

with his imagined wife. He leads the talk by easy stages from happenings of the day to topics of larger grasp and broader view. But Miss Delmar cannot follow him. From the basis of past conversations held with the real woman, he knows he can expect nothing beyond the platitudes of conventional small talk, and, possibly, a half-hearted guess at the drift of his remarks. As he gazes gloomily into the fire, realizing that his affinity is not found in the beautiful woman whose features smile from the opposite chair, his friends from the club burst in upon him, he relegates matrimony to the indefinite future and agrees to start in the morning for an elephant hunt in Africa, and thus solves the problem that has spoiled so many lives.

The other stories of the volume are: "The Editor's Story," "The Assisted Emigrant," and "The Reporter who made Himself King." They have all appeared in various magazines; each contains a *motif* of more than common interest, and each is told in the writer's usual felicitous manner.

*Rodney Stone.* By A. Conan Doyle. Toronto: Copp, Clark & Co. London: Bell's Colonial Library.

In this book Dr. Doyle has made a very decided departure from those well-known Sherlock Holmes stories, which went so far towards bringing him to the notice of the reading public.

The scene is laid in the South of England, on the old coaching road between London and Brighton, when George III. was King, and portrays very graphically the popular sport of that time, namely, prize fighting; dealing almost entirely with that subject. The reader obtains a very good idea of the sporting tastes of the aristocracy of those days, headed by the young Prince of Wales. The description of a road-race from Brighton to London, and the risks of life incidental to the same, are particularly interesting. The reader is introduced to Lord Nelson and several of his captains, and is made acquainted with the fops, of whom Beau Brummel was the chief. The characters are a strange mixture of fops, prize-fighters and villains, and are of interest from first to last.

