

# **THE CRIME OF CREDULITY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649188062

The Crime of credulity by Herbert N. Casson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**HERBERT N. CASSON**

**THE CRIME  
OF CREDULITY**



THE  
CRIME OF CREDULITY

BY

HERBERT N. CASSON,

AUTHOR OF "THE RED LIGHT."



NEW YORK.  
PETER ECKLER, PUBLISHER,  
No. 35 FULTON STREET.

**COPYRIGHTED,**  
1901,  
**HERBERT N. CASSON.**

## PREFACE.

**O**URS is a midway civilization. It is a blending of old and new, faith and reason, reaction and progress. The political boss, the financial exploiter and the ecclesiastic walk side by side on our streets with the teacher, the inventor and the scientist. In the same building one group of people may be discussing the Roentgen rays or spinal anesthesia, while another group is listening to a trance lecture by a Spiritualist medium. Signor Marconi, the perfecter of wireless telegraphy, and Kharifeh, the Egyptian palmist and astrologer, may reside in adjoining suites of the same hotel; and each have a large and enthusiastic following. In the same library you may find "The Riddle of the Universe," by

Haeckel ; and " Science and Health," by Mrs. Eddy. In the same mail-bag there may be a letter from Edison, announcing a new invention ; and a "consecrated" postcard from a faith-healer, designed to cure a case of chronic dyspepsia.

Just as there is in every human body a vermiform appendix,—a useless and dangerous remnant carried up from some lower stage of existence ; so there are in our immature civilization similar survivals of medievalism and even barbarism. These appendices may remain harmless and unnoticed for years ; but they may at any time cause intense pain and possibly death. Neither the physical nor the social body are safe as long as these tag-ends are allowed to exist in it ; and it is with the desire to prevent a threatened attack of national appendicitis that this book has been written.

The particular appendix which the



writer desires to have removed is known by the generic name of *Mysticism*; and the symptoms that have brought it into recent prominence have been the extraordinary growth of the Christian Science and Mental Science delusions. This recrudescence of medievalism calls for prompt action on the part of those who value common sense and scientific methods. Those who take for granted the freedom and advancement of the twentieth century, and are unaware of the desperate conflicts that were waged by scientists and thinkers to emancipate us from mystical superstitions, are being deceived by the new forms in which these superstitions are being revived. Credulity in all its mystical phases is a crime against social progress. It is impossible to perpetuate a civilization based on scepticism and the endeavors of human reason, if the credulity and devout faith of the Middle Ages be revived.

This book is, therefore, an attempt to draw the line sharply between rationalism and superstition. It is an attempt to point out and critically examine certain mystical tendencies which should have no place in our practical, level-headed American civilization. It is not meant to be read by those frail, non-committal people to whom a robust thought gives dyspepsia of the brain. If such an one buys it by accident, he had better exchange it for a year's subscription to some metaphysical monthly.

The conclusions of the writer have been reached, not only by a study of mystical books and magazines, but by an investigation of the effects of mysticism upon the mind and character, covering a period of eight years. Thus the charges that are made are all founded upon facts, and can be substantiated by a myriad of instances.

The thinkers and doers of this new

century are too busy to read large books ; and therefore, as it is for them that this book has been written, every proposition has been condensed into as few words as possible. There has been no attempt to either arouse or conciliate prejudice. No fact has been omitted merely because it is unpleasant to hear. No pretence has been made to answer the unanswerable, or to explain the universe.

In short, this book is but an outline of what an exhaustive work on this subject should be. Much is left to the reader. If any suggestion in its pages be the means of enlisting in the service of rationalism some writer of more ability and leisure, the purpose of the author will have been accomplished.

HERBERT N. CASSON.

*New York City.*