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It's the Condition of Your Nerves That Either Makes Your Life a Round of Pleasure or a Useless Burden.

To many women life is one round of sickness, weakness and ill health. To attempt even the lightest household duties fatigues them. Many of the symptoms accompanying this state of decline are: a feeling of tiredness waking, faintness, dizziness, sinking feeling, palpitation of the heart, shortness of breath, loss of appetite, cold hands and feet, headache, dark circles under the eyes, pain in the back and side and all other accompaniments of a run down and weakene doonstitution.

All these symptoms and conditions are simply the result of a poor qual-ity and defective circulation of the blood, with a wasting away of the nerve forces.

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Prunes, Figs and Apricots, sugar cured
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The Face Behind the Mask

A ROMANCE.

"There was one, in particular, pos-essed of even more devouring curi-and pardon for all. Much as you osity than the rest, a certain young countess of miraculous beauty, whom I need not describe, since you have her very image in Leoline. The Marquis de Montmorenci, of a somewhat inflammable nature, loved her almost as much as he had done my mother, and she accepted him and they were married. She may have loved him (I see no reason why she should not), but still to this day I think it was more to discover the secret of La Masque than for any other cause. I loved my beautiful new mother too well to let her find it out; although from the day she entered our house as a bride, until that on which she lay on her deathbed, her whole aim, day and night, was its discovery. There seemed to be a fatality about my father's wives; for the beautiful Honorine lived scarcely longer than her predecessor, and she died, leaving three children-all born at one time—you know them well, and one of them you love. To my care she entrusted them on her deathbed; and she could have scarcely have entrusted them to worse; for, though I liked her, I most decidedly disliked They were lovely childrenlovely mother's image-and were named Hubert, Leoline thev and Honorine, or, as you knew her, Miranda. Even my father did not them much; not even as much as he cared for me; and when he lay on his deathbed, one year later, I was left, young as I was, their sole guardian, and trustee of

all his wealth. That wealth was not fairly divided, one half being left to me and the other had to be shared equally between them; but, in my wicked ambition, I was not even satisfied with that. Some of my father's fierce and cruel nature I inherited; and I resolved to be clear of these three stumbling blocks, and ecompense myself for my other misfortunes by every indulgence boundless riches could testow. So secretly, and in the night, I left my home, with an old and trusty servant, known to you as Prudence, and my unfortunate little brother and sisters. Strange to say, Prudence was attached to one of them, and to neither of the rest-that one was Leoline, whom she resolved to keep

and care for, and neither she nor I minded what became of the other 'From Paris we went to Dijon, where we dropped Hubert into the furn at the convent door, with his name attached, and left him where he would be well taken care of, and no questions asked. With the other two we started for Calais, en route for England; and there P rid of Honorine in a singular manner.
A packet was about starting for the island of our destination, and she saw a strange looking little man carrying his luggage from the wharf into the boat. She had the infant in her crms, having carried it out for the identical purpose of getting rid. of it; and, without more ado, she laid it down, unseen, among boxes and bundles, and, like Hagar, stood afar off to see what became of it. That ugly little man was the dwarf, and his amazement on finding it among his goods and chattels you may imagine; but he kept it, not-

withstanding, though why, is best known to himself. A few weeks after that we, too; came over, and Prudence took up her residence in a quiet little village a long way from London. Thus, you see, Sir Norman, London. Thus, you see, Sir Norman, how it comes about that we are so related, and the wrong I have done them all."

"You have, indeed," said Sir Norman, gravely, having listened, much shocked and displaced at this com-

shocked and displeased, at this open confession; "and to one of them it is beyond our power to atone. Do you know the life of misery to which she has been assigned?

"I know it all, and have repented for it in my own heart, in dust and ashes! Even I, unlike all other ashes! Even I, unlike all other earthly creatures as I am — have a conscience, and it has given me no rest night or day since. From that hour I have never lost sight of them; every sorrow they have undergone has been known to me, and added to my own; and yet I could not, or would not, undo what I had done. Leoline knows all now; and she will tell Hubert, since destiny has brought them together; and whether they will forgive me I know not. But yet they might, for they have long and happy lives before them, and we can forgive everything of the dead." "But you are not dead," said Sir

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All this time, the attendant, George, had been sitting, very much at his ease, on horseback, looking after Sir Norman's charger, and adafter Sir Norman's charger, and admiring the beauties of sunrise. He had seen Sir Norman in conversation with a strange female, and not much liking his near proximity to the plague-pit, was rather impatient for it to come to an end; but when he saw the tragic manner in which it did end, his consternation was beyond all bounds. Sir Norman, in his horrified flight, would have passed him unnoticed, had not George arrested him by a loud shout.

"I beg your pardon, Sir Norman," he exclaimed, as that gentleman turned his distracted face; "but it seems to me you are running away. Here is your horse; and, allow me to say, unless we hurry we will starcely meet the count by sunrise."

ague. "Why did that woman leap into the

ing at him curiously. "Was it not the sorceress, La Masque?"
"Yes, yes. Do not ask any questions now," replied Sir Norman in a

Be it so! The sky is growing red with day-dawn, and I shall never see the sun rise again, for I am The sweetest of all voices ceased The white hands removed the mask and the floating coils of hair, and revealed to Sir Norman's horror-struck

gaze the grisly face and head, and the hollow eye-sockets, the grinning mouth and fleshless cheeks of a skele-He saw it but for one fearful stant—the next she had thrown up both arms, and leaped headlong into up the loathly plague pit. He saw her for a second or two, heaving and writhing in the putrid heap; and then the strong man reeled and fell with his face on the ground, not feigning, but sick unto death. Of all the dreadful things he had witnessed that night, there was nothing so dreadful as this; of all the horror he had felt before, there was none to

and pardon for all. Much as you have wronged them, they will for-

"They may, for I have striven

atone. In my house there are proofs and papers that will put them in possession of all, and more than all, they have lost. But life is a burden

of torture I will bear no longer. The death of him who died for me this

night is the crowning tragedy of my miserable life. And if my hour were

not at hand, I should not have told

you this."
"But you have not told me the

fearful cause of so much guilt and

"Would you, too, see?" she asked in a terrible voice, "and die?"

