THE BREAKING POINT

By Mary Roberts Rinehart

uther of "Dangerous Days," "E," "The Amazing Inter lude," and many other striking and successful novels.

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Thought, however, was ensier than real-ization, and to add to his perplexity, he struggled to place Bassett and failed entirely. He remained a mysterious and incomprehensible figure, beginning and ending with the trail.

and ending with the trail.

Then he had an odd thought that brought him up standing. He had only Bassett's word for the story. Perhaps Bassett was lying to him, or mad. He rode on after a moment, considering that, but there was something, not in Bassett's circumstantial marrative but in himself, that refused to accept that loophole of escape. He could not have told what it was.

have told what it was.

And, with his increasing clarity, he began to make out the case for Bassett and against himself; the unfamiliar clothing he wore, the pad with the mame of Livingstone on it and the sign R, the other contents of his pockets.

He tried to orient himself in Bassett's story. A doctor. The devil's frony of it! Some poor hack, losing steep and bringing babies. Peddling pills. Leading what Bassett had called a life of usefulness! That was a career for you, a pill peddler. God!

But underlying all his surface thinking was still the need of flight, and he was continually confusing it with the earlier one. One moment he was looking about for the snow of that earlier

earlier one. One moment he was looking about for the snow of that earlier escape, and the next he would remember, and the sense of panic would leave him. After all he meant to surrender eventually. It did not matter if they caught him.

But, like the sense of flight, there was something else in his mind, some-thing that he fought down and would not face. When it came up he thrust it back fiercely. That something was the figure of Bevery Carlyle, stooping over her husband's body. He would have died to save her pain, and yet last night—no, it wasn't last night. It was years and years ago, and all this time

The had hated him.

It was unbearable that she had gone on bating him, all this time. not satisfy him. He wanted drink. He wanted alcohol. Suddenly he wanted all the liquor in the world. The craving came on at dawn, and after that he kicked his weary horse on recklessly, so that it rocked and stumbled down the trail. He had only one thought after the frenzy seized him, and that was to get to civilization and whisky. It was as though he saw in drunkenness his only escape from the unbearable. In all probability he would have killed both his horse and himself in the grip of that sudden madness, but deliverance came in the shape of a casual rider, a stranger who for a moment took up the shuttle, wove his bit of the pattern and passed on, to use his blow-pipe, his spirit lamp, and his chemicals in some prospector's para-

dise among the mountains.

When Dick heard somewhere ahead the creaking of saddle leather and the rattle of harness he drew aside on the trail and waited. He had lost all cautrail and waited. He had lost all cau-tion in the grip of his craving, and all fear. A line of loaded burros rounded a point ahead and came toward him, picking their way delicately with small deliberate feet and walking on the outer edge of the trail, after the way of pack animals the world over. Behind them was a horseman, rifle in the scabbard was a horseman, rine in the scabbard on his saddle and spurs jingling. Dick watched him with thirsty, feverish eyes as he drew near. He could hardly wait to put his question.

"Happen to have a drink about you, he called. The man stopped his horse and grin-

"Pretty early in the morning for a drink, isn't it?" he inquired. Then he saw Dick's eyes, and reached reluctantly into his saddle bag. "I've got a quart here," he said. "I've traveled forty miles and spent nine dollars to get it, but I guess you need some."
"You won't care to sell it, I suppose?"
"The bottle? Not on your life."

He untied a tin cup from his saddle and carefully poured a fair amount and carefully poured a fair amount into it, steadying the horse the while.

"Here," he said, and passed it over.

"But you'd better cut it out after this. It's bad medicine. You've got two good drinks there. Be careful."

Dick took the cup and looked at the liquor. The odor assailed him, and for a queer moment he felt a sudden distaste for it. He had a revulsion that almost shook him. But he drank it down and passed the cup back.

"You've traveled a long way for it," he said, "and I needed it, I guess. If you'll let me pay for it—"

"Forget it," said the man amiably, and started his horse. "But better cut it out, first chance you get. It's bad

He rode on after his vanishing pack, and Dick took up the trail again. But before long he began to feel sick and dizzy. The aftertaste of the liquor in his mouth nauseated him. The craving had been mental habit, not physical need, and his body fought the poison rebelliously. After a time the sickness passed, and he slept in the saddle. He roused once, enough to know that the house had left the trail and was He roused once, enough to know that the horse had left the trail and was grazing in a green meadow. Still overcome with his first real sleep he tumbled out of the saddle and stretched himself out on the ground. He slept all day, bring out in the burning sun, his face

when do to the sky.

