may I call and pay my respects to Mrs. Grey? Will she be at home this afternoon?"

"She is at home now. Come into the morning room. She will be glad to make your acquaintance." They walked across the linoleum-paved hall. The Professor opened the door of the room and walked in, followed by his friend. Mrs. Grey was sitting in a basket chair by the window, light and fairy like in a loosed with the window, light and fairy like in a loosed with the window, light and fairy like in a loosed with the window, light and fairy like in a loosed with the window, light and fairy like in a loosed with the window, light and fairy like in a loosed with the window window with the window window with the window with the window window window with the window window with the window window window window window window flowing pink morning gown. Seeing a visitor she rose and swept toward them. The Professor heard a dull thud behind him. O'Brien had fallen back into a chair with

his hand pressed tight to his side. "Jinny!" he gasped, "Jinny!" Mrs. Grey stopped dead in her advance, and stared at him with a face from which every expression had been struck out save one of utter astonishment and horror. Then, with a sharp intaking of the breath, she reeled, and would have fallen, had not the Professor thrown his long nervous arm

round her.
"Try this sofa," said he.
She sank back among the cushions with
the same white, cold, dead look upon her
face. The Professor stood with his back to the empty fireplace and glanced from the one to the other.
"So, O'Brien," he said at last, "you have already made the acquaintance of my Your wife!" cried his friend hoarsely.

"She is no wife of yours. God help me, she is my wife!"
The Professor stood rigidly upon the hearth rug, His long, thin fingers were

intertwined, and his head had sunk a little forward. His two companions had eyes only for each other.

"Jinny!" said he.
"James!" "How could you leave me so, Jinny? How could you have the heart to do it? I thought you were dead. I mourned for your death—ay, and you made me mourn for you living. You have withered my life."

She made no answer, but lay back among the cushions with her eyes still fixed upon

Why do you not speak?" "Because you are right, James, I have treated you cruelly—shamefully. But it is

treated you cruelly—shamefully. But it is not as bad as you think."

"You fled with De Horta."

"No, I did not. At the last moment my better nature prevailed. He went alone. But I was ashamed to come back after what I had written to you. I could not face you. I took passage alone to England under a new name, and here I have lived ever since. It seemed to me that I was beginning life again. I knew that you thought I was drowned. Who could have dreamed that fate would throw us together again! When the Professor asked me—" She stopped and gave a gasp for breath.

us together again! When the Professor asked me—" She stopped and gave a gasp for breath.

"You are faint," said the Professor—"keep the head low; it aids the cerebral circulation." He flattened down the cushion. "I am sorry to leave you, O'Brien; but I have my class duties to look to. Possibly I may find you here when I return." With a grim and rigid face he strode out of the room. Not one of the three hundred students who listened to his lecture saw any change in his manner and appearance, or could have guessed that the austere gentleman in front of them had found out at last how hard it is to rise above one's humanity. The lecture over, he performed his routine duties in the laboratory, and then drove back to his own house. He did not enter by the front door, but passed through the garden to the folding glass casement which led out of the morning room. As he approached he heard his wife's voice and O'Brien's in loud and animated talk. He paused among the rose-bushes, uncertain whether to interrupt them or no. Nothing was further from his nature than to play the eavesdropper; but as he stood, still hesitating, words fell upon his ears which struck him rigid and motionless."

"You are still my wife, Jinny," said motionless."

"You are still my wife, Jinny," said O'Brien; "I forgive you from the bottom of my heart. I love you, and I have never ceased to love you, though you had forgot-

ten me."
"No, James, my heart was always in Melbourne. I have always been yours. I thought that it was better for you that I should seem to be dead." "You must choose between us now, Jinny. If you determine to remain here I shall not open my lips. There shall be no scandal. If, on the other hand, you come with me, it's little I care about the world's opinion. Perhaps I am as much to blame as you. I thought too much of my work and too little

thought too much of my work and too little of my wife."

The Professor heard the cooing, caressing laugh which he knew so well.

"I shall go with you, James," she said.

"And the Professor—?"

"The poor Professor! But he will not mind much, James; he has no heart."

"We must tell him our resolution."

"There is no need," said Professor Ainslie Grey, stepping in through the open case.

"There is no need," said Professor Ainslie Grey, stepping in through the open casement. "I have overheard the latter part of your conversation. I hesitated to interrupt you before you came to a conclusion." O'Brien stretched out his hand and took that of the woman. They stood together with the sunshine on their faces. The Professor stood on the casement with his hands behind his back, and his long black shadow fell between them.

"You have come to a wise decision," said

"You have come to a wise decision," said he. "Go back to Australia together, and let what has passed be blotted out of your

"But you—you—" stammered O'Brien.
The Professor waved his hand. "Never trouble about me," he said.

