

**ARE YOU A
BROMIDE? OR, THE
SULPHITIC THEORY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649406272

Are You a Bromide? Or, The Sulphitic Theory by Gelett Burgess

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.

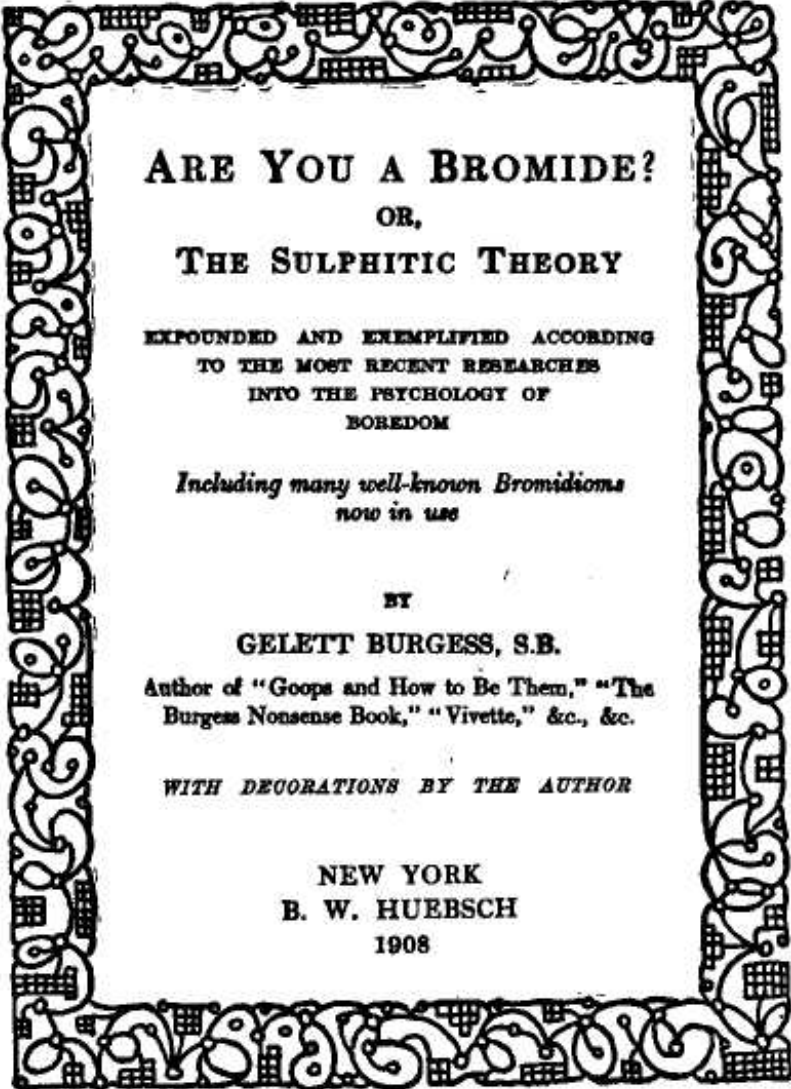
Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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

GELETT BURGESS

**ARE YOU A
BROMIDE? OR, THE
SULPHITIC THEORY**



ARE YOU A BROMIDE?
OR,
THE SULPHITIC THEORY

EXPOUNDED AND EXEMPLIFIED ACCORDING
TO THE MOST RECENT RESEARCHES
INTO THE PSYCHOLOGY OF
BOREDOM

*Including many well-known Bromidioms
now in use*

BY

GELETT BURGESS, S.B.

Author of "Goops and How to Be Them," "The
Burgess Nonsense Book," "Vivette," &c., &c.

WITH DECORATIONS BY THE AUTHOR

NEW YORK
B. W. HUEBSCH
1908

WQR 19 FEB '36

NOTE

This essay is reprinted, with revisions and additions, from "The Sulphitic Theory" published in "The Smart Set" for April, 1906, by consent of the editors.

