

The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University
Ohio State Engineer

Title: The Bookshelf Speaks

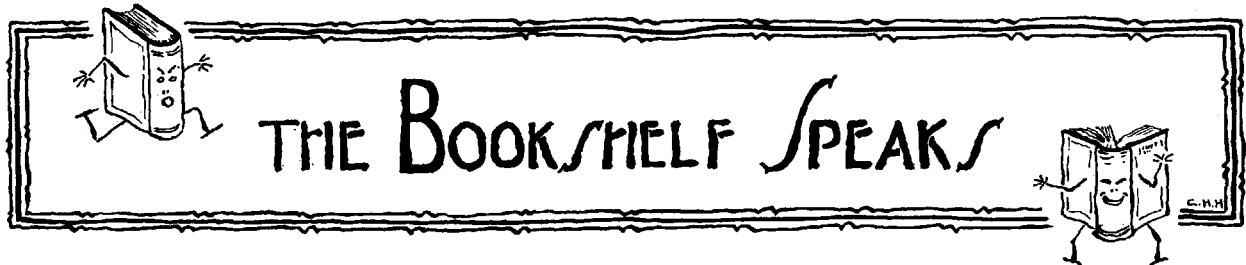
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SOON come the days of June, when, if ever, come perfect days. Along with these promised perfect days, comes leisure time wherein that long-put-off reading can be done. It may be a new friend or one of the old friends which bears reading and rereading many times. As a guide to your good intentions to read this summer, a list has been prepared from suggested books by members of the faculty. Just what a professor thinks about outside of the classroom is reflected in the choice of books and authors given here.

A good thing is always self-evident, and such is the case with several books which were unanimously recommended by members of the faculty. The first of these is "From Immigrant to Inventor," by Pupin, and second comes the "Story of Philosophy," by Will Durant. Others recommended by various professors are:

- "The Royal Road to Romance"—Haliburton.
- "On the Trail of the Ancient Man"—Roy Chapman Andrews.
- "The Autobiography of Benjamin Garver Lamme."
- "Abraham Lincoln"—Carl Sandburg.
- "Trail Makers of the Middle Border"—Hamlin Garland.
- "Life on the Mississippi"—Mark Twain.
- "Paul Bunyan"—Esther Shepherd.
- "Mind in the Making"—James Robinson.

The tale of a man who had but one ideal, is "Jorgensen," by Tristram Tupper. And this ideal was to grapple with and conquer the great androsphinx, Black Mountain. The dream and vision of Jorgensen were to see a train go thundering through a tunnel, hewed under the depths of Black Mountain in defiance of the elements that resisted him.

"Kingpin" they called him because of his great strength, his will and the power of his hands, great heavy knuckled hands with huge wrist bones. But he knew that all the strength of his hands and will was needed in the task for he had already nearly failed once. The androsphinx must be conquered, but first he must conquer himself. Mistaken for an engineer sent to assist the chief engineer, Jorgensen, under the name of Logan, soon had the whole residency doing everything he wanted, for he had the power of commanding without saying anything. At Shaft Number Two he met his test. The mountain tried to break him, but he was stronger than earth and rock.

Besides conquering himself, he had to conquer the man within himself. His tests were Rosalee, warm and vivid, to lure the flesh, and Ellen, cool and luminous, to lure the spirit. Jorgenson met each according to his strength.

This is a memorable story, told with remarkable power and feeling, elemental as the granite face of Black Mountain, unconquerable as the chants of the black men on the mucking cars.

To most engineers Socrates, Plato and Aristotle are little more than names, but here is a chance to learn of them and the story of the human being as a thinker. One reading of the book is worth hours and hours of class room work. A second reading inspires one to think for oneself.

Dr. Durant's eloquent introduction to the "Story of Philosophy" effectively answers the criticism passed on philosophy—that it is stagnant and unprogressive as compared with science. As students of science it is our duty to investigate and determine the relation of philosophy to science. "Science seems always to advance, while philosophy seems always to lose ground. Yet this is only because philosophy accepts the hard and hazardous task of dealing with problems not yet open to science—problems of good and evil, beauty and ugliness, order and freedom, life and death; so soon as a field of inquiry yields knowledge susceptible of exact information, it is called science. Philosophy seems to stand still, perplexed; but only because she leaves the fruits of her victory to her daughters the sciences, and passes on, divinely discontent, to the uncertain and unexplored."

