

important with the first, fine, careless rapture of free-lance journalism; she had instantly introduced him to Raymond on the Terrace of the House of Commons with the words, "Uncle dear, will you make one of your magics? If you don't catch one of your rich friends for Dr. Manisty, we shall never dig up Hellenopolis."

"That, my dear, would be very serious," answered Raymond. "Who or what is Hellenopolis?"

Thereupon a normally silent man with a high forehead, gentle grey eyes and a shy stammer had eloquently demonstrated the relative positions of the Lion Gate and the Street of Bridges with the aid of an unrolled umbrella with two broken ribs, a discoloured straw hat, two pairs of spectacles and a silver watch lacking the minute hand. Raymond looked on apprehensively as the mild-mannered enthusiast divested himself of an obviously ready-made coat and spread it on the Terrace to mark the Black Mountain; apprehension ripened to alarm, when the waistcoat followed the coat and a knot of curious onlookers gathered to listen. When, however, Yolande asked for a promise of help and an opinion of her new friend, Raymond replied from the heart that Manisty possessed some of the worst clothes and best manners in the world and that his zeal should be rewarded. The visit to Ripley Court, planned before the date of Deryk's return was known, followed automatically.

"If you're touching the gov'nor for money, sir," said Deryk, as they shook hands, "the least you can do is to ask me to come out with you the next time you go digging."

"L-look at me and be warned," Manisty answered.

Yolande glanced quickly from the one to the other and decided that she could leave them to take care of themselves. They talked until the last keys had been surrendered and the dressing gong was beginning to sound; and their conversation was continued briefly when Manisty appeared at Deryk's door in shirt sleeves, holding two crumpled dress ties in his hands and stammering in mild indignation.

"How the d'dence does one manage these abomina-