

**UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
SERIES. THE MECHANICS
OF DAILY LIFE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649645299

University Extension Series. The Mechanics of Daily Life by V. Perronet Sells

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V. PERRONET SELLS

**UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
SERIES. THE MECHANICS
OF DAILY LIFE**

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Principal of University College, Nottingham.

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THE MECHANICS OF
DAILY LIFE

BY

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PREFACE.

SOME apology seems necessary for the production of another treatise on a subject so well-worn as Mechanics.

The present work, however, makes no attempt at the mathematical treatment generally adopted. It aims rather at using the subject as a means of scientific training, and as an illustration of the method of examining Nature by reasoning and experiment.

It appeals to that large class of people in all stations of life who have not the training necessary for the enjoyment of Mathematical Gymnastics, but yet take keen interest in the purely experimental side of science.

The mathematical side of the question has therefore been dispensed with, only the simplest arithmetical examples being admitted where reference to figures was unavoidable.

The book is in the main the substance of a course of Oxford University Extension Lectures, delivered in various small towns in Devonshire in the Spring of 1891. The course was one of several, given under the auspices of the County Council, in their pioneer experiment of providing University Extension Teaching for rural districts, in connection with the Government grant towards Technical Instruction.

The experience gained in the lectures has been of great service in the compilation of the work, and the lecture method has been to a great extent retained, as specially suited to the end in view.

The book does not pretend to do more than touch on the

various mechanical actions of daily life, and many are necessarily omitted, the difficulty having been to choose, out of the mass of material, points of special interest or utility.

To pursue the study further, Mathematics must be used, but not to any great extent. Perhaps as good a sequel as any would be Magnus' Elementary Mechanics, that only requiring a very slight knowledge of Algebra, with sometimes a little Geometry.

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