

CHAPTER XVII

FRIENDS 'OUTSIDE'

WHEN Sandra recovered her senses under the kindly ministrations of Mrs Anscombe, her wits were wide enough awake at once to beg that a telephone message that she was coming back immediately with good news might be sent through to Dr Liston at Finlay. Nothing more than this, little prepared either George or Miss Norway for the manner of her reappearance. When she and Mr Hickman and the two or three members of his party who could be accommodated in the couple of motor cars readily lent them for the trip, arrived in the hamlet, and went careering at a drunken pace up the Hospital hill, both were too much astonished to waste time on the wildest speculations as to what in the world Sandra had been doing!

Liston went down the footway to greet the motorists, and before he got halfway there, recognised the principal figure among the men who were springing to the ground, and delaying a moment to help her from the foremost car. Good heavens! it was Hickman—what might this not mean?

As she was handed down he came forward