

The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University
Ohio State Engineer

Title: The Bookshelf

Issue Date: Feb-1930

Publisher: Ohio State University, College of Engineering

Citation: Ohio State Engineer, vol. 13, no. 4 (February, 1930), 16, 30.

URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/1811/34676>

Appears in Collections: [Ohio State Engineer: Volume 13, no. 4 \(February, 1930\)](#)

THE BOOKSHELF

THE BLADED BARRIER

By JOSEPH B. AMES

Rick Stillman and Jimmy Cravanaugh, two young prospectors, had their entire fortune swept away by a clever and treacherous Mexican. They were on the point of departing for another state when an incident occurred that was destined to give them the greatest adventure of their young lives.

By the merest chance they saw a Mexican who had been viciously stabbed. With his last words he presented them with an enormous emerald of exquisite design, and with a faltering voice he said something about, "fiends—treasure—devil's mouth—the gate of swords."

Equipped with only this meager bit of information, they set out with their old friend, Tex Ripley, to accomplish what the Mexican had failed to do. They agreed that the probable solution to the mystery was that a remnant of the Aztec civilization still remained, hidden in lower California. Following a slender clue, they journeyed to the small town of San Marco, where they were puzzled by the terrified condition of the inhabitants. Unseen and mysterious forces, they were told, carried off the inhabitants, one by one, until the town was now the ghost of its former self. This was indeed true, for everywhere empty dwellings and deserted streets evidenced a once large and prosperous city. What were these mysterious powers? Had they anything to do with their quest?

With great difficulty they learned from a shepherd that a great cave existed far back in the mountains, which was inhabited by devils who were called the "Boca Inferno." They at once determined to explore this place, and they set out against the warnings and pleadings of the natives. The route lay over high mountains and burning deserts. On the trip they suffered excruciating hardships, fighting their way through dense underbrush inhabited by venomous reptiles of every description.

Tex was the first one of the three to reach the cave. He found a spring at the mouth of the cave, and with this he revived his friends. Upon entering the cave, they found, not the ancient Aztecs, but a city inhabited by hostile Mongols. The splendor and wealth were not lacking, however, and the amazing adventures of these three men brings the story to a wonderful climax. All three of them escape as they should in any good book, and the story is thus brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

Joseph Bushnell Ames wrote very popular Western stories, and this one should not prove to be an exception to the rule. It is written in a very simple style, and the plot is easy to follow. *The Bladed Barrier* was the last novel to be completed by the author before his untimely death. Any lover of Western stories should find this one extremely interesting. —J.S.

We're wondering if these front-wheel-drive cars will affect the back seat drivers.

BLAIR'S ATTIC

By JOSEPH C. LINCOLN AND FREEMAN LINCOLN

Forty years ago a ship was wrecked along the shores of Cape Cod. The "Old Blair House" on the outskirts of a Cape Cod village, being the nearest building, was naturally the place decided upon to leave such personal belongings of the Captain as had been salvaged from the wreckage. In Blair's attic they were left until forty years later when Bill Thornton and Marian Fisher decided the antiques in the attic were too valuable to be hidden away any longer. Accordingly they sold some of the old sea captain's belongings and put the rest of them in the living room of the house. Then things began to happen. Intruders broke into the house and ruined furniture. Then, in the middle of the night, Sam Cregg, clad only in pajamas, rushed from the house and was found dead the next morning, nearby. Lost treasure is hinted at, even looked for, and finally found in the old furnishings from Blair's attic.

The story is told by the characters themselves and although inclined to be drawn out, is told in Joseph C. Lincoln's inimitable style. It is the first time Freeman Lincoln's name has appeared on the cover of a novel. He has served as a reporter on the Philadelphia *Public Ledger* and as associate editor of the *Ladies Home Journal*. In this novel father and son have collaborated their talents to write an absorbing mystery story. —J. K.

BLACK SUN

By ABEN KANDEL

When Mr. Kandel wrote "Black Sun," he undertook to write a narrative of the domestic life of the middle class of America. Particularly that middle class that inhabits the fringe of our great cities.

It is essentially a story of a man, an honest, good, and fairly decent man. One of those men who seem fitted for better things but who can not rise to them. Until Michael met Louise he was a modern soldier of fortune; he slipped from job to job, from town to town, from trade to trade, but sticking to newspaper work when he could. When he met Louise he had just lost a job and was feeling reckless; as a result they slid into marriage.

This seemed to change Michael in respect to his jobs, for he stayed with one for a year. When he lost that job, Michael failed to find another. Although from here on the story is rather vague, the trouble seems to be not that he cannot find work but that he isn't sure he wants it. At the end of the story he wins a moral victory, and the reader is left with the impression that he will succeed.

Without a doubt Mr. Kandel has written a good story. It is quite frank in spots which will make it safe to indulge in the prophecy that it will be well read. Though Mr. Kandel digresses in places from his plot, the story is quite readable. After reading the book one feels that the phenomena of New York are partly explained. —J. F. P.

(Continued on Page 30)

BOOKSHELF

(Continued from Page 16)

**SLOANE AND MONTZ'S ELEMENTS OF
TOPOGRAPHICAL DRAWING**

Professor Roscoe C. Sloane and John M. Montz, of the civil engineering department, have written a complete text book on topographic drawing. This book not only consists of a detailed elaboration of the methods employed in topographic representation but also includes several important features of practical engineering application. This information is not only valuable to the student but also to the drafting room.

The text is divided into eight chapters giving a dictionary of topographical symbols and authorized abbreviations as have been recently developed.

The chapter headings are as follows:

- 1—Classifications.
- 2—Signs and Development of Symbols.
- 3—Mapping.
- 4—Colors and their Application.
- 5—Relation of Geology to Topography.
- 6—Duplication.
- 7—Office Practice.
- 8—Problems.

A very interesting feature of this book is the water color plates showing surface features of the earth. It is published by the McGraw-Hill Co. and will be out sometime in February.

—W. E. B.

Edward H. Roush, '29, is now with the Carnegie Steel Company at Youngstown. Home address, 29 Halls Heights, Youngstown.

Ralph L. Boyer, '24, is assistant chief engineer in charge of the Diesel engine work of the Cooper-Bessemer Corporation, Grove City, Pennsylvania.