

Selected Article.

STORY OF MEDICAL LIFE—A NEEDFUL LESSON.

BY PHILIP LAFARGUE.

"Tchah!" cried Bredon, suddenly, from his seat at the window, whither he had betaken himself to catch the last of the daylight for some small print he was reading.

Startled by the unusual explosion of disgust—for Bredon, as befits one whose province it is to deal with the delicate organ of voice, is a man of placid and nicely controlled temper—Dr. Parradine and I interrupted our chat by the fire and looked across at him. We were taking tea at the club in the cosy smaller card-room, while we waited, with no great impatience on my part so long as the old man would talk, for a fourth to make up our rubber.

"What's that language you're swearing in?" asked Parradine.

"I'm blest if ever I prophesy evil again," Bredon cried, still with unaccustomed asperity.

"It is wise to avoid it, when you can," said the old doctor; "no one loves you the better for it."

"I felt convinced the poor little beggar must die, and never gave the case another thought," Bredon went on. "And it seems he got well after all. Gar! what a fool it makes one look!"

"One don't look it the less for minding it," Dr. Parradine observed.

"Luckily for me, Orme saw the child the same night, and told them, as I had done, that antitoxin was his only chance."

The old doctor was lying back in his chair, with all his limbs relaxed and his eyes fixed dreamily on me. I saw them change suddenly, as one sees a terrier prick its ears, and he straightened his spine almost imperceptibly.

"What's that paper you've got hold of, Bredon?" he asked.

"Only some antivivisectionist rag they've sent me. Trust them to rub it in when they get the chance. Listen to this, Parradine:

"The resolution was seconded by Sir Rupert Uffington, Bart., who, in the course of a brief but vigorous speech observed that the more unanimous the doctors were the less disposed was he to trust them. Only the other day, when his own child was attacked by malignant diphtheria, he was solemnly warned by