

*Tables of Stone* is a somewhat ponderous, conscientious piece of fiction. Presenting quite clearly a number of rather interesting types of English men and women, yet without succeeding in

arriving at any very definite result. A country-bred young man, the son of an old-fashioned clergyman, comes to London clad in his father's garments of the fashion of a bygone generation and with his mind equipped with the knowledge of no books that are not classics and at least a hundred years old. Because his appearance, his speech and above all his views of life have the spice of novelty, he is promptly taken up by a young married woman, who is a leader in the fashionable London set, and whose whim it is for the time being to show him off, as she might have shown off a new bracelet or a lap-dog or an Oriental slave. Had the young man been a shade less serious-minded or less grotesque, the lady's interest might have grown to the dimensions of a clandestine love affair. As a matter of fact, nothing happens excepting that she is the means of his meeting a

personage of importance in English politics, who takes a fancy to him and retains him as tutor for an idiot son, on the understanding that if he succeeds in restoring the child's scattered wits he shall be rewarded with the hand of the statesman's daughter. If this brief epitome gives the impression of being both rambling and tedious, it really does not do the book any serious injustice. What happens from this point onward may be more quickly told. The statesman's daughter does not want to marry her feeble-minded brother's tutor; but she is persuaded that she never can marry a certain other man whom she really loves, because he fears the taint of hereditary madness. Accordingly she plays the part of dutiful daughter, accepts the tutor as her husband—and then, finding that the task of spending a lifetime with the Wrong Man too hard for her, deliberately betrays him, and on being discovered, kills herself and her child. Altogether a cheerless and unprofitable sort of book.