

VI-MAX



The vitalizing, vitamin-plus breakfast food and cooking cereal for radiant health.

Beauty comes from within. For inward health and increased resistance to illness serve VI-MAX daily.

VI-MAX is sold in two grades, COARSE and FINE, in 3lb cartons and 7lb bags.

Made by the makers of VI-MEAL and VI-BRAN.

PAINS

Wake up the circulation and relief from stiffness and muscular pains will quickly follow. Do this by gently applying Sloan's Liniment. Use it for any member of the family suffering from over-tired or strained muscles or from rheumatic stiffness, the congestion of chest colds or other aches and pains. Only 2/6

For
Quick
Relief
Just
Pat
On

SLOAN'S

Family LINIMENT



Stop that
Cough with
BAXTERS
LUNG PRESERVER
The Time-Tested
Remedy

BOOKS

PREJUDICES IN PROSE

LEND ME YOUR EARS. Essays by F. Sinclair. Caxton Press, Christchurch.

THE fool has said in his heart, There is no God. Professor Sinclair says, Let us not suffer fools. Whether they have degrees in science or certificates of proficiency in cynicism, let us make them look as silly as they are. So he hits them in the solar plexus with this:

These well-meaning and often amiable cranks in their thousand libraries and laboratories, indulging their mania for counting and collecting, and exercising their talent for uncouth platitude, might be a joke if they could be kept under lock and key, in a sort of mild and humane detention. Their proper place is the Academy of Lagrado, where Gulliver saw some of them busy extracting sunbeams from cucumbers and inventing a substitute for language. No great harm is done, and some amusement is provided, by these Poloniuses of research so long as they play the fool nowhere but in their own house. The mischief begins when their fooleries become public. Then it becomes only too plain what spirit they have served, and to what end they have unconsciously been labouring. There is no new savagery, but they have blessed and approved it with a text, no new tyranny, but they have provided it with an imposing formula of justification.

Obscurantism? No. Just an inkpot at the devil, and a bad boy's delight in the splash on the wall. See how he rubs it in:

On Christmas Day, millions of us repeated the Nicene Creed. That stupendous symbol contains enough spiritual dynamite to blow to smithereens all the Hitlers who ever were or will be. Why do we recite it in an apologetic mumble?

And the blind mice. See how he makes them run:

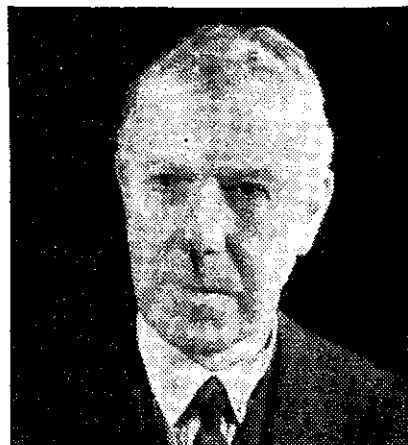
What the English rationalists tried to do was, in fact, to incorporate as much of Christianity as pleased them in a naively optimistic gospel of progress. Their success may be measured by the degree to which they have influenced the minds even of professing Christians. It was not a Christian theologian, but Nietzsche, the author of Anti-Christ, who forecast the twentieth century as an era of wars.

Yes, a bad boy—one thumb to his nose and the other to his little finger. No attempt to conceal his delight in annoying us. Take, for example, his "provisional" acceptance of "the luminous axiom of Burke that the rich ought not to have their throats cut." A bad boy, but a mighty big boy, too. How many in New Zealand can write like this:

If all Hazlitt's criticisms were lost, he would still be by far the greatest of our miscellaneous essayists. From his workshop the essay, whose general form and manner he had inherited from the eighteenth century, comes out a new thing. He has poured into it the ingredient of passion, and the mould is broken. You cannot go back from him to his great predecessors without feeling that Addison, with his amiable and decorous insipidity, rings a little false, that Steele and Goldsmith are thin and sentimental, and Johnson a giant moving his feet to the music of a gavotte.

Or fool like this?

It is now eight or nine years since a young enthusiast took me in hand and gave me a course of James Joyce . . . In the effort to be in the know about Joyce, I claim that I dared to do all that might become a worm . . . I followed the prescribed course of reading; I turned up to my friend's tutorials; I faced the searchlight of his questions; I endured his disdain; I bored my way through *Ulysses*. I admit that



PROFESSOR SINCLAIRE
A bad but mighty big boy

being only flesh and blood, I furtively skipped an occasional parenthesis of forty or fifty pages, and that when I parted with *Ulysses* I did not feel at all like Calypso, who was, you remember, inconsolable. . . . If I made no progress, I say again that the fault was not wholly mine. It was, I maintain, the impatience of my teacher, his inhuman pedantry, his godlike superciliousness, his delight in talking over my head, that lost the day and spoiled all. I have sometimes heard people say that Shakespeare was spoiled for them at school. That is where Joyce was spoiled for me. Young people, give us better schools, or we perish in our ignorance!"

And who else could exalt Handel high over Mozart and Schubert, and almost over Beethoven, and get away with it?

Don't buy this book if it hurts you to be touched on the raw—to be contradicted, questioned, and often made to feel ridiculous. But buy it if you can take these experiences and not misunderstand what is happening—a scholarly, wise, but no longer youthful professor indulging his prejudices in matchless prose.

—O.D.

INFANTRY DRILL

HANDBOOK OF INFANTRY
DRILL. Whitcombe and Tombs.
With eight plates. 2/9.

THE publishers of this book have been loyal to the War Office. It follows the manuals faithfully. First it gives four pages of definitions. Then there are five pages on "The System of Infantry Training." The book says: "... elementary drill provides the best means of securing ordered movement in the field." This "best means" is described in 17 pages on squad drill, 20 pages on arms drill, seven pages on saluting, 40 pages on guard and sentry duties viewed from the ceremonial point of view, three pages on march discipline (in close order), 14 pages on ceremonial drill for platoon, company, or battalion, and eight pages on how to pitch tents, including large marquees. In all these sections there is only one notable omission: nothing is said about how to win wars against people who don't use the same drill book.

—S.B.

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