

REMINISCENCES & ANTICIPATIONS

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Reminiscences & Anticipations by J. Joly

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J. JOLY

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CORNELIUS DREBEL (1572-1634), THE INVENTOR AND
BUILDER OF THE FIRST SUBMARINE.

(From an old work by Drebel in the British Museum.)

REMINISCENCES & ANTICIPATIONS

BY

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WITH NINE ILLUSTRATIONS

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PREFACE

ONE tacitly recognised use of a Preface is to provide the diffident author with an opportunity of fastening the blame for the appearance of his book upon somebody else. In the present case I think I am correct in saying that this book owes its existence to the suggestion of certain of my friends who, after the appearance in 1915 of a volume of scientific essays and addresses, counselled me to issue a corresponding collection of lay essays—*i.e.*, such as are not specially directed towards scientific subjects. This volume contains a selection of essays of this kind.

Towards the conclusion of the war I was in the States on an educational mission. Facts regarding American educational institutions and ideals of which I had been ignorant, or which I had failed to realise, then came to my knowledge. This occasioned two of the essays contained in this book—that on the British Educational Mission and that on "International Education." These are in point of date the latest written. There are many anticipations in those essays. My desire to spread, in any way in my power, the doctrines preached by the

PREFACE

British Mission in the States proved an additional incentive to the issue of this volume.

Of the other essays, two are holiday reminiscences—the “Visit to the Foze Rocks” and the Tour of the Lighthouses. The Edgeworth essay is a vindication of the claims of a man who is now only remembered as the parent of a very distinguished authoress and lovable woman. But his claims to fame are clear and undeniable. The fact that he was an ancestral relative of my own has not, I hope, biased my judgment on that point.

The reappearance of the account of the defence of Trinity College during the Sinn Fein Rebellion calls, I think, for no justification. So far as I know, it is the only account of that incident written by one who lived within the College walls throughout those terrible days. It is accurate in every particular so far as it was in my power to make it so.

The essay on “The Origin of the Submarine” is, of course, a product of war-time thoughts. In it, too, are many anticipations, some of which, although written down many generations ago, have been, in our day, realised in a remarkable manner. The earliest of the essays is the discussion on “Perpetual Motion.” The topic is indeed scientific, but it is science in a very popular garb.