

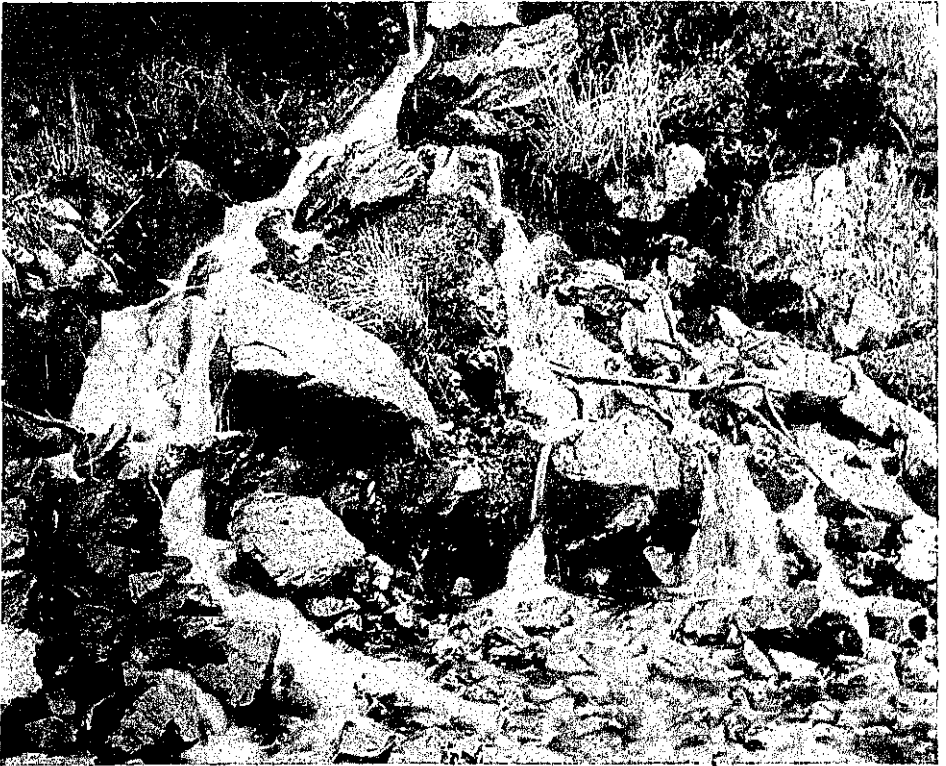
to be at the bottom of almost all evils. At that time I worshipped wealth. I had been brought up to believe that if I became rich I should be honoured by all, and like many another, trained as I was, I fully believed it. If I had an ambition, it was wealth. If I had a guiding star, that star was a gold sovereign. As to my morals, they were left to take care of themselves, and the result was as might have been expected. The crisis of my life came. I

have one. She was one of these; yet I still loved her."

"And Lucy, where is she now?"

"She was the daughter of poor, but well educated people. She suddenly disappeared shortly after. She may have become a governess. It is difficult to imagine her after life. I have searched everywhere for her, but have never been able to discover a trace."

"And the child?"



*Alex. Bickerton,*

WATERFALL OPPOSITE DEVIL'S PUNCH BOWL.

*Photo.*

fell in love with a girl, called Lucy Lyons." Mrs. Reece sat pale and as impassive as a marble statue. "No man likes to be saddled with a wife at the outset of his career. I wronged her. Fortunately she was young, and a girl at that age does not feel much."

"Perhaps she feels more than you imagine, Dr. Richmond."

"I think not. Our child—she let it go from her without a word. There are some girls who, as long as they can throw off the responsibility of their child, will forget they

"I was conscious of the wrong I had done her, and I wished to share some of the responsibility. I have brought him up as my nephew. He is my son."

They had by this time reached the Devil's Punch Bowl, and the doctor pulled up as if he wanted to look at this beautiful waterfall; but in reality to look at his companion's face, to see how she bore this confession, and whether she could still respect him. Presently she said: "How strange you should tell me of this to-day!"