The woman gave a gasping cry. "What can I do or say?" she wailed. "How could I have foreseen this? I thought my old life was dead. But it has come back again, with all its hopes and its desires. What can I say to you, Ainslie? I have brought shape and disgresse was a worth." brought shame and disgrace upon a worthy man. I have blasted your life. How you must hate and loathe me! I wish to God that I had never been born!" "I neither hate nor loathe you, Jean-nette," said the Professor quietly. "You are wrong in regretting your birth, for you have a worthy mission before you in aiding

the life-work of a man who has shown himself capable of the highest order of scientific research. I cannot with justice blame you personally for what has occurred. How far the individual monad is to be held responsible for hereditary and ingrained tendencies is a question upon which science has not yet said her last word." He stood with his fingertips touching, and his body inclined as one who is gravely

expounding a difficult and impersonal subject. O'Brien had stepped forward to say something, but the other's attitude and manner froze the words upon his lips. Con-dolence or sympathy would be an imperti-nence to one who could so easily merge his private griefs in broad questions of abstract

philosophy.

"It is needless to prolong the situation," the Professor continued, in the same measured tones. "My brougham stands at the door. I beg that you will use it as your own. Perhaps it would be as well that you should leave the town without unnecessary dolor." delay. Your things, Jeannette, shall be forwarded.

O'Brion hesitated with a hanging head.
"I hardly dare offer you my hand," he said.
"On the contrary, I think that of the three of us you come best out of the affair. You have nothing to be ashamed of."
"Your sister—" Your sister—

"I shall see that the matter is put to her in its true light. Good-bye! Let me have a copy of your recent research. Good-bye, Jeannette!"

Good-bye!" Their hands met, and for one short moment their eyes also. It was only a glance, but for the first and last time a woman's intuition cast a light for itself into the dark places of a strong man's soul. She gave a little gasp, and her other hand rested for an instant, as white and as light as thistledown, upon his shoulder.
"James, James!" she cried. "Don't you see that he is stricken to the heart?"

He smiled gently and turned her quietly away from him. "It is a little sudden," he said. "But I am not an emotional man. I have my duties—my research on Vallisneria. The brougham is there. Your cloak is in the hall. Tell John where you wish to be driven. He will here you any things you need. Now will bring you any things you need. Now go." His last two words were so sudden, so volcanic, in such contrast to his measwred voice and mask-like face, that they swept the two away from him. He closed the door behind them and paced slowly up and down the room. Then he passed into the library and looked out over the wire blind. The carriage was rolling away. He caught a last glimpse of the woman who had been his wife. He saw the feminine droop of her head, and the long curve of her beautiful arm.

her beautiful arm.

"She is weeping." he muttered. "She is sorry to leave me." Then he pulled down his left cuff and scribbled a memorandum. It was: "Influence of emotion upon the lachrymal secretion—how and why?"

There was little scandal about this singular domestic incident. The Professor had few personal friends and seldom went into society. His marriage had been so quiet that most of his colleagues had never ceased to regard him as a bachelor. Mrs. Esdaile and a few others might talk, but their field for gossip was limited, for they could only guess vaguely at the cause of this sudden separation. The Professor was as punctual as ever at

his classes and as zealous in directing the laboratory work of those who studied under him. His own private researches were pushed on with feverish energy. It was no uncommon thing for his servants, when they came of a morning to hear the shrill scratchings of his tireless pen, or to meet him on the staircase as he ascended, gray and silent, to his room. In vain his friends assured him that such a life must undermine his health. He lengthened his hours until day and night was one

ened his hours until day and night was one long ceaseless task.

Gradually under this discipline a change came over his appearance. His features, always inclined to gauntness, became even sharper and more pronounced. There were deep lines about his temples and across his brow. His cheek was sunken and his complexion bloodless. His knees gave under

him when he walked, and once when passing out of his lecture room he fell and had to be assisted to his carriage.

This was just before the end of the session; and soon after the holidays commenced, the professors who still remained in Birchespool were shocked to hear that their brother of the Chair of Physiology had sunk so low that no hopes could be entertained of his recovery. Two eminent physicians had consulted over his case without being able to give a name to the affection from which he suffered. A steadily-decreasing vitality appeared to be the only symptom—a bodily weakness which left the mind unclouded. He was much interested himself in his own case, and made notes of his subjective sensations as an aid to diagnosis. Of his approaching end he spoke in his usual unemotional and somewhat pedantic fashion. "It is the assertion," he said, "of the liberty of the individual cell as opposed to the cell commune. It is the dissolution of a co-operative society. The process is one of great interest."

And so one gray morning his co-operative society dissolved. Very quietly and softly he sank into his eternal sleep. His two physicians felt some slight embarrassment when called upon to fill in his certificate.

"It is difficult to give it a name," said one "Very," said the other.

"It he were not such an unemotional man, I should have said that he had died from some sudden nervous shock—from, in fact, what the vulgar would call a broken heart."

"I don't think poor Grey was that sort of

heart."
"I don't think poor Grey was that sort of a man at all."
"Let us call it cardiac, anyhow," said the older physician. So they did so.
A, CONAN DOYLE,

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