POOR DOCUMENT

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The Breaking Point

By Mary Roberts Rinehart

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It was not until he had completed his course and come home that he had realized that David was growing old. Even then he might have felt that, by the time David was compelled to relinquish his hold on his practise, he himself would be sufficiently established to take over the support of the household. But here there was interposed a new element, one he had not counted on. David was fiercely jealous of his practise; the thought that it might pass into new and alien hands was bitter to him. To hand it down to his adopted son was one thing; to pass it over to some "young whippersnapper" was another.

Nor were David's motives selfish or unworthy. His patients were his friends. He had a sense of responsibility to them, and very little faith in the new modern methods. He thought there was a great deal of tomfoolery about them, and he viewed the gradual loss of faith in drugs with alarm. When Dick wore rubber gloves during their first obstetric case together, he snorted.

"I've delivered about half the population of this town," he said, "and "Tyle brush your back," she said when he had no his arm. "You look happy, Dick," she said wa wrinkled hand on his arm. "You look happy, Dick," she said waitfully.

"I am happy, Aunt Lucy," fie replied, and bending over, kissed fier.

On Wednesday he was in a state of alternating high spirits and periods of alterna

"I've delivered about half the population of this town," he said, "and stapped 'em to make 'em breathe with my own bare hands. And I'm still here and so are they."

"how's this? Art can do no more, where the crossy?"

"I'll brush your back," she said, and brought the brush. He stooped to her according to the little ceremony she had established, and she made little and so are they."

"how's this? Art can do no more, where the stooped to her according to the little ceremony she had established, and she made little and so are they."

sibility of keeping him away from Norada.

Some time later she heard the office door open and then close with Dick's characteristic slam. He came up the stairs, two at a time as was his custom, and knocked at her door. When he came in she saw what David's answer had been, and she closed her eyer for an instant.

"Put on your things," he said gaily, "and we'll take a ride on the filtops. I've arranged for a moon.

And when she hesitated:

"It makes you sleep, you know. I'm going, if I have to ride alone and talk to an imaginary lady beside me."

The small man was answering a question.

"Rather on the contrary, I should say. The stronger the character, the greater the smash."

David pondered this.

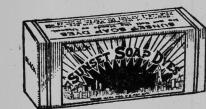
"I've read all you've written on the subject," he said finally. "Especially since the war."

The psycho-analyst put his fingertips together judicially.

"Yes. The war bore me out," he observed with a certain complacence. "It added a great deal to our literature, too, although some of the positions are not well taken. Val Alston, for instance——"

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desirable that he should not identify himself with his past. The loss of memory of the period immediately preceding was complete, but, of course, gradually, the cloud began to lift over the carlier periods. It was there that suggestion was used, so that such memories as came back, were, well, he adapted them to fit what he was told." Again Doctor Lauler shot a swift glance at David, and looked away. "An interesting experiment," he commented. "It must have taken durage." "A justifiable experiment," David af-firmed stoutly. "And it took courage.

David got up and reached for his hat. Then he braced himself for the real purpose of his visit,

"What I have been wondering about," he said, very carefully, "is this: this mechanism of fear, this wall—how there is it?" strong is it?" "Strong?"

"It's like a dam, I take it. It holds back certain memories, like a flood gate. Is anything likely to break it "Possibly something intimately con-nected with the forgotten period might do it. I don't know, Livingstone. We've only commenced to dig into the mind, and we have many theories, and a few established facts. For instance, the

primal instincts -He talked on, with David nodding now and then in apparent understanding; but with his thoughts far away.

He knew the theories; a good many of

" Have you a

"Old friends are best"—RED ROSE TEA has a multitude of them-often three generations in one family.



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ing; but with his thoughts far away. He knew the theories; a good many of them he considered poppycock. Dreams implified to make the stood in the subconscious mind but a good many of them came from the stomach. They might be safety valves for the mind, but also they might be rarebit. He didn't want dreams; what he wanted was facts. Facts and hope.

The office attendant came in. She was as tidy as the desk, as obsessed by order, as wooden. She placed a pad before the small man and withdrew. David rose.

"Ite me know if I can be of any further assistance, doctor," he said. "And I'll be glad to see your patient at any time. I'd like the record for my files."

"Thank you," David said. He stood inneads in the stood of the stood in the mind but a good many of them came from the stood many of them came from the stood in the stood in

"The second of the control of the co

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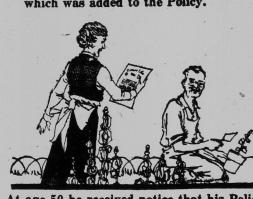
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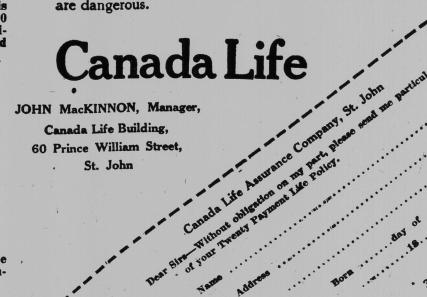
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