

Selected Literature.

THE SPECKLED BAND.

BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

(Continued.)

' Indeed,' said Holmes. ' Was it your custom always to lock yourself in at night? '

' Always '

'And why?'

'I think that I mentioned to you that my father kept a cheetah and a baboon. We had no feeling of security unless our doors were locked.'

'Quite so. Pray proceed with your statement.'

vague feeling of impending misfortune impressed me. My sister and I, you will recollect, were twins, and you know how subtle are the links which bind two souls which are so closely allied. It was a wild night. The wind was howling outside, and the rain was beating and splashing against the windows. Suddenly, amid all the hubbub of the gale, there burst forth the wild scream of a terrified woman. I knew that it

my bed, wrapped a shawl round me, and rushed into the corridor. As I opened my door I seemed to hear a low whistle, such as my sister described, and a few moments later a clanging sound, as if a mass of metal had fallen. As I ran down the passage my sister's door was unblocked, and revolved slowly upon its

things. I stared at it horror-stricken, not knowing what was about to issue from it. By the light of the corridor lamp I saw my sister appear at the opening, her face blanched with terror, her hands groping for help, her whole figure swaying to and fro like that of a drunkard. I ran to her and threw my

At first I thought that she had not recognized me, but as I bent over her she suddenly shrieked out in the voice which I shall never forget ; " Oh, - my God ! Helen ! It was the band ! The speckled band " There was something else which

she would fain have said, as she stumbled with her fingers into the air in the direction of my father's room, but a fresh convulsion seized her and she choked her words. I rushed out calling loudly for my father, and I met him hastening from his room in his dressing gown. When he reached my sister's side she

was unconscious, and though he poured brandy down her throat, and sent for medical aid from the village, all efforts were in vain, for she slowly sank and died without having regained her consciousness. Such was the dreadful end of my beloved sister.'

'One moment,' said Holmes, 'are you

'That was what the county coroner asked me at the inquiry. It is my strong impression that I heard it, and yet among the crash of the gale and the creaking of an old house I may possibly have been deceived.'

'Showing that she had struck a light and looked about her when the alarm took place. That is important. And

“He investigated the case with great care, for my father’s conduct had long been notorious in the country, but he was unable to find any satisfactory cause of death. My evidence showed that the door had been fastened upon the inner side and the window upon

blocked by old fashioned shutters with broad iron bars, which were secured every night. The walls were carefully sounded and were shown to be quite solid all round, and the flooring was also thoroughly examined with the same result. The chimney is wide, but is barred up by four large staples. In

'How about poison?'

'The doctors examined her for it, but without success.'

'What do you think that this unfor-

'It is my belief that she died of pure fear and nervous shock, though why it was that frightened her I cannot imagine.'

'Were there gypsies in the plantation at the time.'

'Yes, there are nearly always some

'Ah, and what do you gather from this illusion to a band—a speckled band?'

'Sometimes I have thought that it was merely the wild talk of delirium; sometimes that it may have referred to some band of people, perhaps to

these very gypsies in the plantation
I do not know whether the spotted
handkerchiefs which so many of them
wear over their heads might have

even one of them would cripple him to a very serious extent. My morning's work has not been wasted, since it has proved that he has the very strongest

man. One day he met an acquaintance, who called out: "Hello, Perry, I was just going to get a drink. Come in and take something!"

...pugnant to constitutional government. To adopt such a resolution would substantially nullify the action of the commission which was now at work. The res-

The whole afternoon was spent in discussing the measure and making a list of changes. Class kept a solution.

(Continued on inside page.)

Johnstone's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil and Wild Cherry, 50 cts. a bottle.