

catch him before he goes to the University. Will Mr. Gray come too?’

‘We’ll all go,’ said Mr. Denham, and, opening a cab door, helped them in. The Professor’s carriage was at his door, but he was willing to see them before going out.

Neil Denham and Stanerigg remained together in the dining-room while the two women entered the consulting-room where so often had been settled the issues of life and death. He did not keep them a great while, and it seemed to Mary Denham that he had ominously little to say.

‘If your husband is here, I will see him while you dress,’ he said, and with a grave, kind look, left them, and proceeded to the dining-room. Neil Denham he knew well, and when he was introduced to Robert Gray he shook hands with him with a certain grave pity in his eyes.

‘Weel, what have you to say about my wife, Professor?’ said the farmer at once.

‘I cannot give you much heart, I regret to say. The mischief is serious, and unfortunately beyond the reach of operation. There is a limit set to her life.’

No thought of seeking to hide or even gloss the