"But a better chance presented itself that very day. Dr. Bowser came over to see me about nine o'clock, and when he had made himself at home in the rocking-chair in my room, he cleared his throat a couple of times and, looking timidly at me, he said:

"'Things are not even in this world, are they?'

"I was not willing to commit myself until I could find out what he was after, so I did not answer.

"'A country doctor,' he continued, 'has a hard life, driving