When he wakened it was twilight, and the horse had disappeared. His face burned from the sun, and his head ached violently. He was weak, too, from hunger, and the morning's dizziness persisted. Connected thought was impossible, beyond the fact that if he did not get out soon, he would be too weak to travel. Exhausted and on the verge of sunstroke, he set out on foot to find the trail.

tres And all night, and the dawn

WHO'S WHO IN THE STORY

MHO'S WHO IN THE STORY

MHO'S

he saw in the glass a man whose face was lined and whose hair was streaked with gray. The fact that his beard had grown added to the terrible maturity of the reflection he saw, and he sent the mirror clattering to the ground.

first with furious energy, then spasmodically, then not at all, while Dick lay in a mountain cabin, on the bed made of young trees, and for the second time in his life watched a woman moving in a lean-to kitchen, and was fed by a woman's hand.

He forced himself to think of this small panorama of life that moved before him, rather than of himself. The woman was young, and pretty in a ground.

The other incident was later, and when he was fairly strong again. The man was caught under a tree he was felling, and badly hurt. During the hour or so that followed, getting the tree cut away, and moving the injured man to the cabin on a wood sledge, Dick had the feeling of help-lessness of any layman in an accident. He was solicitous but clumsy. But when they had got the patient into his bed, quite automatically he found himself making an investigation and pronouncing a verdict.

Later he was to realize that this was



would not face.

That phase of his reedjustment, then, when he reached it, was painful and confused. There was the necessity for atonement, which involved surrender, and there was the call of David, and the insistent desire to see Beveriy again, which was the thing he would not face. Of the three, the last, mixed up as it was with the murder and its explation, was the strongest. For by the very freehness of his released memories, it was the days before his flight from the ranch that seemet most recent, and his life with David that was long ago and blurred in its details as by the passing of infinite time. passing of infinite time.

When Elisabeth finally came back to him it was as something very gentle and remote, out of the long-forgotten past. Even his image of her was blurred and shadowy. He could not hear the tones of her voice, or remember anything she had said. He could never bring her at will, as he could David, for instance. She only came clearly at night, while he slept. Then the guard was down, and there crept into his dreams a small figure, infinitely loving and tender; but as he roused from sleep she changed gradually into Beverly. It was Beverly's arms he felt around his neck. Nevertheless he held to Elizabeth more completely than he knew, for the one thing that emerged When Elizabeth finally came back to The second of th

was a criminal and a fugitive, and that he had no right to tie up innocent lives with his. Even a letter to David might incriminate him.

Coupled with his determination to surrender, the idea of atonement, was strong in him. An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth. That had been his father's belief, and well he remembered it. But during the drifting period he thrust it back, into that painful niche where he held Beverly and the thing he would not face.

That phase of his readjustment, then,

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Philadelphia. Pa.

723,160 persons—

Were directly helped through the Welfare Federation of Philadelphia in 12 months-

O .- What is the Welfare Federation of Philadelphia?

A .- 124 organizations-hospitals and health, orphanages, homes for the aged, child-caring agencies, family welfare, community and educational—banded together for better service to the people and a unified and economical plan of

Q .- What has it accomplished?

A .- It has led every city in the United States in serving the greatest number of people through organized effort. The Welfare Fedmore member agencies than any city in the country.

Q.-How did it serve the people of Philadel-A .- By caring for those in need-the sick, the

injured, the orphan, the aged, the masses in congested districts, and exerting an influence for good throughout the entire community. Q.—How many people did the members of the Welfare Federation serve?

A.—More than one every minute of the year. 82 every hour, 1981 every day—728,160 from September 1, 1921, to September 1, 1922.

Q.—Does this include meetings, aggregate at-tendances, or duplication of figures?

A.—No. The aggregate number of persons touched through the various activities of the 124 organizations would reach several times the annual figure-at least 15,000 daily.

Q.—Specifically, what service was rendered!

A.-Let's take the hospitals first. The 29 hospitals and dispensaries in the number of days' care given in one year represent one patient in one hospital since the year 84 B. C. to 1923. More than half of these days were free. 846,324 persons were treated. 81 per cent.

were free or part free. 242,895 of these received free 601,464 treatments in dispensaries. 4697 ambulance calls were made. This does not include the patients carried to hos-

pitals in patrol wagons. Q .- What visite were made?

