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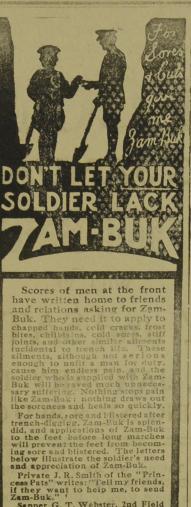
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It is difficult to say which is the greater optimist, the man who takes a drink the moment his headache has A man never knows how much he values an umbrella or a woman until he sees some other man calmly walking off with one or the other.

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CHAPTER XIX-Ranjab takes the blame for the accidental shooting and olls Brood that Yvonne, in whom he saw wo women, the dead wife and the living eae, will save Prederic's life. would not be possible for anyone to

CHAPTER XX—Yvonne tells Brood that she is the sister of his dead wife and married him to be revenged on him, knowing that her sister was innocent and that Frederic was Brood's son. She in-tended to induce Frederic to go away with her and teiling him the truth, leave Brood to believe that they had eloped together.

CHAPTER XXI-Fronne shows Brood proof of his dead wife's innocence and confesses her revenge a bitter failure. She has learned to love Brood.

CHAPTER XXII-Brood goes to see his

CHAPTER XXIII--Frederic recovers and he and Lydia plan to go abroad with Brood. The young couple endeavor un-uccessfully to reconcile Brood to his wife, whom he plans to leave alone in the

figure in his present despite the pas as proof, even to him, that she and always would be the controlling orce in his mind if not in his heart Now he was ordering himself to face

new complexities. He was confronted by the most improbable of hallucina tions. It was not an intangible shadow that he now had to contend with but something definite, something that took shape and mocked him. In his bitter indictment against circum-stances, he argued that his brain was momentarily unbalanced following the shock caused by the shooting, and that in its disordered state he had pictured things that did not exist. It was only reasonable to assume that he had suffered from the effect of a startling. vivid hallucination, and yet there was a strange, insistent voice somewhere in his clearing mind that persuaded . him against his will that he had actually seen the face of Matilde

Admitting that he had been deceived by a trick of the imagination, there still remained certain indisputable facts to confound him. First of all, the absolute conviction that Yvonne had the power to preserve the life that hung so precariously in the balance



Two Old Men, Shaking as With Palsy, Roamed About the Place.

He could not overcome the amazing "Ain't got a belief that she, and not the skilled said Mr. Dawas.

would not be possible for anyone to see the heart-broken father. Doubt less, later on, he would be in the mood to discuss the dreadful catastrophe but not now, etc., etc. He was crushed with the horror of the thing that had happened.

The house was in a state of subdued excitement. Servants spoke in whis-pers and tip-toed through the halls Nurses and other doctors came. Two old men, shaking as with palsy, roamed about the place, intent only on worm ing their way into the presence of their friend and supporter to offer con solation and encouragement to him i his hour of tribulation. They shud dered as they looked into each other' port to the theory that they did not believe there was anything accidental in the shooting of Frederic it is only to speak of their extraordi ary attitude toward Ranjab. shook hands with him and told him

hat Allah would reward him! Later on, after they had had time to think it all out for themselves-being somethat slow of comprehension-they ought out James Brood and offered to accept all the blame for having loaded the revolver without consulting him, their object having been to destroy a eat that infested the alley hard by They felt that it was absolutely neces-sary to account for the presence of he unexploded cartridge. Brood, coming between them, laid

his hands on their shoulders. shaking his head as he spoke to them gently. "Thank you, old pals. 1 understand what it is you are trying to do. It's no

use. I fired the shot. It isn't necessary to say anything more to you, I'm sure, except that, as God is my wit-ness, I did not intend the bullet for Frederic. It was an accident in that respect. Thank you for what you would do. It isn't necessary, old pals. The story that Ranjab tells must stand for the time being. Later on-well, I may write my own story and give it to the world.'

"Write it?" said Mr. Dawes, and Brood nodded his head slowly, significantly.

"Oh, Jim, you—you mustn't do that!" groaned Mr. Dawes, appalled. "You ain't such a coward as to do that."

"There was one bullet left in the revolver. Ranjab advised me to save it -for myself. He's a thoughtful fel-low," said Brood. "It has been re-moved, of course, but---" "Jim," said Mr. Riggs, squaring him-

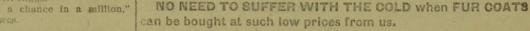
self, "it's too bad that you didn't hit what you shot at."

"Jim," interrupted Mr. Riggs, ignor-ing his comrade, "I see she's going to nurse Freddy. Well, sir, if I was you, I'd-'

Brood stopped him with an impa tient gesture. "I must ask you not to discuss Mrs. Brood, Joe—or you, Dan." "I was just going to say, Jim, that i I was you I'd thank the Lord that she' going to do it," substituted Mr. Riggs somewhat hastily. "She's a wonder ful nurse. She told me a bit ago that she was going to save his life in spite of the doctor.'

manded Brood, pausing in his restless pacing of the floor.

"He says the poor boy is as good as nead," said Mr. Riggs. "Ain't got a chance in a million,'





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FOR RETURNED SOLDIERS.

NOTICE is hereby given that much of the Provincial Returned Sol-ters' Aid Committee has been organand for the Counties of York Sun-ary and Queens, and the City of Fred-ricton, as a district, with Dr. T. C. Allen Chairman and Judge Wilson Secreary.

All employers of labor in said dis-rict willing to give preference to re-barned disabled soldiers as employees. and all returned discharged sold) irs re requested to notify the secretary. JUDGE WILSON, T. C. ALLEN, Secretary.

Chairman.

trite old saving applied to the situa

for some reason had refrained from asking Brood a single question, although he knew him to be a witness to the shooting.

Yvonne saw the reporters and later on an inspector of police. Ranjab told his unhappy story. He had taken the weapon from a hook on the wall for the purpose of cleaning it. It had been hanging there for years, and all the time there had been a single cartridge left in the cylinder unknown to any. He had started to remove the cylinder as he left the room. All these years the hammer had been raised; death had been hanging over them all the time that the pistol occupied its in-secure position on the wall. Somehow, he could not tell how the hammer fell as he tugged at the cylinder. No one could have known that the revolver was loaded. That was all that be could say, except to declare that if his master's son died he would end his own miserable, valueless life.

His story was supported by the declarations of Mrs. Brood, who, while completely exonerating her husband's servant, had but little to say in explanation of the affair. She kept her wits about her. Most people would have made the mistake of saying too much. She professed to know nothing except that they were discussing young Mr. Brood's contemplated trip abroad and that her husband had given orders to his servant to pack a revolver in his son's traveling bag when the time came for his departure. She had paid but little attention to the Hindu's

(To be continued.)

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