"I have told you it is not in my

nature to die easily, and it is som

thing far stronger than mere curiosi-

nerciful than they.

ty makes me ask.

already plague-struck.

and heaven is not less

equal what he felt now. In his momentary delirium it seemed to him she was reaching her arms of bone to drag him in, and that the skeleton face was grinning at him on the edge of the awful pit. And covering

eyes with his hands, he sprang up and fled away.



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SPUDIO, SMITH BLOCK NEAR BAIKIES CHAPTER XXII.

meet the count by sunrise."
Sir Norman leaned against his horse and shaded his eyes with his hand, shuddering like one with an

smothered voice, and with an impatient wave of his hand.

"Whatever you please, sir," said George, with the flippancy of his class, "but still I must repeat, if you do not mount instantly we will late; and my master, the count, is

not one who brooks delay.' The young knight vaulted into the saddle without a word, and started off at a breakneck pace into the city. George, almost unable to keep up with him, followed, instead of leading, rather skeptical in his own mind whether or not he was riding after a moon-struck lunatic. Once or twice he shouted out a sharp-toned inquiry as to whether he knew where he was going, and that they were taking the wrong road altogether; to all of which Sir Norman deigned not the slightest reply, but rode more and more recklessly on. There were but few people abroad at that hour; indeed, for that matter, the streets

of London, in the dismal summer of 1665, were, comparatively speaking, always deserted; and the few now wending their way homeward were tired physicians and plague nurses from the hospitals, and several hardy country folks, with more love of lucre than fear of death, bending their steps with produce to the market-place. These people, sleepy and pallid in the gray haze of daylight, stared in astonishement after the two furious riders; and windows were thrown open and heads thrust out to see what the unusual thunder of horses' hoofs at that early hour meant. George followed dauntlessly on, determined to do it or die in the attempt; and if he had ever heard of the Flying Dutchman, would undoubtedly have come to the conclusion that he was just then following his tracks on dry land. But, unlike the hapless Vanderdecken, Sir Norman came to a halt at last, and that so suddenly that his horse stood on his beam ends, and flourished his two fore limbs in the atmosphere. It was before La Masque's door; and Sir Norman was out of the saddle in a flash, and knocking like a postman

as guardian angel of the establish-"La Masque is not at home, and I cannot admit you," was his sharp

with the handle of his whip on the door. The thundering reveille rang through the house, making it shake

to its centre, and hurriedly brought

to the door the anatomy who acted

salute. Then I shall take the trouble admitting myself," said Sir Norman, sharply.
And without further ceremony,

pushed aside the skeleton and entered. But that outraged servitor sprang in his path, indignant and amazed. "No, sir, I cannot permit it! I do not know you; and it is against all orders to admit strangers in La Mas-Bah, you old simpleton!" remarkque's absence." od Sir Norman, losing his tomary respect for old To be Continued.

AFRAID OF BEING KISSED.

Clever Story of a Man, a Maid and and and Iron Kettle.

Here is an ingenious Circassian story: A man was walking along one road and a woman along another. The roads finally united, and the man and the woman, reaching the junction at the same time, went on from there together. The man was carrying a large iron kettle on his back. In one hand he held by the leg a live chicken, in the other a cane, and he was leading a goat. Just as they were coming to a deep, dark ravine the woman said to the man:

"I am afraid to go through that dark ravine with you. It is a lonely place, and you might overpower me and kiss "If you are afraid of that," said the

man, "you shouldn't have walked with me at all. How can I possibly ever-come you and kiss you by force when I have this great iron kettle on my back, a cane in one hand and a live chicken in the other and am leading a goat? I might as well be tied hand and foot."

"Yes," replied the woman, "but if you should stick your cane in the ground and tie the goat to it and turn the kettle bottom side up and put the chicken under it, then you might wiekedly kiss me in spite of my resist "Success to thy ingenuity, O wom-

an!" said the man to himself. "I should never have thought of this expedient." And when they came to the ravine he stuck his cane into the ground and tied the goat to it, gave the chicken to the weman, saying, "Hold it while I cut some grass for the goat," and then, lowering the kettle from his shoulders, he wickedly kissed the woman, as she was afraid he would .- Stray Stories.

It is in vain for a man to rise early who has the repute of lying in all morning.

WHY BUSINESS MEN FAIL.



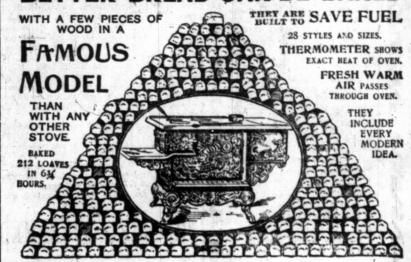
A man's physique must be most powerful to stand the strain his business puts upon it. If the nerves are out of order, power of concentration gone, and heart unsteady, failure is pretty sure to come. Disease germs undermine the system.

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