

children mourned their loss. It had the effect of binding mother and daughter still closer together, but Harry from then helped to support his mother and sister, thus being thrown more out upon the world. Mrs. Lee took in sewing, and the villagers were glad to give her any aid they might. So the three lived together for five or six years longer.

"But meanwhile a great change had come over Harry; he kept bad company, late hours and was a constant worry to his mother. At twenty-one he had developed a thoroughly bad character and left home.

"Mrs. Lee's love wound still closer around Edith, and Edith would have done anything for her mother. Both worked for a while but finally Edith became the sole support, having induced her mother to rest. I don't know whether Edith worked too hard, and could not sufficiently care for herself or not, but I shall always remember the night she took to her bed! I shall never forget how the mother worked with and prayed for that girl, nursing and caressing her through the long summer nights! But mother's love and medical skill were both unavailing, and the mother lost her child.

"Annie Lee was then alone; one child dead, her husband gone and her first-born worse than dead. To a heart as loving as Annie Lee's it was a terrible blow.

"Medical colleges had not at that time, nor have they now, very good facilities for pursuing the science of anatomy. The students were hardened. A proper supply of subjects could only be procured by robbing graves. Medical students became brutal. About a mile from the village was a medical college. Here, the ignorant and superstitious declared, all horrors existed. Doubtless the students found their subjects gruesome, but they were never at a loss for amusement. Some of these amusements were revolting, but others were simply boyish fun, and the wild shrieks of laughter heard occasionally by a passing townsman were often construed into the ravings of some supernatural being.

"Considerable fear had been shown by Mrs. Lee for the safety of the remains of her daughter. But by the persuasion of her neighbours she consented to bury her in the little cemetery adjoining the town instead of burying her with the father.

"About a week after the burial Mrs. Lee, lonely and almost distracted, started on a long tramp across the country. This was the way in which she now spent the evenings and the

earlier part of the night. Folks had already begun to whisper that Mrs. Lee was not now as she had been. On that evening she took a route which led her about a mile out of the village and into one of the wildest and most beautiful parts. Annie Lee walked in the listless and abstracted manner which had become habitual to her. So slowly and unheedingly did she walk that ere she was aware the shades of night had crept upon her.

"Vaguely she wondered where she was. A few yards before her a great gray building loomed up. Annie knew that it was the medical college. Gradually, yet swiftly, all the weird stories she had heard the villagers tell flashed through her half-crazed mind. She drew, as if charmed by an unseen power, nearer to the building, from the windows of which a few flickering lights could be seen. As she glided on, her foot struck against some object. Strange it was that she should stoop to pick it up, so centred were her thoughts upon that building. But she did, scarce realizing that she had. Nearer and nearer she drew to the building; the lights grew brighter; nearer until she was in a full blaze of light. She looked down upon the object which she held, and to her horror she found that it was a human hand.

"Students and professors were startled by a wild prolonged shriek, then profound silence. They rushed from the building in the direction from which the sound had come. They found a woman, robed in black, lying in a swoon; beside her lay that gruesome object. They carried her into the college; the fever came on, and there for many weeks she was carefully nursed and cared for. Some of the students knew Mrs. Lee and could readily imagine what wild and terrible conjectures had flashed through her overwrought mind.

"The fever was driven away and health brought back, but the physicians despaired of ever restoring her reason. The college authorities made investigations and tried to discover by whose carelessness the disaster had been occasioned, with what success I do not know.

"Annie Lee was removed to this asylum, here she has been ever since. She is occasionally visited by some of the villagers. Sometimes a man, aged before his time, bent and haggard, comes here and asks to see the patient; she looks upon her son, broken, desolate, himself half-crazed, with no light of recognition in her eyes, then slowly lowers her head, sways backward and forward murmuring 'Edith.'"