A .- Hospital nurses made 56,787; the visiting nurses, on errands of mercy throughout the entire city, made 198,156; other agencies, visiting distressed homes, 85,477. These total—840,420.

Q.—What has been done for chadren?

A.-This-6568 orphans, destitute or dependent children were housed, fed and clothed. The work represents 1,029,010 days' care; 562,160 meals were given.

5852 of the above were cared for by two organizations which place children in private homes, which guard the morals and living conditions of children.

1256 little children, whose mothers are compelled to work, were cared for in 18 nurseries. 242,678 meals were given these tots.

these tots.

185,000 (approximate) children directly reached through all organizations.

11,744 individuals were cared for during the \$80,698 lodgings were given. \$80,017 free meals. \$20,017 free meals. 263,710 days' care.

Q.—What of family and relief work!

72,712 individuals helped. 18,800 free meals. 6500 lodged.

Q-Any other rolleft A.—Yes, preventive and protective work among men, women and children, not covered above. Here, 29,681 persons were touched; 8451 days' care; 11,648 meals given.

Q.—What community work was done!

-This182,036 individuals reached through 27
settlements, community houses, character-building and recreational agen-

Q.—What to the summery of this work!

Q.—How to the work elacelfied?

Protective and Preventive Community ST General Welfare 14

Q.—All this work—is it political or sectorism? A. No. It is non-political and non-sectarian. It is for the whole community and not for any party, sect, race or faith.

Q.—Why to the Poderation plan preferable! A.—Honomy for service. Heconomy in time and money. To save annoyance from a multitude of appeals. To assure all worthy causes an adequate support, at the same time freeing the time of their workers for the work they were erganised to do. To distribute the duty of giving so that all, instead of a few, may have the privilege of giving, and help carry the load. Instead of 134 individual drives or money-raising campaigns, one city-wide appeal is made once

Q.—How to the compaign conducted? A.—By a large organised group of voluntary workers under the direction of the Campaign Organisation and Executive Committees.

Q.—Out of every deliar contributed, how much actually goes into the charities? A.—Approximately 94 cents.

Come and See!!

The 124 organizations of the Welfare Federation will be open to the public today, Thursday and Friday.

The people of Philadelphia are invited to visit these institutions and see the work being accomplished.

SUPPOSE NOBODY CARED

Q.—Has this plan worked in other office? A.—Yes, in 106. No city has abandoned the method after it has been launched. All have increased. At least 12 other cities are working on plans to introduce the Welfare Federation

A.—By 84 public-spirited citizens, their time without pay to the work.

Q.—How much was raised last your!

A.-\$2,070,158.88. Q.—How many individuals contributed

A.-60,759. Q.—Is the Welfare Federation a plan for letting

A.—No. On the contrary, the rich are giving a large share. At least sixty per cent. of the money to be raised for 1928 will come from the wealthy and forty per cent. from others.

Q.—Why should I give to the Federation it includes many organizations side of my neighborhood?

A.—The Federation members every in sentimeless ways the whole community life of Philadelphia and also in many instances operate far beyond the confines of the city. This is true of the hospitals, of the family agencies, of the child welfare agencies, of the recreational agencies. Only in this united way can the many different communities in Philadelphia be adequately and thoroughly protected in their social welfare needs. In short 80 per cent. are city-wide in their scope and 44 per cent. operate as well in the suburbs. as well in the suburbs.

Q.—Why is it better to give to the Welfar.
Federation than directly to the needy? A.—Because only a small preportion of the needy, and their needs, are known to the individual giver. Only by careful investigation can the real needs, and the real way to help, be discovered, and duplication of effect and imposition be avoided.

Q.—Who will be the losers if I refuse to give A.—Not the Welfare Pederation! Not the 184 agencies! But the unfortunate and needy who cannot be provided for unless you help in this united way.

Q.—Are contributions deductible from Incom

A.—Yes. All contributions to the Welfare Federation are deductible from Income Tax by special ruling of the Treasury Department. SUPPOSE NOBODY CARED?

124 Organizations, to better serve the people and to provide a uniform and economical plan of finance, form the

WELFARE FEDERATION OF PHILADELPHIA

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Hahnemann Hespital
Henry Phipps Institute Dispensery
Hespital of the University of Punnsylvania.
Social Service Department
Hospital of the Weman's Medical College of
Pennsylvania
Howard Hospital, Secial Service Department
Jefforsen Hespital, Secial Service Department
Jefforsen Hespital
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