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Ohio State Engineer

Title: The Bookshelf Speaks

Creators: Allen, Mark L.

Issue Date: May-1928

Publisher: Ohio State University, College of Engineering

Citation: Ohio State Engineer, vol. 11, no. 7 (May, 1928), 16, 24-25.

URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/1811/34296>

Appears in Collections: [Ohio State Engineer: Volume 11, no. 7 \(May, 1928\)](#)

THE BOOKSHELF SPEAKS

THE NEW REFORMATION *by* MICHAEL PUPIN

Professor Pupin, as the publishers tell us, has in this book accomplished that which would have been impossible to one who is not a scientist as well as an artist. A scientific treatise or a work utterly devoid of technical background could not have the general appeal that this work has. Fundamentally, the topic is scientific but the style is not that of the scientific writer but the style is not that of the scientific writer yet the reader senses that the author is a scientist.

The author declares that the progress of Science has been due to the progress of "the scientific mode of research," as he calls it. This method of attacking a scientific problem was originated by Archimedes but lay dormant from his time to the age of Roger Bacon. Bacon realized that the Aristotelian philosophy fostered by the Mediaeval Church could not answer his questions so he turned to Archimedes for his model.

It is demonstrated that Religion and Science are mutually interdependent. To be true, during the Middle Ages Religion occupied a far more important place than it does today and Science was looked upon askance. Yet, both rested upon false foundations—iron-bound dogma and ignorance. As soon as Religion abandoned its orthodoxy and the truths of Science were realized, Civilization received a fresh impetus.

We are to consider the scientific mode of research as the foundation of a new philosophy. Science and Religion are terminals of the same realities; one terminal resides in the human soul, the other in the visible realities of the universe. This is quite logical and original. Professor Pupin declares that the world is gradually drifting towards this idea; this is the New Reformation.

While this work is to be highly commended and represents a great step forward in light of settling the Religion *versus* Science dispute, one rather important item has been overlooked, that of Evolution. The learned Doctor is primarily an engineer yet it seems that before embarking upon the seas of Philosophy, he should have looked into Darwinism a bit and given us some discussion on how this absorbing subject fits into the New Reformation.

The Oxford University Press has recently published an American history which is advertised as being "non-partisan." It covers the period from the beginning of things in North America to the late war. The author, although English, does not spare his countrymen.

Doubleday-Doran announce the publishing of a new book concerning more of the exploits of Lawrence in Arabia. Colonel Lawrence has left the limelight and is at present with the Royal Air Force in India under the name of T. E. Shaw. He is a mere private.

THE GANGS OF NEW YORK

By HERBERT ASBURY

In a volume that represents a colossal amount of research work among old newspaper files, histories, and reports, the author of this book has made a distinct and original contribution to that swelling mass of literature that sports the title, "Americana."

The New York gangster is by no means a new character to the world. For years he has held a place unique among thugs, crooks, and cut-throats, that until the innovation of the machine-gunning lad of Chicago has been considered the last word in the underworld. All those gentlemen that figure in the headlines of the tabloids today are but the progeny of the original group that flourished in lower Manhattan a century ago.

Mr. Asbury says that the gangs grew with the flood of immigration. The greater part of the undesirable of all Europe flocked to our shores during those early days. Is it a wonder that today these dear United States excel in murders? The officials in charge of governing the various European states in those days must be credited with a far-seeing vision. They got rid of their crooks and today point their fingers at us and comment on democracy. In spite of this the best is to be hoped for. Take for example the Commonwealth of Australia. Originally a colony of convicts, the Continent of the Antipodes today boasts of a happy, well-governed people.

The gangs of New York waxed fat under corrupt police protection. The high point of their existence appears to have been reached with the Conscription Riots during the early days of the Civil War. Crookdom was partially disorganized by the earnest efforts of certain citizens. The notorious Rosenthal incident sounded the knell of the organized gang in New York.

Written in a pleasing style, this volume should prove very good reading both for the history contained as well as the blood and thunder.

THE DAY'S WORK *by* RUDYARD KIPLING

It is a great balm to the soul of the younger engineer to think that after he finishes up his first big job he will marry the chief's beautiful daughter. In fact, the idea is so prevalent that all authors make a practice of ending up their twenty-chapter agony of the dam break with a wild gallop to the parson, the bold young C. E. and his love being the two main participants. Something should be done to stop this insidious propaganda.

Mr. Kipling, the well-known author of *Danny Deever* and some twenty-odd volumes of prose and poetry, must have noticed this practice quite a period back. He wrote a story about an engi-

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BOOK SHELF

(Continued from Page 16)

neer that should have turned the tide but people like to have their vanities catered to and so the story has been more or less forgotten. The stereotyped story remains in present-day literature but those who care to read something different about an engineer on a big job should read *The Bridge Builders*.

This is the first story and the best one in the book. It is about *Findlayson*, an engineer who is building a bridge across the upper part of the Ganges. The construction work is practically finished when the story opens. He has successfully weathered all of the trials and tribulations that go with the job of chief engineer, slipping of booms, breaking of tackle, failure of the cranes and drag-lines, fever and pestilence among the workmen and a thousand other details. He was beginning to pat himself on the back because he had come through. The job was finished but there was one trial he had overlooked: the vengeance of Mother Gunga or the spirit of the Ganges. *Peroo*, his henchman, had oft warned him that Mother Gunga did not like the idea of being hampered with steel and concrete and would seek retribution ere the work was completed.

Mother Gunga sought retribution and how she did it makes a pretty tale. If we had more of these stories there might be less disillusioned engineers.

.007 is another god story. It is a rather peculiar title, sounding like the code name of a secret agent. Mayhap Kipling was the first to invest a machine with a personality. It does make good material for a story.

There are also a couple of sea yarns that are not bad reading. Stories of the sea are read with avid interest in all corners of the globe. You ought to enjoy *The Ship That Found Herself*.

As one goes through a volume of Kipling the most outstanding fact concerning his writing that will be noted is his great versatility. Besides being a master of both poetry and prose he is a master of local color. It is not a great feat to write about a land where one has been born and raised but it is an entirely different matter to write about places where one has merely toured through. Kipling knows his India. Read .007 and find out what he knows about the U. S.

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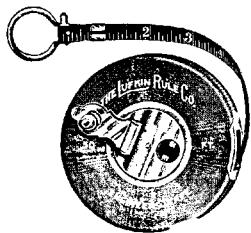
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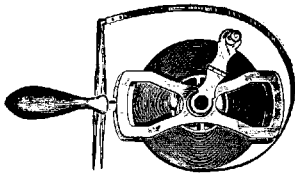
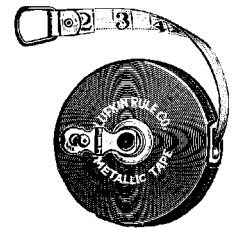
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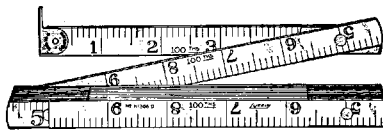


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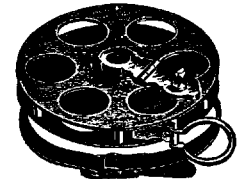
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