To
GERTRUDE McCALL
CHATELAINE OF MAC MANOR




AND DISCOVERER OF
THE SULPHITIC THEORY



ARE YOU A BROMIDE?



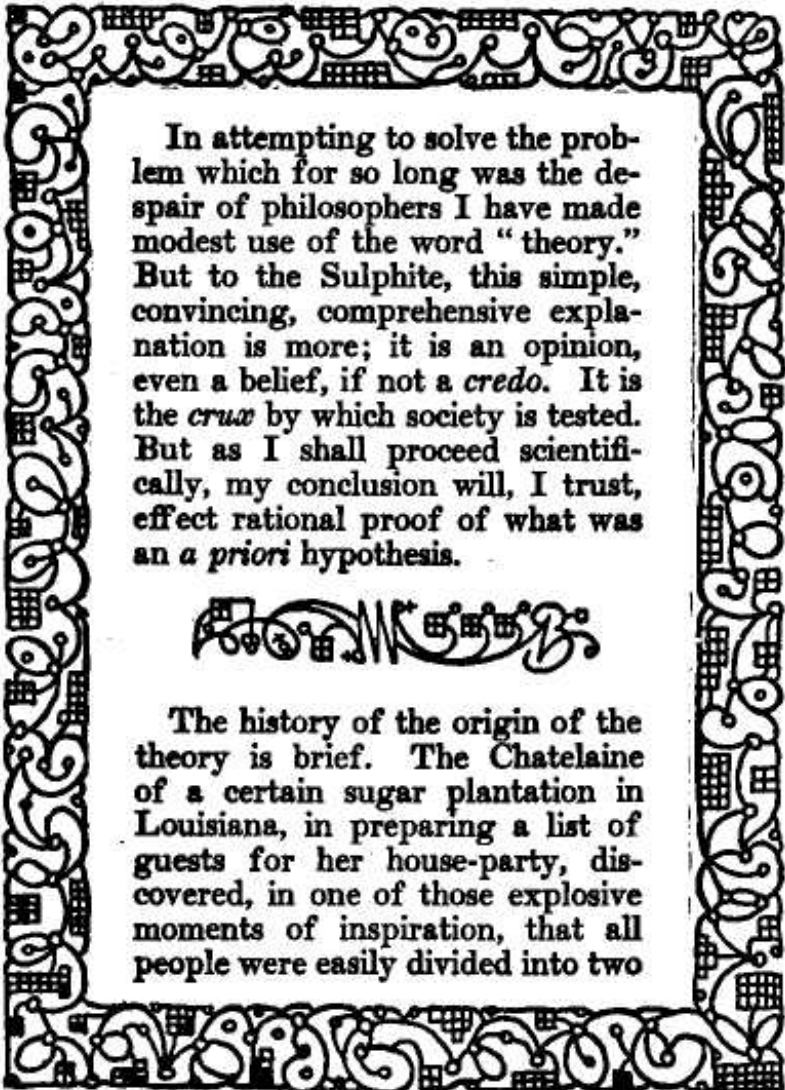
THE terms "Bromide" and "Sulphite" as applied to psychological rather than chemical analysis have already become, among the *illuminati*, so widely adopted that these denominations now stand in considerable danger of being weakened in significance through a too careless use. The adjective "bromidic" is at present adopted as a general vehicle, a common carrier for the thoughtless damnation of the Philistine. The time has come to for-



mulate, authoritatively, the precise scope of intellect which such distinctions suggest and to define the shorthand of conversation which their use has made practicable. The rapid spread of the theory, traveling from Sulphite to Sulphite, like the spark of a pyrotechnic set-piece, till the thinking world has been over-violently illuminated, has obscured its genesis and diverted attention from the simplicity and force of its fundamental principles.* In this, its progress has been like that of slang, which, gaining in popularity, must inevitably decrease in aptness and definiteness.



