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THE BOOKSHELF

INDUSTRIAL EXPLORERS

By MAURICE HOLLAND

Industrial Explorers is a book dealing with the lives of the men who are at the head of the great research laboratories in our country today. It does not give complete biographies of these men but tells enough of their characteristics and methods of working to enable us to understand why they occupy the positions that they do. The author should be well qualified to discuss this type of subject, as he himself is Director, Division of Engineering and Industrial Research, National Research Council. Mr. Holland has prepared this book at the expense of much time and trouble; since the men he interviewed, being scientists, could view personal publicity only with distrust. He finally convinced them, however, that the publishing of a few of the facts concerning their work could not help but be inspiring to students and others who were daily toiling without visible remuneration, in the effort to further the ends of scientific research. It might also help some of those who have not yet decided what career to follow, as it gives an idea of the type of work that is met with in some of the large industrial plants.

Edwin E. Slosson, author of *Creative Chemistry*, says: "Mr. Holland has done in this book for science in industry what Paul de Kruif did in his *Microbe Hunters* for science in medicine. But *Industrial Explorers* cannot be compared with any existing book because it enters a new field of great importance and general interest. It is a volume that the wise librarian will hand out to the business men of his community to awaken their interest in scientific research."

In this book for the first time are recorded, through biographical portraits of nineteen eminent scientists, the wonderful contributions of industrial research to modern life. Some of those whose deeds are recounted in this book are: Willis R. Whitney, Director of Research Laboratories, General Electric Company; Elmer A. Sperry, Chairman, Board of Directors, Sperry Gyroscope Company; L. H. Baekeland, Bakelite Corporation; and sixteen others equally as well known. The stories of how these men have risen from comparative obscurity to positions of great responsibility are interesting and inspiring—how Willis R. Whitney has not only built up the General Electric laboratory until it is one of the best in the country but has also captured the hearts of all of the men employed under him; and how Elmer A. Sperry has dreamed his way through the world of science creating the "Metal Mike," a gyroscopic compass for ships, and the powerful Sperry searchlight. These and other stories hold the readers attention and create in him the desire to do big things himself and to carry on the work to which these men have given their lives.

It is a wonderful book, well written and well edited. A feature which adds not a little to the book is the placing of an autographed portrait of each man at the front of the chapter concerning him. It enables the reader to get a better idea of

the man he is reading about. I heartily recommend this book to any one planning to enter the field of science or industry and feel that it will help him as it has helped me.

—R. M. E.

QUEX

By DOUGLAS JERROLD

The title of this book suggests a character study, and rightly. It is the story of a leader of English finance whose code was summed up in his own words thus: "Genius does not go begging, it goes taking." In this book we see Artemus Quex throughout the whole of his life taking—first the business of Boscombe Brothers, silk merchants; then a series of drug stores which he has inveigled away from the decrepit owners; contracts of a sizable nature from the government during the war; and finally the financial masterpiece of a lifetime, the riches in the form of cattle and gold that made up the undeveloped wealth of the African territory of Bubuland. Quex's unscrupulous methods and his aversion for work go hand in hand to win for him a fortune.

While intended primarily to be a history of the life of Quex, this story deals with other characters all of which are very interesting types. George Tracy is the typical English army officer who has retired and is living on the country estate which has come to him as the last survivor of an old family. He is rather bored with life of this sort after his many years in the army, but he feels that to get into business would be too degrading; so he dutifully keeps the family mansion open.

Hilda Altamont is a girl who considers herself very modern, is an atheist, and has very decided opinions on every subject under the sun. Most of her ideas are contrary to the accepted beliefs, having been adopted simply because they are different, though she herself does not realize this.

Dick Livingstone, a cousin of Quex but not proud of the fact, is also a retired army officer, but he has not the inheritance that is Tracey's and is forced to earn a living. This he does by acting as Quex's assistant and secretary. The idea of working is almost as revolting to him as it is to Quex, but he is forced to labor quite often, not possessing his cousin's resourcefulness in getting out of such distressing situations.

The plot unfolds steadily and interestingly. Each business deal that comes up is taken care of in the same way by the unscrupulous Quex, and each one is larger and more involved than the preceding one, reaching a climax at last in the African explorations and its thrilling culmination.

—R. M. E.

Many of us have just recently discovered that there is a full-sized publishing house connected with the institution and operating on the campus. The Ohio State University Press has published a number of scholarly books during the past year, among them: *Scientific Method* by Truman L.

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Kelley, a book on scientific research; *Finland*, a very interesting collection of facts concerning this little-discussed country, by Professor Eugene Van Cleef of the geography department here; *On the Commonwealth*, a new translation of Cicero's famous discussion of government by Sabine and Smith, and *Municipal Ordinance Making*, by Harvey Walker of the political science department.

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The latest book of John Galsworthy to be published by Charles Scribner's Sons is *A Modern Comedy*, which brings his enduring tale known as the Great Forsyte Chronicle to an end.

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British reviewers have compared *All Else Is Folly* favorably with *All Quiet on the Western Front*. It is a new war novel written by Major Peregrine Acland, a Canadian World War officer. The American edition has a preface by Ford Madox Ford.

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The Incredible Marquis, Alexander Dumas, by Herbert Gorman, is a new attempt to picture the life of that much-talked-of author and editor. His immortal stories are in most readers' minds sufficient to make them pardon his immoral life.