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THE BOOKSHELF

SKY HIGH

By ERIC HODGINS AND F. ALEXANDER MAGOUN

This book is a complete history of man's attempts to fly, from the mythical wax wings of Daedalus to the present day monster of the sky, the Dornier DO-OX.

From time immemorial man has watched with envy the birds soaring in the heavens. The ancients had a great desire to fly, and accordingly legends grew which told of men flying away on man made wings. The first actual attempt on record, however, of a man's attempt to fly was a large contraption to which were tied a score of large birds, who were supposed to supply the lifting power. Of course this rash attempt was not successful, and so for many centuries the best man could do was to dream. Leonardo Da Vinci was the first real genius to attack the problem of flight, but it remained for the Montgolfier brothers to send the first hot air balloon into space. From this point on, aerostation advanced rapidly and the book goes into considerable detail on the successes, failures, and hardships of these early pioneers. Man remained content with lighter-than-air travel for some time but the balloons and dirigibles had certain disadvantages, and the airplane was an inevitable development.

Lillenthal was the first great master of the art of gliding and he gave up his life for his work. When gliding was an accomplished fact, powered flight was but a matter of time. In this field the names of Langley and the Wright brothers stand out in this country. Sir Hiram Maxim narrowly missed success in England and Langley failed by the merest prank of fate. The Wright brothers were the first to accomplish heavier-than-air flight, which took place at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, in 1909.

A large part of the book is given to the advancement of aviation from this point. A final chapter is given to a conservative prediction of the future of aviation.

Both of the authors of *Sky High* are connected with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. They had the help of Edward P. Warner, a well-known figure in aviation. The book is the most complete and authentic history of aviation to date, and has not one dry or uninteresting page in it. I should like to recommend it to anyone enjoying a book of adventure and one full of scientific facts.

—J. S.

The Ohio State University Press has published a few new books lately, chief among them *Labor and Capital*, a study of national political workings by Harwood Childs. *A Study of Civil War Prisons* is to be published shortly and Vol. II of *Industrial and Commercial Ohio* has been added to the stock on the shelves.

Ultima Thule of Henry Handel Richardson has attracted much attention lately and is being talked about everywhere. It is a novel that is based on character study and is well worth reading.

MARCH, 1930

THE OLD MAN

By EUGENE MACLEAN

About once every season the stage is set for a good humorous story. At times there seems to be more than enough of them, and then at other times there seems to be a deficiency. Though we are not quite certain what the market conditions are at present, we feel safe to say that Mr. MacLean's story will be widely read. We say this for several reasons, the principal one being that it is a good story, loaded to the guards with humor, and quite readable.

Mr. MacLean is evidently a keen student of human nature, for he has filled his book from cover to cover with characters of all sorts and descriptions. They are drawn with extreme care, and are quite likeable.

The plot is an old one, it deals with the foundation of one of the great American fortunes, but under Mr. MacLean's skillful treatment it takes on entirely new qualities. The action is swift and at no time does the author let one's interest lag.

As has been said before, it deals with the foundation of one of the great American fortunes, a fortune gleaned from the newspaper business. The "Old Man" is A. K. Sherborn, frequently referred to as the "boss," the "Old Man" or simply "A. K." The story hinges about the fact that having established these newspapers, the Old Man has a habit of burying himself in some remote and inaccessible place such as the wilds of the upper Amazon, and leaving them to run themselves. About once a year he descends unannounced and stirs up things.

The story is a series of these visits and to say it is humorous is putting it mildly. Mr. MacLean is an old newspaper man; he has been editor of one of the Scripps-Howard newspapers for a great many years. We slightly suspect that the story is drawn from life. It is Mr. MacLean's first book, and while the first book is usually the best, we hope there will be more of the same quality from his pen.—J. F. P.

Science and the New Civilization, by Robert A. Millikan, the great physicist, is a new work on the latest additions to science. It is extremely human and tells much of the newest things in scientific research.

A new author has come to the front in the form of Granville Toogood, whose first book *Huntsman in the Sky* is attracting attention. The theme of the story is the problem of a genius in society.

Warwick Deeping, the well-known author of *Sorrell and Son* is the writer of a new book *Exile* which uses Italy as its background.

Something that sounds interesting is *Hey Yellowbacks*, the war diary of a conscientious objector, by Ernest L. Meyer.

Octavus Roy Cohen publishes a new form of philosophy, *Epic Peters, Pullman Porter*. It is another of his inimitable negro stories.