In proof of this Dr. Durant leads us from page to page on which the essential thought of the great philosophers from Plato to John Dewey is presented in such a way as to make it human and readable. Some personal comments are added to the exposition and many quotations from the chosen philosophers are included.

The chapter on Sir Francis Bacon was to my mind the most interesting. Bacon is known to all of us as a great scientist and as one who added much to our field by his inductive method of thinking, but he also was one of the greatest of philosophers. Although perfect in neither philosophy nor science, Bacon approaches closest to the ideal union of the two.

"Science gives us knowledge, but only philosophy can give us wisdom."

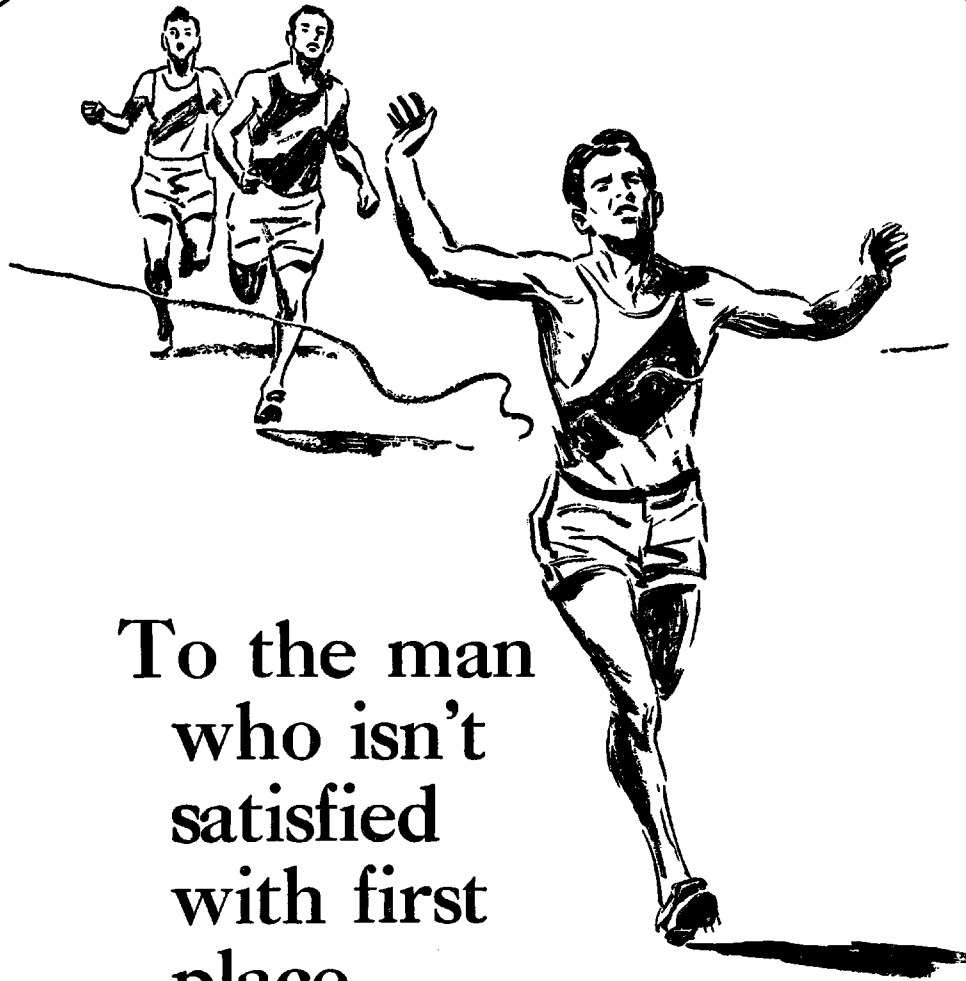
The chief engineer mounted to the bridge of the ark and accosted Skipper Noah.

"Sir," he said, "did you say we have a pair of everything aboard?"

"We have."

"Wish I could be sure of it," sighed the c. e. "I can't find my Beeveedes anywhere."

The grade of a co-ed's exam. will approach zero as the number of dates she has a week approaches seven.—*North Dakota Engineer.*



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