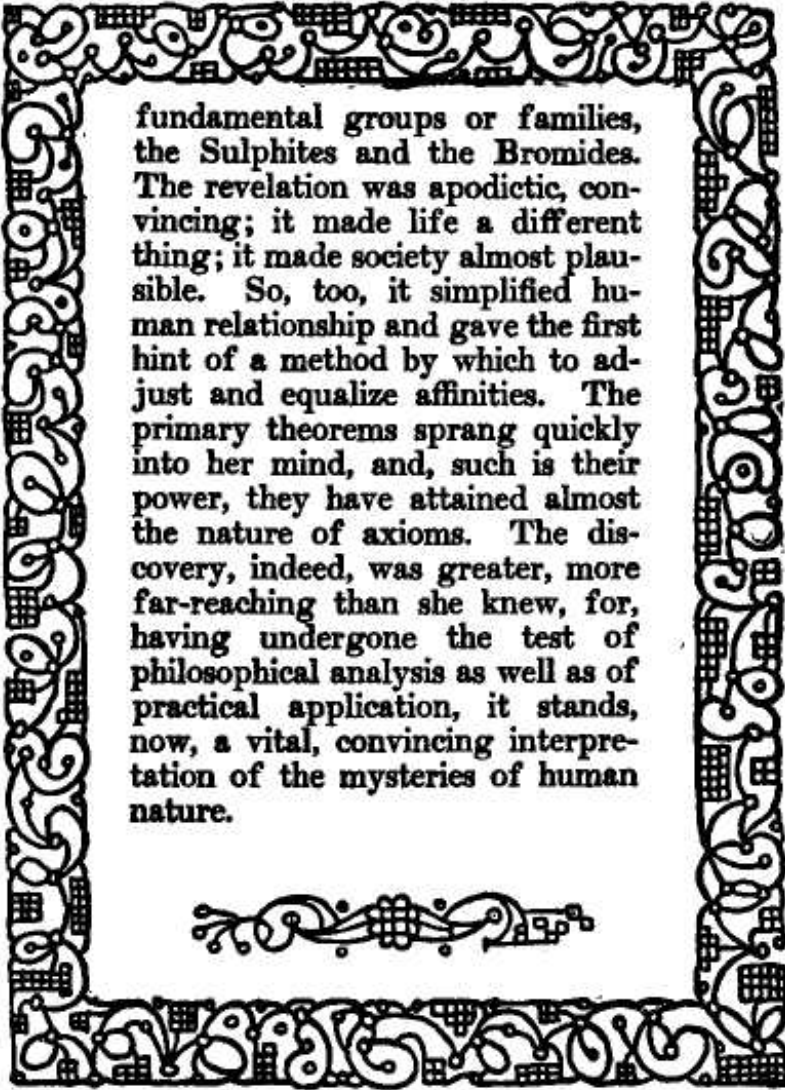
*It was in April that I first heard of the Theory from the Chatelaine. The following August, in Venice, a lady said to me: "Aren't these old palaces a great deal more sulphitic in their decay than they were originally, during the Renaissance?"



In attempting to solve the problem which for so long was the despair of philosophers I have made modest use of the word "theory." But to the Sulphite, this simple, convincing, comprehensive explanation is more; it is an opinion, even a belief, if not a *credo*. It is the *crux* by which society is tested. But as I shall proceed scientifically, my conclusion will, I trust, effect rational proof of what was an *a priori* hypothesis.



The history of the origin of the theory is brief. The Chatelaine of a certain sugar plantation in Louisiana, in preparing a list of guests for her house-party, discovered, in one of those explosive moments of inspiration, that all people were easily divided into two



fundamental groups or families, the Sulphites and the Bromides. The revelation was apodictic, convincing; it made life a different thing; it made society almost plausible. So, too, it simplified human relationship and gave the first hint of a method by which to adjust and equalize affinities. The primary theorems sprang quickly into her mind, and, such is their power, they have attained almost the nature of axioms. The discovery, indeed, was greater, more far-reaching than she knew, for, having undergone the test of philosophical analysis as well as of practical application, it stands, now, a vital, convincing interpretation of the mysteries of human nature.

