

Wynne fell into his humour at once. Instead of a weeping girl, and a man who could only look on helplessly, the pair had become, all in a moment, the clever doctor and the observant nurse. Certainly Dr. Jaxon made a first-rate listener, for, except to ask one or two questions, he never interrupted the narrative. When it was concluded, however, he rose.

"Take me to see your patient."

Engrossed in their conversation, neither Harry nor Wynne had noticed the sound of the door-bell. When, therefore, on their arrival upstairs, they

telegraphing for me. You must recall the circumstances?"

Whereupon recollection suddenly awoke; and recognising in the pleasant-voiced, keen-looking visitor the man whose opinion had been specially sought upon the occasion he named—rather a great occasion in the life of Dr. Baker, whose practice did not, as a rule, lie in the homes of peers—he was, or professed to be, charmed.

"Of course you must let me explain how I come to be here," Harry went on. "Mrs. Brookes is a sort of connection of mine. At least her step-daughter married



"A HAND WAS LAID UPON HER SHOULDER."

found old Dr. Baker, Mrs. Brookes' medical attendant during many years, feeling the widow's pulse and shaking his head over her vacant looks and unmeaning answers, both nurse and doctor felt a little surprised. But the London physician was not the person to be taken at a disadvantage.

"Surely we have met before?" he exclaimed, going forward and holding out his hand. "Yes, I remember! In consultation a year ago over the baby Lord Raxton. A simple case of hydrocephalus it was. Only the parents were so frightened that they summoned all the doctors for miles round, besides

my brother, the Vicar of Thetfield, whom you may have met?"

"Oh, certainly. But quite unnecessary to tell me——" and so on, until all professional etiquette having been satisfied, and any professional jealousy upon the elder man's part smoothed away, he became quite confidential and talkative as to the specially sad features and circumstances of the case, and even ready to accept certain suggestions of his colleague which involved an entire change of treatment. To Wynne's combined indignation and surprise—Wynne who had, until this discovery dawned upon her, stood by in silent admiration